



Discussion and Direction on Public Art Blueprint Vision, Mission, and Opportunities

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- Project purpose
- Draft public art vision, mission, and guiding principles
- Opportunities
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Process

Summer - Fall 2025:

Research and Community Dialog

Winter -Summer 2026:

Develop Draft Blueprint

Summer: *Public Review*

Draft Plan

Fall 2026: *Final Plan and Approvals*

Purpose and Outcomes

Articulate Dakota County's role in public art and guide future activities

- Vision, Mission & Goals = Why
- Opportunities = Where + What + When
- Administrative Tools = How + Who



Engagement Themes

- Vibrant and memorable design
- Nature-connected art
- Gathering and inclusivity
- Everyday integration
- Local artists and cultural expression
- Art in locations that residents frequently visit



Equinox Sunrise, Juliette Perine Myers, Kaposia Library



Mourning Tree, Dale Lewis, Administration Center

What impact should public art have in Dakota County?

Public art in Dakota County is where creativity, curiosity, and community thrive together. Art transforms everyday life as it is woven into County services and the public spaces where people live, work, and play, by:

- Honoring Dakota County's diverse cultures of the past and present
- Enhancing spaces where residents gather, interact, and build community through accessible, engaging artworks that foster learning, engagement, and play
- Highlighting Dakota County's natural environment, ecological systems, landscapes, waterways, and commitment to sustainability

Draft Public Art Mission



What does Dakota County do to support public art?

Dakota County:

- Engages artists as creative partners in Dakota County initiatives, bringing artistic perspectives to planning, design, and service-delivery
- Promotes community access to and engagement with public art
- Commissions and acquires public art for County-owned facilities and public spaces
- Stewards Dakota County's public art collection, ensuring its preservation and accessibility
- Supports the growth of the arts community in Dakota County
- Partners with other entities (cities, nonprofits, developers) creating public art in Dakota County

What values and commitments guide how Dakota County operates and makes decisions relative to public art?

1. Public art will be accessible and integrated into the everyday experience of people who live in, work in, and visit Dakota County.
2. Artwork will respect the diverse histories, cultures, and lived experiences of Dakota County's residents.
3. Selection and commissioning processes will be transparent, equitable, and aligned with best practices.
4. Community engagement will be ongoing throughout the public art process, ensuring resident voices and local perspectives inform decisions and shape outcomes.

Draft Guiding Principles



5. Public art commissions support working artists by providing fair compensation and respecting artists' rights as creators.
6. Artworks will be designed with long-term maintenance and material durability in mind, ensuring cost-effective and responsible use of public resources.
7. Artworks will consider environmental impact, prioritizing sustainable practices where feasible.
8. Public art commissions will balance proven practices with opportunities for innovation, supporting artists in exploring new forms and materials.
9. The impact and effectiveness of public art will be regularly evaluated using community feedback and professional assessment to continuously improve.

Opportunities



- Tied to the CIP
 - Current Parks CIP
 - Planned Library Renovations
 - Future
- Functional Elements and Furnishings
- Artists in Residence and Artist Consultants
- Dakota County Historical Society
- Other Parks and Greenways

What is missing?
What ideas seem particularly compelling?

Projects Currently Underway



- **Wentworth Library**
State funded: Mn Arts and Cultural Heritage - Legacy Funds
- **Unity Trail Mosaic Art Bench Project**
Grant funded: Metropolitan Council Equity Grant
- **Veterans Memorial Greenway Mural**
Grant funded: Mn Department of Administration
- **Student Art Contest**
Public Art Advisory Committee Budget, funded through the County Levy

Parks CIP Opportunities

- Lake Byllesby
- Lebanon Hills
- Thompson
- Spring Lake
- Whitetail Woods



Other Park and Greenway Opportunities

- Byllesby Dam Artifacts
- Spring Lake Park Reserve – Bison and Native American Art Exhibits
- Iconic Art/Selfie Spots in Parks
- North Creek Greenway / Minnesota Zoo Pollinator Art Installation
- Minnesota River Greenway – Giant Fish Sculptures
- Minnesota River Greenway - Mendota Work Camp 1
- Veterans Memorial Greenway - Gold Star Families Memorial Sculpture
- Musical Mile installation



