



**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2B, 420 N. POKEGAMA AVE.**  
**DATE: WEDNESDAY, July 29, 2015**  
**TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner Becky LaPlant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Jackie Dowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Mary Jo Wimmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Frieda Hall, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Doug Learmont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Barb Sanderson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Karen Noyce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Alice Moren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner John Schirber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MEETING PROTOCOL POLICY:

***Please be aware that the Council has adopted a Meeting Protocol Policy which informs attendees of the Council's desire to conduct meetings in an orderly manner which welcomes all civil input from citizens and interested parties. If you are unaware of the policy, copies (orange color) are available in the wall file by the Council entrance.***

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:

This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.

PRESENTATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:                      June 24, 2015 Regular Meeting

FINANCIALS:                                      Financial Report

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:                                  Indigenous People's Day  
    Tracks in the Snow  
    Bukata Hayes

NEW BUSINESS:                                  Duluth Human Rights Commission  
    Goodbye Video  
    Katie Marshall

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:

## CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was held in Conference Room 2B of City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL:** On a Call of Roll, the following members were present:  
Commissioners: Barb Sanderson, Jackie Dowell, Doug Learmont, Alice Moren, Karen Noyce, Becky LaPlant, and John Schirber.

Absent Commissioners: Mary Jo Wimmer, Frieda Hall

Staff: Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by vice-chair Sanderson.

**SETTING AGENDA** Old Business – ADA Sub Committee

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** May 27, 2015 Regular Meeting

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LEARMONT, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MOREN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2015 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote**

**FINANCIALS** Nothing to report

**CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE**

Commissioner LaPlant reported that they are moving forward on projects; handouts regarding the Why Treaties Matter were distributed to the Commission. The exhibit was brought to the classrooms of ISAC schools where 2,750 students & 55 staff interacted.

The worldview training was also discussed; Commissioner LaPlant reported that the Grand Rapids Police Department would be taking the lead. To date there are over 12 organizations that want to be involved with up to 100 who have indicated they want to attend. This event will be spread over 6 days so that more staff can attend.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ADA SUB COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Sanderson reported that she spoke to City Administrator Tom Pagel and he indicated that instead of setting up another committee, Commissioners are welcome to meet with the current group lead by Myrna Peterson.



## **ADA SUB COMMITTEE**

The next meeting is set for July 17, 2015 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Commissioner's Sanderson and Schirber plan to attend and will report back.

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**

Commissioner Sanderson reported that the committee is putting together the activities surrounding indigenous people's day on October 12. So far, the planning process has come up with the following:

Event will take place on October 12 from 11 – 1:00 pm  
Tent(s) will be placed at the Old Kremer's Parking Lot  
Mayor Adams will read the proclamation and welcome  
Fourth Grade Students will be invited  
Adult Red Drum and Youth Northland Remer will perform  
Wild Rice samples  
Art Component  
Educational Piece  
Possibly a bookmark  
One to 3 Street Banners – depending on the budget

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAPLANT, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SCHIRBER TO ACCEPT CONCEPTS AND PLANS LISTED FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY ON OCTOBER 12, 2015. Motion passed by unanimous vote**

The next planning meeting will be held on July 20 at 4:00 pm in Conference Room 2B in City Hall. Anyone is invited to attend. A notice of quorum will be posted.

There are no formal minutes for the planning meeting; however, Commissioner Sanderson volunteered to share the ideas that come from the planning meetings for the whole commission.

## **TRACKS IN THE SNOW**

Commissioner Learmont reported that there are two dates available for the exhibit to come to Grand Rapids to be displayed at the Grand Rapids Public Library. The dates to choose from are January 19, 2016 through February 5, 2016 or February 16, 2016 through March 5, 2016. A discussion was held regarding the dates and the Commission chose the January 19 – February 15, 2016. The Commission would be willing to help with programming and budget. Commissioner Learmont will notify the exhibitors the dates the Commission chose.

