



City of Duluth

Meeting Agenda

Duluth Public Arts Commission

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

The Duluth Public Arts Commission fosters arts development and advocates for public art and arts events. It advises the City of Duluth on arts-related matters and promotes the positive economic impact the arts has in the community and region. It also assists the City in the development and maintenance of an ongoing Municipal Arts and Culture Plan. The Duluth Public Arts Commission, in all its endeavors, is committed to inclusivity, collaboration, and fairness.

Wednesday
February 26, 2025

4:00 PM

Conference Room 155, Duluth City Hall (411 W 1st St)

2024 Work Plan Goals:

1. Invest in processes & programs we are doing well. Then determine what else we'd like to add for 2025 and beyond
2. Develop systems, direction, and implement Conservation & Maintenance
3. Finalize systems to allow us to formally bring more public art into our community in 2025 and beyond
4. Organize internal systems to be effective and build capacity of Commission & Staff
5. Convey value and importance of DPAC

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of October, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Approval of January, 2025 Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Updates

Staff Updates

2025 Budget

PENDING-Guest Speaker, Penny Perry

Election of Officers (President & Vice President)

GNDC Skate Park Mural

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Arts, Statues, and Monuments Subcommittee

Commissioners: Wendy Durrwachter, Scottie Gardonio, Amanda McElray Hunter, and

Christina Woods (Convener)

Programming Subcommittee

Commissioners: Tammy Underwood

Strategic Direction Subcommittee

Commissioners: Shari Marshik (Convener), Scottie Gardonio, and Amanda McElray Hunter

ADJOURNMENT

PRESENT:

Underwood, Gardonio, Woods, Hallsten-Erickson, Councilor Duurrwachter, Marshik

ABSENT:

Jandl, McElray-Hunter, Cutler, Demmer

Woods. motion to approve Minutes

Gardonio 2nd

Tourism Tax application:

Discussion and support around submitting the same amount of budget as our last year's budget.
(Our budget won't be approved until the December meeting).

Committee updates

Arts Statues Monuments

Penny - has been cleaning, using the flag, etc. Seems to be great!

Some sculptures are likely not ours to conserve, Scottie still working through that.

Quote for conditions survey \$1350

Man Child Gull - working on solves for that crack.

Fountain of the Wind - cracks, - Scottie meeting with the person who can fix it.

Green Bear sign - dangerous (3 different statues on it - working on getting quotes to fix.).

No updates from Programming

Talked about the brochure that Commissioner Gardonio made and how to get this word out more. PR went out. Commissioner Woods brought up Bloomberg Connects App which allows public to access information for free around art and perhaps since DAI is already a member, perhaps DPAC could agree that we use that platform (through DAI) that as a way to get info out about the utility box wraps. DPAC would need approval to pursue if DAI can add to its map. (see watershed plan to understand if we can do this).

Still need to get deaccessioning process from the city attorney's office.

Question: Councilor Durrwachter - Clayton Jackson McGee monument.

Recently has been cleaned LY and checked this year, the ground around it isn't ours to maintain - She'll reach back out to him to see what he was referring to.

Discussed the need for more commissioners and getting that word out, no official recommendations.

Recommend change/date time of meeting. Suggest 3rd Tuesday 4 - 5:30.

Kelly moved to adjourn, Gardino second

Duluth Public Arts Commission

MINUTES 1/29/2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting started at 4:00PM

Commissioners: Shari Marshik, Christina Woods, Amanda Hunter, Tammy Underwood, Amy Demmer, Scottie Gardonio, Wendy Durrwachter.

Present: Shari Marshik, Christina Woods, Tammy Underwood, Amy Demmer, Scottie Demmer, Wendy Durrwachter.

Absent: Amanda Hunter

Staff: Angie Stier, Natalie Lavenstein

- Public Comment
 - a. None
 - b. Mellisa Weiser present

Approval of Minutes

- October Meeting Minutes will be Approved at the February Meeting
- December Regular Meeting Minutes
 - a. Tammy Core name change. Will be referred to by Tammy Underwood.

Underwood made a motion to approve December meeting minutes with a second by Gardonio.

Discussion Items

- GND Skate Park Grant Request - Renderings
 - Wood: Renderings that perpetuate stereotypes of Native people are not supported.
 - Angie: Will find out if Mark has vetted the designs and what the selection process is.
- Ojibwe Language Signs
 - Marshik: Originally \$15,000. \$3,000 done, \$12,000 left.

