

FARGO CITY COMMISSION AGENDA
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

City Commission meetings are broadcast live on TV Fargo Channel 56 and online at www.FargoND.gov/Streaming. They are rebroadcast Mondays at 5:00 p.m., Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. They are also included in the video archive at www.FargoND.gov/CityCommission.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Roll Call.
- C. Approve Order of Agenda.
- D. Minutes (Regular Meeting, February 2, 2026).

CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. Letter of Support for TYKE Properties to the ND Opportunity Fund Consortium.
- 2. Letter of Support for Bauer Gehrtz Investments to the ND Opportunity Fund Consortium.
- 3. Application for Abatement or Refund of Taxes #4636 and #4637 for the property located at 411 12th Street North requesting a reduction in value for 2024 from \$202,500.00 to \$165,000.00 and a reduction in value for 2025 from \$226,500.00 to \$165,000.00; staff is recommending a reduction in value to \$165,00.00 for 2024 and 2025.
- 4. 2nd reading, waive reading and final adoption of an Ordinance Rezoning a Certain Parcel of Land Lying in RLN Business Park Third Addition to the City of Fargo, Cass County, North Dakota; 1st reading, 2/2/26.
- 5. 2nd reading, waive reading and final adoption of an Ordinance Amending Section 21-0601.1 A of Article 21-06 of Chapter 21 of the Fargo Municipal Code Relating to Flood Plain Management; 1st reading, 2/2/26.
- 6. Gaming Site Authorizations.
- 7. Applications for Games of Chance.
- 8. Contract Amendment No. 2 in the amount of \$8,500.00 for Project No. NR-23-A0.
- 9. Contract Amendment No. 3 in the amount of \$26,000.00 for Project No. NR-24-B0.
- 10. Bid award to Reede Construction Inc. in the amount of \$12,890,310.70 for Project No. BR-26-H1.
- 11. Memorandum of Offer to Landowner for Easement (Temporary Construction Easement) with Forum Communications Company (Project No. QN-23-B).
- 12. Contract and bond for Project No. FM-15-J3.
- 13. Payment to Cass County Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$19,277.00 for Improvement District No. BN-24-B1.

14. Payment to Cass County Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$6,350.12 for Improvement District No. BN-25-E1.
15. Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$76,149.00 for Improvement District No. BN-25-E1.
16. Negative Final Balancing Change Order No. 2 in the amount of -\$199,289.10 for Improvement District No. UR-24-F1.
17. Create Improvement District No. AN-26-A and adopt Resolution of Necessity (Alley Paving).
18. Create Improvement District No. BR-26-I and adopt Resolution of Necessity (Paving and Utility Rehab/Reconstruction).
19. Create Improvement District No. PR-26-G and adopt Resolution of Necessity (Asphalt Mill and Overlay).
20. Create Improvement District No. TN-26-A and adopt Resolution of Necessity (Traffic Signal Improvements).
21. Leave of absence extension for David Iverson.
22. Leave of Absence extension for Donovan Lange.
23. Pledged securities as of 12/31/25.
24. Items from the FAHR Meeting:
 - a. Receive and file General Fund - Budget to Actual through Preliminary 12/31/25.
 - b. Receive and file General Fund - 2025 Year End Projects as of 12/31/25.
 - c. Receive and file General Fund - Budget to Actual through 1/31/26.
 - d. Bid award for 2026 contracted forestry services to All-Terrain Grounds Maintenance, Carr's Tree Service and JT Lawn Services and related agreements as presented (RFPs 22002, 24223, 24291 and 24140).
 - e. Piggyback purchase through the ND State Contract STAGEnet 110 with FORTE in the amount of \$103,937.42 for the sound system amp replacement.
 - f. Budget adjustment in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Fire department's annual contribution to Valley Water Rescue program.
 - g. Acceptance of a \$10,000.00 donation from the Fargo Police Foundation to support travel to the National Police Week and related budget adjustment.
 - h. Acceptance of a \$8,500.00 donation from the Fargo Police Foundation to support attendance at the Officer Safety and Wellness Conference and related budget adjustment.
 - i. Acceptance of a \$33,500.00 donation from the Fargo Police Foundation for the purchase of two Trikkes and related budget adjustment.
 - j. Acceptance of a \$34,675.00 donation from the Fargo Police Foundation for the acquisition and training of a replacement K9 and related budget adjustment.
 - k. Police Department compensation rates and proposed bill rates, as presented, for special events and special detail.
25. Notice of Grant Award from the ND Department of Emergency Services for the FY 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (CFDA #97.042 EMPG).
26. Agreement with NEOGOV for Vetted software subscription.

27. Resolution approving Plat of Barry's Addition.
28. Lease with Option to Purchase Agreement with CapFirst Equipment Finance, Inc. in the amount of \$105,000.00 for six-years for a Mobile Command Center Vehicle (PBC25036).
29. Leave of Absence extension for Dan Hulbert.
30. Bid award to RDO Equipment in the amount of \$556,000.00 for one crawler dozer with waste handler package (RFP26057).
31. Bid awards to MacQueen in the amount of \$283,142.00 and to Sanitation Products in the amount of \$307,746.00 for two ASL refuse trucks (RFP26058).
32. Bid award to Butler Machinery in the amount of \$291,636.62 for the purchase of one motor grader with wing (RFP26066).
33. Bid award to Core and Main for the purchase of Water Main Materials, Miscellaneous Water Distribution Materials, Fire Hydrants/Parts and Miscellaneous Street Materials (RFP26074).
34. Task Order No. 26-01 with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$179,950.00 for 2026 General Engineering Services.
35. Task Order No. 24 with Apex Engineering Group in the amount of \$68,400.00 for the development of local limits as required by the USEPA Pretreatment Regulations and the NDPDES Permit.
36. Bills.

REGULAR AGENDA:

37. Application for Abatement or Refund of Taxes #4638 for the property located at 905 1st Street North requesting a reduction in value for 2025.
38. Applications for Property Tax Exemptions for Improvements Made to Buildings:
 - a. Robert and Brenda Young (5 years).
 - b. Michelle Martinez (5 years).
 - c. Douglas and Julie Durgin (5 years).
 - d. Steven and Lynnelle Bossart (5 years).
 - e. Phil and Jodi Schott (5 years).
 - f. Dalton Hanson (5 years).
 - g. Theodore and Sandra Sott (5 years).
 - h. Cass-Clay Community Land Trust (5 years).
39. Bid award for the Downtown Fargo Parking Operator (RFP26022).
40. Appeal of a Historic Preservation Commission decision for a Certificate of Appropriateness and Variance of Special Development Standards at 1123 6th Street South.
41. Report and recommendations for the Arts and Culture Commission.
42. Immigration-Related Enforcement and Use of Force Overview.
43. Liaison Commissioner Assignment Updates.

44. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (2.5 minutes will be offered for comment with a maximum of 30 minutes total for all public comments. Individuals who would like to address the Commission, whether virtually or in person, must sign-up at FargoND.gov/VirtualCommission).

People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Commission Office at 701.241.1310 at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements.

Minutes are available on the City of Fargo website at www.FargoND.gov/CityCommission.



37

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Fargo City Hall
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: 701.241.1340 | Fax: 701.241.1339
www.FargoND.gov

February 11, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Attached is the Application for Abatement or Refund of Taxes #4638. The application is for a residence located at 905 1st St N. The application requests the following:

A reduction of the 2025 assessment from \$229,700 to \$216,400

We have provided information regarding the valuation of this property and the reasons for a value adjustment. With the information provided by the owner and our staff appraiser's review and based on the current conditions and issues of the property, we think the value is well supported.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

#4638 – Retain the 2025 certified value for 905 1st St N.

Sincerely,

Michael Splonskowski

Michael Splonskowski
Fargo City Assessor

Appeal of Property Tax Assessment

City of Fargo Staff Report

General Appeal Information

Tax Year: 2025
Filed Via: Abatement #4638
Parcel Number: 01-3260-00540-000
Address: 905 1st St N
Owner Name: Revival Properties LLC
Appellant: Joel Nilles
Requested Value: \$216,400

Subject Property



Property Type:	Single Family
Story Height:	1 ½ Story
Year Built:	1927
Size (SF):	1,664 sf

Transaction History:	1/29/2018 - \$101,700 (Estate Sale)
True and Full Value:	\$ 229,700 (\$ 138 / sf)

Appeal Summary

The 2025 value of this property has been appealed due to a reduction in value after a recheck for the 2026 value as part of our normal reappraisal. The owner thinks the value of the previous year should match the new assessment.

City of Fargo Staff Analysis

The property was inspected in January as part of a recheck requested by the owner. Overall, the house was found to be in average condition for its age, with some condition issues in the basement. All other information was verified to be accurate.

Assessment Fairness

To test for assessment fairness, we compare the true and full value to that of similar properties. We identified 20 similar properties. Comparably assessed properties ranged from \$123/SF to \$170/SF, with a median of \$151/SF. This list is available from our work file upon request.