Human Rights Commission

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BUKATA HAYES

Commissioner Sanderson reported that Bukata Hayes will be in Grand Rapids on September 17, 2015. The Chamber and the Commission are working together regarding programs, with the focus on students and business owners. Programming scheduled so far is a free breakfast located at the Timberlake from 7:30 – 9:00 am, sponsors are being sought to help with costs.

The second phase of the programs will be small group workshops with location(s) to be determined. Commissioner Noyce will be working with Sally Valzen. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for June 30, at 2:30 pm in the Chamber Room. All commissioners are invited to attend. Commissioner Schirber will work with ICTV to have the sessions taped.

A discussion was held regarding the budget for Bukata Hayes event. Sponsors will be sought to help defray costs.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NOYCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL TO CONTRIBUTE \$1,000.00 FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS BUDGET TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT. Motion passed unanimously. An invoice will be sent to the City's accounts payable for payment.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE – DULUTH

Commissioner Sanderson reported that a letter has not yet been drafted and that she had not yet contacted Commissioner Hall to find out if the Duluth office is still looking for us to do a letter of support. Commissioner Hall will be contacted regarding this item.

OTHER

There was a discussion regarding the Police Advisory Board. Commissioner Dowell inquired if there will still openings on this Board and if they were meeting yet. The Administration department will look into and get back to Commissioner Dowell.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant



## Wing Young Huie – Exhibit, Presentation, and Workshop – October 2016

**Summary:** MacRostie Art Center is interested in partnering with the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission to present this program. The cost to bring the artist here with an exhibit, lecture, and workshop would be approximately \$2500. Additional costs could include advertising/promotion, transportation for underserved groups to attend, etc. The GR HRC would be eligible to apply for a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council of up to \$6,000 (MAC is not eligible). MAC can supply the 20% match with staff time, in-kind use of the venue, and some publicity. We'd be happy to help with the grant as well. The grant is due January 29, 2016 with funds available starting April 1.

More info about the Community Arts Learning grant program <http://aracouncil.org/>

More info about Wing Young Huie: <http://www.wingyounghuie.com/>

MAC Contact: Katie Marshall, 218-326-2697, [katie@macrostieartcenter.org](mailto:katie@macrostieartcenter.org)