- Angie: If payment is under \$10,000 City Council is not required to approve. Can do a combination of small transactions as long as it each one is under \$10,000.
- Motion to approve \$12,000 for IC to be paid on invoices at or under \$9,999. Woods motioned; Marshik seconded. Motion passed.
- Leadership Transition Planning
 - Demmer's last meeting will be in February
 - Gardonio will be seated as commission chair
 - Woods made a motion to approve Gardonio as DPAC chair as of February 27th, 2025. Second by Underwood. Motion passes.
- Commissioner Recruitment
 - Mellisa Weiser – owner of All Creative and works with armory, and MRC (music resource center).
 - Demmer: if Melissa is not a commissioner can still join subcommittees.
- 2025 Budget
 - Marshik: The budget should be discussed and changed as needed. Staff cannot support new programming because of limited capacity.
 - All: Should we spend as if DPAC is ending soon or do we continue to operate conservatively.
 - 2025 Budget Items:
 1. Mural startup costs – committed roll over
 2. Utility box wraps – not an increase
 3. Public mural
 4. Flex funding
 - a. Bus shelter wraps - We should maintain a flex fund. Could be bus shelter wraps or something else. Other ideas include a business mural match.
 5. City hall Anishinaabe signage - \$12,000, not \$15,000
 6. Final Budget Total: \$86, 080
 - Marshik will send Angie or Natalie the updated budget
 - Motion to approve 2025 budget changes at this meeting with caveat of revisiting in May with updates or changes. Woods motioned, Gardonio second. Motion approved.
- Other: Future of DPAC

- Durrwachter will contact Ben for a discussion regarding the future of DPAC. Durrwachter spoke with the Mayor and explained that DPAC can present itself well.
- A commissioner will contact the Mayor for a discussion regarding the future of DPAC.
 - Natalie reminded commission that if the meeting meets quorum, it will need to be a public meeting.

Communications

- Staff Updates
 - a. Angie: We are still in the audit process. Ben will continue to communicate with the Mayor. Staff needs to have an internal meeting before the Mayor meets with DPAC.
 - b. We received 2 new commission applications: Jinger Jewel and Becca Graves (Anishinaabe, Leech Lake member). We will review these and meet with applicants.
 - c. Zeitgeist was recommended and received 20K for the CDBG funding for 6th Ave east communities mural program. Angie will send this letter to Demmer for signature.
 - d. Angie will update Ben regarding the commission of the whole.
 - e. Penny Perry will report on 2024 and proposed 2025 artwork cleanings at the February meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

- No reports at this time.
- Subcommittee names will be updated to reflect name changes and vacancies.

Adjournment

Motion by Marshik, second by Woods. The meeting adjourned at 5:25.



MEMO

STAFF UPDATES

To: Duluth Public Arts Commission
From: Angie Stier, Staff, DPAC
Date: February 26th, 2025
Re: STAFF UPDATES

Summary:

Four applications for the DPAC have been received, city liaisons (Angie and Natalie) will interview each applicant in person and get a feel for their previous work, experience in the art community and commissions. Staff would provide a recommendation to the Mayor for approval. With the Mayor's approval, the City Council would vote to appoint the new commissioners.

Director of Planning and Economic Development, Ben VanTassel is working to meet with the Mayor and provide some insights to the future of DPAC.

The Indigenous Commission has received notice of the DPAC's approval to pay for invoices valued at \$9,999 or less, up to \$12,000 total to the Ojibwe Language Signs and Pronunciation Guide Project.

2025 DULUTH PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION BUDGET

2025 DULUTH PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION BUDGET											
REVENUE										NOTES	
Main Fund (includes fountain change)										\$108,422	Total at end of 2024 balance from city
Conservation & Maintenance										\$42,485	
Total Public Art Fund										\$150,907	
				MAIN FUND		CONSERVATION FUND					
EXPENSES	Committed 2024 rollover	2025 new budget	TOTAL 2025 BUDGET	Comm	Spent	Comm	Spent	2025 Actual Spent	2024 Budget minus spent	Notes	Questions
Mural startup costs Mn Power Collaboration	\$3,980	\$0	\$3,980					\$0	\$3,980	Contract is still open thru Dec 2025 and should be considered committed	
Utility Box Wraps	\$2,850	\$14,250	\$17,100					\$0	\$17,100	1 box remains from 2024 committed- \$2850 budget for 5 new boxes x \$2,850 = \$14,250	
Public Mural - GND		\$5,000	\$5,000					\$0	\$5,000	Request per packet	Questions about artist
Flex Funding: Contract for building systems to support and amplify our work		\$10,000	\$10,000					\$0	\$10,000	systems/policies/support to include: artist application, criteria/matrix for selecting projects , RFP template, Artist Guide for mural making, updated art directory, deaccessioning policies, strategic planning, future project analysis, etc	Add this to Flex funding?
Flex Funding: Public Art		\$18,000	\$18,000					\$0	\$18,000	Could this be the bus shelter wrap? Mural business match program?	
City Hall Anishinaabe Signage	\$12,000		\$12,000					\$0	\$12,000	Desire for our funds to be used to help fund the project inclu some art on the signage. If this doesn't happen in 2025, need to communicate to Indg Comm that we need to reevaluate if we carry this project forward or not.	Need to be invoiced at amounts of \$9,999 or less
Conservation / Maintenance of Art , Statues and Monuments		\$20,000	\$20,000					\$0	\$20,000	Need assessment from MSP team to understand what is needed that Penny can't do (Per Penny's recommendation)	
Total	\$18,830	\$67,250	\$86,080					\$0	\$86,080		
Remaining Art Fund Balanceafter 2025 budget			\$64,827								