Valuation Accuracy

We tested the accuracy of the true and full value by studying comparable sale prices. The following sales comparable to the subject. The comparable sales range from \$137/SF to \$155/SF, with the median sales price at \$151/SF. The subject was valued well below the median sale price and just above the minimum sales price.

Address	Story Height	Year Built	Baths	Garage Stalls	Size (SF)	Sale Date	Sale Price (w/ SPUN)	Price / SF
425 15 AVE N	1 1/2 Sty	1927	1 ½	2	1,626	6/24/2024	\$222,500	\$ 137
1258 8 ST N	1 1/2 Sty	1930	1 ½	1	1,628	12/10/2024	\$228,000	\$ 140
1014 10 ST N	1 1/2 Sty	1914	1 ½	0	1,678	12/2/2024	\$259,800	\$ 155
1018 4 ST N	1 1/2 Sty	1914	2	2	1,860	5/31/2024	\$281,400	\$ 151
1015 4 AVE S	1 1/2 Sty	1919	2+	2	1,920	10/28/2024	\$296,700	\$ 155
Subject	1 ½ Sty	1927	1 ½	0	1,664	Original	\$ 229,700	\$ 138
						Recommended	\$229,700	\$ 138

Conclusion

We disagree that the subject's 2025 value was overstated. The sales show a median sale price of \$151/SF and comparably assessed properties are valued at a median of \$151/SF. The sales used to determine the value for that year are many and indicate a stronger market overall for that year, while sales in the following year are not as numerous or as strong. Given that the value is supported by the sales, and the property is on the low end for similar assessed properties, we do not believe the value is too high.

Recommended Action:

Retain the value of \$229,700 for the 2025 tax year.

North Dakota Century Code § 57-23-04

24775
(2-2016)

TO HIM -
THANKS.
JOE

Recommendation of the Governing Body of the City or Township

Recommendation of the governing board of _____

On _____, the governing board of this municipality, after examination of this application and the facts, passed a resolution recommending to the Board of County Commissioners that the application be _____

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____

City Auditor or Township Clerk

Action by the Board of County Commissioners

Application was _____ by action of _____ County Board of Commissioners.

Approved/Rejected

Based upon an examination of the facts and the provisions of North Dakota Century Code § 57-23-04, we approve this application. The taxable valuation is reduced from \$ _____ to \$ _____ and the taxes are reduced accordingly. The taxes, if paid, will be refunded to the extent of \$ _____. The Board accepts \$ _____ in full settlement of taxes for the tax year _____.

We reject this application in whole or in part for the following reason(s). Written explanation of the rationale for the decision must be attached.

Dated _____

County Auditor

Chairperson

Certification of County Auditor

I certify that the Board of County Commissioners took the action stated above and the records of my office and the office of the County Treasurer show the following facts as to the assessment and the payment of taxes on the property described in this application.

Year	Taxable Value	Tax	Date Paid (if paid)	Payment Made Under Written Protest?
				yes/no

I further certify that the taxable valuation and the taxes ordered abated or refunded by the Board of County Commissioner are as follows:

Year	Reduction in Taxable Valuation	Reduction in Taxes

County Auditor

Date

Application For Abatement
Or Refund Of Taxes

Name of Applicant

Revival Properties LLC

County Auditor's File No.

4638

Date Application Was Filed
With The County Auditor

1/26/20

Date County Auditor Mailed
Application to Township
Clerk or City Auditor

1/26/20

(must be within five business days of filing date)



38a

January 27, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Robert and Brenda Young. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$495 with the City of Fargo's share being \$84.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02.2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

1. Legal description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner Robert & Brenda Young Phone No. _____
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). Remodel of 3rd level of a 4-level split home, remodel Master Bath, wood to composite deck
7. Building permit No. 2506-0194 8. Year built (residential property) 1990
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements August 2025
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 440,000
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ 96,000
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 500,000

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Brenda Young Date 1-15-26

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application do ☒ do not ☐ meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization [Signature] Date 1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved ☐ Denied ☐
Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____

Exemption is allowed for years 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____.

Chairperson _____ Date _____



386

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Michelle Martinez. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$570 with the City of Fargo's share being \$97.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02.2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

1. Legal description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner Michelle Martinez Phone No. _____
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

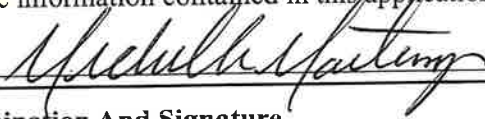
Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). Finish Lower Level
7. Building permit No. D00054 8. Year built (residential property) 1922
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements 01/02/2025
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 174,400.00
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ 25,000.00
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 216,900.00

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant



Date

1/9/2026

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application do ☒ do not ☐ meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization



Date

1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved ☐ Denied ☐
Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____

Exemption is allowed for years 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____.

Chairperson _____

Date _____



38C

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Douglas and Julie Durgin. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$164 with the City of Fargo's share being \$28.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02-2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

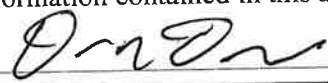
1. Legal Description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner DURGIN, DOUGLAS R & JULIE Phone No. _____
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). NEW SIDING, SOFFIT, AND GUTTERS
7. Building permit No. 25110639 8. Year built (residential property) 1962
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements 4/2005 - 12/2005
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 310,000
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ 24,000
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 334,000

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant  Date 1/15/26

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application do do not meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization  Date 1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved Denied

Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____

Exemption is allowed for years 20 __, 20 __, 20 __, 20 __, 20 __.

Chairperson _____ Date _____



38d

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Steven and Lynnelle Bossart. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$358 with the City of Fargo's share being \$61.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02-2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

1. Legal Description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner BOSSERT, STEVEN & LYNNELLE Phone No. _____
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). Replaced cabinets, flooring that was 15+ yrs old
updated wiring to code from 100 AMP to 200 AMP (kitchen)
Replaced original windows from date of construction 1992 entire upper level
7. Building permit No. 25080698
8. Year built (residential property) 1992
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements 7/2025
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 325,000
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ 75,000
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 360,000 (?)

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant

Steve Bossert

Date

1/8/2026

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application do do not meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization

Mike Spivey

Date

1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved Denied

Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____

Exemption is allowed for years 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____.

Chairperson _____

Date _____



38e

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Phil and Jodi Schott. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$125 with the City of Fargo's share being \$21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02.2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

1. Legal description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner Phil and Jodi Schott Phone No. _____
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). Add 3/4 Bath to basement
7. Building permit No. 2507-0463 8. Year built (residential property) 1900
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements 07/15/2025
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 179,900.00
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ \$ 15,680⁰⁰
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 191,700.00

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant _____

Date 1/9/26

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application do ☒ do not ☐ meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization _____

Date 1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved ☐ Denied ☐

Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____

Exemption is allowed for years 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____.

Chairperson _____

Date _____



38f

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Dalton Hanson. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$137 with the City of Fargo's share being \$23.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02.2

Property Owner *

HANSON, DALTON

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed. *

New siding, soffit, fascia and gutters on house and detached garage.

Building permit No. *

2508-0418

Year built (residential property) *

1955

Date of commencement of making the improvements *

8/20/2025

Estimated market value of property before the improvements *

\$ 217,500.00

Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) *

\$ 29,696.00

Estimated market value of property after the improvements *

\$ 247,196.00

Applicant's Certification And Signature

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dalton Hanson

Date *

1/20/2026

Assessor's Determination And Signature

The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application *

☒ do

☐ do not

meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): *

The residential property was built 25 or more years ago

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization

Michael Spatenbruder

Date *

1/20/2026

Action of Governing Body

Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: *

☒ Approved

☐ Denied

Approval is subject to the following conditions:

Exemption is allowed for years

Year



3809

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Theodore and Sandra Sott. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$171 with the City of Fargo's share being \$29.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02-2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

1. Legal Description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner SOTT, THEODORE J & SANDRA G Phone No. _____
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). Reside Dwelling
7. Building permit No. 25050109 8. Year built (residential property) 1977
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements 5/7/25
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 312,200
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ 22,750
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 325,000

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Sandra G. Sott Date 1-25-26

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application ☒ do not meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____

Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization Heidi J. Stork Date 1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved Denied

Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____

Exemption is allowed for years 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____.

Chairperson _____ Date _____



38h

January 26, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Commissioners:

Chapter 57-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code provides for a property tax exemption for certain types of improvements made to existing buildings.

I have attached a copy of an application for real estate tax exemption of building improvements submitted by Cass-Clay Community Land Trust. A description of the types of improvements to be made are indicated on the application.

It is my opinion that the value of some of the improvements, referred to in the application, qualifies for the exemption. This exemption would be for 5 years.

The estimated annual tax revenue lost by granting the exemption, based upon the estimated cost of the improvements, would be about \$2,187 with the City of Fargo's share being \$372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Splonskowski".