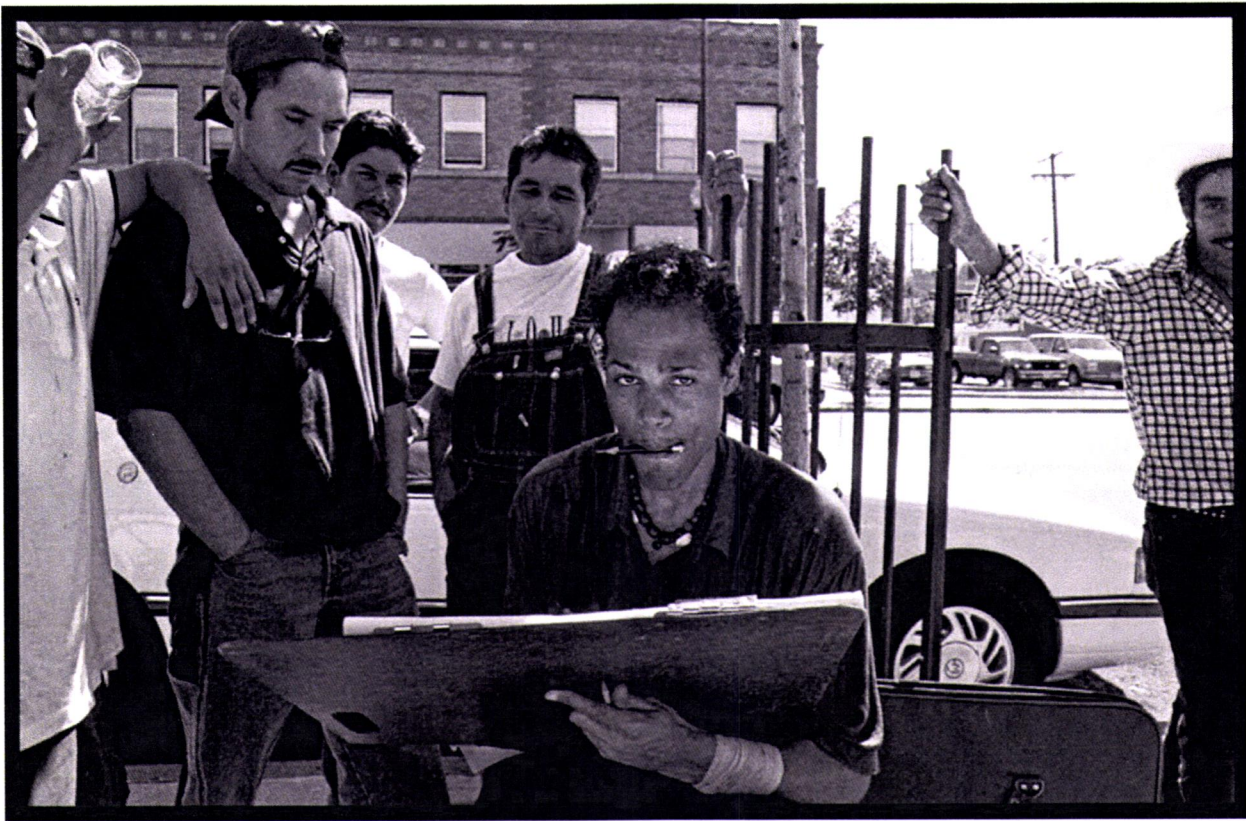


### EXHIBIT: Identity and the American Landscape

This 50-piece retrospective is culled from 11 projects that span a 30-year career, reflecting the dizzying, changing cultural landscape.

Wing has many exhibition possibilities available for venues of all kinds, appropriate for formal gallery settings to K - 12 schools. His photographs address a host of social topics, including immigration, race, adoption, urbanism, rural life, dementia, spirituality, Lutheranism, gender, vulnerability, homelessness, and social disconnection.





### **LECTURE: How Do Photographs Form Us?**

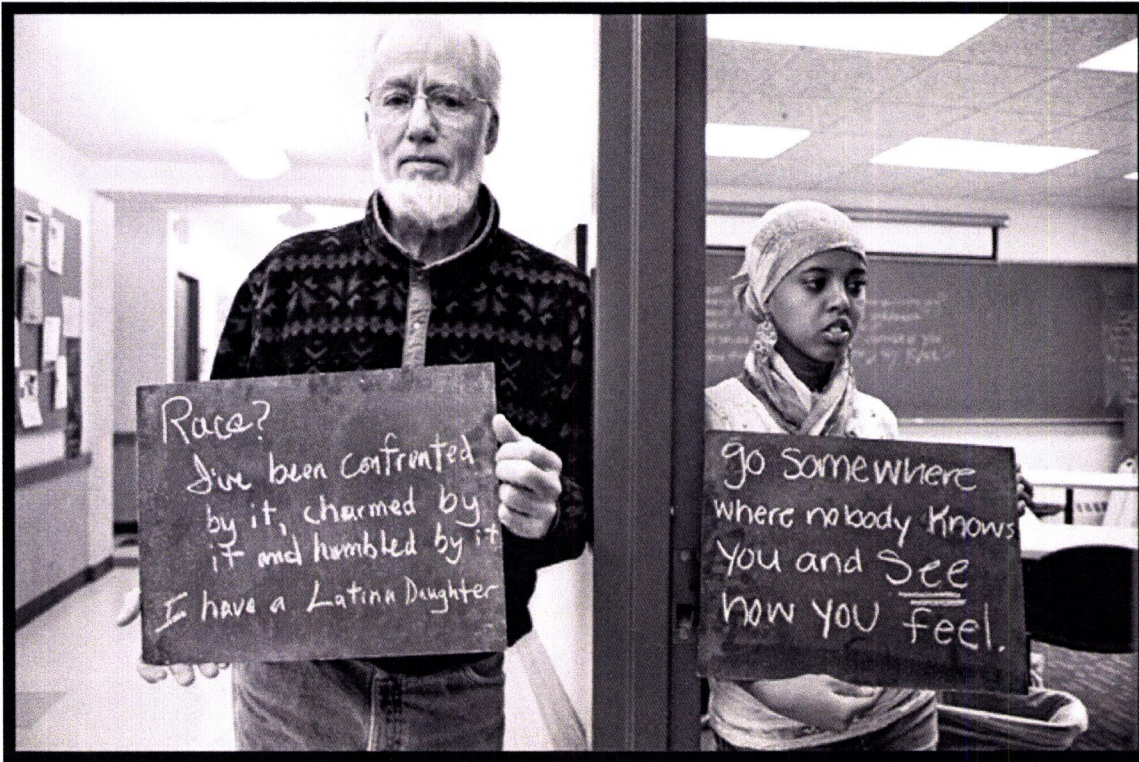
Wing's dynamic slide show lecture confronts many divisive social issues, such as cultural bias, immigration, religion, and social disconnection. While sharing anecdotes and insights into his creative process—and his abilities to intimately interact with thousands of strangers—he also discusses the personal and professional challenges in his 35-year journey of becoming a celebrated artist.