MEMO

Agenda Item 1

To: Duluth Public Arts Commission
From: Angie Stier, Staff, DPAC
Date: February 26th, 2025
Re: Guest Speaker – Penny Perry

Summary:

Penny will be speaking to the commission on the sculptures that were cleaned in 2024 and provide recommendations on cleanings for 2025, in addition to other statue maintenance needs and considerations.

Recommended Action:

Commission is to provide recommendations for sculpture cleanings in 2025.

Attachments:

- Cleaning images
- 2024 Cleaning proposal
- 2024 Cleaning invoice





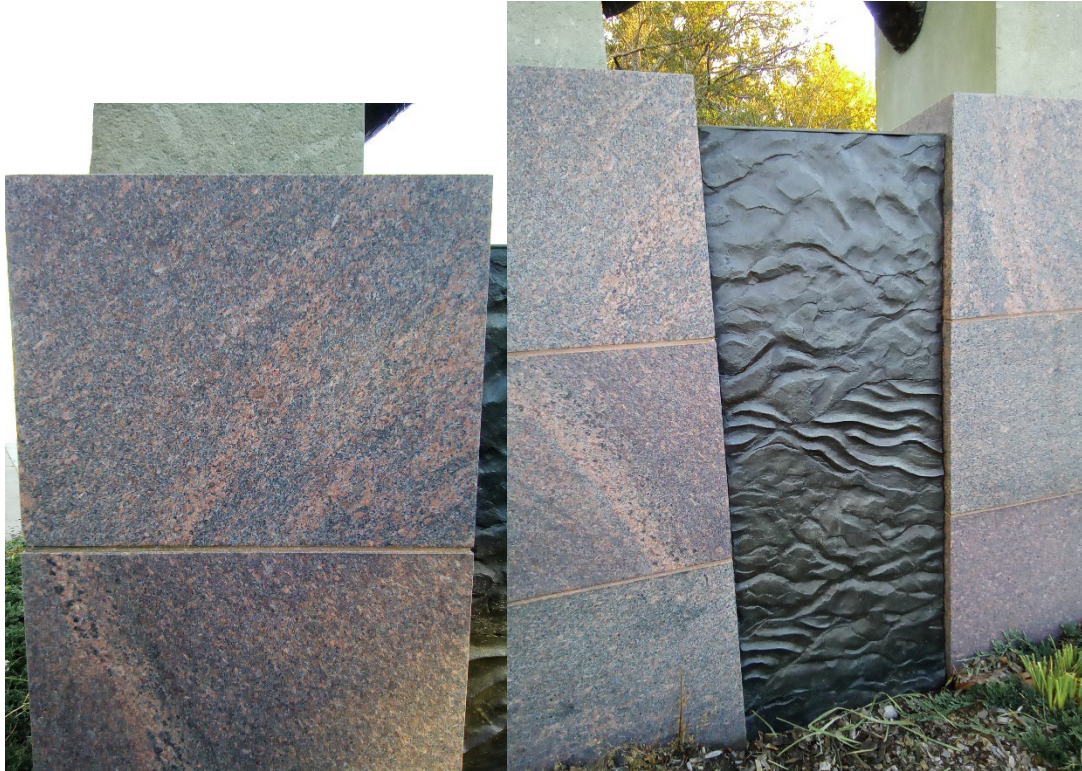




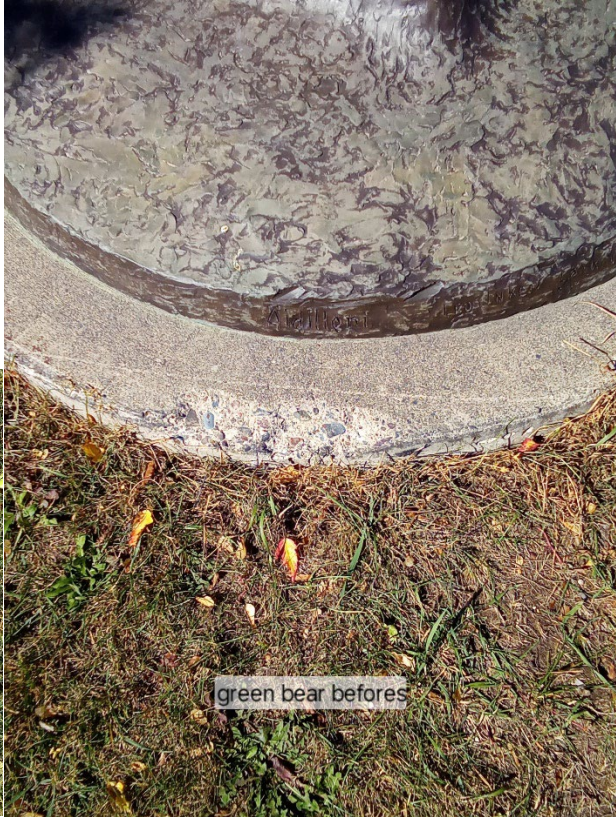


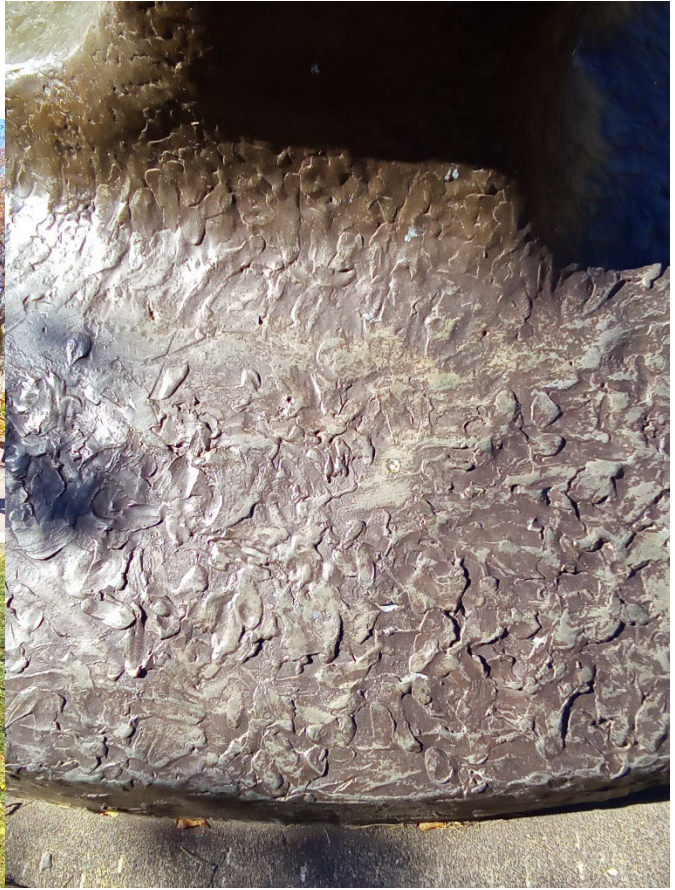
graffiti on granite (obscene)















gr. bear cleaned & grass cut back

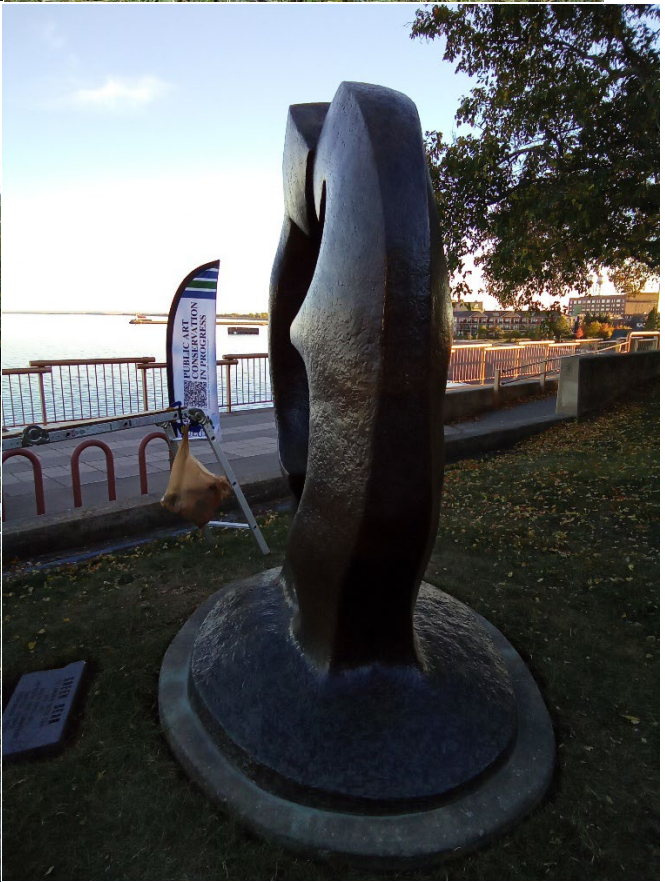




gr bear title plaque damaged by mower



green bear finals







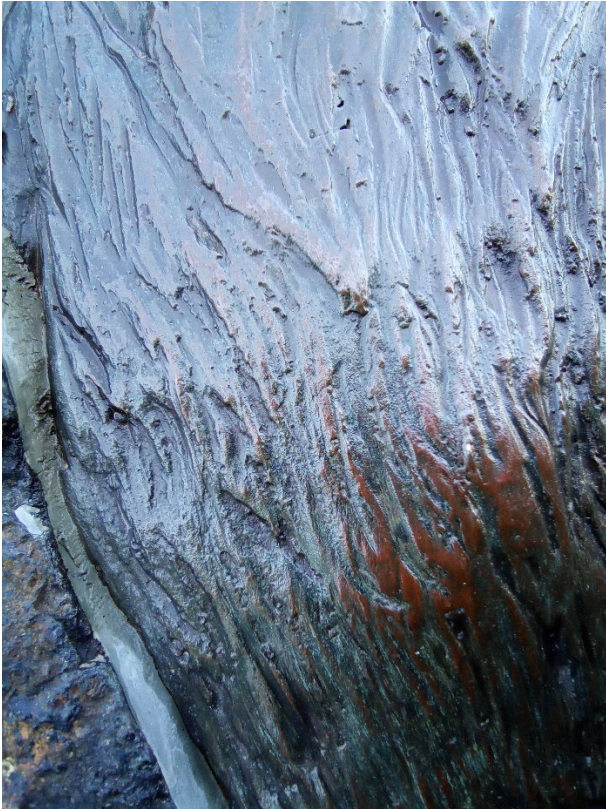
aquarium before

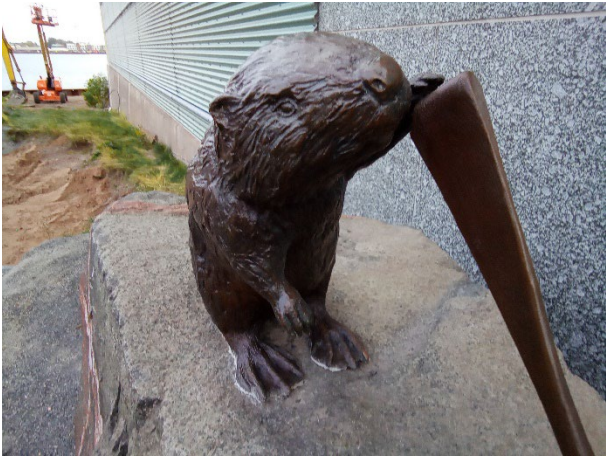


















2024 Proposal to have routine cleaning and conservation done on public artworks owned by City of Duluth

Vendor: Penny Perry
926 E. 4th St.
Duluth, MN 55805
(218) 727-6689 perryframing@aol.com

Time frame: June - October (contingent upon weather)

Scope of work: Sculpture maintenance consisting of cleaning with non-phosphorous soap (Orvus) and water, detail light surface corrosion, cleaning residue with mineral spirits, applying protective (Mohawk) wax coating and buffing to polish and harden finish. Photographic before and after condition documentation.

Sculptures proposed to be treated, and estimated hours:

	Est. HOURS	NOT TO EXCEED
-Cooperation Safety Honor, Public Safety Bldg.	12-17	864. - 1224.
-Spirit of the Lake Superior, Canal Park	5 - 7	360. - 504.
-Arising, Gichi-Ode' Akiing	9 -11	648. - 792.
-Green Bear, Gichi-Ode'Akiing	8 -10	576. - 720.
- The Language of Stone, GL Aquarium	4 - 6	288. - 432.

potential total cost not to exceed: \$3,672.

Cost basis: Perry charges \$72/hour (this figure includes all materials, tools, ladders, scaffolding and transportation, photo- documentation and insurance)

City of Duluth will provide a gratis City Parking Permit.

