



Public Arts Commission Meeting

January 7, 2026 at 6 p.m.
Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approve the December 3, 2025 Public Arts Commission Minutes

New Business

2. Election of Vice Chair
3. Commons Park Sculpture
4. Vision for Mississippi St Underpass Mural
5. Letter of Support for Isaac Kidder Grant Application
6. Updated 2026 Workplan Review

Old Business

Other Items

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cove neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or (763) 572-3450.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: January 7, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Approve the December 3, 2025 Public Arts Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the December 3, 2025 Public Arts Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the December 3, 2025 Public Arts Commission Minutes.

Focus on Fridley Strategic Alignment

-
- _____ Vibrant Neighborhoods & Places
 - _____ Financial Stability & Commercial Prosperity
 - _____ Organizational Excellence
 - _____ Community Identity & Relationship Building
 - _____ Public Safety & Environmental Stewardship

Attachments and Other Resources

-
1. PA_ Commission Minutes- December 3 2025 FINAL

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



Public Arts Commission Meeting

December 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Collins called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present

Josh Collins, Chair
Ryan Fugleberg, Vice Chair
Gary Osterbauer
Gary Swanson
Maija Sedzielarz
Frank Sedzielarz
Kara Ruwart

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician
Councilmember Ann Bolkcom
Scott Lund – Representing Fridley Creative Arts Foundation

1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for November 5, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Osterbauer to approve the November 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Commons Park Sculpture Project Updates and Discussion

Staff and Chair Collins provided an update of the presentation of the sculpture concept developed by artist Ken McCall for the Commons Park public art project to City Council on November 24th, 2025 at their Conference meeting. The concept was well received and direction for a community engagement process was to work to keep the project timeline on schedule but to engage with representation from the Indigenous community to review and provide feedback on the concept.

Staff and Chair Collins further reported that a brief discussion was held with the artist on December 3rd to discuss the engagement process encouraged by Council.

Based on the input from Council, Commissioners were encouraged to share contacts they may have in their professional networks to help in the process of identifying individuals or organizations to provide input and staff would be responsible for reaching out to those contacts with the goal of finding an individual or organization to advise on the art project from the indigenous perspective.

No action was taken by the Commission on this item.

3. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policy and Guidelines

Staff reported that Council reviewed and provided feedback on the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program at their November 24th meeting. Council indicated that they were comfortable with program implementation but would like to place an emphasis on selecting art from Fridley-based artists. The Commission discussed that a score sheet would be used to evaluate submissions and that residency in Fridley, working in Fridley, or attending school in Fridley could all be assigned point values in the submission scoring process to encourage local art submissions being selected.

A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to approve and recommend the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policy and Guidelines document, authorizing staff to implement the program. Seconded by Commissioner Ruwart. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Vision for Mississippi St. Underpass Mural

Staff shared a presentation on various mural types, options and pricing guidelines that could be applicable to the Mississippi Street underpass mural project. Scott Lund, representing the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation, indicated that exploratory discussions were conducted with Fridley Public Schools to gauge interest and capacity to create community-based mural panels through the School District art program and that the panels could be created in the classrooms and then possibly affixed to the underpass retaining wall. Discussions with the School District were generally favorable, however the Public Arts Commission acknowledged that this approach would take years to implement and warranted further consideration by the Commission prior to additional discussions with Anoka County or Fridley Public Schools regarding project partnership and that the Commission would further discuss a vision for the project at their January 2026 meeting.

No action was taken by the Commission on this item.

Old Business

None

Other Items

Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz reported that she had received a communication from artist Issac Kidder regarding the Commission's interest in supporting a grant application through the Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Individuals program. With the support of the Commission and Council, the artwork would be temporarily installed in Fridley if the grant is awarded.

Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz requested that an updated 2026 workplan document be available to review at the January 2026 meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ruwart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Commissioner Swanson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: January 7, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Election of Vice Chair

Background

Per Fridley code 105.02, each commission shall annually elect a vice chairperson. At any meeting of the commission if the chairperson is unable to attend, the vice chairperson shall act as the chairperson.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission accepts nominations for the chairperson role and vote on any nominated individuals to elect a vice chair for 2026.