Mike Splonskowski
City Assessor

nlb
attachment

Application For Property Tax Exemption For Improvements To Commercial And Residential Buildings

N.D.C.C. ch. 57-02.2

(File with the city assessor or county director of tax equalization)

Property Identification

1. Legal description of the property for which exemption is claimed _____
2. Address of Property _____
3. Parcel Number _____
4. Name of Property Owner Joshua Meyer Phone No. 202-717-0011
5. Mailing Address of Property Owner _____

Description Of Improvements For Exemption

6. Describe type of renovating, remodeling, alteration or addition made to the building for which exemption is claimed (attach additional sheets if necessary). Renovated Kitchen, living room, bathroom, added room in basement, repaired roof
7. Building permit No. 2503-0363-REN 8. Year built (residential property) 1951
9. Date of commencement of making the improvements 3/1/2025
10. Estimated market value of property before the improvements \$ 81,500
11. Cost of making the improvement (all labor, material and overhead) \$ 163,007.18
12. Estimated market value of property after the improvements \$ 160,000

Applicant's Certification And Signature

13. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.
Applicant Joshua Meyer Date Jan 7, 2026

Assessor's Determination And Signature

14. The assessor/county director of tax equalization finds that the improvements described in this application
do ☒ do not ☐ meet the qualifications for exemption for the following reason(s): _____
Assessor/Director of Tax Equalization [Signature] Date 1-29-2026

Action Of Governing Body

15. Action taken on this application by the governing board of the county or city: Approved ☐ Denied ☐
Approval is subject to the following conditions: _____
Exemption is allowed for years 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____.
Chairperson _____ Date _____



**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT**
MEMORANDUM

FARGO CITY HALL
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
Office: 701.241.1474 | Fax: 701.241.1526
Email: Planning@FargoND.gov
FargoND.gov

TO: Board of City Commissioners

FROM: Nicole Crutchfield, Planning Director *NC*
Mark Williams, Assistant Planning Director

DATE: February 12, 2026

RE: Downtown Parking Operator Selection – RFP26022

(39)

The current parking operator was initially contracted in 2014 following an RFP process. That contract has been amended numerous times to reflect other parking scope changes over the years. A new, comprehensive parking contract for parking operations is needed to reflect all of the updated conditions in Downtown Fargo.

In April 2025, the City kicked off a comprehensive study of parking in downtown which included:

- Inventory and utilization of both on and off-street parking facilities
- Evaluate parking service delivery models and parking governance structure including recommendations for efficiency and improvement for the parking system holistically
- Develop RFP (request for proposal) for parking management services and evaluation
- Develop operation and maintenance guidance for parking facilities.

On September 26, an Informational Meeting was held for City Commission where findings of the study were presented and direction of the draft Request for Proposals were shared and discussed. The study can be found online at: <https://fargond.gov/live/parking/parking-studies-maps>.

At the October 27, 2025 the City Commission received and filed the parking study and authorized staff to publish the Request for Proposals. The evaluation criteria identified in the RFP consisted of qualification and experience, professional services provided, and a budget template. On December 11, 2025, the city received 5 proposals.

The evaluation committee comprised of representatives from the city departments that are involved in municipal parking. Those individuals were Mark Williams, Kim Citrowske, Ben Dow, Susan Thompson, Jeremy Gordon, Matt Christianson, Nick Lindhag, and Bekki Majerus. The evaluation committee interviewed all 5 proposals, and shortlisted the candidates to three proposals. Of the three, another round of interviews was conducted. After careful consideration, the evaluation committee selected PCI Municipal Services, LLC to operate Fargo's parking program based on it being the best proposal to meet all of the evaluation criteria in the RFP.

Staff is seeking City Commission approval to accept the evaluation committee recommendation to begin contract negotiations and a transition plan. It is expected staff will come back to this commission with a contract and information to share in a formal presentation in roughly approximately 30-45 days.

Recommendation: To authorize staff and the city attorney to work with PCI Municipal Services, LLC as the preferred Downtown Fargo Parking Operator and develop a parking services contract which will return for final approval at a future meeting of the City Commission.





PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

FARGO CITY HALL
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
Office: 701.241.1474 | Fax: 701.241.1526
Email: Planning@FargoND.gov
FargoND.gov

MEMORANDUM

40

TO: CITY COMMISSION

FROM: NICOLE CRUTCHFIELD, PLANNING DIRECTOR *NC*

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

RE: APPEAL OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION DECISION FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS AND VARIANCE OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT
STANDARDS AT 1123 6TH STREET SOUTH

On February 10, 2026 the Planning Department received an appeal of a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) decision for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). The appeal was submitted by the owner and applicant, Christine and Andrew Johnson, of 1123 6th Street South. The appeal is of a February 6, 2026 decision by the HPC, which denied a Variance of Special Development Standards and where the board failed to act on an amendment to a previous COA approval, detailed below.

Background:

Last fall, the Planning Department received an application from the applicant to build an addition to their house in the Hawthorne neighborhood. The applicant proposed an addition to the house in the rear of the property. At their September meeting, the HPC approved the application for the addition and a COA was issued.

January/February 2026:

Upon inspections conducted by the City Inspector, it was noticed that changes were made during construction which did not match the approved plans, including to the roof height and window size and location. The Inspections Department asked work to stop due to violations of the International Residential Code regarding requirements not met for egress windows, until the Historic Preservation conducted a re-review of the COA and a variance was granted to the height standard for additions, as cited in the Erskine's Historic Overlay ordinance.

The item was brought forward to the HPC on February 6, 2026 for review of an amended Certificate of Appropriateness for the changes made to the design of the addition, including a Variance of Special Development Standards to allow for the height of the addition to be greater than the height of the principal structure. At that meeting, discussion occurred on the changes,



including location, size and egress requirements of windows, change related to a potential dormer, and reasoning for the on-site construction changes, including the roof height. During the meeting, it was noted that the applicant did not have updated drawings to show the current proposal, and that previous drawings were not fully reflective of the proposal at that time.

At the meeting, the applicant and builder, Riley Rude of Diamond Rock Construction, expressed their intent of meeting the standards. The owner, who is the applicant and pulled the permit, expressed confusion of the permit process and relayed concerns about interacting and mixed information received between the Building Inspections and Planning departments.

At the February 6 meeting, the HPC failed to act on the amended COA due to incomplete drawings and a failure to include new updated drawings and as-builts. Resting with the information being incomplete, they sent the item back for the applicant to continue working with the staff. Upon request to act on the Variance of Special Development standards related to roof height, the HPC unanimously denied the Variance.

Current:

The applicant has appealed the decision of the HPC to the City Commission. The applicant is coordinating with the Inspections Department and is working on the technical standards related to egress opening requirements. The elevation drawings attached show two proposed dormers on the south side of the house. The applicant is working with an engineer to determine the feasibility of the dormers given roof and rafter considerations, and will either meet egress requirements by way of larger windows on the façade or the dormers. An update may be provided at the meeting on February 17th, since it is a current active construction site.

Attachments include the appeal application and narrative, images of the existing house, elevation and second level floor plan drawings, memo from owner summarizing construction factors, and the Erskine's Historic Overlay. For reference, the original house was built in 1915 and is a National style. The Core Neighborhoods Plan identifies the subject property as suitable for single-family residential use.

In Summary:

The applicant is investing significantly in the home. The project adds more usable space in the basement, updates the kitchen, and adds an office and quarter-bathroom on the main floor, and expands the primary bedroom with additional space and new full bathroom on the second floor. The 2024 Growth Plan and Core Neighborhoods Plan both underscore the need and the importance of homeowner reinvestment in the core neighborhoods for stabilization and to

maximize the value of existing infrastructure. Additionally, historic overlays were created to ensure investment aligns with the historic nature of existing neighborhoods.

The item before the City Commission is to review the project as presented in conjunction with applicable City plans, including the 2024 Growth Plan, Core Neighborhoods Plan, and Erskine's Historic Overlay and determine whether the project should be approved or denied.

Applicable Section of the Land Development Code 20-0912.E.3 Action on Appeal of Exception to Special Development Standards notes, in part, that the Board of City Commissioners shall consider the appealed decision as a new matter and shall act to approve or deny the original application.

Historic Preservation Commission:

On February 6, with a 5-0 vote, the HPC denied the Variance of the Special Development Standards. As such, the HPC failed to act on review of the amended Certificate of Appropriateness, since the application did not include the future building plans with enough clarity for the board's satisfaction.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

As a new matter, consider approval of the requested Variance of Special Development Standards, to allow the height increase of the addition to exceed the primary structure by a minimal depth to allow for the rafter clearance, and to therefore approve an amendment to the Certificate of Appropriateness, subject to the building inspectors review of the necessary egress windows to meet building code requirements.



These data are provided on an "AS-IS" basis, without warranty of any type, expressed or implied, including but not limited to any warranty as to their performance, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.

1123 6 St S

1:2,257

9/10/2025 1:16 PM

This map is not a substitute for accurate field surveys or for locating actual property lines and any adjacent features.

