



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 July 21, 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 June 2025 Meeting Minutes

Staff Updates

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Installation Final Date for Approved Utility Box Wraps

Conservation Recommendations for Summer 2025

Leif Erickson Signage Verbiage

Erin Kreeger from the Duluth Public Library

- Discussion Regarding the Re-design of Children's Area

Request for Commissioner Taking August Meeting Minutes

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

** Indicates the Facilitator of Each Subcommittee*

- *Conservation Committee*
 - **Woods/Gardonio*
- *Submission Process and Submittal Review*
 - **Marshik/Gardonio/Rose*
- *Funding and Outreach Committee*
 - **Underwood/Graves/Durrwachter*
- *Strategic Directions Subcommittee*
 - **Gardonio/Marshik*

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, August 18th at 4pm** in room 155 within City Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Duluth Public Arts Commission

MINUTES 6/16/2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting started at 4:06 PM

Commissioners: Shari Marshik, Christina Woods, Amanda Hunter, Tammy Underwood, Scottie Gardonio, Wendy Durrwachter, Linnaea Rose, Rebecca Graves

Present: Shari Marshik, Scottie Gardonio, Wendy Durrwachter, Linnaea Rose, Rebecca Graves

Absent: Christina Woods, Amanda Hunter, Tammy Underwood,

Staff: Angie Stier,

Approval of Minutes

Approval of May, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Durrwachter made a motion to approve May meeting minutes with a second by Rose.

Staff updates (Angie Stier)

The transfer of \$12,000 to the Indigenous commission has been completed and indicated in the budget for City Interpretive signage.

Due to the update in virtual attendance for commissions, staff is waiting on recommendations from attorneys on potential changes to city commissions.

No updates on the mayor's timing for approving more commissioners, staff will be sending any additional applications to clerks for another review.

GND Development Alliance has completed their funding agreement, they have a deadline to submit invoices of August 15th, 2025, for payment.

Discussion Items

- **Introduction to New DPAC Commissioners**
 - Commissioners introduced themselves to the newest board member, Rebecca Graves.
- **Spirit of Lake Superior**
 - Gardonio provided commissioners with an overview of the project status.
 - Marshik moves to recommend to the city that no repairs be undertaken beyond the scope outlined by the art consultant, further, DPAC at the current time will not be approving funds for repairs, second by Durrwachter.
- **Budget Review**
 - Marshik provides high level information on budget and allocations.
- **Taking of the Meeting Minutes (standing item)**
 - Minutes will be taken on a rotating basis until a permanent not taker is determined. The board would like to keep this as a standing agenda item for each moving forward.
- **Meeting Date/Time**
 - Leaving the meeting date and time the same.
- **Summer Quorum**
 - No schedule changes are needed.
- **Sub Committees**
 - Commissioners discussed the existing subcommittees, and new commissioners join their preference on joining.
 - Conservation Committee
 - Gardonio/*Woods
 - Submission process and submittal review
 - Marshik*/Gardonio/Rose
 - Funding and Outreach Committee
 - Durrwachter/*Underwood/Graves
 - Strategic Directions Subcommittee
 - Marshik/*Gardonio

- **Adjournment**

- Motion by Gardonio to end, second by Graves, Meeting adjourned at 5:15.

