

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS MINNESOTA
ART ADOPTION AND ACQUISITION PLAN

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HISTORY / INTRODUCTION

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission (the Commission) was established on February 25, 2013 with Ordinance No. 13-02-04. The first responsibility for the Commission was to develop and recommend to the city council a strategic plan for arts and culture in Grand Rapids.

The arts and culture roadmap (GRMN Creates) was developed by the Commission and adopted into the City's comprehensive plan in the spring of 2015. Goal #4 of that plan is to "use the arts to animate the physical realm and improve connectivity."

The second objective under goal #4 calls for the Commission and the City to "create initial public art policies and develop a program that consistently contributes to the vitality and economic development of the City." Tasks 4.11, 4.12, and 4.13 of the second objective call for an art adoption/acquisition loan policy, an arts inclusion policy and a public art policy.

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Definitions of Public Art, Public Space, and Public Art Plan

Public art is visual art that exists for the public, is commissioned, leased or purchased by or donated to the City to be in publicly accessible spaces.

This definition includes all media including, but not limited to, the following:

- sculpture
- mural
- fresco
- relief
- fountain
- banner
- mosaic
- ceramic
- weaving
- carving
- stained glass
- sidewalk art

It does not include:

- wayfinding signs
- art objects that are stock items or mass-produced
- art objects that are portable or easily moved, unless the work has been designated by the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission
- playground equipment and general landscape architecture

Public space is defined as an area accessible to and frequented by the general public and owned and operated by the City of Grand Rapids. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- parks and squares
- boulevards
- streets
- bridges
- architectural facades
- spaces within City-owned facilities

A public art placement plan is typically part of development or construction projects that have been incorporated into a larger urban development or cultural plan.

SECTION 2: PROCESSES AND PROTOCOL

2.1 Artist Selection Process

The City of Grand Rapids endeavors to commission quality public art works that are relevant to the community.

The process by which an artist is selected for a commission varies and impacts the project's success. The City of Grand Rapids operates competitions as its primary form of artist selection. Depending on the project's requirements, the competition may be open or limited/invitational. The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission also reserves the right to make a direct selection. The form of competition to be used for a project is determined by the Commission. Selection processes are defined as follows:

- Open competitions are broadly advertised to solicit local, statewide, national or international entries.
- Invited/limited competitions invite a select number of artists to submit plans for consideration. Limited competitions may be used when a specific type, theme or media of artwork is desired.
- Direct selection is a commission of a work by an artist or the purchase of an existing work of art. Direct selection may be warranted when there is a single clear choice or a sole source in terms of the artistic solution for a project. A direct selection also may be appropriate where there is a time constraint or an extremely limited project budget.

Donations also may become part of the City's selection process and may be presented to the Arts and Culture Commission. The Commission is responsible for accepting works of art that will further the objectives of the arts and culture plan.

2.2 Selection Panels

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission is the selection committee. The Commission may from time to time establish a community ad hoc committee to assist with selection as needed.

SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS' PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

3.1 Maintenance and Conservation

The City of Grand Rapids is responsible for maintaining all permanent works of art within the public art inventory, in accordance with the approved maintenance plan and/or conservation plan required for each piece. Development of the maintenance plan and/or conservation plan is the responsibility of the artist and will be submitted to the City at the time the artwork is installed. The plans will include, but are not be limited to, the following:

- maintenance dossier
- shop drawings
- manufacturers' lists
- key contacts including the artist
- maintenance and/or conservation specifications
- budget

To build longevity into its public art planning and processes, all public art competitions and donations will include a maintenance fund in the budget for the conservation of the public artwork.

The City's public art adoption/acquisition policy establishes a treatment and maintenance program that uses public funds wisely by avoiding costly preservation procedures that result from neglect. A qualified professional, trained in art conservation, may be contracted by the City of Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission to participate in the technical review of existing art work.

Inventory of public art owned by the City will be updated when new works are acquired and routinely inspected.

The inventory will include the following:

- description of the artwork
- fabrication
- site conditions
- conservation and maintenance plan
- visual documentation of the artwork

3.2 Insurance

The City of Grand Rapids' public art collection is to be insured as property of the City for vandalism, liability and theft, and each piece as acquired should be appraised based on market value and re-evaluated as needed.

Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commissioners also will be covered by the municipal insurance policy that indemnifies them against legal responsibilities for their actions, if they are not guilty of wrongful acts or gross negligence.

3.3 De-commissioning

De-commissioning is the process by which an artwork is removed from the City of Grand Rapids' public art inventory. It may involve the relocation, removal or disposal of an artwork, if these actions are not in conflict with the terms on which the City acquired the work.

All recommendations for de-commissioning are reviewed by the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission and must be approved by City Council.

SECTION 4 - ADMINISTRATION

The Grand Rapids City Council approves the public art plan and policies upon recommendation of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission.

The City Council approves the final acceptance of all public artworks commissioned by or donated to the City upon the recommendation of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission.

SECTION 5: FUNDING

5.1

The City of Grand Rapids will fund public art by earmarking 1.5% of funding for public works programs. This money will be deposited into a fund to purchase, commission, and perform the maintenance of public art.

5.2

The Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission will make every effort to leverage dollars collected to maximize the number of dollars available for public art through grants and other funding sources.