THE CITY OF
Fargo
FAR MORE

Google Street View (2025):



Site Photos from applicant:





Planning & Development
 225 4th Street North
 Fargo, ND 58102
 Office: 701.241.1474 Fax: 701.241.1526
 Email: Planning@FargoND.gov
www.FargoND.gov

APPEAL OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION DECISION

We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, to hear and decide an appeal of a decision or determination made by the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Fargo.

Property Owner Information

Name (*printed*): Christine Johnson _____

Address: 1123 6th Street S, Fargo _____

Primary Phone: [REDACTED] _____

Alternative Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: [REDACTED] _____

Representation Information (*if applicable*)

Name (*printed*): Riley Rude _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone: [REDACTED] _____

Alternative Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Location of property involved in the appealed decision (*if applicable*)

Address: 1123 6th Street South _____

Legal Description (*attach separate sheet if more space is needed*): Lot 2 Block KK Erskines Addition _____

Reason for Appeal (*attach separate sheet if more space is needed*)

On Page 2.

Acknowledgement – We hereby acknowledge that we have familiarized ourselves with the rules and regulations to the preparation of this submittal and that the forgoing information is true and complete to the best of our knowledge.

Owner (*Signature*): Christine Johnson _____ Date: 02/09/2026 _____

Representative (*Signature*): _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only

Date Filed: _____ Pre-Application Meeting Date: _____

Application Complete: ☐ Yes ☐ No Reviewed By: _____

Reason For Appeal:

A breakdown in communication of permitting/ approval process occurred when I pulled a permit for our home addition project. As a result of this miscommunication, I proceeded with installing windows that I believed were meeting the approval I received from the Historic Preservation Committee's review and Certificate of Appropriateness in September 2025. Additionally, I approved a modification in roofline height on the addition as I understood that was compliant with current building code per direction received from the Inspections department, not realizing there was a historic overlay code that required the roofline of the addition to be lower than the primary structure. My contractor and I presented this breakdown in communication and misunderstanding to the Historic Preservation Committee on February 6th, 2026 and sought approval of the windows and the roofline variance as well as direction on what would be acceptable if not approved. The variance was not approved nor was additional guidance provided on what would be considered acceptable. The committee members were primarily focused on ensuring I knew I didn't follow process and as such, there was not productive discussion towards a resolution after an hour-long meeting. I am appealing this decision and seeking approval to proceed with completing our addition so that I am able to move back into my home as quickly as possible. On a personal note, I am also nine months pregnant and these delays preventing us from proceeding are making it very unlikely that my husband and I will be able to move back into our home before our first baby arrives and are resulting in extra costs having to extend our stay in a rental unit.

We have proposed a resolution that will raise the roofline on the existing home by adding a dormer window. This will also meet the City Inspection's request to keep the current bedroom on the South side of the home classified as a bedroom by adding an egress window. We have also proposed adding egress windows to the master bedroom on the South and West walls as noted in the updated elevation and interior layout sketches provided. Given the additional cost of the dormer construction, we will likely only be able to add the dormer into the South side bedroom with the completion of the addition project, but will have to wait to save up enough money to complete the addition of a second dormer. Proposed windows are included in the drawings provided. Lastly, I would hope that the investment we are putting into improving the property and increasing the overall value of the home and neighborhood would be considered. Our intent of the build has and continues to be to preserve the historic nature of the property while breathing new life and functionality into it for our growing family and future families to come. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our appeal.

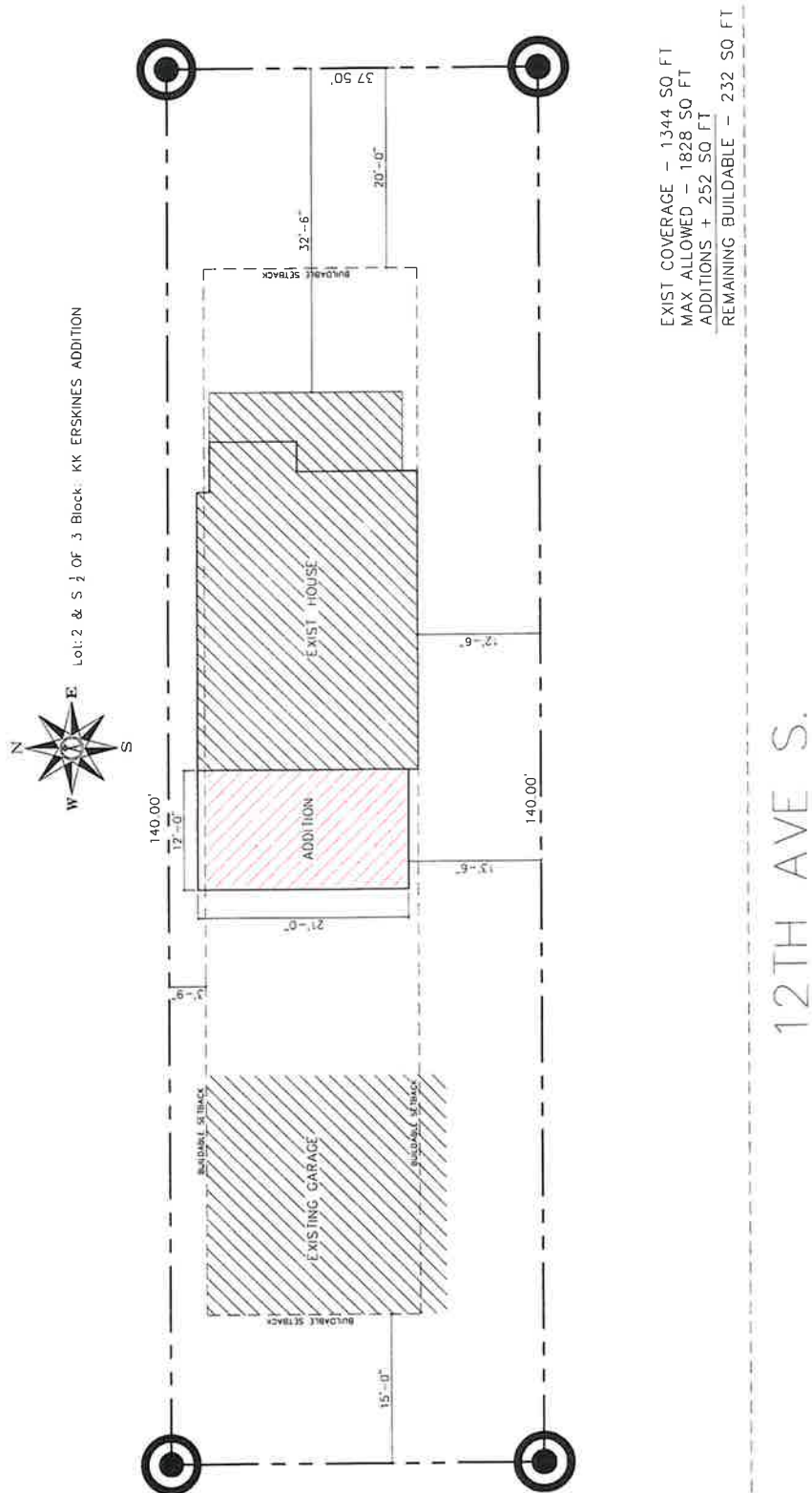
**For reference, I have included pictures of neighboring homes in the Hawthorne and Clara Barton neighborhoods that have additions with higher rooflines as well as variations in window styles and sizes throughout primary structure and addition.*