Basic Information

Title (Alphabetical by First Word)	Condition Summary	Conservator's Priority	KCI Work	KCI Costs	Penny Work	Penny Costs	2026	Costs	Ongoing
The Arising	Good	4 - Low	Push to 2026		Yes		KCI work	\$ 2,380.00	Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3 years
Clayton, Jackson, McGhie Memorial	Good	2 - High	Yes	\$ 1,960.00			Penny		Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3-5 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Cooperation, Safety, Honor	Good	3 - Medium	Yes	\$ 1,230.00			Penny		Ensure sprinklers do not spray directly on statue Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3-5 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Determined Mariner	Good	3 - Medium	Yes	\$ 1,230.00			Penny		Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3-5 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Duluth Legacy	Fair	2 - High							Ensure wall is not being pressure washed Determine who is doing structural repairs Schedule assesment/caulking every 2 years
Fountain of the Wind	Fair						Penny	\$ 3,970.00	Multiple slabs are cracked, there are structural (safety) issues City of Duluth is doing repairs this year (end of summer) Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 1-2 years
Great Lake Medallions	Fair to Poor	4 - Low							Maintain documentation on medallions so they may be recreated in the future
Green Bear	Good	3 - Medium			Yes			\$ 1,230.00	Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3-5 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Jay Cooke	Fair	2 - High	Yes	\$ 2,380.00			Penny		Ensure it is not being pressure washed Install planters/bollards to prevent skateboarding damage Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 2-3 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
The Language of Stone	Good	3 - Medium	Yes	\$ 1,900.00			Penny		Report theft of portions of sculpture to police (?) Recast the missing pieces Annual assessments/cleanings Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
The Last Survivor (Civil War Survivor - Albert Woolson)	Fair	2 - High	Yes	\$ 1,230.00			Penny		Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3-5 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Leif Erikson Statue	Fair	2 - High	Yes	\$ 2,380.00			Penny		Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 2-3 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings Replace sign
Man, Child, and Gull	Good to Fair		Yes	TBD			Penny		Replace base (not bollard) Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 3-5 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Norhtland Streams	Poor	4- Low							Needs to be deaccessioned
Siscowet Bench	Fair	2 - High	Yes	\$ 1,470.00			Penny		Continue to cover in the winter Anchor to pavement (?) Move non-art benches to be further away Annual assessments/cleanings KCI Care every 2-3 years Penny may need assistance for annual cleanings
Spirit of Lake Superior	Fair								Structurally may be unsound (rock) Will recommended for deaccessioning
Statue of Liberty (currently w/facilities)	Poor	2 - High						\$ 13,350.00	Determine if funding source can come from outside the city Will need to determine the long-term plan for this piece
Stenen (The Stone)	Good to Fair	4 - Low						\$ 600.00	Will likely need to be deaccessioned/removed
Title Mural	Fair	4 - Low						\$ 1,400.00	Look into getting a better understanding of what is needed for repairs/cleaning (work with MNDOT)
Water and Friendship	Fair	3 - Medium						\$ 1,400.00	Will likely be recommended for deaccessioning
KCI Total				\$ 13,780.00	Penny Total				

PROPOSED LEIF ERICKSON SIGN TEXT 2025

LEIF'S IMAGE, CAST IN BRONZE, SYMBOLIZES THE STRUGGLE AND ADVENTURE OF MARITIME EXPLORATION AS WELL AS A CONNECTION TO DESCENDANTS OF NORSE PEOPLES WHO NOW POPULATE THIS AREA **ALONGSIDE THE ANISHINAABE AND DAKOTAH PEOPLES AND DESCENDANTS OF ~~OTHER~~ ALL IMMIGRANT GROUPS.**"

"other" implies the Native groups are immigrants. Also Indigenous is a term used for worldwide ancestral groups. I know it's confusing and so many examples of its use can be brought up to challenge this .. ie Indigenous commission, but as time rolls forward, people like me are tasked to elevate education around this as we continue to utilize the English language to cast a wide net over specific Nations.

FOUNDATIONS TO LEARN, PLAY & GROW

Transforming the Children's Section of the
Downtown Duluth Public Library

 218-730-4262

 info@duluthlibraryfoundation.org

 www.duluthlibraryfoundation.org

CAMPAIGN BUDGET

FURNISHINGS, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT

Item	Cost	Description	Note #
Service Desk	\$22,500	Desk where library staff support & greet patrons	
Wall Murals, Art, Etc.	\$50,000	Improving signage & adding art and visual items	1
Browser Boxes	\$68,500	Holds picture & board books for Pre-K readers	
Pre-K Area	\$27,500	Play area items (imaginative play & reading nooks)	2
Lounge Furniture	\$25,500	Furniture for children & families to read, play & connect	
Tables & Chairs	\$14,500	For crafts, activities, reading, studying, games & more	
Shelf Stacks	\$107,000	Bookshelves for school age readers	3

CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Item	Cost	Description	Note #
Construction	\$46,000	Demo, painting, wiring, etc.	4
Design	\$8,000	Professional design, layout, and planning fees	
Campaign Fee	\$35,000	Foundation costs to execute campaign	5
Supply	\$31,500	Estimated shipping, delivery, and installation	
Contingency	\$21,000	Increased & unplanned costs	6