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: January 7, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Commons Park Sculpture

Background

Artist Ken McCall was selected by the Public Arts Commission to create a sculpture for Commons Park. The Fridley Creative Arts Foundation has agreed to fund the project at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. Mr. McCall has submitted a concept for the artwork, which has been recommended by the Public Arts Commission pending an engagement process with the Native community. In consultation with the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI), staff will be developing a framework for engagement as the artwork is constructed and celebrated and will work with community stakeholders to celebrate the artwork themes of unity, diversity, history, nature and water.

The concept was approved by Council on December 22nd, 2025, allowing the artist to move to final design development and fabrication.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

-
1. Commons Park - Fridley^J MN - Artwork Proposal

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

A misty, teal-toned landscape with mountains and a lake. The scene is hazy and atmospheric, with the mountains and water reflecting the soft light. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue and green, creating a serene and ethereal mood.

Commons Park Artwork

Fridley, MN

Design Proposal

Ken McCall

Inspired by the idea of harmony in multiplicity, *Manoomin* is envisioned as a landmark for Commons Park—a vibrant symbol of the city’s welcoming spirit, rich history, and commitment to diversity. Named after the Ojibwe word for wild rice while also paying tribute to Fridley’s original name, Manoomin, the sculpture seeks to honor local heritage, foster connection, and serve as an invitation for all residents and visitors to gather, reflect, and celebrate community values. The sculpture’s presence in Commons Park will be a daily reminder of Fridley’s shared story: a city shaped by agricultural traditions, natural beauty, and the enduring bonds among its residents - cultivating hope and connection for the future.

COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



At the heart of the design are hands, representing Fridley's friendly and inclusive atmosphere. These hands reach out and cradle sprouting rice, a direct nod to the city's agricultural roots and the native wild rice that sustains both land and community.

Overlaying the corten steel arms and hands is an artistic mapping of Rice Creek, accurately rendered to pay tribute to an essential natural feature and its influence on local life.

COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA





Every element of *Manoomin* carries layered meaning:

Welcoming Hands: The open hands are a universal gesture of friendship and hospitality, embodying Fridley's reputation for being a warm, inclusive community. They invite interaction, reflection, and a sense of belonging.

Wild Rice (Manoomin): The rice sprouting from the hands connects the piece to Fridley's agricultural heritage and the native wild rice that grows in Minnesota's wetlands. 'Manoomin' acknowledges the Ojibwe people, for whom wild rice is a sacred and sustaining food, celebrating their enduring cultural legacy.

Rice Creek Depiction: The sculpted map of Rice Creek pays homage to the local environment, serving as a reminder of the community's connection to its natural resources and the importance of stewardship.

Unity and Diversity: By intertwining references to native traditions, agricultural abundance, and a welcoming spirit, the sculpture conveys a message of unity in diversity, a vision for a community that cherishes its roots while embracing change and growth.

COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



Created from an expressive combination of corten steel, stainless steel, aluminum, and acrylic, the sculpture will embody both resilience and grace. Corten steel's earthy patina will evoke the natural landscape and longevity, while stainless steel and aluminum will add brightness and modernity. Acrylic elements will provide vivid accentuation, allowing natural light to interact dynamically with the sculpture throughout the day.

The acrylic panels of the *Manoomin* will cast beautiful mosaics onto the ground, creating timeless interactions with both nature and viewers. Each moment, the mosaic on the ground shifts—rippling with the wind, brightening with the sun, or fading into subtlety beneath drifting clouds. This ever-changing quality ensures that no two experiences are quite alike. In this convergence of light, color and form, the sculpture becomes not only an object to be seen but a catalyst for experience.

COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



12' 4"

*APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS



Manoomin will stand approximately 12' 4" tall and be about 6' 6" wide at the base.



Budget

Engineering	\$2,000
Insurance	\$500
Materials	\$22,000
Fabrication	\$14,000
Travel/Transportation	\$3,000
Concrete/Installation	\$6,000
Community Engagement	\$500
Artist Design Fee	\$2,000
Total	\$50,000

COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



Thank you for the opportunity to create a design proposal for artwork at Commons Park.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: January 7, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Vision for Mississippi St Underpass Mural

Background

The Public Arts Commission has identified a possible mural on the Mississippi St. underpass as a priority public art project. Improvements to Mississippi St. are scheduled for 2026 and the timing to apply a mural as the improvements are completed would be ideal. Staff would like to work with the Commission to better understand the group’s vision for a mural as the underpass area is quite large and may need to be completed in phases or to strategically apply a mural or murals to priority areas.