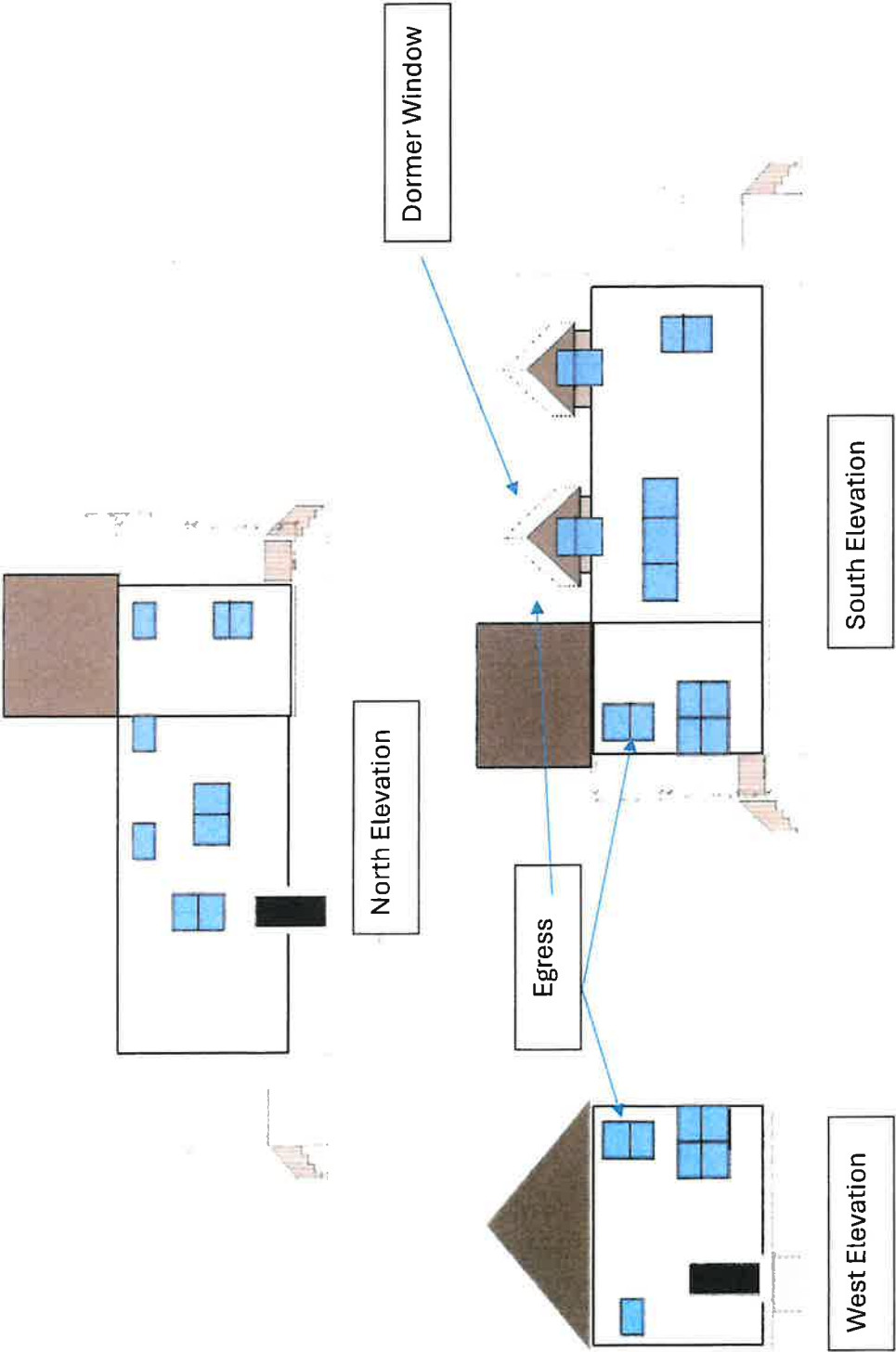




Site Plan



SITE PLAN



Second Story Floor Plan

Johnson Addition Updated Upper Level Layout_Feb 2026



Update to Historic Preservation Commission for 1123 6th Street S.

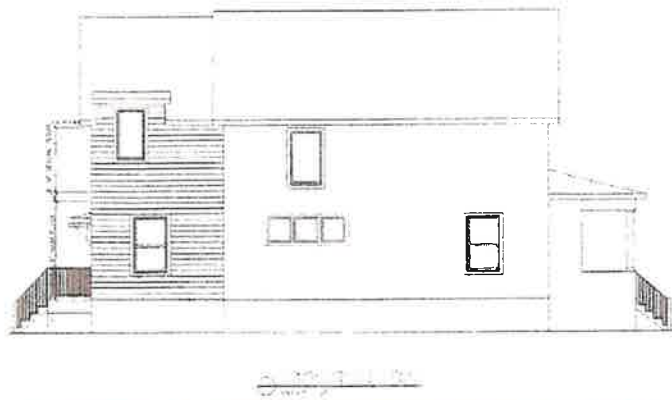
- Christine Johnson (homeowner and permit holder) presented the plans for building on an addition onto her primary home located at 1123 6th Street S. to the Historic Preservation Commission at September's meeting.
- The overall plans that were approved have not changed, preserving the overall look and feel of the structure. However, during the construction process, there were some limitations that the contractor encountered that resulted in two variations to the plan being made to still meet building code and to stay consistent with the look and feel of the original plan.
- Those two variations are noted below and homeowner is requesting approval of these modifications to proceed with meeting very tight timeline of finishing home project and staying within budget.

Variations:

- 1) Upper windows in bedrooms:
 - a. It was noted during the commission meeting that the intention was to carry through the current window style on the house into the addition. The windows on the existing structure include double-hung and smaller square windows in dining room and previously in the upper level which are covered by stucco, but homeowner plans to bring those original back in the near future.
 - b. The original sketch included a double hung being added in the upper bedrooms since the addition caused for removal of the only windows in the upper bedrooms. However, upon demo of the existing walls on the north and south side (bedroom exterior walls), it was uncovered that the space needed to include double-hung egress compliant windows was not adequate, which would have resulted in a window spanning to the floor due to the short knee-wall height of the walls. As this is a potential safety concern and there needed to be some sort of window in the bedrooms after removing the west wall with the existing windows, the decision was made to carry through smaller windows that are more closely matched to style of the upper level (currently covered) and dining room windows. As seen in the pictures below, these are the same sized windows carried through on the upper level of the addition and the double-hung were carried through on the lower level to match existing to new. *There is another window on order to be placed and equally spaced on the exterior bedroom wall, resulting in two windows per bedroom.

Narrative Submitted from Owner

1123 6th Street South





2) Roof on addition:

- a. The original design sketch included the addition being set back one foot from the south side street to allow for a transition between current structure and addition that was visually appealing and clearly distinguishes the new structure. The original sketch also assumed the roof line would be slightly lower than the existing roofline with same pitch.

- b. Upon demo of the exterior of the house and assessment of the existing rafters in place, the contractor was not able to match the original design with a lower roof and still meet code requirements for rafter depth. Staying below the roofline and trying to match pitch would have resulted in a very unusable upper level to the addition with short walls.
- c. The contractor proposed a solution to the homeowner that would raise the roof of the addition slightly above the current roofline (6 inches on one side and 12 on the other) and still allow for the pitch to match and the addition plans to stay the same. The homeowner approved this unaware that there was any requirement from the Historic Preservation perspective that actually had required the addition to be lower the original structure.

Request of Historic Preservation Commission: Given the limitations encountered during the construction process that were unknown at the time of design, the homeowner is requesting review and endorsement of the window choices on the upper bedrooms and an exception/variance to the roof line of the addition.

us 8/22/12

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTAORDINANCE NO. 4821AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND
LYING IN ERSKINE'S ADDITION
TO THE CITY OF FARGO – HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Fargo Planning Commission and the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Fargo have held hearings pursuant to published notice to consider the proposed rezoning of certain parcels of land lying in Erskine's Addition, Fargo, Cass County, North Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, the Fargo Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning request on June 5, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, the rezoning changes were approved by the City Commission on June 11, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 20-0804 of the Fargo Land Development Code (LDC) the Historic Preservation Commission has the power, among other powers and duties enumerated therein, to perform functions which may be assigned or delegated to it by the Board of City Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of City Commissioners has found and deemed said certain parcels to be an area that has historic or cultural significance and, in accordance with LDC §20-0305, has determined that establishment of an H-O, Historic Overlay District, is appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Ordained by the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Fargo:

Section 1. The following described property:

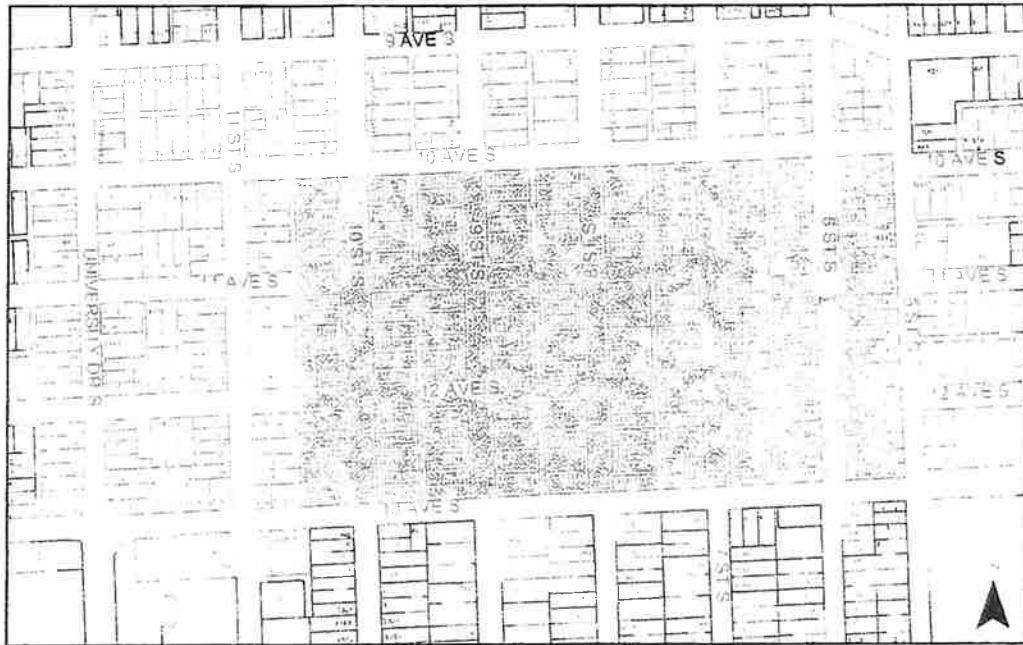
All of Blocks Aa, Bb, Gg, Hh, Ii, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Oo, Pp, Qq, Y, X, Z; together with Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 of Block Rr all of the Erskine's Addition to the City of Fargo; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 & the East 10 Feet of Lots 6 and 7 of the Nelson Addition to the City of Fargo; Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Phelp's Subdivision of Part of Block 2 of the Erskine's Addition to the City of Fargo; Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Block 1 of the Northrop's Addition to the City of Fargo,

a map of which is as follows:

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

Erskine's Historic Overlay District Boundary Map



is hereby rezoned to apply a "H-O", Historic Overlay, District".

Said property shall be referred to as the "Erskine's Addition Historic Overlay District".

Pursuant to LDC §20-0305.C, the following special development standards which shall apply to all properties, new and existing, within Erskine's Addition Historic Overlay District.

Erskine's Addition Historic Overlay District Special Development Standards

A. Authority

In accordance with Section 20-0305.C of the Fargo Land Development Code, the following special development standards or regulations shall apply to all properties (new and existing) within the Erskine's Addition Historic Overlay District.

B. Definitions

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

- 1 **1. Historic Neighborhood Structure (HNS)** is any residential structure built within
2 the Erskine's Addition Historic Overlay District prior to 1945.
- 3 **2. Open Space** is defined in Section 20-1202(43) of the Fargo Land Development
4 Code as "an outdoor, unenclosed area, located on the ground or on a roof,
5 balcony, deck, porch or terrace designed and accessible for outdoor living,
6 recreation, pedestrian access or landscaping, but not including roads, parking
7 areas, driveways or other areas intended for vehicular travel."
- 8 **3. Principal Building** refers to the primary structure on a property, i.e. a house or
9 commercial structure.
- 10 **4. Accessory Building or Structure** refers to a structure that is subordinate to the
11 principal building, i.e. a garage, shed, or guest house.
- 12 **5. Style** is the vocabulary used to classify structures according to their appearance,
13 structure, materials, and historic period. Important elements to include when
14 assigning style are:
 - 15 • overall scale and relationship of height to width
 - 16 • façade proportions and relationship of solids to voids
 - 17 • window/door size, design, and operation
 - 18 • size, shape and proportions of entrances and porches
 - 19 • materials, texture, and pattern
 - 20 • roof forms
 - 21 • orientation, spacing, and site coverage of structures
 - 22 • landscaping, walls, and fences

Style Reference: A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia and Lee McAlester,
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

C. Certificate of Appropriateness

In accordance with Section 20-0912 of the Fargo Land Development Code, a Certificate
of Appropriateness shall be issued prior to the review and issuance of any permit required
for the following: *(Note: A Certificate of Appropriateness is not applicable if no permit
is required)*

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

1. Any change to the **exterior** appearance of any principal building, accessory building or structure. (*Note: A Certificate of Appropriateness is not applicable for interior changes*)
2. Any new construction of a principal building, accessory building or structure.
3. The demolition of any principal building, accessory building or structure.
4. The moving of any principal building, accessory building or structure.
5. Placement or construction of a sign.

D. Special Development Standards – General

1. Open Space

At least 70% of a parcel's front yard shall be maintained as open space.

2. Front Yard Parking

Except for parking on driveways that run through the front yard to a garage, no parking is allowed in the front yard.

3. Side Yard Fencing

Standalone side yard fencing shall terminate a minimum of 2-feet behind the front façade of the principal structure.

E. Special Development Standards – Exterior Renovation

In conjunction with Section 20-0912.C(1) of the Fargo Land Development Code, the City Planner shall consider the following criteria in review of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the exterior renovation of a principal building, accessory building or structure. A request that satisfies all of the following criteria shall be approved.

1. Principal Building

a. Exterior Cladding

1. Exterior cladding shall match the original principal building in design, dimension, detail, texture, and pattern. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
2. If the principal building is void of its original exterior cladding, full replacement cladding shall be of a design compatible with the historic style of structures located within the district. Repair or

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

partial replacement of non-original exterior cladding shall be exempt from this regulation.

b. Windows and Doors

1. Windows and doors shall match the original principal building in design and operation. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
2. If the principal building is void of its original windows or doors, replacement windows and doors shall be of a design compatible with the historic style of structures located within the district. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
3. Window or door openings shall not be increased or decreased by more than 10% in dimension or total area. Any changes in dimension or area will require review by the Fargo Historic Preservation Commission.

c. Roofs

1. Roof functional and decorative features, such as roofing materials, cresting, dormers, chimneys, cupolas, vents, and gutters shall match the original in design, dimension, detail, texture, and pattern. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
2. Skylights are prohibited on all roof planes parallel to and facing the street.

2. Accessory Buildings or Structures

- a. Alterations to accessory buildings and structures shall be compatible with the style of the principal building, and shall be subordinate to the principal building.

F. Special Development Standards - Additions

In conjunction with Section 20-0912.C(2) of the Fargo Land Development Code, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following criteria in review of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding an addition to a principal building,

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

accessory building or structure. A request that satisfies all of the following criteria shall be approved.

1. Principal Building

a. Exterior Cladding

1. Exterior cladding of the addition shall match the original principal building in design, dimension, detail, texture, and pattern. The use of substitute materials permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
2. If the principal building is void of its original exterior cladding, the cladding of the addition shall match the existing cladding of the principal structure. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.

b. Windows and Doors

1. Windows and doors of the addition shall match the original principal building in style, design and operation. The use of substitute materials is permissible if the original material is not technically or economically feasible.
2. If the principal building is void of its original windows or doors, the window and doors of the addition shall match the existing principal building. The use of substitute materials is permissible if the existing material is not technically or economically feasible
3. A garage door of an attached, front-yard entered garage addition shall not exceed 10 feet in width or 8 feet in height. A double-stall garage will require 2 doors.

c. Roofs and Dormers

1. The roof form of an addition to the principal building shall be consistent with the roof style and pitch of the principal building.
2. Flat roofs and shed roofs are prohibited, except on porches and where consistent with the roof form of the original principal building.

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

3. All gable roofs shall have a minimum pitch of 6:12. All hip roofs must have a minimum pitch of 3:12.
4. The reconstruction or addition of dormers to an existing principal building, or the addition of dormers to an addition to a principal building shall be consistent with the style of an HNS.
5. Roof functional and decorative features, such as roofing materials, cresting, dormers, chimneys, cupolas, vents, and gutters shall match the original principal building in design, dimension, detail, texture, and pattern. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
6. If the roof of the principal building is void of its original functional and decorative features, the roof of the addition shall match the existing roof of the principal structure. The use of substitute materials is permissible if matching the existing material is not technically or economically feasible.
7. Skylights are prohibited on all roofs parallel to and facing the street.

d. Entrances, Porches, and Decks

1. A new front entrance addition to the principal building shall face the street.
2. A new front entrance addition to the principal building shall have no fewer than four steps, or an equivalent ramp distance, from the ground level to the bottom of the front entrance door, or shall have the first floor plane in a style compatible with an HNS.
3. Reconstruction of an open or screened porch (not an enclosed porch which provides year-round living space) which was historically a part of the original principal building shall be allowed to be rebuilt, and as may be necessary to accurately reconstruct, shall be allowed to vary by right from any existing zone district setback standards of the Fargo Land Development Code. The burden of establishing that a porch was part of the original structure is the owner's burden, not the City's.

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

4. Decks are prohibited in front yards.
5. On corner lots, decks are allowed on street side yards with screening, either by fence or landscaping.

e. Height and Elevation

1. The height of a new addition to a principal building shall not exceed the overall scale of an HNS with a maximum eave height of 25 feet.
2. The height of a new addition to the principal building shall not be greater than the height of the principal building, except in the case of a second story addition to a single story principal building, the result of which is the creation of a two-story principal building consistent with an HNS.

2. Accessory Buildings or Structures

- a. Additions to existing accessory buildings or structures shall be subordinate in scale and compatible with the design and style of the principal structure.
- b. An addition to an existing accessory building that does not meet the dimensional setback standards of the LDC and does not increase in total floor area of the existing accessory building by more than 40%, is permissible by right, provided that: 1) the existing non-conforming setback is not increased; 2) the property line from which the non-conforming setback is determined is verified by a registered land surveyor; and 3) the new accessory building addition is limited in height to no more than one-story with 10-foot maximum sidewalls.

G. Special Development Standards - New Construction

In conjunction with Section 20-0912.C(2) of the Fargo Land Development Code, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following criteria in review of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the new construction of a principal building, accessory building or structure. A request that satisfies all of the following criteria shall be approved.