	Cost	Description	Note #
TOTAL	\$350,000	Total campaign and project costs	7

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CAMPAIGN BUDGET

PROJECT BUDGET NARRATIVE

Note Number	Narrative
1	Funds allocated to painting murals on blank walls, new visible signage for wayfinding, and creating a more welcoming and vibrant space to excite learning and creativity.
2	The updated play area will include a baby garden for children up to 24 months old (completely new item to the space), updated imaginative playscapes like play houses, train tables, and more with age-appropriate reading nooks.
3	Cost not included in the overall project budget as we plan to use existing shelves. Priced out new shelving as an evaluation for the space.
4	A high-end estimate of costs associated with new paint in the space, wiring and lighting needs, along with potential carpet upgrades and more.
5	Costs associated with promoting fundraising opportunity, including staff time, printing, and more.
6	Contingency costs account for increased prices or taxes when items are ordered, unplanned updates discovered during the project or installation, or unplanned opportunity to enhance the space.
7	Total estimated cost of the project, excluding \$107,000 for new bookshelves.

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For more than 40 years, the Downtown Library has been a vital resource for learning, connection, and growth. However, the children's section—serving children up to age 12 and their families—has seen minimal change since the library's opening in 1980. It's time to reimagine this space to support our youngest learners and their caregivers better, ensuring the library remains a welcoming and equitable resource for everyone, including the most vulnerable in our community.

The Vision

The reimagined children's section will be a vibrant hub of creativity and connection. Planned updates include modernizing play areas, furnishings, and signage while incorporating spaces that support caregivers and more thoughtful spaces for early learners, including babies. These enhancements will create a dynamic, engaging environment where children feel welcome and have opportunities to explore, learn, and thrive.

Why It Matters

Public libraries are essential to building strong communities. By investing in spaces that support young children and their families, we reduce illiteracy, improve economic opportunities, foster better health outcomes, and create a more vibrant community for all.

The Downtown Library's children's area is the largest in the region in both size and collection. However, its outdated and industrial design severely limits its ability to welcome and serve families. Large, immovable, and deteriorating fixtures restrict space for programs and play, while making it difficult for children to engage with the books and materials. Even cornerstone programs like storytimes are held in windowless basement rooms due to the lack of suitable gathering space in the children's area.

A better-designed, adaptable space will draw more families to the Downtown Library, benefiting the entire community. While the city continues to explore options for the Downtown Library, the timeline and process remain uncertain. Immediate action is needed to meet the current needs of children and families.

The window of childhood is short, and the proposed updates will make a meaningful impact on children's lives now, ensuring they benefit from the library's resources before moving on to teen services. All updates will be designed with future flexibility in mind, allowing furnishings and improvements to be repurposed in a new Downtown Library or at one of the branch libraries.

The Impact of Your Support

Your support will transform this essential space, creating a welcoming, inclusive environment where families can connect and children can thrive. With your investment, this vision will become a reality, leaving a legacy of learning and opportunity.

Join Us

Together, we can create a space where Duluth's children and families find inspiration, opportunity, and hope. Your investment will help build a brighter future for our community—one child, one family, and one story at a time.

Scan to learn more about
The Foundation and
make a gift.



FOUNDATIONS TO LEARN, PLAY & GROW



The Project

The Downtown Library's children's area—serving kids up to age 12—has remained largely unchanged since 1980. The Duluth Library Foundation is embarking on a transformative redesign to create a vibrant, flexible, and inclusive space that better serves children and caregivers today. Planned upgrades include modern furnishings, engaging murals and art to foster creativity, playful learning areas, and welcoming spaces for storytimes, programs, and families.

Your Impact

With your support, we will replace outdated, restrictive fixtures and create a dynamic environment where Duluth's youngest learners can explore, connect, and thrive. Your investment helps meet urgent needs now, while ensuring the space remains flexible for future use in a new or renovated library.



Community Benefit

A reimagined children's section strengthens literacy, equity, health, and family engagement across our region. As the largest children's library space in northeastern Minnesota, this project will directly benefit thousands of families—and set the foundation for lifelong learning and community connection.

A Vision Within Reach

The concept renderings included in this folder offer a glimpse of what's possible—an inspiring, engaging space designed with families in mind. This vision can only become reality with your support. Together, we can build a brighter future for every child who walks through the library's doors.

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			