



Public Arts Commission

December 03, 2025

6:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. November 5, 2025 Public Arts Commission Minutes

New Business

2. Commons Park Sculpture Project Updates and Discussion
3. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program
4. Vision for Mississippi St Underpass Mural

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 ntauv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cov 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: December 3, 2025

Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician

Title

November 5, 2025 Public Arts Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the November 5, 2025 Public Arts Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the November 5, 2025 Public Arts Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- November 5, 2025 Public Arts Commission Minutes.

Vision Statement

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



Public Arts Commission Meeting

November 5, 2025

6:00 PM

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

Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Fugleberg called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present

Josh Collins, Chair (Arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

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

1. Approve Public Arts Commission Minutes for October 1, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Ruwart to approve the October 1, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Osterbauer. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Commons Park Sculpture Concept Review with Artist Ken McCall

Artist Ken McCall joined the Commission meeting via Microsoft Teams. Mr. McCall presented his concept for a sculpture to be located at Fridley Commons Park. Mr. McCall discussed how community input was used to inform the concept, presented themes and symbolism represented in the artwork, discussed materials to be used in the sculpture, the size and scale of the sculpture and detail on design and fabrication of the art piece. Commission members asked for additional detail on items such as durability of materials, and resistance to climbing or vandalism.

The Commission and artist discussed the inspiration of the artwork being, in part, an acknowledgement of the Ojibwe people through the name of the artwork, Manoomin, the Ojibwe

word for Wild Rice, which is featured prominently in the art piece. It was generally acknowledged that an engagement process with the indigenous community would be appropriate as the artwork concept is considered for approval for final development. Several Commissioners indicated that they would share contacts they may have in their professional networks to help in the process of identifying individuals or organizations to provide input.

Motion by Commissioner Swanson to recommend the sculpture concept for approval by City Council pending an engagement process with the indigenous community. Second by Commissioner Frank Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policy and Guidelines

Staff presented a draft policy and guideline document for a utility box art wrap program. Under the section titled "Application and Selection Guidelines", one sentence in the third bullet point, "No more than one submission requiring graphic design work of this nature will be selected." was suggested for removal for being repetitive information.

A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to approve and recommend the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policy and Guidelines document with the suggested edit. Seconded by Commissioner Maija Sedzielarz. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Other Items

The Commission briefly discussed upcoming agenda items and noted that a meeting with artist Ken McCall would be held at the November meeting and discussion on a vision for the Mississippi St. underpass would be planned for the December meeting agenda.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Recording Secretary



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 3, 2025

Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician

Title

Commons Park Sculpture Project Updates and Discussion

Background

A concept proposal has been received and reviewed by the Public Arts Commission and City Council. The Commission recommended approval of the Concept to Council pending an engagement process with the Ojibwe community as the project narrative includes:

'Manoomin' acknowledges the Ojibwe people, for whom wild rice is a sacred and sustaining food, celebrating their enduring cultural legacy.

Based on input from the artist, Commission, and Council, staff would like to discuss next steps for the project engagement with the Commission. The art concept was based on community input and has been very well received. Next steps may include strategies for engagement or review of the current concept prior to development of the final design of the sculpture.

Financial Impact

The Commons Park Sculpture is being funded by the non-profit Fridley Creative Arts Foundation.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- Commons Park – Fridley MN – Artwork Proposal

Vision Statement

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

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 the city’s 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

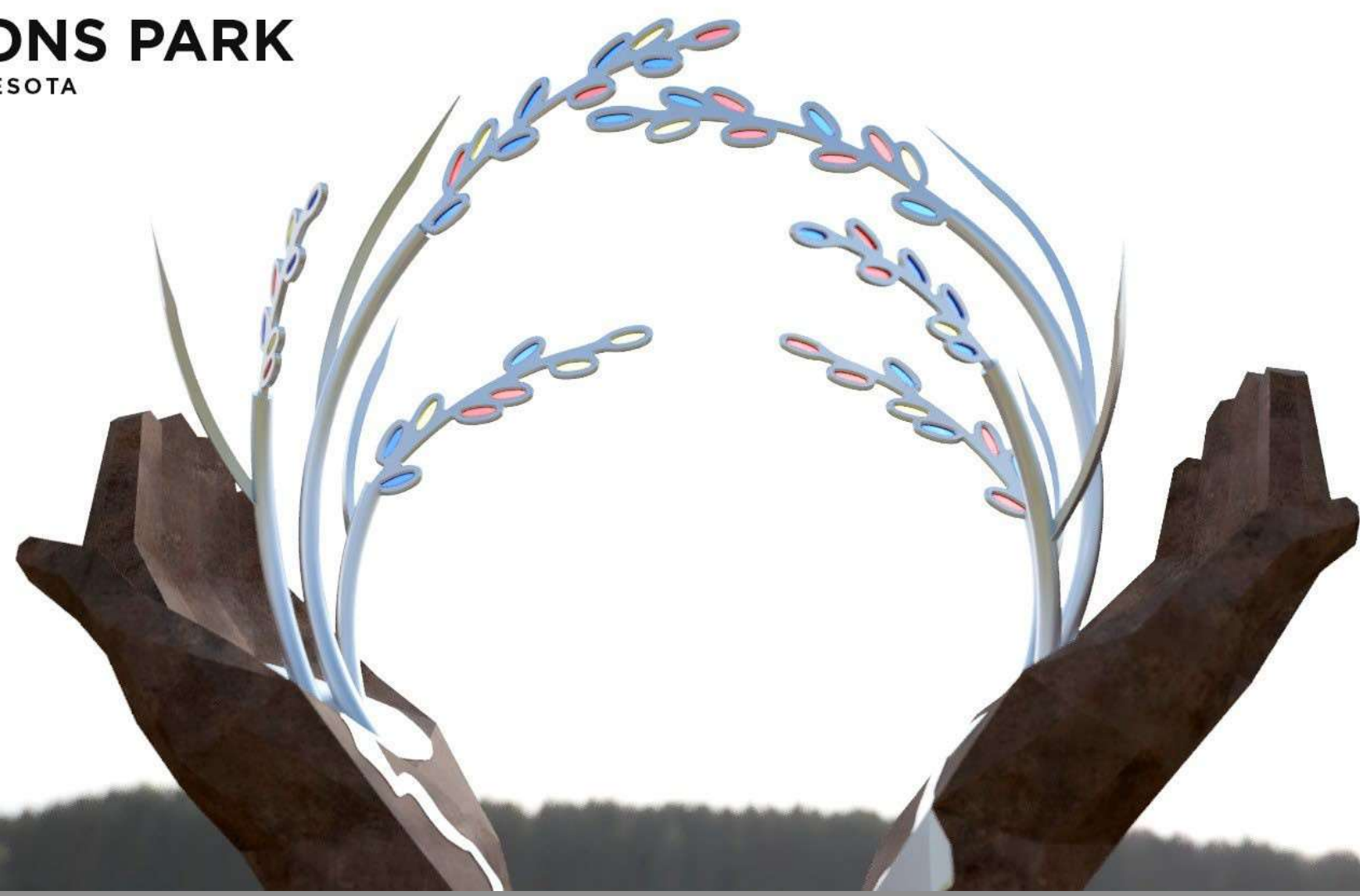
FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA

Item 2.



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.

Item 2.

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

Item 2.



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.

Item 2.

COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA



COMMONS PARK

FRIDLEY MINNESOTA

Item 2.



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

Item 2.



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



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 3, 2025

Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician

Title

Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program

Background

The Public Arts Commission provided input into a draft policy and guideline document for Fridley's Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program and recommended implementation of this program to Council. The Fridley Creative Arts Foundation has agreed to fund the program, which will have an estimated implementation cost of around \$8,000.

A draft was presented to Council for review at their November 24th Conference meeting and direction included focusing on submissions from Fridley-based artists and presenting recommended design selections to Council prior to final award.

A proposed final draft of the policy and guidelines document for the pilot program is attached for consideration of adoption by the Commission.

Financial Impact

The Fridley Creative Arts Foundation has voted to fund the utility box art wrap pilot program.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the proposed final policy and guidelines for the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Proposed final Draft of Policy and Guidelines for Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program

Vision Statement

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



Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program

Policies and Guidelines

11/25/25 Proposed Final Draft with
Endorsement and Edits From 11/5/2025
Public Arts Commission Meeting and
11/24/2025 Council Conference Meeting





Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program Policies and Guidelines:

The City of Fridley Utility Box Art Program is a public art program designed to transform utility boxes in the City into distinctive works of art, creating a more welcoming, vibrant, and attractive landscape. The City is seeking original designs by artists to wrap up to six designated utility boxes in Fridley.

The City of Fridley has identified six utility boxes along University Ave. (HWY 47) that will serve as a pilot program for utility box wraps to assist in evaluation of an expanded program. The pilot program implementation period will span from 2025-2027 and will allow staff, Commissions and Council to evaluate the selection process, program impact and maintenance responsibilities prior to possible program expansion.

Program Objectives:

- Distinguish the City of Fridley as a community with a growing public art program.
- Provide access across the community to public art in a high-traffic area.
- Determine the feasibility of an expanded utility box art wrap program.
- Strengthen civic pride and engage residents in the arts.
- Enhance the lives of residents and visitors through exposure to the arts.
- Provide a public venue for artists and aspiring artists to showcase their talents and bring a sense of community and belonging by promoting community pride, civic engagement, and cultural history.

Application and Selection Guidelines:

- Individuals of all ages may apply but minors must have a legal guardian submit the application on their behalf.
- Fridley-based non-profit organizations may apply.
- Submissions must be in the specified digital format and resolution. Minors who wish to submit artwork but are unable to convert the artwork to the specified format may apply, however the selection committee may choose not to select submissions of this nature if the cost to the City is prohibitive to convert submissions to the appropriate format.
- Artists must submit their application and design by the deadline date. No exceptions.
- Artists may submit more than one design for consideration.
- ~~Selection scoring by the Public Art Commission may include preference for City of Fridley residents or youth submissions.~~
- Selection scoring by the Public Arts Commission will include preference for Fridley residents and may include preference for youth submissions.
- Final acceptance of the recommendations for selection by the Public Arts Commission are subject to final approval by the Fridley City Council.



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- Selection will be based on artistic excellence, creativity and originality with further consideration towards visual impact and may be weighted towards Fridley residents.
- Designs that feature content unique to a particular culture should be designed with representation from the specified cultural group. For example, a design inspired by Hmong or Somali cultural tradition should be submitted by an artist who identifies as part of that cultural group or should include a narrative of how the artist collaborated with cultural stakeholders in the development of the design.

Stipend and Incentives:

- City, in partnership with the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation, will provide a stipend of \$500 to selected artists or organizations.
- Program funding is provided by the non-profit Fridley Creative Arts Foundation.

Call for Art Process and Timeline:

- Application Submission Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2026.
- Anticipated Selection of Artwork: April 1, 2026, meeting of Fridley Public Arts Commission.
- Final Design Notice to Artists: Week of April 13, 2026.
- Artwork Installed: Summer 2026.
- Project timeline is subject to change.

Displaying the Artwork via the City's Website:

Representations of the selected artwork and/or photographs of the installed art wraps will be displayed on an interactive map of public art on the City of Fridley website and will include the location of the installation along with the name of the artist.

Artist Responsibilities:

- It is the responsibility of the artist to submit a complete application by the due date listed on the application, as well as to include all required artwork in the specified format.
- The artist must provide a final original design meeting the specifications pertaining to dimension, layout, resolution and content. The artwork may include an artist signature on one face of the design and may not be larger than 36 square inches on the final printed product.
- Youth submissions needing additional formatting must be clearly labeled as such and be submitted by a legal guardian on behalf of the youth artist.



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- The artist retains the copyright of the artwork; however, the City is provided with an irrevocable license for its non-commercial use.
- The artist must execute the City's Artist Agreement.

City Responsibilities:

- Provide the template of the utility box layout for original artwork with specifications on accepted file types and resolution.
- The City will install the selected designs as a vinyl wrap and make the determination on which designs will be assigned to specific utility box locations.
- The City is responsible for the maintenance of artwork and expects a lifespan of 8-10 years for the applied vinyl wraps.
- The City has the right to copy, reproduce and adjust the artwork as it sees fit, in perpetuity.
- The City has the right to transfer ownership of the vinyl wrap and non-commercial rights for artwork to the Minnesota Department of Transportation if necessary to comply with requirement of the right of way for University Ave. (Hwy. 47)
- The City has the right to remove, replace or adjust the artwork as necessary for the duration of the project and/or the artwork.
- Coordinate inter-agency permitting and agreements related to installation, maintenance and removal/replacement of vinyl art wraps.
- The City has the discretion to select or reject any artwork.

Design Criteria and Guidelines:

- All artwork must be an original created by the artist.
- Art should be bright, bold, and inviting. Dark colors should be used sparingly due to the potential of overheating utility boxes. Artwork that contains majority of dark colors may not be considered.
- Art should be visible from a distance.
- Artwork must not contain:
 - Political statements or specific persons
 - Discriminatory imagery or language
 - References, symbols, or numerology specific to any religion
 - Copyrighted or trademarked material
 - Corporate or organizational branding (with the possible exception of Fridley-based non-profit organizations)
 - Images of illegal activity
 - References or imagery deemed offensive or controversial by the selection committee



Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

- Representation of traffic signals, signs, or other imagery that may distract or confuse pedestrians or motorists
- Attachments of objects other than the printed vinyl wrap to the utility box

Program Resources:

Staff contacts for the Utility Box Art Wrap Pilot Program are:

Mike Maher

Parks and Recreation Director
(763)572-3575

Mike.Maher@FridleyMN.Gov

Jesslyn Quiram

Engineering Technician
(763)572-3546

Jesslyn.Quiram@FridleyMN.Gov

Design Specifications and Template:

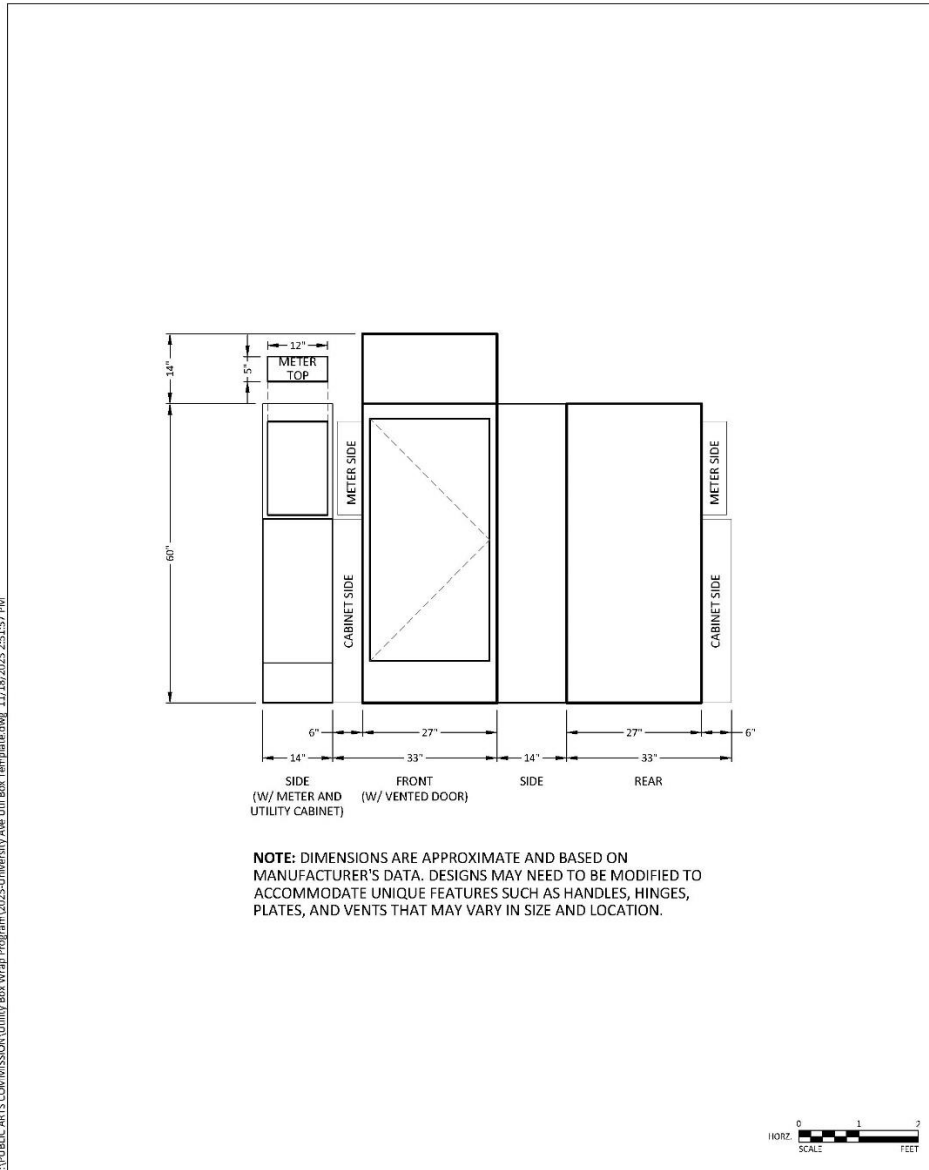


Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
UTILITY BOX WRAP PILOT PROGRAM

Figure #1: Utility Box Template
November 2025





Utility Box Art Wrap Program

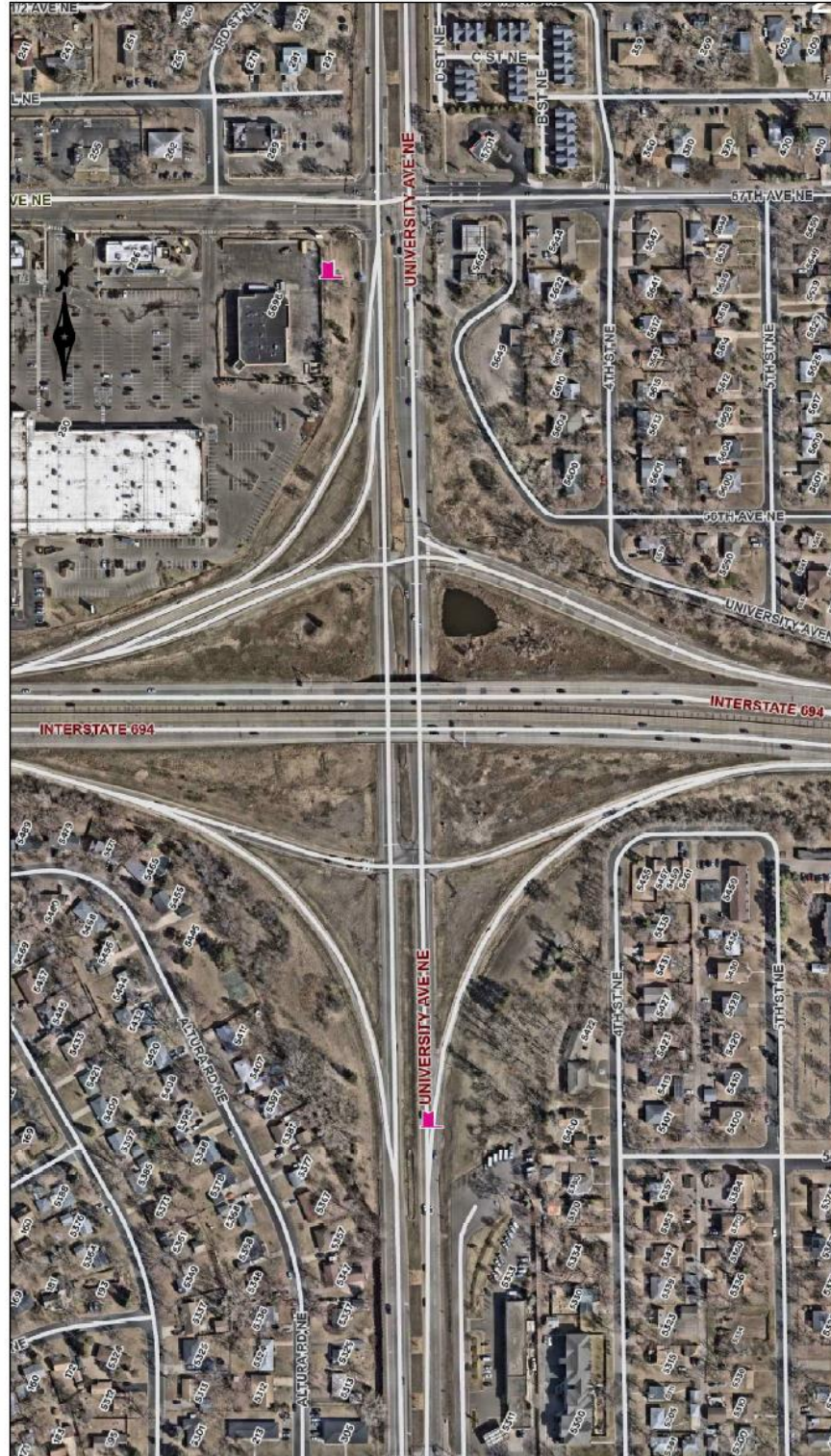
Policies and Guidelines

Utility Box Locations:



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
1 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





