



CITY OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, November 04, 2025**  
**3:45 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Arts & Culture Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, at 3:45pm, in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 3:45pm by Commission Chair Hedlund.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman  
Commissioner Kari Hedlund  
Commissioner Myrna Peterson  
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa  
Commissioner Angie Miskovich  
Commissioner Derek Fox  
Commissioner Nancy Jacobson  
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

ABSENT

Commissioner Aaron Squadroni  
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh  
City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

Jessica Bunker from Early EDge at the MN North location addressed the Commission with a request for funds for their classroom to attend a play at the Reif in March. They would have 41 people attending at a cost of \$10 per person and the transportation is \$140. The total cost of the field trip to the Reif would be \$550.00.

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Miskovich to approve and pay for sponsoring the Early EDge at MN North to attend a play at the Reif for a total cost of \$550.00. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson**

SETTING THE AGENDA:

**Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Gorman to add the Blandin Foundation Fountain and Jingle Mingle under Business on the Agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson**

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve the October 7th, 2025, Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Lamppa to approve the October 7th, 2025, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson**

FINANCIALS:

2. Approve Financials for October 2025

There have been no invoices submitted for payment as of 11-25-25

**Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Miskovich to approve the Financials for October 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson**

BUSINESS:

3. Budget Items

The Commission looked at the remainder of their budget for 2025. City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel, estimated that a sign for the River Sculpture would be approximately \$1,000. The Mayor's Art Award Name Plaque will be approximately \$50. The MacRostie invoice will be between \$3,500 to \$4,000. Then after sponsoring the Early EDge field trip, for \$550, the Commission would have approximately \$2,000 remaining in the Budget.

3A. The Commissioners discussed the Blandin Foundation Fountain that is looking for a new home but thought it would be an item to talk about next year.

3B. This year's Jingle Mingle will be inside and Commissioner Gorman requested that the Commission sponsor the Take and Make Art Kits for \$500.

**Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson to approve sponsoring the Jingle Mingle, Take and Make Art Kits for \$500.00, payable to the Grand Rapids Arts. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Gorman**

After having made the above motion to sponsor the Take and Make Art Kits, the Commission's Budget will now be down to about \$1,400. They discussed that they would like to do a MacRostie Sponsorship of \$500 for the Second Saturdays if it's available. If it isn't available, they proposed that the entire remainder of the Budget could be split between a sponsorship of the MacRostie Adult and Youth Art Education Programs. MacRostie Program Manager Emily Carlson checked, and the Second Saturdays is not available. The Commission decided to split the remainder as proposed due to the lack of availability of Second Saturdays sponsorship.

**Motion made by Commissioner Jacobson, Seconded by Commissioner Gorman to approve sponsoring both the Adult and Youth Art Education Programs payable to the MacRostie with the remainder of the Arts & Culture Commission Budget up to \$1,400. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson**

4. Human Rights Commission

This item was tabled, as no representative of the Human Rights Commission was present.

5. MacRostie Happenings

Emily Carlson, MacRostie Program Manager, gave a brief rundown of the happenings at the MacRostie such as the artists getting ready for the Holiday Marketplace and the upcoming First Friday.

6. Mayor's Art Award

Emily Carlson, MacRostie Program Manager, started the discussion on the nominations for the Mayor's Art Award. Historically the Commission has nominated three businesses to be voted on, but this year, the Commission decided to put in four nominations to be voted on by the community. They are Rapids Brewing, Stained Glass with Class, Klockow Brewing and Bruce Bartos. She will get these nominations ready for Facebook which the community will then have approximately one week to put in their vote.

7. Commissioner Terms 2026

There are a few Commissioners who have terms that are ending, they are Commissioners Hedlund, Lamppa and Slaubaugh. By the next month, the Commission will need nominations for new Commissioners.

Commissioner Derek Fox stated that he will be stepping down due to having too many professional obligations. With his announcement, there will be four openings on the Commission to fill, two of which could be re-instated for another term, but that has yet to be determined.

UPDATES:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Budget Items
4. MacRostie Happenings
5. Mayor's Art Award
6. Commissioner Terms & Nominations

ADJOURN:

**Motion made by Commissioner Gorman, Seconded by Commissioner Lamppa to adjourn at 4:35pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Jacobson**

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman