



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.

**Monday March 17
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 February 2025 Meeting Minutes

Staff Updates

DISCUSSION ITEMS

GND Skatepark – In-Person with Mark Boben

Ben VanTassel – Updates

Paul Hanson - Downtown Historical Signage

Utility Box Wraps – Call for Artists 2025 Applications (5)

- One Application Received (Teresa Cox)

Penny Perry

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

Duluth Public Arts Commission

MINUTES 2/26/2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting started at 4:02 PM

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, Ben VanTassel

Approval of Minutes

Approval of October, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Approval of January, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Gardonio made a motion to approve October and January meeting minutes with a second by Woods.

Staff updates (Angie Stier)

- Penny Perry not able to attend. Perry will prepare a report on cleaning, concerns, etc.
- Paul Hanson requested information regarding the improvement of old signage in downtown. Paul may provide a proposal to DPAC.
- We have received 4 applications for commissioner seats. We will work to review these and potentially set interviews.
- Indigenous Commission is aware that DPAC has reviewed the proposal and will be moving forward soon.

Discussion Items

- **DPAC Status**

- Introduction from Director of Planning and Economic Development, Ben VanTassel. Expressed concerns from staff and commission members regarding the commission's capacity and future. Staff capacity is limited. The Mayor is supportive of public art and its contribution to vibrancy.
- VanTassel: If the City is unable to support DPAC how will the existing public art be taken care of and the vision of DPAC achieved? What is most effective for public art in Duluth?
- Woods: Are these questions coming up because the commission is going away or is the commission just scaling back?
- Durrwachter: We can look at other models for staffing public art commissions. St. Cloud is an example.
- Woods: Keep in mind we have artwork outside of the building that needs conservationist level expertise. The City will not get away from the responsibility of caring for existing art. There are deaccessioning processes, artist rights, and statutory requirements.
- Gardonio: We are doing a lot of this conservationist work for free. Or hire contractors.
- Marshik: DPAC has faced many hurdles: lack of funding, no funding source, and not able to look for new funding. The commission model has been limiting in what DPAC can accomplish. Art helps accomplish the City's economic development goals.
- Demmer: DPAC provides the art expertise that the City alone does not have. Duluth has a need for an art ecosystem which DPAC can provide.
- Woods: DPAC is the community facing touch point for art. This is an asset for the City.
- VanTassel: What does a city commission accomplish vs a nonprofit?
- Gardonio: Art is political. If the City were to step away, it would send a significant message.

- Demmer: Art should be tied into the planning division. Art increases livability and vibrancy. DPAC needs a dedicated planning staff member.
- VanTassel: Will look at systems and efficiencies.
- Durrwachter: The City could view art as an economic tool. DPAC should have 45K coming in soon because of 1% from new public road infrastructure.
- Gardonio, Woods: DPAC has enough funding to continue with the cleaning work for existing art for a few more years. The repair and deaccessioning are not funded as well. This is a liability for the city because of statutes.
- Woods left the DPAC meeting at 5:55 PM
- Durrwachter: DPAC could be a much better tool for economic development.
- Marshik: An art nonprofit can not be the new DPAC because it will increase the competition for grants. This will be damaging for the art community.
- VanTassel: Will have an internal staffing conversation, review watershed plan, and research digital systems for DPAC data and communication.
- Demmer: We don't want to add 5 new commissioners all at once. We need to create a better onboarding system i.e buddy system. We are different than other commissions in that we have a budget.
- **2025 Budget**
 - No change at this time.
- **Election of Officers**
 - Demmer's last meeting today 2/26/2025.
 - Gardonio new commission chair starting 2/27/2025.
- **Skate Park Mural**
 - The image on Tim Cortez's art will be removed. Will wait to approve the art until DPAC is aware of what the final art will look like. Cortez may be at March DPAC meeting.

- **Sub Committees**

- No updates at this time.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion by Marshik to end, second by Woods. Meeting adjourned at 5:27.

Agenda Item 2

To: Duluth Public Arts Commission
From: Angie Stier, Staff, DPAC
Date: March 17th, 2025
Re: Project Updates- GNDDA Grant Request

Summary:

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

1. The image of indigenous people represented in the artwork concept of Tim Cortes will be removed from the concept completely.

Mark will be speaking about how that change will impact the design and the new art concept for this portion of the art project.

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(original)
- Updated Mural concept

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

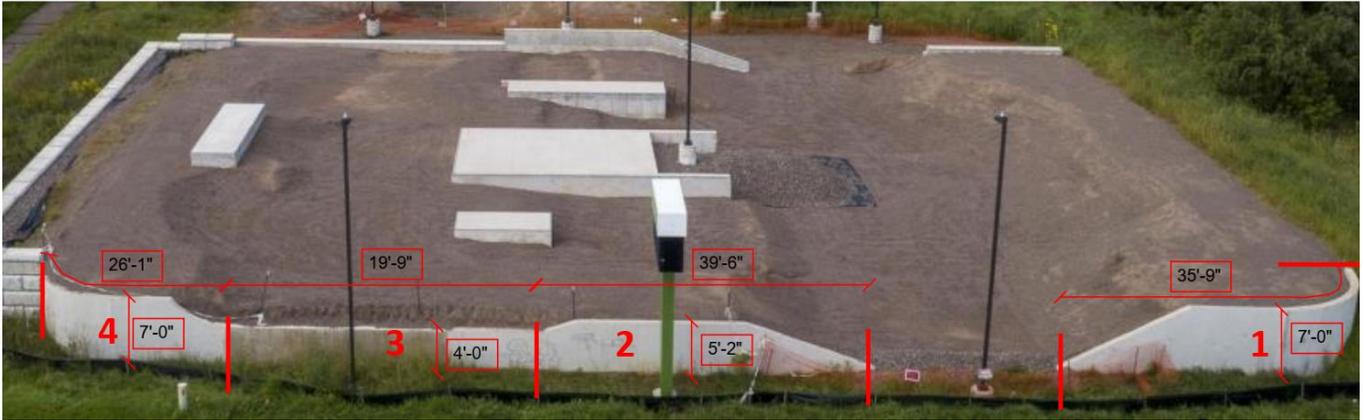
218-355-1349

<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

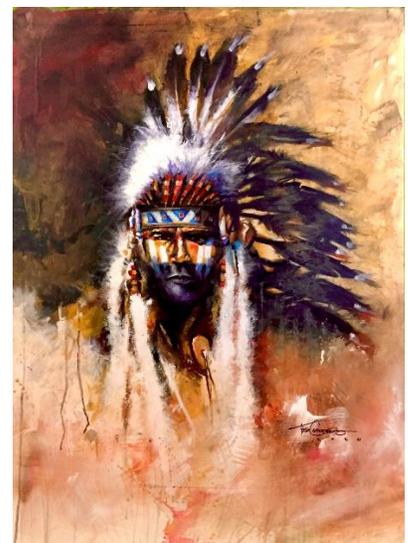
Tim Cortes- <https://timcortes.com/> Tim Cortes uses colored pencil as his preferred medium. Hundreds of his limited edition lithographs have been sold all over the world and his clients are a venerable who's-who of American sports. From Wayne Gretzky to Dale Earnhardt and from Shaquille O'Neal to Troy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

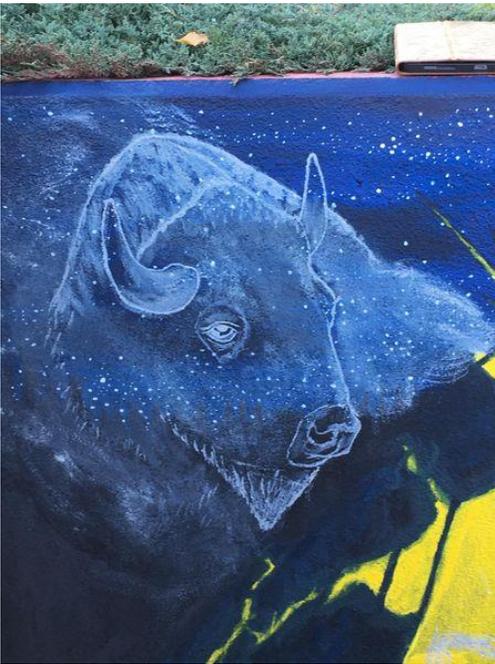
Michelle Defoe –My spirit name is Morning Star. My English name is Michelle Defoe. Welcome to my page of artwork. I work with Ojibwe traditional arts such as moccasin making, beadwork and birchbark. I also paint and work on murals. Michelle will work together with Sylvia Houle.

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



Michelle Defoe & Sylvia Houle Concept



Tim Cortes Concept



Tim Cortes Revised Concept



Agenda Item 4

To: Duluth Public Arts Commission
From: Angie Stier, Staff, DPAC
Date: March 17th, 2025
Re: Guest Speaker- Paul Hanson

Summary:

Recommended Action:

No actions are needed at this time.