A well-defined vision for the project will also assist in identifying grants or partnerships.

Recommendation

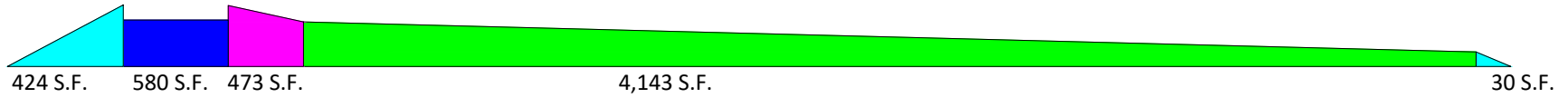
None

Attachments and Other Resources

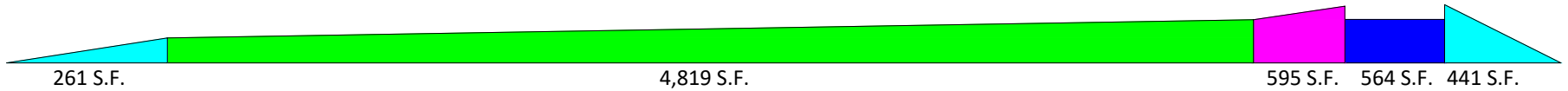
1. Miss Retaining Wall Diagram

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



NORTH WALL ELEVATION



SOUTH WALL ELEVATION
(MIRRORED TO REPRESENT VISIBLE SURFACE)



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Letter of Support for Isaac Kidder Grant Application

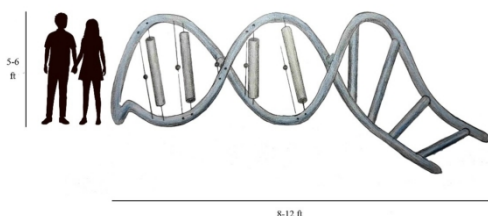
Background

The City of Fridley has the opportunity to support a grant application from artist Issac Kidder that would allow him to create a sculpture titled The Resonance of DNA.

A letter of support was provided for a 2025 grant application for the Minnesota Arts Board Arts Experience grant. This application was not funded, and Mr. Kidder has expressed interest in application to the Minnesota Arts Board Creative Individuals grant program in 2026. This grant typically opens in March of each year and a letter of support from the City would be instrumental to the success of the grant.

The letter of support would detail that the City of Fridley will host the completed sculpture for a defined time period but would likely not be granted permanent ownership of the artwork.

The art piece could potentially serve as the beginning of a rotating artwork program which has been identified as a priority by the Public Arts Commission.



Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission consider a motion to offer a letter of support for artist Isaac Kidder for 2026 Minnesota Art Board grant funding for the Resonance of DNA sculpture and authorizing staff to prepare and submit the letter of support when eligible grant programs open for applications.

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Isaac Kidder Letter of Support Framework

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



Isaac Kidder Letter of Support

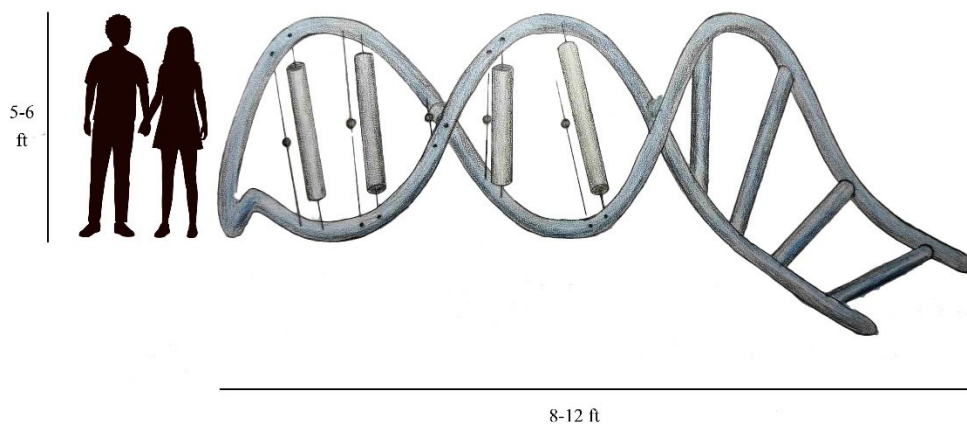
Support for grant application
for Resonance of DNA Sculpture





Overview

The City of Fridley has the opportunity to support a grant application from artist Issac Kidder that would allow him to create a sculpture titled The Resonance of DNA.



