



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

**ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
WORKSESSION AGENDA  
Tuesday, March 04, 2025  
4:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Arts & Culture Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**ROLL CALL:**

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

1. Review Grand Rapids Implementation Plan

**ADJOURN:**



## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2025

To: Arts & Culture Commission

From: Tom Pagel, City Administrator

Re: Art Implementation Plan Update

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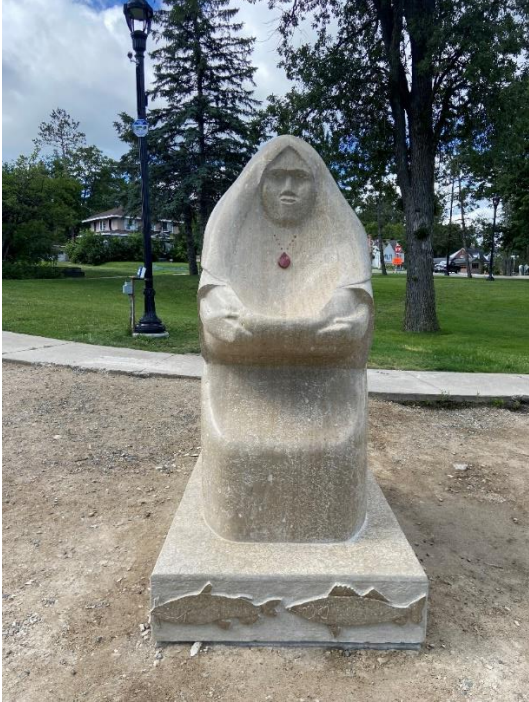
In 2019, Jen Krava of Forecast Public Art completed the GR Public Art Placement Plan. The plan focused on site design considerations, public art processes and best practices, examples of generated public art process, placing and sequencing of public art, and a five-year recommend art implementation plan. The five-year period is attached for reference.

To assist in funding the public art, the city budgets 1.5% of construction costs for street construction projects. A typical street project will generate between \$30k and \$60k for art projects. Please note that this is not a consistent revenue stream for art because the city only performs street projects when they can be included in budgets.

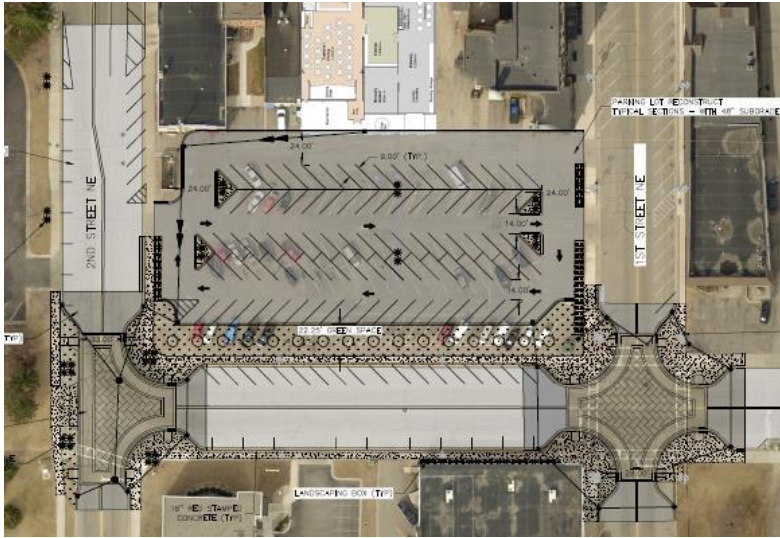
Because funding can be inconsistent and scopes of art projects may grow, it is important to understand that the Arts and Culture Commission has been utilizing the five-year plan as a “five-step” plan. An update on the progress of the plan follows.

**Year 1** – Under the small-scale artwork, the commission partnered with Community Education who offered a class to children. The children created fish and animal drawings that were utilized in creating stencils. These stencils were then used to paint the images next to storm water catch basins (see photo below).

The large-scale artwork was a stone carved sculpture of a native American woman Olga an went dean nimbi (She is blessing the spirits in the water). The sculpture is located at Mississippi River Park located on the SE corner of the Pokegama Avenue bridge.



**Year 2** – The commission had issued a request for proposals for the small-scale artwork focused on Block 19 (north of Blanding Foundation). Unfortunately, the RFP process did not receive artist proposals and did not move forward.



The large-scale proposal ended up being a partnership with a grant from AARP, creating the canoe sculpture near the north abutment of the Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge. This sculpture was created by Aaron Squadroni and Leah Yellowbird.



**Year 3** – Social cohesion is the theme. The small-scale project called for multiple small neighborhood sculptures while the large-scale project was to focus on street corners and sidewalks. Wanting to have greater impact with limited financial resources, the commission opted to focus on a larger neighborhood sculpture that would meet both the large- and small-scale goals. This has evolved into a large-scale interactive sculpture at the east side of Crystal Lake near the roundabout. The sculpture will be a swing that honors the history of ice harvesting on Crytal Lake in the first half of the 1900’s. The concept follows.

