



ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, October 07, 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, October 7th, 2025, at 3:45pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

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

SETTING THE AGENDA:

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVE MINUTES:

- [1.](#) Approve Minutes from September 2nd, 2025

FINANCIALS:

2. No change to Financials for September 2025

BUSINESS:

3. Human Rights Commission
4. MacRostie Happenings
5. Children's Light Drawings
- [6.](#) Mayor's Art Award

UPDATES:

7. Riverfest 2025 Review
8. Greg Mueller
- [9.](#) Worksession Recap

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

10. Crystal Lake Art Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Oct 20, 2025, 4pm

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



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

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 02, 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, September 2, 2025, at 3:45pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Squadroni to nominate Amanda Lamppa as the Interim Chair for tonight's meeting. Voting Yea: Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Jacobson, Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Lamppa

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Lamppa at 3:51pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Myrna Peterson
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa
Commissioner Angie Miskovich
Commissioner Nancy Jacobson
City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

ABSENT

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman
Commissioner Kari Hedlund
Commissioner Derek Fox
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh

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

None

SETTING THE AGENDA:

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes from July 1, 2025

Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Miskovich to approve the minutes from July 1, 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Jacobson

FINANCIALS:

2. No Change to Financials

BUSINESS:

3. Human Rights Commission

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

4. MacRostie Happenings

MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson gave an update. There is a new gallery with 4 or 5 artists, First Friday will be this week, the Reif's current show is closing and the Artist in Residence are full.

5. Children's Light Drawings

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

UPDATES:

6. Riverfest 2025

7. Greg Mueller

City Administrator, Tom Pagel, PW Director Matt Wegwerth and PW Supervisor Kevin Koetz will be meeting with the artist Greg Mueller tomorrow. Tom Pagel will email the Commission with an update after their meeting. There were a couple of questions from the Commission. 1) Had the sign been ordered? Tom Pagel answered yes. 2) Will the art be lit? Tom Pagel will check on the lighting with the artist.

8. Hill Annex Mine

Commissioner Squadroni gave examples of art that could be depicted on the mining equipment from the Hill Annex Mine. These were brainstorming ideas for possible art on the equipment if there was interest.

9. Worksession Recap

Commissioner Lamppa asked if there were any comments on the Worksession Document that Commissioners Hedlund and Gorman put together from the Worksession. She said that it looked very good and it is a good review of why and what the Commission does.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MacRostie Program Manager Emily Carlson announced that the Commission will need to do their nominations for the Mayor's Art Award. Once the nominations are in, it can be narrowed down to three and then voted on via Facebook. She will get the submission form for their nominations ready to be sent out.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS

3. Human Rights Commission
4. MacRostie Happenings
5. Children's Light Drawings
6. Mayor's Art Award

UPDATES

7. Riverfest 2025 Review
8. Greg Mueller
9. Worksession Recap

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman

The Mayor's Arts Award

Item 6.

The *Mayor's Arts Award* will be granted annually to a Grand Rapids area business, or organization, that supports and promotes local arts organizations, programs or individual artists through funding and/or advocacy in the Grand Rapids area.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- On an annual basis each commissioner will bring forward at least one business or organization to be considered for the Mayor's Art Award.
- Businesses or organizations must be located in, the City of Grand Rapids or adjacent townships.
- The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission will identify a winning nomination, and award the selected business or organization at a community event.
- Winners will be personally notified prior to the award ceremony.
- Questions concerning this award may be directed to the City Administrator.

Timeline and Selection:

- Commission members shall submit a business or organization for consideration prior to the regular meeting in March of each year.
- The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission will narrow the submitted businesses and organizations down to four candidates. The candidates shall be identified on a Facebook post asking the public to vote for the favorite business or organization they believe best supports and promotes the arts. The commission will take the public's voting into consideration when selecting the successful business or organization for the Mayor's Art Award.
- The award will be presented at a community event selected by the Arts and Culture Commission.
- The award will consist of a plaque or honor, and a donation to the Grand Rapids Area Foundation for the promotion of arts and culture in the Grand Rapids Community.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, this 10th day of July, 2023.

