



Fully implement the City's cultural work plan

What's working

Recent Minneapolis Arts Commission initiatives have led to successes.

- The arts commission did a great job of reviewing art proposals for a public property. The review process and suggestions strengthened the project and made the proposals even better.
- The commission is well on the way to re-establishing the Minneapolis Arts Awards.
- The commission is making a strong effort to reach out to the arts community and serve as a sounding board.
- The commission's newly created Public Engagement Subcommittee has provided an opportunity to take feedback and involve the media and smaller organizations.

The City's policy of not accepting an art donation without the gift of maintenance has been a positive.

The City is good at helping arts groups that come and ask for help.

- The Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, for example, got lots of support from the City.

City departments are integrating the arts into their work plans.

- The Great Streets program opens funding opportunities for arts organizations.
- The City is applying regular business tools to incorporate art into work programs.
- There's an enhanced interest in displaying art in City Hall.

What isn't working

The City fails to help the smaller or less savvy arts organizations.

- Savvy arts groups get great assistance but less savvy organizations miss out because they don't know the process. Some small arts organizations don't even know they can call the City for help.
- Because City staff gravitate to large economic development projects where the numbers work, small organizations are overlooked.
- The City hasn't quantified the tools it can offer to arts organizations and artists. We need to understand what we can do and what our capacity is before we can say what services we provide.

The City's structure hampers our ability to accomplish some goals.

- Minneapolis Arts Commission terms are too short. By the time commissioners get their bearings,

Minneapolis has the most solid public art program in the region.

- Minneapolis has a great reputation. Other cities tell us that we know how to do copyright, handle the proposal process, etc. When other communities call us for advice, we help build arts capacity in other cities.

The artist-in-residence program enabled art to be incorporated into major transit corridors.

Involvement, collaboration and outreach are occurring.

- There is a lot of collaboration between City departments and community organizations.
- There's new involvement from the school district, library and Park and Recreation Board.

The school district is pro-arts and benefits from a community rich in arts organizations.

- The school district received a Wallace planning grant to convene focus groups and create a dialogue around art.
- The school district has also received grants from Ford, Cargill and the Minneapolis Art Institute. Many of these grants are about educational reform through the arts.
- There has been positive recognition of students' work, and student exhibitions have been extended.
- The Minnesota Orchestra supports the schools.

they're off the commission. Fixing term lengths requires an ordinance change.

- Staff turnover is high.
- The City doesn't have a staff person devoted to reaching out to arts organizations.
- Zoning policies are barriers. There's a perception that artist housing is harder to do in Minneapolis than in Saint Paul.

We lack meaningful data.

- Other than advertising, we don't collect good data related to the arts.
- Arts are important to our economy but it's unclear what data meaningfully assesses economic benefit. For example, the number of film permits issued isn't an indicator of anything. We never decided what indicators we should be tracking to measure the economic impact of arts organizations.

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What should be done

Improve the City's ability to respond and reach out to smaller organizations.

- Do an assessment so we can figure out how to engage arts organizations that we haven't accessed in the past.
- The City should reach out to small, grassroots arts organizations rather than relying solely on the big arts institutions to reach out to these arts groups.
- Place a staff person in an Office of Cultural Affairs whose job is devoted to reaching out to organizations.
- Let small arts organizations know who to call to get help from the City.
- Train 311 operators to answer arts questions such as how to obtain film permits.
- Fund small arts grants.
- Institutionalize cross-departmental collaboration.
- Have emissaries available to facilitate the relationship between the City and immigrants who may be interacting with the City or elected officials for the first time.
- Create a sustainable artist-in-residence program with the City.
- The City should take the lead and be a convener so we don't lose any more arts organizations.

- Encourage neighborhood groups to participate in the "Paint the Pavement" project. Institute a competition to raise the quality of these proposals.
- Help small arts organizations ride the Guthrie's Tony Kushner play premiere coattails. Meet Minneapolis should help with this effort because people from around the country will be coming to see this new work.
- Work with the Minneapolis Public Schools so the Wallace planning grant focus groups can be co-convened by the school district and the City.

Use arts initiatives to address foreclosure issues.

- Create a program to encourage artist live/work housing in areas hard hit by foreclosure. Consider adding a land trust component to keep artists in these neighborhoods.
- Help artists fix up homes in challenged neighborhoods.

Incorporate sustainability into the evaluation of art proposals.

- Consider the amount of fossil fuel needed to create the art. Ask whether the art was made locally or shipped from far away.

"The arts make up a big piece of what we are in Minneapolis."

- Community Planning and Economic Development employee