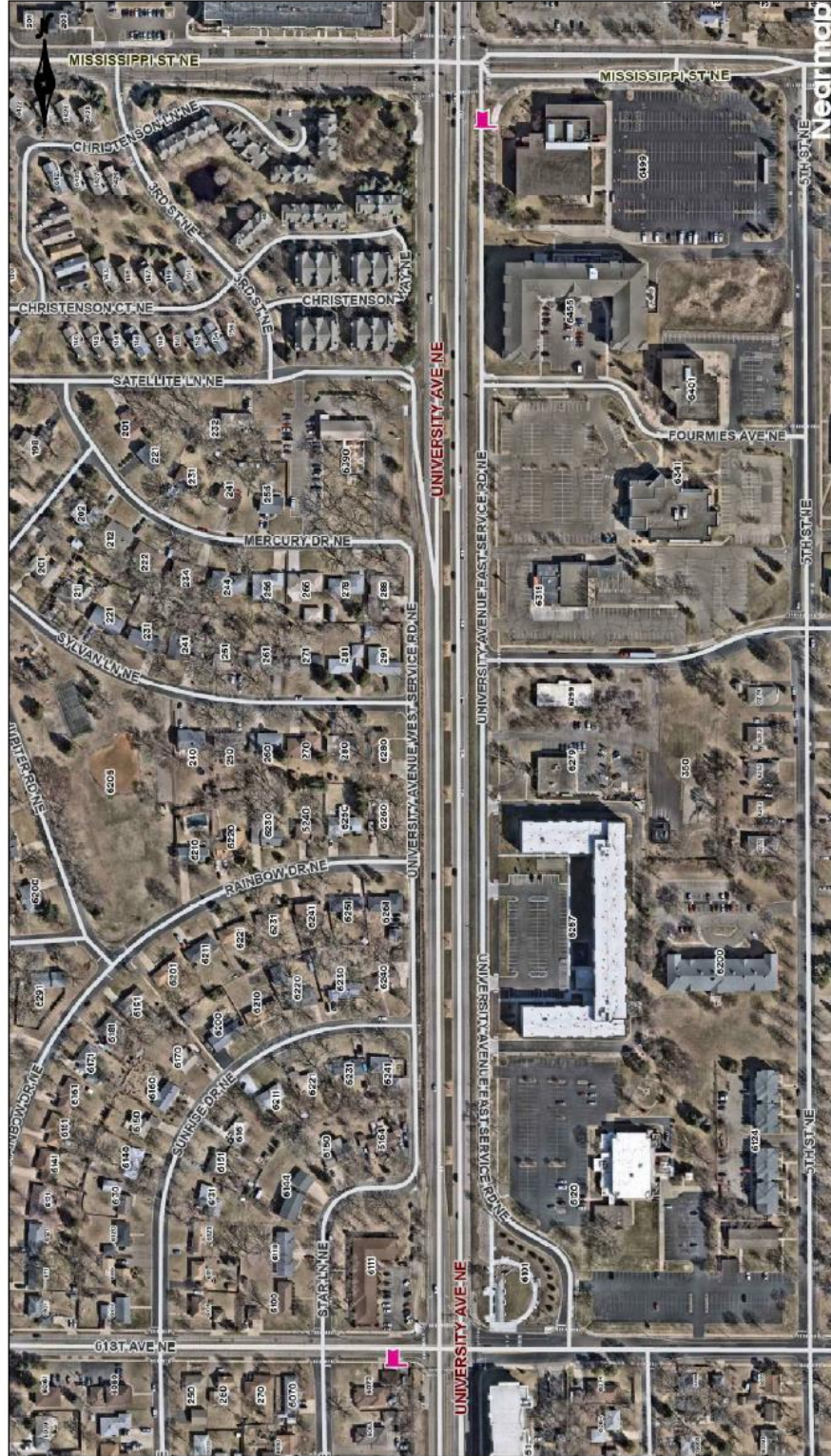
Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
2 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