Contrasting points of views are engaged when Wing presents his photographs that are open to interpretation and asks participants, “What do you see?” He then facilitates a dialogue before revealing the stories behind the photographs that furthers the complexities of cultural and personal perceptions, creating a challenging yet safe environment for deep discussion.

How are we impacted by the daily consumption of countless images created by marketing forces, the media, and popular entertainment? How can we differentiate our authentic selves from idealized realities? Do we become what we see? In other words: How do photographs form us?

Time frame: 45 - 75 minutes.





### WORKSHOP: Chalk Talk

A "Chalk Talk" workshop is also available, in which participants engage each other with an activity used in his recent work, *The University Avenue Project*. Wing elicited responses from hundreds of people in various circumstances by asking a series of open-ended questions. He then chose only one of the answers from each person, which that person wrote on a chalkboard. How would you answer these questions?

- What are you?
- How do you think others see you? What don't they see?
- What advice would you give to a stranger?
- What is your favorite word?
- Describe an incident that changed you.
- How have you been affected by race?

Workshop participants pair with someone in the room they are unfamiliar with, ask each other these questions, choose each others' answer, and then write that answer down on black construction paper with white chalk. (Option: participants can then photograph each other with their chalkboards.)

This intimate and non-confrontational interaction addresses issues of bias, challenging preconceptions of the other and one's self.

Time Frame: 45 - 60 minutes.



# Indigenous People's Day Celebration Second Monday in October





## **Indigenous People's Day Celebration**

### **Planning meeting notes: Monday, June 20, 2015, 4 p.m., Grand Rapids City Hall**

**Participants:** Karen Noyce, Jackie Dowell , Becky LaPlant, Joan Bibeau, Jeff Davies, John Schirber, Barb Sanderson

**Event Date:** Monday, October 12, 2015 **Location:** Former Kremer's Parking Lot

### **Purposes:**

- Day of celebration
- Opportunity to educate: Need to understand history, connections
- Significance: What does it mean for Grand Rapids to be a welcoming community?