A letter of support was provided for a 2025 grant application for the Minnesota Arts Board Arts Experience grant. This application was not funded, and Mr. Kidder has expressed interest in application to the Minnesota Arts Board Creative Individuals grant program in 2026. This grant typically opens in March of each year and a letter of support from the City would be instrumental to the success of the grant.

The letter of support would detail that the City of Fridley will host the completed sculpture for a defined time period but would likely not be granted permanent ownership of the artwork.

The art piece could potentially serve as the beginning of a rotating artwork program which has been identified as a priority by the Public Arts Commission.

Artist Biography

Isaac Kidder is an artist who specializes in both 2D and 3D work, focusing on metal and wood sculpture, painting and photography. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 2006, where he received a B.A. in Biology and Studio Art. In his work, Isaac uses the theme of connectivity and oneness in order to convey the ideas of Divine and Universal Love, unconditional love, compassion, healing, forgiveness and peace. His intention is to have viewers experience a positive internal shift that inspires and



Isaac Kidder Letter of Support

2026

connects them to the people in their communities, environment and world. To fully engage the viewer, some of Isaac's work is hands on/interactive and/or functional. An example of this kind of work is his bike rack ("In Scale," welded steel, 2015) installed at Forager Restaurant and Brewery in Rochester, MN. He also believes art can serve as a tool to heal and transform lives. In his art he aims to test humanity's idea of perfection, and question and reevaluate any perceived imperfections.

Isaac's sculptures have been displayed at the Forager Brewery and Restaurant (Rochester, MN), Café Steam (Rochester, MN), Minnetonka Center for the Arts (Wayzata, MN), Art On the Avenue (Slattery Park, Rochester, MN), A-Mill Artist Lofts (Minneapolis, MN), Café Kopi (Champaign, IL) and Lincoln Square Mall (Urbana, IL). He photographs portraits and events and has had his photography in publications for organizations such as St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN) and Seattle Sailing Club (Seattle, WA). Other projects include graphic and web design. Isaac spent four years in Los Angeles, CA as a photographer, composer, and musician (vocals, percussion, guitar, piano). After living in Champaign, IL Isaac moved back to Minneapolis in August 2017.

Outside of art, Isaac practices energy healing, as well as healing through arts and music. His healing modalities include Laying On Of Hands, Reiki and Heart-based healing. He started his healing service in 2012 and has since served hundreds of clients, both professionally and as a volunteer. His practice works to balance the energy body in order to create equilibrium among the emotional, mental and physical aspects of the individual. This includes opening the Heart-Space to increase overall well-being. His approach is geared at fostering independence and empowering individuals to take a more active role in their healing. He believes that giving people the tools to work on their own healing journey frees them to make the best choices to live a fulfilling life.



Animal Imagined by Isaac Kidder



The Black Keys by Isaac Kidder

Creative Individuals Grant Program

This pilot program of the Minnesota Arts Board provides support to help individual artists and culture bearers develop or sustain their creative practices and meaningfully engage with Minnesotans. Grantees may use funds to support their creative practice and meaningfully connect to and engage with audiences, participants, students, and/or communities during the grant period. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/creative-individuals.htm>

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission consider a motion to offer a letter of support for artist Isaac Kidder for 2026 Minnesota Art Board grant funding for the Resonance of DNA sculpture and authorizing staff to prepare and submit the letter of support when eligible grant programs open for applications.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: January 7, 2026
Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Updated 2026 Workplan Review

Background

The Public Arts Commission has utilized a workplan document to identify and track projects and priorities for upcoming meetings. A draft version of the 2026 workplan is attached for the Commission to review and revise. Staff will update the document and include with the meeting packet approximately quarterly as projects or initiatives are completed or identified as new priorities.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission review the workplan and offer suggestions for revisions.