Agenda Item

To: Duluth Public Arts Commission
From: Angie Stier, Staff, DPAC
Date: March 17th, 2025
Re: 2025 Call for Artists- Utility Box Wraps

Summary:

DPAC has received one application for a Utility Box wrap in 2025, and Rachel Gustafson will be working to get her location wrapped this year. As indicated in the 2025 budget, \$14,250 has been allocated for new wraps allowing for 5 new installations.

Staff will work with the City Public Relations officer to draft a press release.

What is a proposed start and end date for receiving these applications?

Duluth Public Arts Commission

Utility Cabinet Artwork Program

Artist Rules and Instructions

The Mission of the Duluth Public Arts Commission is to support public art as a community investment by preserving and promoting art in public places, and to support public art activities that benefit the citizens of Duluth; to encourage partnerships that further the awareness of beauty in our community and to support our city's environment through public art.

The Utility Cabinet Artwork Program aim is to beautify the City with a focus on geographic equity. Applications for this program are open year-round and are limited by the number of approved utility boxes.

In efforts to continue beautification within the City of Duluth, if an artist's work is selected, DPAC will have the right to implement each submitted artist Utility Cabinet Artwork on up to five locations within 10 years of the submitted artwork date.

Process:

1. Complete the following items:
 - a. Artist Application
 - b. Utility Cabinet Design Template
 - i. Which includes images of each side of the Utility Cabinet (5 total)
2. Submit application to:

Angie Stier
Planning and Development
411 W 1st St Room 160
Duluth, MN 55802
astier@duluth.mn.gov
3. If selected, artist will be notified within 60 days.
4. Once notified, artist will begin work on final design. The artist is responsible for ordering the wrap from printer according to "Installation" section below.
5. From there, the wrap can be installed. Wraps can only be installed when temperatures are over 40 degrees, so a majority of installations will happen between the months of May and October.
 - a. If the vendor installs the wrap for the artist, The City of Duluth will coordinate with the vendor on installation timing and details.
 - b. If the vendor requires the artist to install the wrap, the artist will need to coordinate with the City of Duluth on timing and details.
6. After installation the following actions are required:
 - a. Either the artist or vendor will send the box wrapping invoice of up to \$2,500 to Angie Stier (address above).
 - b. The artist will send an invoice for \$1,000 for artist work and time to Angie Stier (address above).

Locations:

- Artwork will be dispersed equally across council districts within the City of Duluth, and locations will be selected by City staff.

Eligible Proposals and Evaluation Factors:

DPAC's goal is to enliven neighborhoods throughout Duluth with positive imagery.

- Artwork which is memorable, positive, thought-provoking, enduring, and communicates a unique vision or perspective.
- Artwork which recognizes and fosters diverse social, cultural, and historical values must not be appropriated.
- Artists should reside within 25 miles of Duluth.
- Artists must submit renderings based on the enclosed template and should include all sides.
 - Note: actual boxes may be a different size or shape so your design may require adjustment after approval.
- Artwork in draft must closely resemble the art that will be installed on the box.
- Applicants must measure their assigned box in order to prepare final designs.
- Artist signature is required and must not exceed 3"x5" in actual size.
- All final wraps will become City property. There is no guarantee of how long the artwork may remain on box due to maintenance or replacement.

Proposals will be ineligible if they involve:

- A breach of intellectual property rights (all artwork must be original)
- Trademarks, brands, business names, logos, or copyrighted images.
- Anything harmful to a third party
- Majority of proposal consisting of dark colors (dark colors can overheat a box)
- Offensive text or images

It is the responsibility of the artist to identify information in their responses they consider confidential and, to the extent that the City agrees with that designation, such information will be held in strict confidence.

In signing this application, I _____ have read, understand, and if selected I agree to the terms described in this application.

Installation:

If selected, artists need to ensure they measure all sides of box, and note any labels, handles, indents, or attachments. Work with your vendor to confirm size and resolution of digital images. Make sure to order a wrap on 3M Anti-Graffiti Vinyl.

Local eligible vendors include:

Elite Tinting & Graphics

4114 W. Superior St. Duluth, MN 55807

info@elitetintingandgraphics.com

218-628-3008

Graphic FX Signworks

10 W 1st St, Duluth, Minnesota 55802

218-522-4585

Duluth Sign

116 W. Superior St. Duluth, MN

218-722-2569

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:

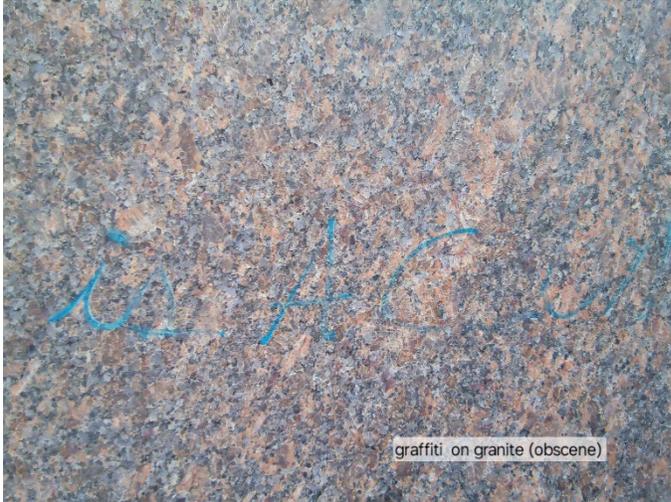
- Cleaning images
- 2024 Cleaning proposal
- 2024 Cleaning invoice