Thank you for this opportunity. I have visited each sculpture in the last two weeks and documented current condition and issues. Current "on day of photos" will also be taken. Please let me know where to email documentation photos.

Estimates are based on prior years and current issues observed.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you,

Penny Perry

submitted 5/17/24

Duluth Public Arts Commission 10-29-2024

Vendor: Penny Perry
926 E. 4th St.
Duluth, MN 55805
(218) 727-6689 c. 218-341-6196
perryframing@aol.com

Invoice #2024SCDul-5

for sculpture maintenance of:

-Cooperation Safety Honor, Public Safety Bldg.			
Friday Sept. 27	5:00 - 7:00 = 2		
Saturday Sept. 28	11:30 - 7:00 = 7.5		
Sunday Sept. 29	11:45 - 6:15 = 6.5	16	\$1,152.00
-Spirit of the Lake Superior, Canal Park			
Monday Sept. 30	1:00 - 5:00 = 4		
Tues. Oct. 1	12:00 - 3:30 = 3.5	7.5	\$540.00
-Arising, Gichi-Ode' Akiing			
Thurs. Oct. 3	1:00 - 5:00 = 4		
Fri. Oct. 4	1:00 - 8:00 = 7	11	\$792.00
-Green Bear, Gichi-Ode'Akiing			
Mon. Oct 7	12:30 - 4:00 = 4		
Tues. Oct. 8	12:00 - 5:45 = 5.75	9.75	\$702.00
- The Language of Stone, GL Aquarium			
Wed. Oct 9	2:00 - 4:30 = 2.5		
Thurs. Oct. 10	3:00 - 6:30 = 3.5	6	\$432.00

total amount due - \$3,618.00

Thank you for this opportunity.
Please feel free to call with any questions'
I still have the sign and will drop off at City Hall
sometime soon.

