



ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, August 05, 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, August 5th, 2025, at 3:45pm in 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 July 1, 2025

FINANCIALS:

2. No Financials Due to New Financial System

BUSINESS:

3. Human Rights Commission
4. MacRostie Happenings
5. Children's Light Drawings

UPDATES:

6. Riverfest 2025
- [7.](#) Greg Mueller
- [8.](#) Hill Annex Mine
- [9.](#) Worksession Recap

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



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

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, July 01, 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, July 1st, 2025, at 3:45pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Commission Chair Hedlund called the meeting to order at 4:52pm

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Kari Hedlund
Commissioner Myrna Peterson
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa
Commissioner Angie Miskovich
Commissioner Derek Fox
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh
Commissioner Nancy Jacobson

ABSENT

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni
City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel

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

None

SETTING THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the agenda as written. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve April 1, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Peterson, Seconded by Commissioner Lamppa to approve the April 1, 2025, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson

FINANCIALS:

2. No Change to the Financials

Motion made by Commissioner Miskovich, Seconded by Commissioner Lamppa to approve the financials. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson

BUSINESS:

3. New Commissioner Welcome/Introductions

The Commission welcomed and introduced themselves to new Commissioner Nancy Jacobson.

4. Human Rights Commission

Commission Chair Angie Erickson could not attend this meeting. This item will be moved to the August meeting.

5. Artists in the Attic

It's a transition month for the Artist in the Attic, where the last three artists are moving out and the next three are moving in.

6. MacRostie Happenings

MacRostie will have two new artists the first Thursday this week and everyone is gearing up for the art fair on July 12th.

7. Children's Light Drawings

The Commission explained that these are going to be winners from a kid's drawing contest put to lights for display at Christmas time, possibly one per year. This item will go on the August Agenda.

8. Crystal Lake Informational Signs

There is an attachment of the informational signs for the Ice Lake Art and it was mentioned that Greg Mueller's name was spelled incorrectly.

9. Riverfest 2025

There are artists that do the art of cloth stamping and are with "Fire in the Village" and it was proposed by Commissioner Hedlund to have them do their art at the 2025 Riverfest. The Commission decided that they would like to sponsor them this year for \$500.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Peterson to sponsor Fire in the Village for \$500.00 at Riverfest 2025. Voting Yea: Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson. Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Hedlund

UPDATES:

10. Greg Mueller

City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel emailed progress photos and a progress report from Greg Mueller and this will go on the August Agenda.

11. Hill Annex Mine

Commissioner Squadroni's depictions of possible mine art were attached, but this will go on the August Agenda as he was absent from this meeting.

12. Worksession Recap

Commission Chair Hedlund stated that the Implementation Plan update (attached) from the worksession is more of a working document and is easier for all commissioners to keep track of progression. A new updated version includes the financial buckets and will be attached in August as it was too late for this agenda.

13. Judy Garland Festival/Mobility Mania

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Hedlund stated that at this year's Riverfest, they will be partnering with other lots for parking and there will also be more biking availability with Ardent on board.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Human Rights Commission
4. MacRostie Happenings
5. Children's Light Drawings

UPDATES:

6. Riverfest 2025
7. Greg Mueller
8. Hill Annex Mine
9. Worksession Recap

ADJOURN:

Chair Hedman adjourned the meeting at 4:26pm.
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman

Note from Greg Mueller to Tom Pagel and City Finance Dept 4-28-25

Hello all

Good timing ...the May 1 contract phase was on my "to-do" this week (INVOICE PAYMENT #2 PDF and some recent images below)

1. Fabrication should finish May.
2. I am scheduling sand blast, primer, and powder coating for early June at Twin City Powder Coating
3. Northern Acrylic (Duluth) is going through my cut list for the "ice" elements
4. Concrete specs to Tom and the City today (and will email an update to the Arts Commission this week)

THANKS all











MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Bucket Arch and Landscape 2

A cut portion of a mining bucket is displayed with an image of the iron range landscape. A mine image is plasma cut into a rusted metal panel which has the silhouette of an overburden pile.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Bucket Arch and Landscape

A cut portion of the mining bucket is displayed with an image of the iron range landscape. The landscape image is displayed on a metal panel that is cut to resemble an overburden pile in its shape. Stainless steel is used to frame the image and highlight the layers of the landscape.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Bucket Arch and Mine Image

A cut portion of a mining bucket is displayed with an image of an iron range mine. The mine image is plasma cut into a rusted metal panel with stainless steel behind.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Colored Metal Panels on Mine Shovel

The mine shovel is covered with colorful metal panels that are riveted to the existing sheeting. Individual panels could be made by community members and attached to create a quilt-like pattern as shown or arranged in other designs.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Excavator Arm Patchwork

Images show variations of an excavator arm that is detached from the excavator and covered with a combination of reclaimed and powder coated metal panels.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Excavator Lantern

Images show variations of an excavator that has plasma cut sheeting to allow light to shine through at night. In one case there is an abstract pattern of lines and in the other, the inner structures are diagramed on the exterior.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Mine Bucket Map

Part or all of a mine bucket is tiled to depict a map of the Mesabi Iron Range or a town on the Mesabi Iron Range. The map imagery is presented in a way to honor the history and culture of the region.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Mine Bucket Minerals

The outer shell of a mine bucket is covered in polished rocks from the Mesabi Iron Range. This is accompanied by a key that tells what each type is and provides brief information about the history and attributes.

www.aaronsquadroni.com



MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Minescape Bench

This bench is created in the form of an excavator bucket that has a hole removed to view the landscape. It could be part of a landscape with historic equipment on display and used as a space to gather and reflect. Lighting shows through plasma cut holes in the metal sheeting. Imagery in the examples relates to layers of earth and rock.

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MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Mining Bucket Mosaic

Images show variations of a mining bucket that is cut into a simplified form and covered with metal panels from old equipment in example one and with reflective stainless steel in example two.

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MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Mining Shovel Mural

The exterior sheeting of the mine shovel is replaced with plasma cut design on rusted metal. Lighting from the inside shows through at night to illuminate the design.

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MINE EQUIPMENT SCULPTURE

Scooping the Earth

This sculpture is based on the form of a mining bucket scooping down into the earth. Depending on the scale, this could serve as a stage for community events, pavilion for gathering, or as a display space to house historical mining equipment.

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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,