Dale Christy

Dale Christy (Jul 11, 2023 20:59 CDT)

Dale Christy, Mayor

Attest:

Kimberly Gibeau

Kim Gibeau (Jul 12, 2023 08:18 CDT)

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

Founded in 2019 by:

Kayla Aubid
Kathy Dodge
Anne-Marie Erickson
David Marty
Sonja Merrild (Chair)
Myrna Peterson
Jessie Siiter
Harry Smith
Ed Zabinski

City Staff:

Tom Pagel - City Administrator
Kim Gibeau - City Clerk

MISSION STATEMENT:

The commission fosters a community that values, promotes and integrates arts and culture as vital to our life, economy and youth education.

PUBLIC ART

Public art is something most of us see or experience every day. Sometimes we may walk on it or walk (or drive) past it unaware. It can be part of the buildings we inhabit, work in, or visit. It might be sound, light, physical objects, the very design of a public space, or a combination of these elements.

Public art can attract attention, tourism, and generate economic activity, create new career opportunities for public artists, and can help attract and retain professionals, students, fabricators, makers, supply stores, and many other creatives involved in the art making process.

Artists working with communities can activate civic dialogue and participation, and work toward social cohesion. Public art can give identity and character to communities and neighborhoods. It can act as gateways, wayfinders, and project the values of the community in which it is situated.

Public art can reach audiences who aren't interested in going to a museum or a gallery. It can help to create an awareness of arts and culture activities and works, their value to communities, neighborhoods, and cities, and that ultimately leads to further understanding, appreciation, and ambassadorship.

The Public Art Placement Plan emphasizes the importance of integrating public art into the city's environment and planning processes. Public art, encompassing various forms like sound, light, and physical objects, should be considered from the beginning of city projects.

The document outlines the public art process, covering idea development, location analysis, permissions, funding, artist selection, community engagement, and fabrication. It also provides guidance on site design and suggests themes for public art in Grand Rapids, such as natural resources, public health, social cohesion, and neighborhood identity.

Purpose:

- Enhance the city's physical environment through public art.
- Improve connectivity and community engagement using art.

Key Definitions:

- **Public Art:** Visual art accessible to the public in public spaces.
 - Includes: Sculptures, murals, mosaics, etc.
 - Excludes: Wayfinding signs, mass-produced items.
- **Public Spaces:** Parks, streets, trails, city-owned facilities.

Artist Selection:

- Methods: Open or limited competitions, or direct selection.
- Committee: The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission is the primary selection committee.
 - May establish ad hoc committees as needed.

Responsibilities:

- **City of Grand Rapids:**
 - Maintains public artworks.
 - Provides foundation and lighting for art projects.
 - Provides maintenance funding.
 - Insures the public art collection.
- **Artists:**
 - Provide maintenance and conservation plans.

De-commissioning:

- Relocation or disposal of artwork requires:
 - Review by the Commission.
 - Approval by the City Council.

Approval and Funding:

- **City Council:** Approves the public art plan and policies.
- **Funding Sources:**
 - 1.5% of all city street construction that is required to go to tangible public art approved by the City Council - This funding model is an inconsistent model on an annual basis. A typical project will generate between \$30k - \$60k for art projects.
 - There is a fixed annual budget of \$7,500 that is used to fund smaller projects that are voted on for arts-related entities and community events that need assistance, pay MacRostie Art Gallery (Artist in Residence, facilitating Mayor's Arts Award, etc.).
 - Buckets: Available annual funding will be allocated in 3 different buckets:
 1. Professional Services (i.e. MacRostie) - 50%
 2. Public Art - 30%
 3. Partnerships - 20%
 - Grants can be sought by the Commission

Purpose:

- The roadmap outlines a strategic vision for fostering and enhancing arts and culture within Grand Rapids.
- It aims to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable arts and culture ecosystem.
- It serves as a guide for the commission's activities and priorities.