Penny Perry



MEMO

Agenda Item 2

To: Duluth Public Arts Commission
From: Angie Stier, Staff, DPAC
Date: February 26th, 2025
Re: Project Updates- GNDDA Grant Request

Summary:

Bringing this agenda item back for board decision after discussing DPAC concerns with Mark Boben on January 30th.

1. Artists Sam Zimmerman, Michelle Defoe and Sylvia Houle are very connected with various tribal nations, including the Turtle Mtn. Band and have been made aware of the artwork and, assuring that cross conversations and approvals have been conducted. Mark wants to ensure the pieces are sensitive to tribal authorities, as not to reflect negatively on any groups.
2. The image of indigenous people represented in the artwork concept of Tim Cortes will be removed from the concept completely.

Applicant is seeking \$5,000 to assist with the creation of murals at a new skate park in the Gary-New Duluth neighborhood. This area is currently void of any public murals.

Changes to the material and installation of the artwork:

3M wrapping is not longer feasible, instead the artwork will be transcribed onto aluminum panels, an anti-graffiti protectant over the aluminum artwork, and bolted into their described locations. This process is more durable and will allow future artwork to seamlessly incorporated over time.

Concept artwork planned for the skate park has been included for reference.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the commission vote to approve, deny or amend the above grant request.

Attachments:

- Proposal
- Mural Concepts

Duluth Public Arts Commission

RE: GND REC Skatepark Mural and Grant Request

The GND Development Alliance 501 (c)3 the organization responsible for the revitalization of the GND REC including the new skatepark will be doing a mural on the walls facing Commonwealth Avenue. See Appendix 1. The Far West Gary-New Duluth does not currently have any public art. We are requesting a \$5000 grant for the estimated \$25,000 mural project that will greatly enrich our community.

Project Goals

The Purpose of the project is to create **destination art** by outstanding artists that will draw visitors to the site to view the art, use the GND REC amenities and enjoy the Gary-New Duluth community, the Heart of the St. Louis River corridor.

Theme

The theme for the mural is to be a focus on the history and evolution of the far west side of Duluth including Gary-New Duluth and Fond du Lac. It is envisioned that:

- #1 will have an indigenous focus – Sam Zimmerman See Appendix 2
- #2 will have a skateboarding focus – Todd Bratrud– See Appendix 3
- #3 would provide a historical perspective of the Gary-Duluth and Fond du Lac Communities including the St. Louis River. Tim Cortes See Appendix 4
- #4 would focus on the on the St. Louis River from Fond du Lac with an indigenous focus – Two artists, Michelle Defoe and Sylvia Houle will work together. See Appendix 5 & 6

The art will be developed as appropriate so that it can be transcribed via computer on to a vinyl wrap that will be affixed to the wall. All art will be separated from each other by some type of “border” to be determined and consistent so each artist’s art will stand out individually.

Art will be visibly signed by the artist.

The art will not make a political statement, depict violence, drug use, or have negative connotations.

Approximate dimensions of the assigned wall “shape” for the individual art are noted in Exhibit A. However, the artist is responsible for exact dimensions of the shape they have been assigned so that it can be professionally imaged to the appropriate scale.

We expect that the art will be a destination that will draw people to the community to enjoy the artist's outstanding talents.

Budget for the Original Artwork – The total commission price for the original artwork will be **\$8000**. It is anticipated that imaging will be **\$1000**. The wrap including installation is estimated at **\$16,000**. Total project cost is estimated at **\$25,000**.

We have applied for two other grants but have not yet received notification of success. As we move forward we will conduct fundraising events for the project.

We humbly ask for your support for our grant application.

Please advise if you have any questions.