**Invitations:** All area tribal members, area communities, schools, ICC, City and County employees, other organizations working on diversity in region, others

### **Ideas Generated for Program:**

- Music, Drums, Dancers, Singers (along with appropriate education about significance)
- Color Guard
- Speakers (Mayor to present proclamation), Others
- Arts and Culture Events
- History of Region/Relation to this celebration/place names
- Food/Beverages
- Library displays/books and other materials
- Marketing: Regional media coverage, ICTV filming; Work with Jessica at City,

Our meeting focused on developing our budget, possible funders and our program for the day. Jeff Davies and the City will assume cost of three banners, tent rental, rest rooms, bleacher seating, chairs and tables. Human Rights Commission will donate remainder of its 2015 budget to the effort. John Schirber will request donation of bottled water and Barb and Jackie will secure food. We will look to a grant for food expense. Honor gifts for dignitaries and drummers and dancers will be handled with private donations. Members are working with Harold Annette at ICC on appropriate gifts for speakers, honor guard and others. We will seek art commission support for art supplies. Barb will ask Kootasca to furnish the PA system. A small working group met this same week to complete copy for one-page flyer that will be distributed at next meeting.

**Next meeting:** Monday, August 17, 2015, 4 p.m., Grand Rapids City Hall

**“Indigenous People’s Day” Grand Rapids, Minnesota  
Monday, October 12, 2015  
11am-1pm  
Downtown Grand Rapids, SW corner of HWY 2 and 1st Avenue  
(the former Kremer’s parking lot)**

**Join us for a “mini powwow,” including music, dance, drums, food, and art.**

**Grand Rapids joins a growing number of cities around the United States to recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous People’s Day.**

**Grand Rapids City Council unanimously passed a resolution in December 2014 to recognize Indigenous People’s Day to “reflect on our history and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that the Anishinaabe (Chippewa and Ojibwe) the Dakota and other Indigenous Nations add to our city.”**

**There is no charge and everyone is invited.**

**For more information, contact City Administrator Tom Pagel at 218-326-7600  
or [www.grandrapidsmn.com](http://www.grandrapidsmn.com)**



## **Updated For Discussion: Key information and ideas for discussion or consideration for “Tracks in the Snow” exhibit and programs:**

The exhibit consists of 25 panels, each 24 inches wide x 36 inches high. Each panel has a photograph/portrait of an individual and an excerpt from their interview underneath; they can be wall mounted or placed on easels. There are also 5 retractable banners, 32 x 80 inches, to introduce five different themes placed in between the easels with the canvasses. There is also one title banner roughly the same size as the theme banners.

**Display exhibit at GR Library** - some arrangements/details still to be coordinated with library staff

**Timing: Jan 19 - February 5, 2016** (some date detail adjustments possible)

### **Possible related activities:**

- Formal opening with speech by chair of Human Rights Commission and representative of Islamic Resource Group (IRG), possibly also mayor or a city council member
- Mid-day or evening community programs/presentations at
  - Library
  - High school classes or assembly
  - ICC
  - Others?
- Weekday programs/presentations at
  - ICC
  - GR High School or Middle School
  - Employers (hospital, teacher workshops, city/county employees, other)
  - Other?

**Estimated Costs:**

- \$500 (after waiving half of normal full \$1000 charge)
- \$75 for easels if easel rental is desired
- Honorarium for speakers (understanding is that an Islamic Resource Group person would be present for the opening ceremony, the cost for which is, I believe, included in the \$500)
- There is an assumption that local personnel (paid or volunteer) would be responsible for setting up the display.

**Possible Sponsors/Co-sponsors:**

- GR Human Rights Commission
- Blandin Foundation
- ICC
- Others?

**Speaker topics for presentations would include (some options are also shown):****1. What You Always Wanted to Know About Islam and Muslims****2. Minnesota Muslims Up Close**

- \*An Introduction Islam and Muslims (usually used in schools)
- \*Islam and Christianity
- \*Women in Islam
- \*Prophet Muhammed: His Life and Legacy
- \*Islamic Contributions to Civilization
- \*Roots of Islam in America
- \*Islam and Muslims for Educators (workshop)
- \*Culturally Appropriate Care for Muslim Patients (workshop)