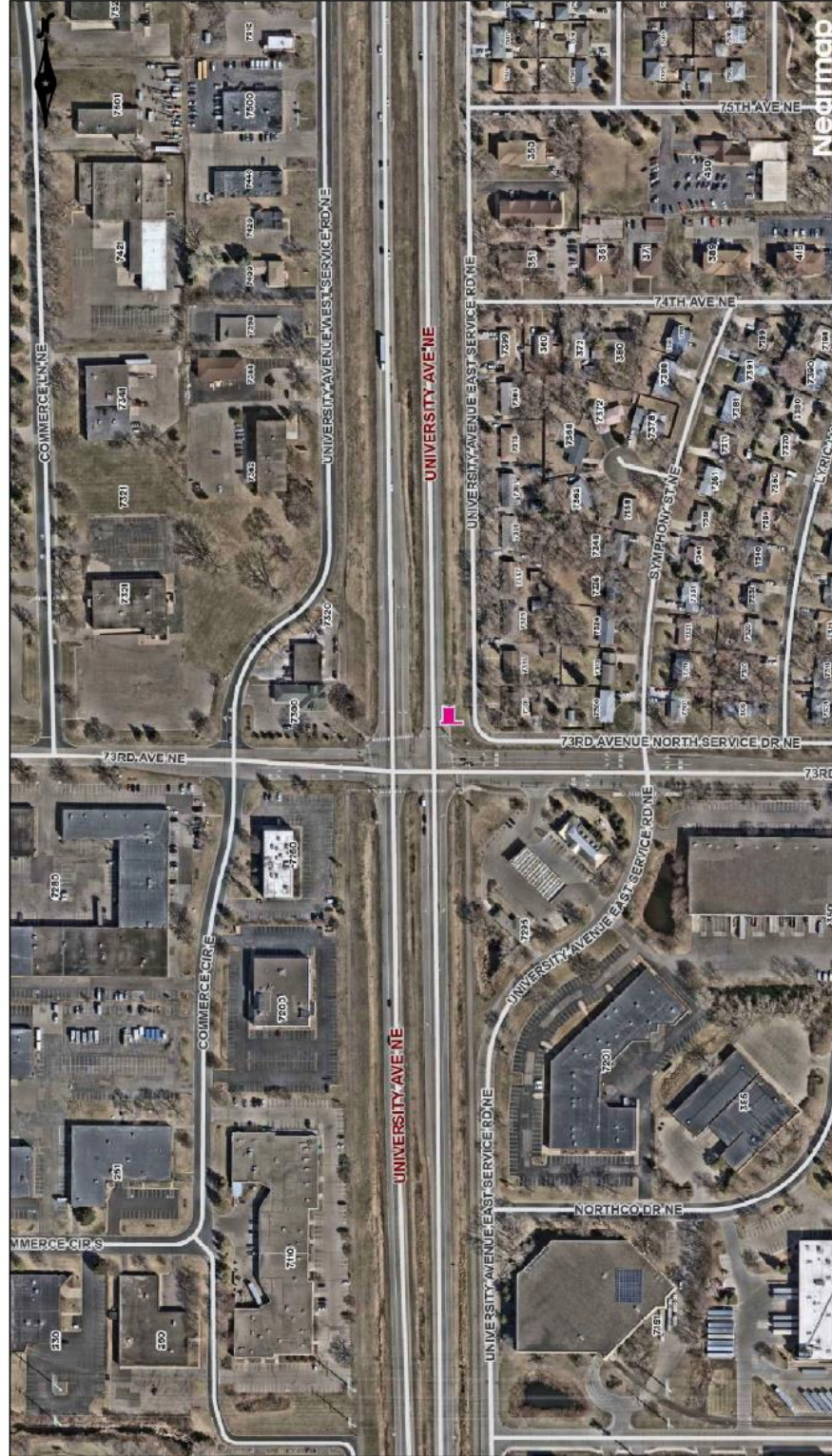
Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
3 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