Planned Library Renovations

- Burnhaven
- Wescott
- Robert Trail
- Inver Glen



Future CIP Opportunities

- County Service Center Public Lobbies
- Community Corrections Lobbies
- Child and Family Service Lobbies and Family Spaces
- Public Health Department Reception Areas and Clinical Spaces
- Dakota County Jail Family Visit Spaces
- Child and Family Service Department Lobbies and Family Spaces
- Veterans Services Lobbies
- Display Spaces for Temporary Exhibits
- Outdoor Spaces at County Buildings



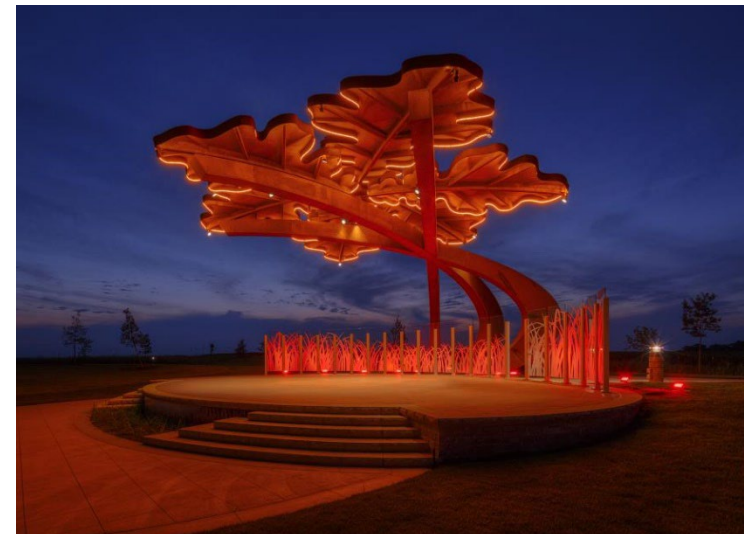
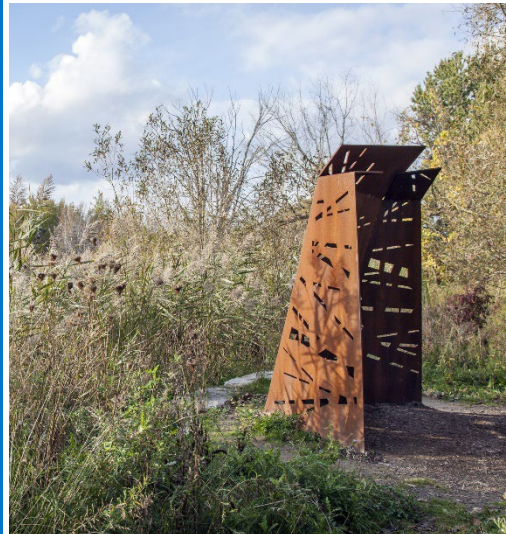
Mural Opportunities

- Retaining Walls
- Greenway Tunnels
- Pavement
- Park Buildings
- Lobby Spaces
- Library Spaces



Functional Elements

- Habitats
- Bird Window Treatments
- “Now Entering” Signs
- Nature Play Art
- Dog Park Art
- Benches/Seating
- Bird Blinds
- Pavilions
- Bandshells
- Art as Wayfinding



Residency Opportunities

- Parks Artist in Residence. *Create projects focused on interpretation.*
- Planning Department Artist in Residence. *Bring a creative lens to planning initiatives.*
- Reduce and Reuse Artist in Residence. *Develop projects that demonstrate reuse of materials.*
- Public Health Department Art Therapist/Educator. *Design activities that children and parents can do at service centers or during home visits.*
- Family Services Art Therapist. *Develop art-driven tools for working with families and creative evaluation techniques.*