Attachments and Other Resources

1. 2026 Public Arts Commission Workplan Master

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



Public Arts Commission 2026

Workplan Draft

Updated for 1/7/2026





2026 Public Arts Commission Workplan Draft – Updated for 1/7/2026

Goals and Strategic Initiatives:

1. Definition of Public Art: A work of art designed and or created by an artist or artist-led team located indoor or outdoors and visually and/or physically accessible to the public. It may include permanent visual art, performances, installations, events and temporary works.
2. Community: Foster community identity and spirit, promote cultural enrichment and economic development through creative arts, encourage public art involvement, and inspire innovation to build a vibrant arts community.
3. Historic/Cultural focus: Develop distinctive destinations that highlight the area's evolving history and foster collaboration among artists and Fridley's diverse community, celebrating heritage, ethnicity, and civic pride to transform it into an arts destination.
4. Arts Commission focus: The Arts Commission aims to connect with city departments for public art programs, engage with other jurisdictions for support, communicate goals citywide, ensure maintenance of art collections, and partner with the Fridley Arts Foundation for long-term funding and program viability.
5. Utilize a meeting format and schedule that meets desired outcomes for staff and Commissioners:
 - a. Incorporate work session/site tour format as needed to better facilitate advisory role of Commission
 - b. Meeting cancellations when/if a meeting is not needed
 - c. Discuss options for recording meetings and minutes



2026 Public Arts Commission

2025-2026 Workplan

Current Item	Process	Status
2026 Goals and Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review at January 2026 meeting, make updates per direction of Commission Update throughout year 	In progress
Participate in and Support Sacred Waters, Shared Future Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts of Creative Flow Art Center and City of Fridley staff to partner with Watershed Districts to celebrate Mississippi River through art in 2026 	NEW - Proposed
Explore Public Art Installation at Springbrook Nature Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present overview of public art program to Springbrook Nature Center Foundation (SNCF) at January 12 meeting Support SNCF with project fundraising if group votes to fund a project Play advisory and approval role for recommended art 	NEW – Proposed
Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations annually. Ryan Fugleberg is 2025 Vice-chair Elect 2026 Vice Chair at January Meeting 	Complete for 2025
Commission Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish regular check-in meeting with Chair and Staff to set agenda for the following meeting 	In progress
Programs and Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to volunteer at Parks and Recreation programs and events to promote public art program Presence at Fridley 49er Days Festival to be held July 16-18, 2026 in conjunction with grand opening for Commons Park and ribbon cutting for sculpture Provide guidance for the creation of a signature arts festival to be held at the newly renovated Commons Park site (perhaps part of 49er Days) 	In progress, ongoing
Commons Park Sculpture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with artist on conceptual design of sculpture 	In progress



2026 Public Arts Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with artist to refine concept design into final design • Work with artist and community stakeholders on events, listening sessions, education programs and celebrations as art is constructed and celebrated • Plan ribbon cutting ceremony as part of 49er Days Festival on July 18, 2026 	
Mississippi St. Underpass Mural Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate timeline of mural concepting with construction and development timeline • Identify funding sources and budget target • Identify possible themes for mural 	Future project
Fridley Civic Campus Art Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate possibility of Issac Kidder sculpture being installed at Civic Campus pending grant funding • Consider concept for art trail to extend from Civic Campus into Locke Park and Community Park (community park only if underpass/overpass is established) 	Future project
Consider implementation of a rotating public art program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create program parameters and policy document • Connect with staff in communities with rotating public art program • Identify source of funding for honorariums for artists displaying works in Fridley • Consider a planned route or walk for murals or sculptures 	Future project
Consider implementation of an art bench program at City Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create program parameters and policy document if program establishment is identified as a goal of the Commission • Establish source of funds for artist awards if program is established 	Future project
Develop policy document to evaluate public requests for art by donation or for recognition purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with stakeholders such as Creative Arts Foundation • Develop first draft of policy (toolkit) • Ensure that policy would provide direction to group that proposed mural on Commons basketball court 	Future project



2026 Public Arts Commission

Explore option of Noblewins wind turbine upcycled benches as option for public art murals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in relation to other options for murals and benches and weigh budget, impact, etc. 	Future project
Utility box wrap program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation made to implement program on six boxes installed along University Ave in 2025 Next step to request funding from Fridley Creative Arts Foundation Third step to seek approval from City Council Fourth step to develop program parameters and policies Publish calls for art focusing on local artists and organizations (January/February) Select and recommend artwork for six utility boxes (April/May) Install vinyl wraps on (July/August) Celebrate completion of project and highlight art and artists 	Implementation Phase
Completed Item	Process Notes	Status
Public art installation at Moore Lake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process debrief scheduled for October 2025 meeting 	Complete
Commissioner Orientation and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Commission onboarding manual All commissioners have signed code of conduct agreement 	Complete for 2025