Regards,



Mark Boben

GND Development Alliance

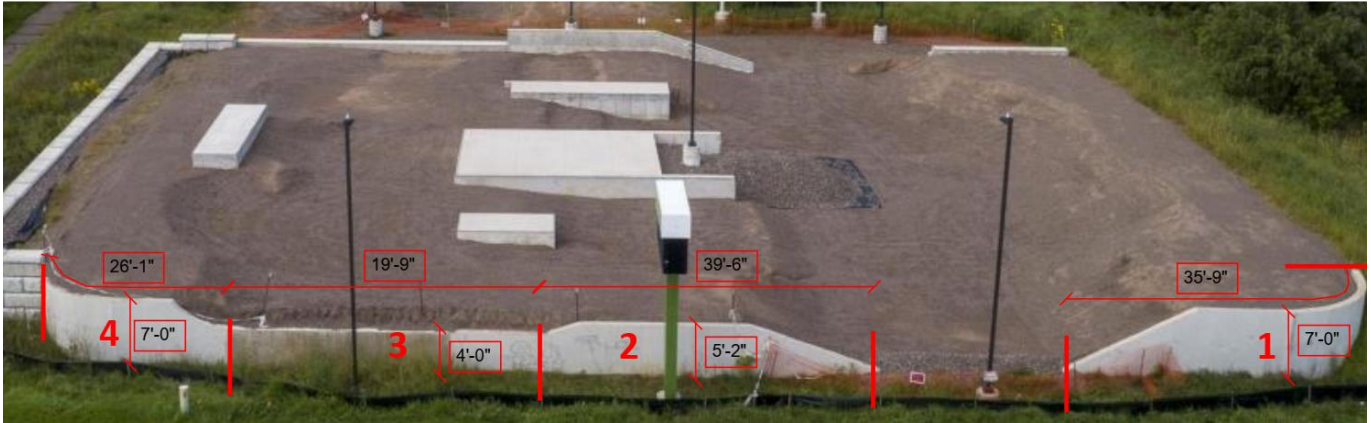
218-355-1349

<https://gnd.community/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gndcommunity>



Appendix 1 - GND REC Skatepark Mural Walls – 801 Commonwealth Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota 55808



Completed skatepark aerial photo

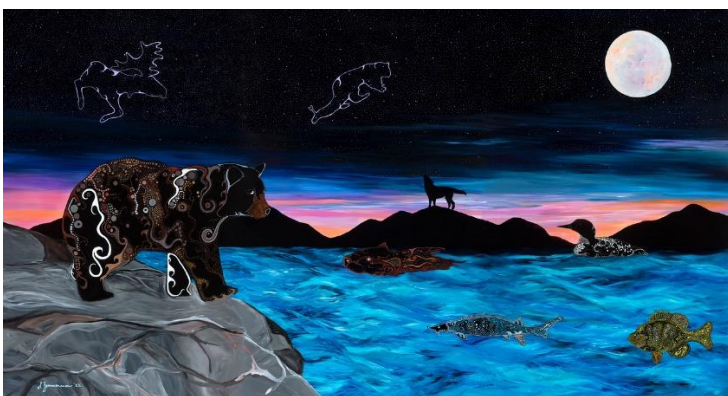


Appendix 2

Sam Zimmerman - <https://www.facebook.com/cranesuperiorstudio/> After twenty years working in public education, Sam returned home to Minnesota. With his relocation from the East Coast returning to Minnesota, he rededicated himself to his painting with a ferocity that had been absent since his earlier studio days.

His work explores his Ojibwe heritage, his learnings and experiences in nature upon his return to the Grand Portage reservation while preserving shared oral histories, reimagining the symbolism of the clan animals while incorporating the natural landscape of Lake Superior's North Shore. Sam focuses on continuing the Anishinaabe tradition of storytelling embedding the themes of environmental stewardship and conservation of the North Shore through his studio and public art commissions. He has completed public art pieces for the Grand Portage Tribal Nation, Chik Wauk Museum and Nature Center, Voyageur National Park, the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Minnesota Twins, and the Duluth and Grand Marais communities as a means to celebrate Ojibwe culture and language.

He has been the recipient of grant awards from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Northland Foundation Maada'ookiing, and Duluth Superior Community Foundation. His most recent art coffee table bilingual coffee table book is a collection of paintings and stories from his first year of creating along the northern shore of Lake Superior, titled: *Following My Spirit Home*, published by Blackbear and Blueberries Publishing in April 2022. *Following My Spirit Home* was a silver finalist for a Midwest Book Award in June 2023. The Minnesota Historical Society press reprinted *Following My Spirit Home* as a new paperback edition in June 2023.



Appendix 3

Todd Bratrud - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd_Bratrud Todd Bratrud is an illustrator who is based in Northern Minnesota. For the past 30 years Todd has been making art on a regular basis for skateboarding adjacent brands like: Strangelove, Zero, Creature Skateboards, Thrasher Magazine, Tony Hawk, Nike SB, the V skateboards, Familia Skateboard shop, Brat Bros Fingerboards and much, much more. A skateboarder himself since the late 80s, the skateboarding sub-culture is the main place you will see his work...