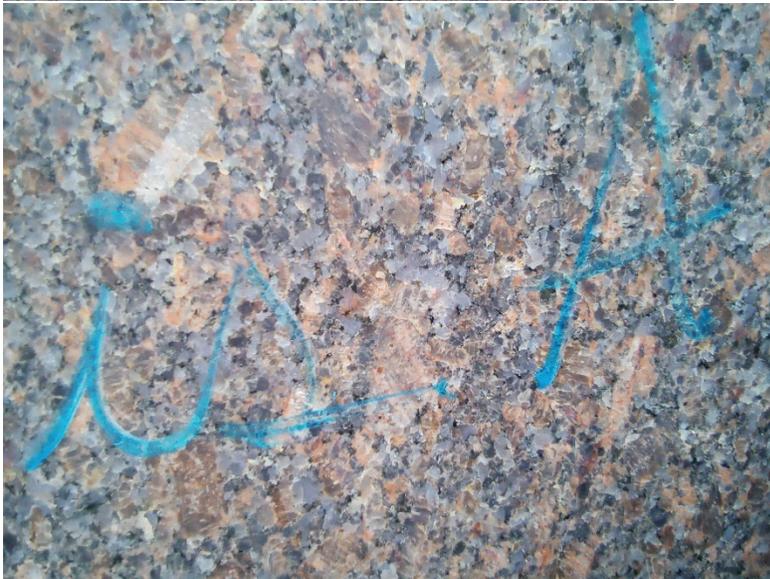


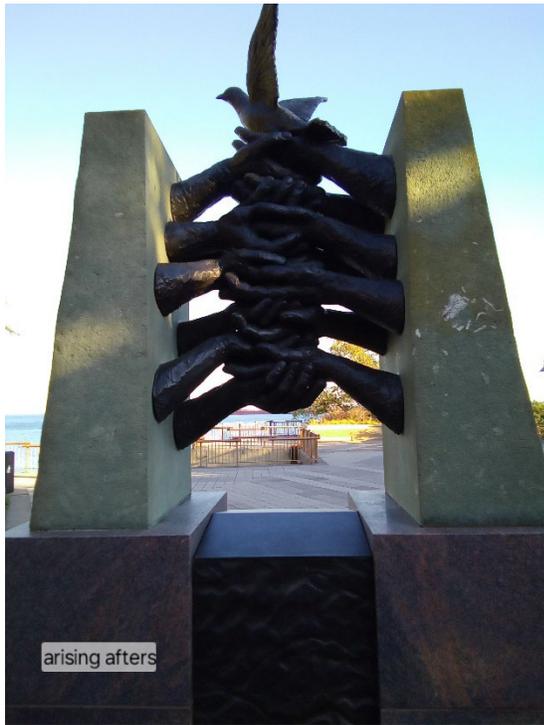




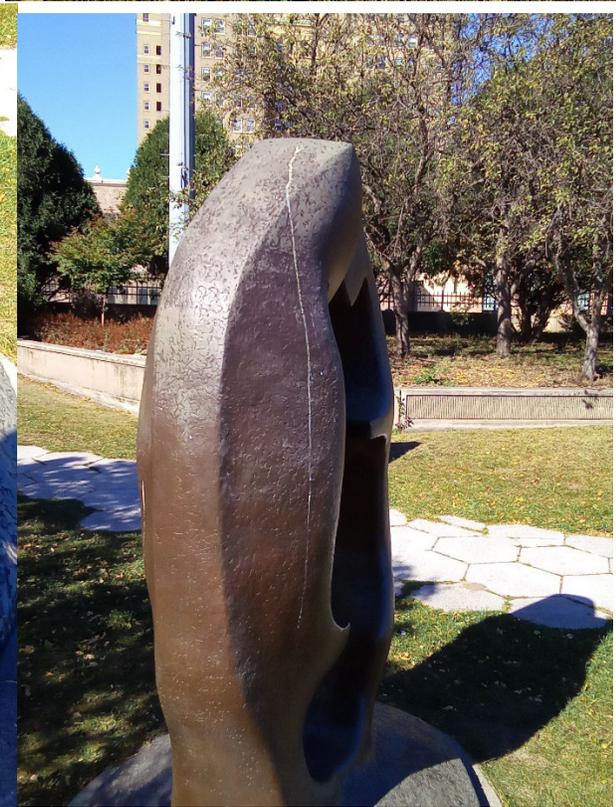
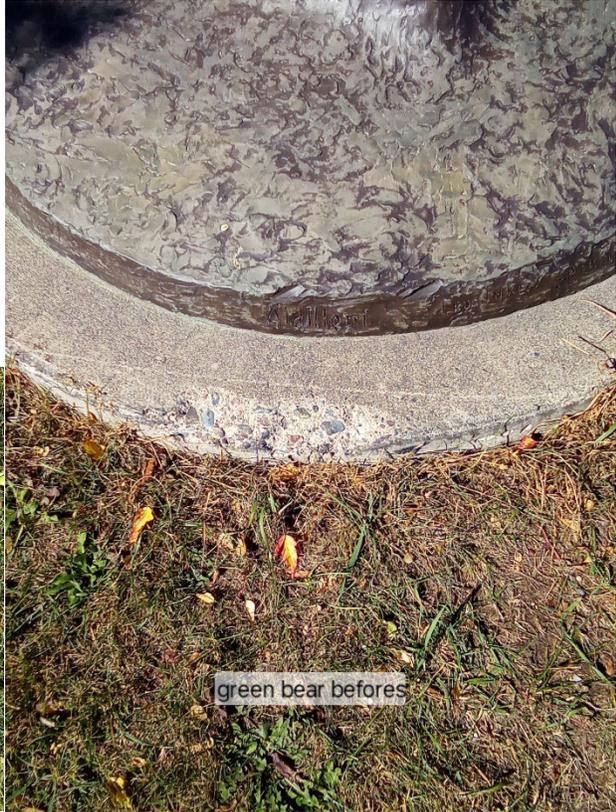
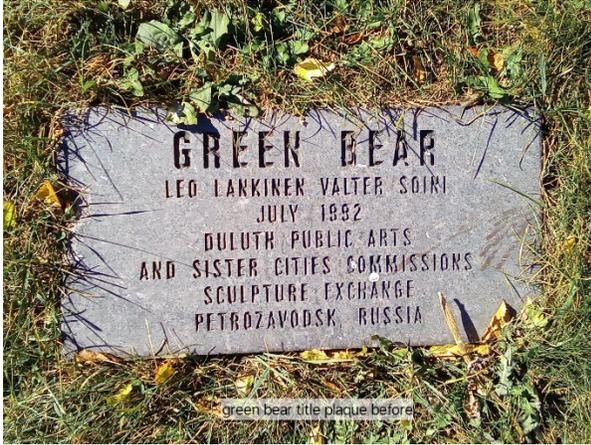


graffiti on granite (obscene)