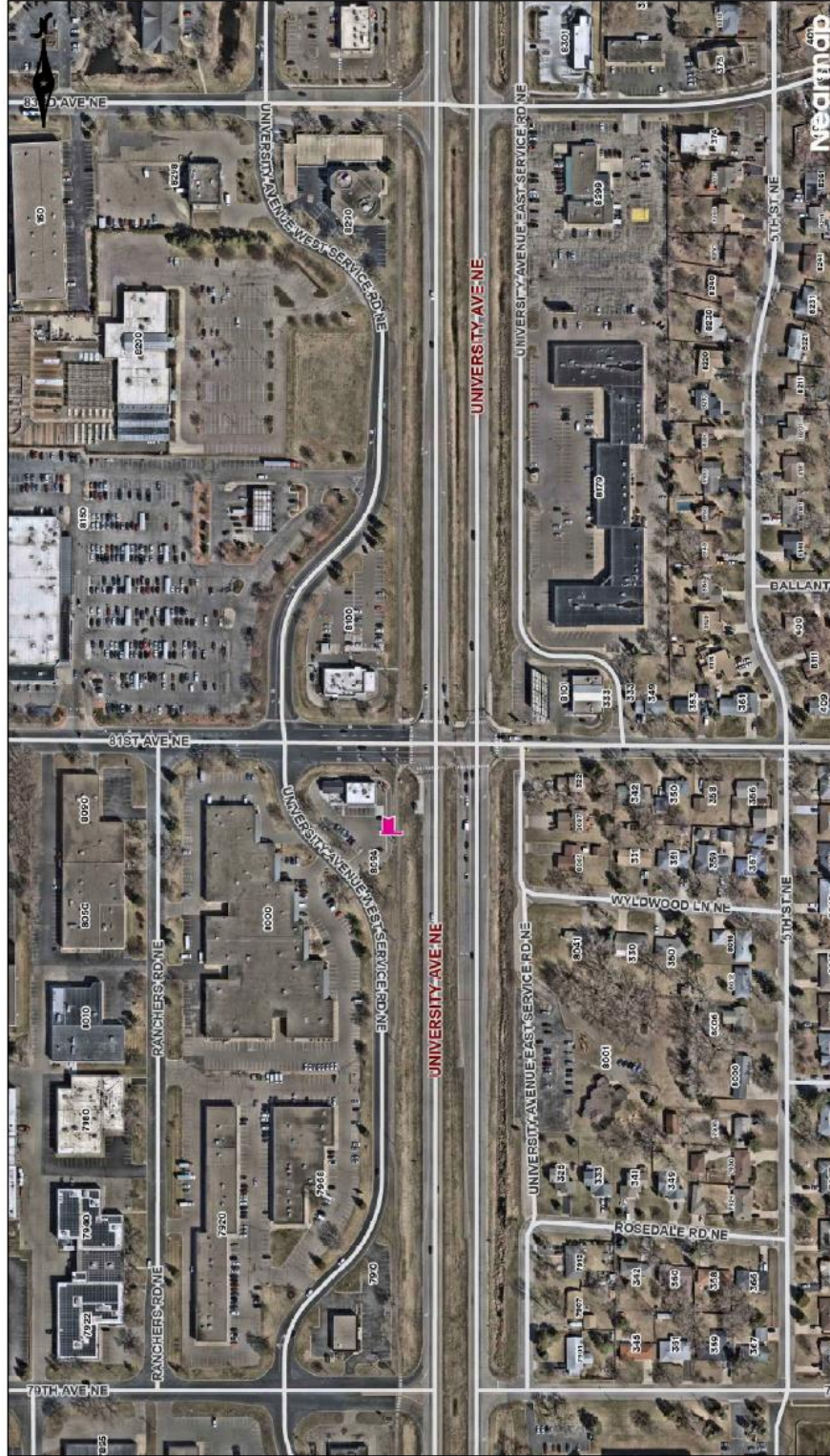
Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX LOCATIONS
4 OF 4

UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT
JULY 23, 2025





Utility Box Art Wrap Program

Policies and Guidelines



UTILITY BOX - INSTALLATION INFORMATION

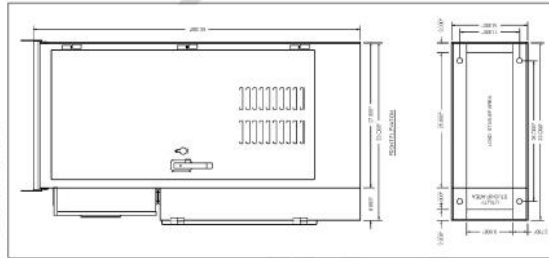
UNIVERSITY LIGHTING PROJECT JULY 23, 2025



16 CABINET DRAWINGS AND SCHEMATICS

All example drawings provided in this section are for informational purposes only.

16.1 Front View L1 and L2 120/740 or 240/480 VAC



Page 25 of 31



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 3, 2025

Meeting Type: Public Arts Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, Jesslyn Quiram, Engineering Technician

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.

Financial Impact

The visioning process will be concept-level and budgetary impact is not yet known

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

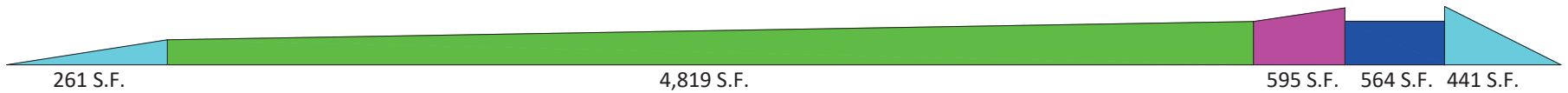
- Mississippi St. Underpass Schematic Diagram

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)

K:\PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION\Mississippi Retaining Walls\Retaining Wall Diagram.dwg 11/25/2025 12:18:21 PM