Appendix 4

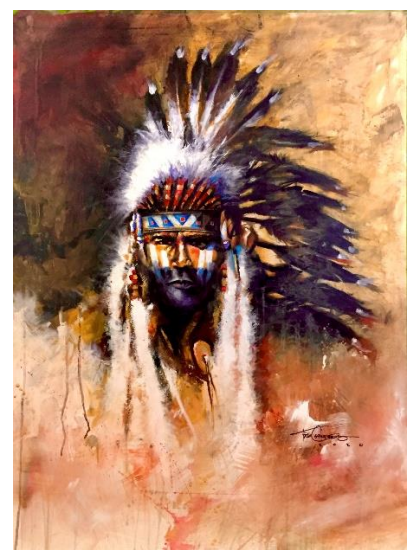
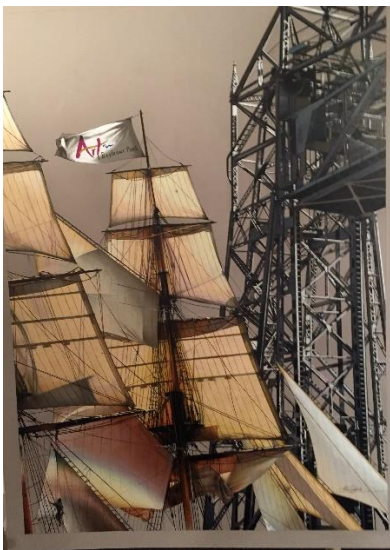
Tim Cortes- <https://timcortes.com/> Tim Cortes uses colored pencil as his preferred medium. Hundreds of his limited edition lithographs have been sold all over the world and his clients are a venerable who's-who of American sports. From Wayne Gretzky to Dale Earnhardt and from Shaquille O'Neal to Troy Aikman, Cortes has been commissioned to create countless commemorative works of art for decades.

Known for his impeccable detail, Cortes has concentrated his talent on celebrating the life and times of many of the world's most famous athletes and the sporting events in which they play.

Cortes' paintings have also been featured in numerous venues around the world, including The U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame, The Franklin Mint and the jersey at the jersey retirement ceremonies of NHL all-star Brett Hull and NFL all-pro, the late Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers. Tim's work is also showcased at the new Minnesota Twins Ball Park "Target Field" where his 3 World Series Murals are the center piece of the "Champions Club" lounge at the park.

Cortes grew up in Duluth, where he later starred as a hockey goaltender and football captain at Duluth East High School. After a stint in the United States Hockey League, Cortes went on to play two seasons with the Golden Gophers of the University of Minnesota He then decided to pursue his lifelong passion of becoming a full-time artist and enrolled in the prestigious Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He has been creating ever since.

Today Tim lives in the same Duluth neighborhood where both he and his wife Kathy grew up. When Tim is not at the drawing board, he dedicates his time coaching hockey goal tenders at every level. Tim also served as goaltending coach for the five-time NCAA National Champion UMD Woman's Hockey Team.



Appendix 5

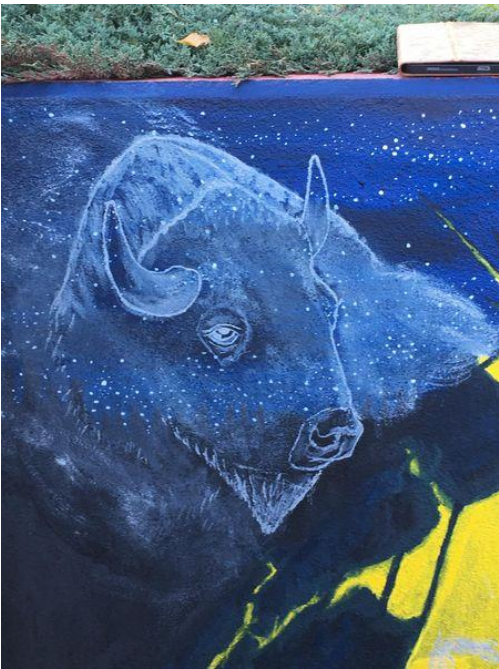
Michelle Defoe –My spirit name is Morning Star. My English name is Michelle Defoe. Welcome to my page of artwork. I work with Ojibwe traditional arts such as moccasin making, beadwork and birchbark. I also paint and work on murals. Michelle will work together with Sylvia Houle.

https://www.facebook.com/StarWomanDesigns?mibextid=LQJ4d&rdid=K24vMHDSIKnysTlc&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2Fy1MP3vJUYPf6PFg%2F%3Fmibextid%3DLQJ4d



Appendix 6

Sylvia Houle - <https://www.facebook.com/sylviahouleart/> Sylvia Houle, Artist - Original contemporary/abstract artwork that is inspired by traditional Anishinaabe teachings and culture. Awards include: First Place in Fine Arts, Adult Division, 2017 Turtle Mountain Tribal Arts Association 2nd Juried Art Show & Market. Sylvia will work together with Michelle Defoe.



GND REC Skatepark Mural Concepts

Outdoor Public Art Gallery

Sam Zimmerman Concept



Todd Bratrud Concept



Tim Cortes Concept



Michelle Defoe & Sylvia Houle Concept