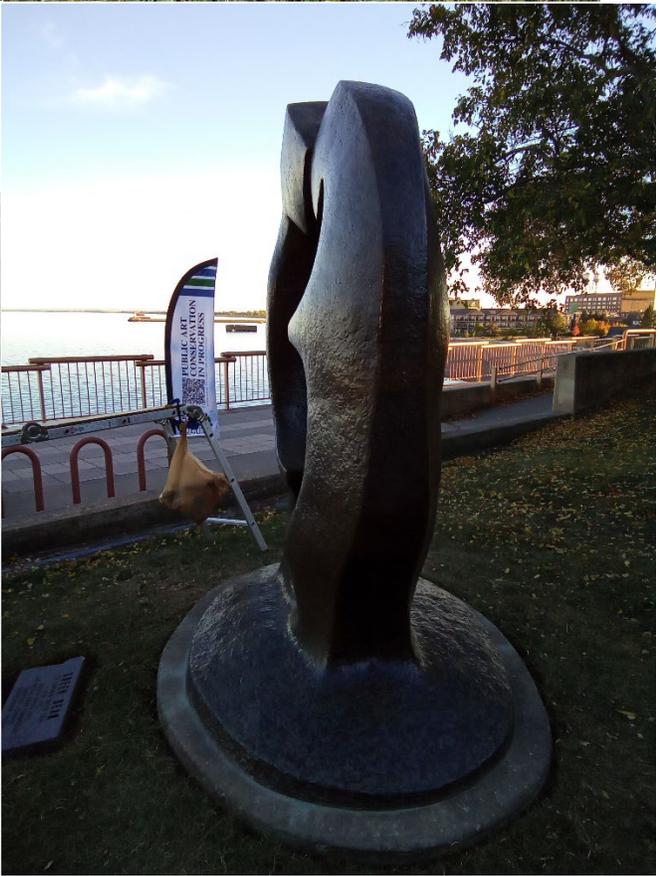


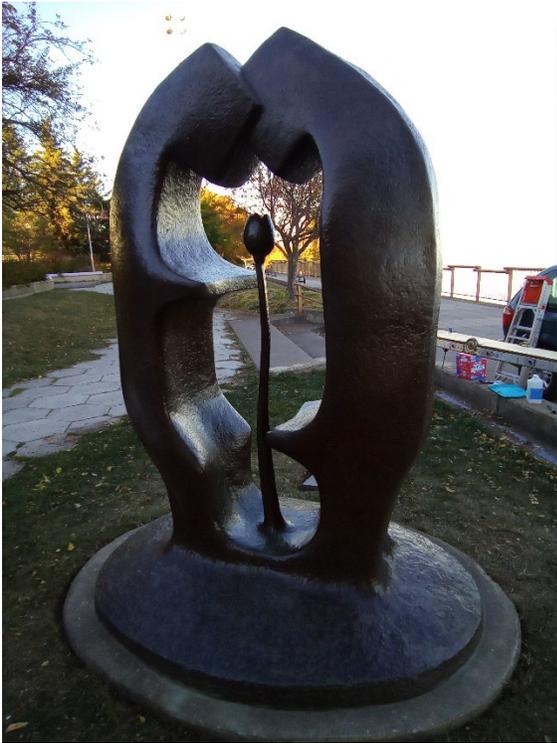




gr. bear cleaned & grass cut back



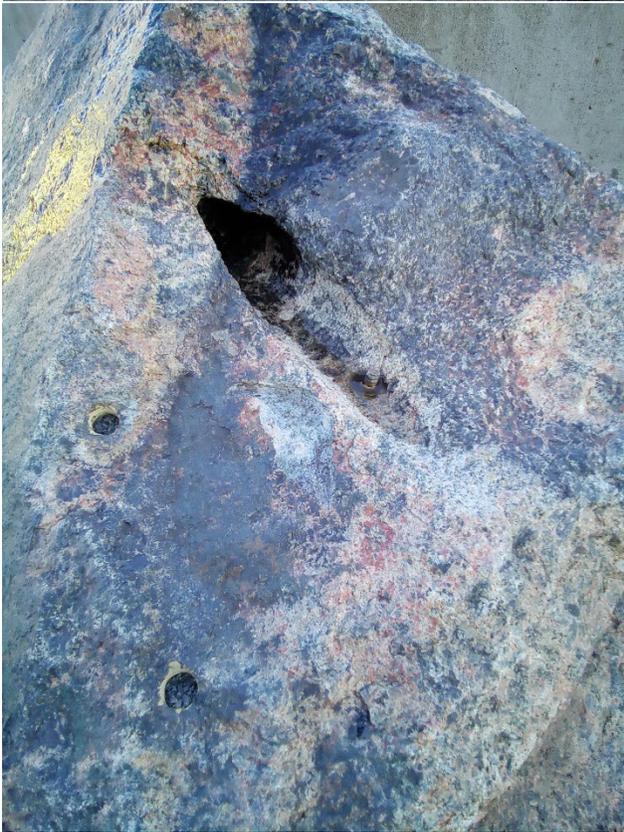






















2024 Proposal to have routine cleaning and conservation done on public artworks owned by City of Duluth

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