Partnerships

Dakota County Historical Society

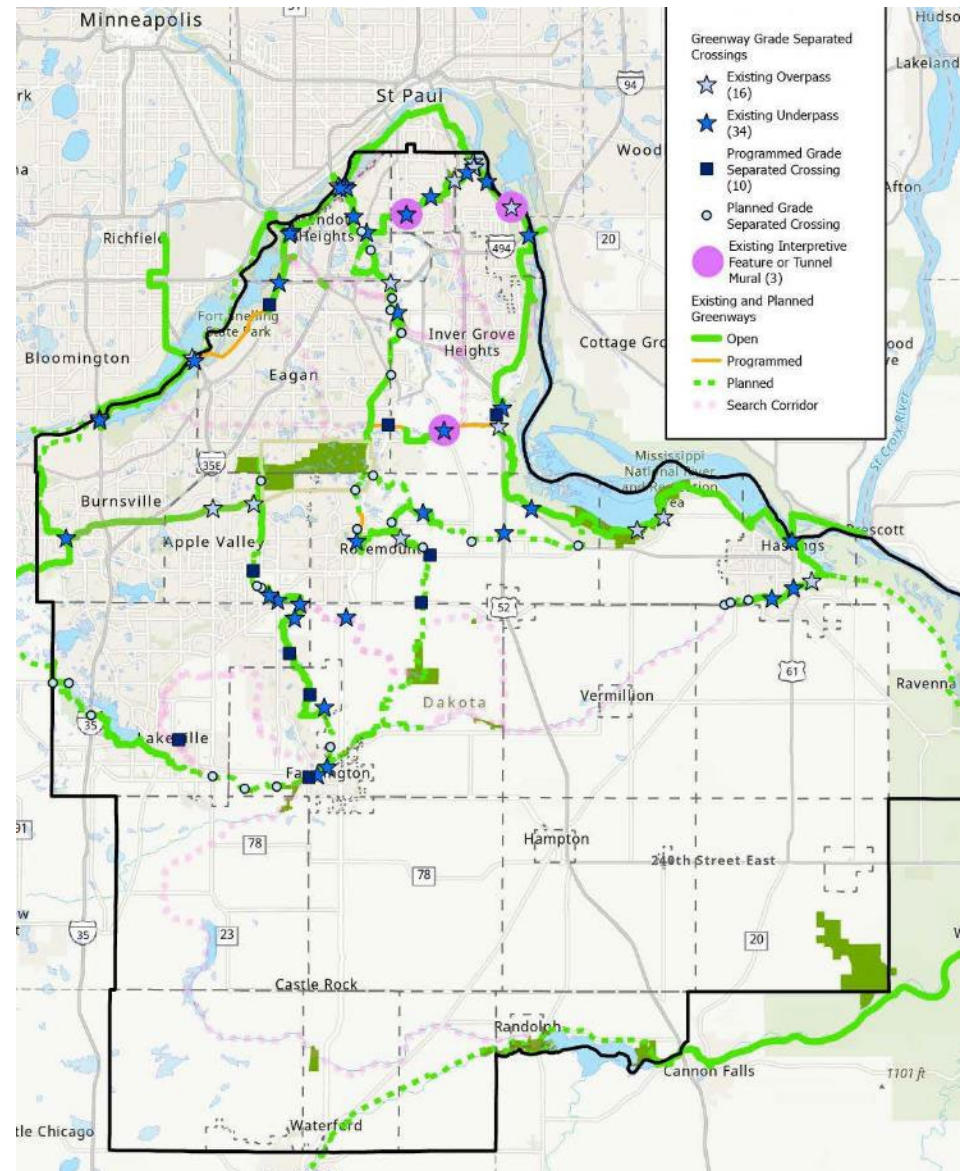
- George Daniels Story
- Black Heritage Trail Art



Greenway Grade Separated Crossings

Key Components

- Criteria for prioritization
- Technical constraints
- Process considerations
- Prioritized list of opportunities



Next Steps and Discussion



Opportunities

- What is missing?
- What ideas seem particularly compelling?

Next Steps

Summer 2026:

Develop Draft Blueprint

Summer 2026: Public

Review Draft Plan,

Community Engagement

Fall 2026: Final Plan and

Approvals