

Founded in 2019 by:

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City Staff:

Tom Pagel - City Administrator
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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,