Key Goals & Strategies:

- **Goal 1: Enhance Accessibility & Inclusion:**
 - Strategy: Broaden participation in arts and culture events for diverse community segments.
 - Strategy: Remove barriers to access, ensuring equitable opportunities for citizens to engage with art.
- **Goal 2: Strengthen Partnerships & Collaboration:**
 - Strategy: Foster collaborations with local organizations, businesses, and educational institutions.
 - Strategy: Build strong relationships to leverage resources and expertise, and include varying perspectives.
- **Goal 3: Promote & Support Local Artists & Organizations:**
 - Strategy: Provide opportunities for artists to develop and showcase their work.
 - Strategy: Support the sustainability and growth of arts and culture organizations.
- **Goal 4: Increase Visibility & Awareness:**
 - Strategy: Enhance communication and marketing to promote .
 - Strategy: Raise public awareness of the value and impact of arts and culture.
- **Goal 5: Create Sustainable Funding & Resources:**
 - Strategy: Explore and secure diverse funding sources to support arts and culture initiatives.
 - Strategy: Advocate for public and private investment in the arts.

Key Focus Areas:

- Community Engagement: Prioritizing activities that involve and benefit the entire community.
- Economic Impact: Recognizing and promoting the economic contributions of the arts.
- Cultural Heritage: Preserving and celebrating the unique cultural identity of Grand Rapids.
- Education & Youth Development: Supporting arts education and opportunities for young people.

Commission Role:

- Act as advocates for arts and culture within the city.
- Develop and implement strategies to achieve the roadmap's goals.
- Facilitate collaboration and communication among stakeholders.
- Monitor progress and evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives.

Overall Vision:

- To establish Grand Rapids as a regional hub for arts and culture.
- To create a thriving and dynamic cultural environment that enriches the lives of residents and visitors.
- To ensure the long-term health and growth of the arts in Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids Implementation Plan - One-Sheet Summary

Purpose:

- Integrate public art into Grand Rapids to enhance public spaces and boost community Engagement.
- Use art to improve connectivity, stimulate dialogue, and contribute to the city's identity.

Key Concepts:

- Public Art: Includes sculptures, murals, and installations accessible in public spaces.
- Benefits: Humanizes spaces, stimulates dialogue, boosts economic activity, connects communities, projects values.

Implementation Process:

- Site Analysis: Consider physical conditions of site, historical context, cultural considerations, surrounding environment including natural features and accessibility, zoning restrictions, ownership of site, circulation patterns - how are citizens moving through the site? - Public Works access to electricity, water, gas lines, man-made elements and climate.
- Project Process: Idea development, location analysis, permissions, funding, artist selection, community engagement, fabrication, and installation.

Themes for Public Art:

- Natural Resources
- Public Health
- Social Cohesion
- Regional Hub/Resource Center
- Intergenerational Activity
- Neighborhood Identity

Actionable Items:

- Poll residents for input.
- Draft and release Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for artists.
- Narrow artist selection to 3 options.
- Artists present proposal to commission, commissioners use set rubric to guide their decision in choosing.
- Chosen final artist and project is presented to City Council for approval.
- Develop designs.
- Fabricate and install artwork.
- Organize community celebrations.

Responsibilities:

- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for various stakeholders in the implementation process.

Budget:

- Outlines budget allocations for different projects.

Overall Goal:

- To weave public art into the fabric of Grand Rapids, enhancing its identity, promoting

community engagement, and improving the quality of life for residents.

Item 9.

OTHER

Public Works Director / City Engineer is the contact for grounds related concerns (base, lighting, maintenance).
City Administrator is the contact for artist communication.

FUTURE PLANNING:

City budget from City Administrator for planned road projects
One Year Prior: Identify where sculpture is going to be placed

IDEAS:

Feedback session with kids to generate ideas
Set up something at MacRostie art fair to get ideas or feedback
Youth member of the Commission - Youth Advocate - from GRHS or The North,