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ORDINANCE NO. 4821

1. Principal Building

a. Proportion

1. The size and mass of the principal building in relation to open spaces, windows, door openings, porches, and balconies, must be visually compatible with the structures and places to which it is visually related.
2. The relationship of the width of the principal building to the height of the front elevation must be visually compatible with structures to which it is visually related.
3. The relationship of solids to voids in the front facade of a principal building must be visually compatible with structures to which it is visually related.
4. The relationship of the principal building to the open space between it and adjoining structures must be visually compatible with structures and places to which it is visually related.

b. Exterior Cladding

1. The relationship of the materials, detail, and pattern of the facade of a principal structure must be visually compatible with structures and places to which it is visually related.

c. Windows and Doors

1. The relationship of the width of the windows and doors to the height of windows and doors in the principal structure must be visually compatible with structures to which it is visually related.
2. Any garage door visible from the street shall not exceed 10 feet in width and 8 feet in height.

d. Roofs and Dormers

1. The roof shape of the principal building must be visually compatible with structures, to which it is visually related.
2. Flat roofs and shed roofs are prohibited, except on porches and where consistent with the roof form of an HNS.
3. All gable roofs shall have a minimum pitch of 6:12. All hip roofs must have a minimum pitch of 3:12.

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

4. Dormers of the principal building shall be consistent with the style of the structure.
5. Skylights are prohibited on all roofs parallel to and facing the street.

e. Entrances, Porches, and Decks

1. The front entrance of the principal building shall face the street.
2. The front entrance to the principal building shall have no fewer than four steps, or an equivalent ramp distance, from the ground level to the bottom of the front entrance door, or shall have the first floor plane in a style compatible with an HNS.
3. Decks are prohibited in front yards.
4. On corner lots, decks are allowed on street side yards with screening, either by fence or landscaping.

f. Height and Elevation

1. The height of the principal building must be visually compatible with structures to which it is visually related.
2. The height of the principal building shall not exceed the overall scale of HNS with a maximum eave height of 25 feet.
3. The principal building shall be constructed to have the first floor plane in a style compatible with an HNS.

2. Accessory Buildings or Structures

- a. New accessory building or structures shall be subordinate in scale and compatible with the design and style of the principal building.
- b. Except an HNS designed with an attached garage, all garage structures shall be located in the rear yard. Any garage door visible from the street shall not exceed 10 feet in width or 8 feet in height.
- c. Reconstruction (included its enlargement by up to 40% in total floor area) of an existing accessory building, which does not meet the dimensional setback standards of the Fargo Land Development Code, is permissible by

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FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

right, provided that: 1) the existing non-conforming setback is not increased; 2) the property line from which the setback is determined is verified by a registered land surveyor; and 3) the new accessory building is limited in height to no more than one-story with 10-foot maximum sidewalls.

H. Special Development Standards - Demolition

In conjunction with Section 20-0912.C(2) of the Fargo Land Development Code, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following criteria in review of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the demolition of a principal building, accessory building or structure. A request that satisfies all of the following criteria shall be approved.

1. The requested demolition is justified by the state of deterioration, disrepair and structural stability of the structure, or the building has been condemned.
2. The requested demolition is not detrimental to the overall style of the historic district.
3. The requested demolition is consistent with the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and other adopted policies of the City.

I. Variance of Special Development Standards


To allow for a variance of hardships that may arise from the strict application of any of the foregoing Special Development Standards, the Historic Preservation Commission may consider requests to deviate from any applicable standards and allow for an exceptions. A vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Historic Preservation Commission is required for approval of any exception to the Special Development Standards.

Section 2. The City Auditor is hereby directed to amend the zoning map now on file in his office so as to conform with and carry out the provisions of this ordinance.

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 4821

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.


Dennis R. Walaker, Mayor

(SEAL)

Attest:


Steven Sprague, City Auditor

First Reading: 06-11-2012

Second Reading: 06-25-2012

Final Passage: 06-25-2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: NICOLE CRUTCHFIELD, PLANNING DIRECTOR *NC*

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

RE: ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

On behalf of the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) and the Planning Department (as lead staff to the ACC), a new operational model is being brought forward to the City Commission for consideration. A recommendation to conclude the board was voted on at the January 4, 2026 City Commission meeting, with the motion including the ACC report back to the City Commission in two months for final action.

By way of background, the ACC had already been working over the course of 2025 to evolve their expectations and operations due to the fact that 2025 and 2026 did not receive public art program funding. In addition, the Planning Department priorities had shifted to prioritizing the Land Development Code and HUD Program development. In 2024 and 2025 the ACC held four working sessions in order to affirm their priorities and goals resulting in this recommendation.

History of ACC and Summary of Work:

The ACC was established based on the recommendation of the GO2030 Comprehensive Plan in 2012. Arts organization leaders, business chamber leaders, and hundreds of citizens through intense public engagement shaped the recommendations of GO2030. As a primary recommendation of GO2030, shortly thereafter, the City hired Forecast Public Art to facilitate a task force consisting of all of our arts community leaders, representing organizations such as Visit FM (FM Convention & Visitors Bureau), Plains Arts Museum, Chamber of Commerce, FM Visual Artists, performing arts organizations, area universities, etc. This task force made the recommendation to create the ordinance and governance structure that we now know as the Arts and Culture Commission. The ordinance to establish the board was created in 2014. From 2014-2015 the inaugural board created bylaws, work plans, and vision and mission statements that set up the structure we have today. In 2018, at the same time of the Downtown InFocus plan, the City's first Public Arts Master Plan was adopted. The result of the work of the ACC is summarized in the 2025 [Ripples of Impact](#) (ROI) document, a 10-year impact report funded by the Kresge Foundation. The report is attached.

Meanwhile, between 2010-2025 in tandem of the above history, the Planning Department oversaw and facilitated one of the country's top 30 Creative Placemaking Projects, titled The Fargo Project, World Garden Commons. Compiling of slightly over 1 million dollars allocated with funds received from National Endowment for the Arts, State of North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, Bush Foundation, Art Place

America, Kresge Foundation, McKnight Foundation, and in partnership with the Fargo Park District and Audubon Society (FM Audubon Chapter), collectively enabled the creation of new outdoor public art and flood mitigation work. Through this work, staff partnered with the Police, Engineering, and Public Works departments, the West Fargo School District, Fargo School District, and The Fargo Park District. The work entailed building capacity, training, and shared learning with over 200 citizens, university programs, local consulting engineers, and City project management and leadership staff across several departments. This knowledge has been further invested within the staff and community at large resulting in the work of the mural with the Water Tower, the 64th Avenue South bridge, and Public Health and Police Department murals in the Jefferson Neighborhood.

Changes:

Neither the Planning Department nor the City's general fund currently funds public art development. However, in a 10-year look-out, there may be potential opportunities in the future. These opportunities could include:

1. Working with Visit FM/FMVCVB as part of the new convention center;
2. Future public infrastructure projects, similar to the new water tower or 64th Avenue South bridge;
3. Future grant opportunities through allocations by National Endowment for the Arts or as a conduit with the ND State Arts Council.

Operationally for clarity and to reduce work load, it is suggested to keep the ordinance and bylaws developed over 10 years ago "as-is". Keeping the ordinance and bylaws does not create financial impact. The Planning Department has already removed standing and routine meetings, and no budget or work items exist in the 2026 budget. All board and work on public arts is currently on hold and would remain on hold. If any future work plan development or program development is desired beyond normal maintenance items, staff would seek preapproval by the City Commission through budget or work plan approvals.

Recommendation: Following the January 4 review of boards and commissions, confirm governance and operational changes as presented.



THE CITY OF FARGO
**ARTS
& CULTURE**
COMMISSION

RIPPLES OF IMPACT

CITY OF FARGO'S 10-YEAR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC ART

THE CITY OF
Fargo
FAR MORE





Front Cover Images:

Spirit of the Sandbagger, a public-private partnership lead by Jane Pettinger and Mike Benson of the Fargo Lions Club, with artists Karen Bakke and Brock Davis of Fargo, ND. Image used with permission.

World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park includes natural play features like the “spiral log” designed by fifth graders, raised trails, a boardwalk, overlook decks, and restored prairie. Image used with permission.

In 2020, Sodbuster by Luis Jiménez, was restored in partnership with the Plains Art Museum and installed in the Civic Plaza in front of Fargo Civic Auditorium and Downtown Library.

A student poses in front of his portrait during the temporary installation of Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT at Madison Elementary School, Fargo, ND Image by Dan Koeck.

Conceptual drawing of the 64th Avenue bridge provided by the Artist Dwight Mickelson and used with permission.

The 2022 Juneteenth celebration featured youth dancers. Image by Tahsan Photos.

“Doodles” by Morgan R. from Fargo South High School. Over 20 utility boxes in Fargo are wrapped with art created by youth and established local artists. Image used with permission.

The RedBall Project by American artist Kurt Perschke. Image used with permission.

Folkways’ Canoe Parade, image from the Concordia College website.



The Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo’s 10-Year Investment in Public Art report was designed and assembled by Reach Partners, Inc., Fargo, ND.

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Executive Summary

RIPPLES OF IMPACT: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art

What is the benefit of public art to the city of Fargo and the community? What can be learned from past efforts and applied to future public art activities to benefit the community as the City of Fargo explores the next 10 years of Arts and Culture development strategies?

The report, *Ripples of Impact*, examines the impact of the City of Fargo's investment in public art on the community since the inception of the Arts and Culture Commission in 2015, including the adoption of the Public Art Masterplan from 2017 through 2024.

The Value of This Report

The report's substance is based on a Public Art Inventory spanning 2015 to 2024, documenting the artists, murals, festivals, sculptures, and infrastructure projects over the past decade. The data collection process captured additional points compiled into a comprehensive spreadsheet (Appendix A). The report's infographics visualize the quantitative data from the inventory documenting Fargo's public art investments. The results suggest:

- Arts and culture "is important to Fargo's community's quality of life and livability."
- Public art contributes to Fargo's landscape and works like the Community Water Tower (7th Ave N) and Four Seasons Skyway Mural (Broadway) have daily audiences of tens of thousands.

- A network of over 25 volunteer commissioners, 20 review panelists, and 54 community partnering organizations contribute to support Fargo's public art vision.
- To generate public art, Fargo uses adaptive financial strategies with city funds, grants, and private partnerships.
- Local creators were awarded 84.9% of total artist stipends and project opportunities, reinforcing a commitment to nurturing homegrown talent.
- A decade of investment has resulted in 53 projects, including sculptures, murals, and community-engaged initiatives.

To deepen the understanding of public art as a tool for community building and development—and to identify the internal systems necessary for effective project management—five artists generously provided interviews on their creative processes for their public art projects documented in the Artist Case Studies. Themes from the qualitative data include:

- Thorough plans, early design parameters, project management, and contingency budgets are essential for managing inevitable challenges.
- Communication strengthens ties, enhances impact, and ensures logistical efficiency.
- Art can be a powerful tool to educate and promote understanding of social issues.
- Co-creating art with the community amplifies representation and builds shared ownership.
- Inclusive planning principles ensure community art projects meaningfully serve and represent diverse perspectives.

Process

Reach Partners, Inc. consulting with the Planning Department, drew on a decade of experience serving on recent public art project management, supporting the implementation of grant projects, and guiding public communications. We reviewed actions derived from the Go2030 Comprehensive Plan (2012), the mission of the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC), and recommendations from the Public Arts Master Plan (2017). The process also included interviews with artists and staff, an in-depth review of documents and budgets, and ACC minutes and agendas. We examined activities carried out by city departments along with the conditions, financial, and human resources required to implement public art projects.

Conclusion

Investing in public art is a complex, process-orientated, collaborative, and experimental effort that creates ripples of impact beyond the installations themselves. Fargo is a cultural hub and destination, and public art is one component that enhances its identity and sense of place, plus supports economic development and goals prioritized by long-term planning.

The City's specific administrative capabilities differentiate it from arts-based community nonprofits and grassroots organizations. **Only a city can facilitate large-scale projects integrating functional and aesthetically enriching public art into urban infrastructure.** Plus, a city can allocate public funding, provide infrastructure support, and engage with a broad network of stakeholders, including other government agencies.

From 2015 to 2024, the city leveraged funds, demonstrated involvement across departments, agencies, and the public to enhance the public realm with investments in 53 public art projects. The following qualitative and quantitative data reinforce that the City's investment in public art is a catalyst for collective growth, enduring impact, and a core component of a thriving, innovative, and resilient city.

The Arts and Culture Commission was created by Ordinance No. 4049 adopted by the City Commission on November 24, 2014. (Article 20-08 of Chapter 20 of the Ordinances was adopted on April 13, 2015).



Singer-songwriter Kwaician performs at the 2022 Juneteenth Celebration curated by Frederick Edwards, Tahsan Photography. The City of Fargo has invested in over 20 utility box wraps featuring local artists including "1814 Wind Borne Unbounded" by Mitch Hoffart. Images used with permission.

Public Art Inventory 2015 to 2024

RIPPLES OF IMPACT: *City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art*

To investigate the ripples of impact that 10 years of public art have had on the Fargo community, data points from each project implemented over the past decade were assembled and compiled into a comprehensive spreadsheet (Appendix A) and disseminated into the following catalog of public art.

While a list of the 53 projects can be an impressive review of a decade, not much can be learned from the catalog alone. The benefit of the full data collection process comes from examining the funding sources, department leads, community partners, and financial investments from the past 10 years. These data points feed the infographics, the basis of which can be found in the background charts and narratives.

The following spans 2015 to 2024 documenting the artists, murals, festivals, sculptures, and infrastructure projects over the past decade organized by year and details each project's title, artists, location, material, and theme.

2015

Shakespeare Fest

Theatre B

Project Type: Festival

Location: Downtown, Theatre B at 714 Main Ave

Theme: Local Artists

Peace by Piece

Brad Bachmeier, Fargo ND

Project Type: Sculpture, *Material:* Brick

Location: Northwest, 3010 11th Ave N

Theme: Local Artists

Phase 2 World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project)

Jackie Brookner, Dwight Mickelson, Michael Strand

Project Type: Landscape sculpture, *Material:* Landscape

Location: Southwest, 18 Ave S 43rd St

Theme: Water Appreciation

2016

Sudden Park Ice Sculpture

Folkways

Project Type: Sculpture, *Material:* Ice

Location: Downtown, 601 4th St N

Theme: Embrace Winter and Seasonality

2017

Canoe Parade

Folkways

Project Type: Festival

Location: Downtown

Theme: Celebrate the River



Canoe Parade. Photo from Concordia College website.

2017 City Hall Art Exhibits

Curated by Tania Blanich

Project Type: Temporary Installation

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

World Garden Commons Summer Series

New American Consortium, The World in FM,
The Arts Partnership, Plains Art Museum
BUZZLab, River Keepers, and the Native
American Commission

Project Type: Festival

Location: Southwest, 18 Ave S 43rd St

Theme: Water Appreciation



World Garden Commons Summer Series, Mini Pow Wow. 2017 Image Credit, Anita Hoffarth, used with permission 2017

Phase 3 World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project)

Project Type: Landscape sculpture

Location: Southwest, 18 Ave S 43rd St

Theme: Water Appreciation

2018

City Hall Panels - 2018

Catie Miller, Fargo ND

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Digital image on vinyl

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St N

Theme: Embrace Winter and Seasonality



City of Fargo Panel Project 2018 used with permission 2018

2018 City Hall Art Exhibits

Artists Robert Scholomann and Dan Koeck; Tania
Blanich, curator

Project Type: Temporary Installation

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

7th Avenue Utility Box Wraps

Various

Project Type: Infrastructure -Vinyl wrap, *Material:*

Digital image on vinyl

Location: Downtown

Theme: Local Artists

Red Ball

Kurt Perschke, Brooklyn, NY

Project Type: Festival

Location: Various

Theme: City on the Plains



Red Ball, credit Redball Project.

2019

Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session

John Toluwani Itiola, "Wordsplayed" and Delgis Mustafa, San Diego, CA

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Music

Location: Central, 1220 25th St S

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity

Officer Bloom's Police Mural

Alex Lopez, Miami FL

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Aerosol spray paint

Location: Central, 1220 25th St S

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity



Unknown photographer Officer Bloom's Police Mural

Sodbuster Refurbishment

Luis Jimenez, Hondo, NM

Project Type: Sculpture, *Material:* Fiberglass

Location: Downtown, 101 4th St N

Theme: City on the Plains



Sodbuster, credit BLD.

Skyway Mural: Four Seasons

Emily Williams Wheeler, Fargo ND

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Digital image on vinyl

Location: Downtown, 101 Broadway N

Theme: Embrace Winter and Seasonality



Skyway Mural, Four Seasons, used with permission

2019 City Hall Art Exhibits

Curated by TAP ArtWORKS

Project Type: Temporary Installation, *Material:* Various Visual Art

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

Utility Boxes (6) Benches Wraps (5)

Various Artists(11)

Project Type: Infrastructure *Material:* Digital image on vinyl

Location: Downtown, See Worksheet

Theme: Local Artists



"Partridge in a Pear Tree" by Joshua W. Logfellow Elementary wrapped utility box. Rachel Asleson, Used with permission 2024.



One of the five bench wraps. Rachel Asleson, Used with permission 2024

Public Art Workshop

Brad Bachmeier, Forecast

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Class

Location: NA, 202 1st Ave N

Dance Showcase

FM Ballet, Fargo, ND

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Dance

Location: Northeast, 3664 Elm St N

Theme: Local Artists

2020

Community Family Market Mural

Catie Miller, Fargo ND

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Acrylic Paint

Location: Central, 602 23rd St S

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity

FarMore Heart Selfie Station

Project Type: Sculpture, *Material:* Fiberglass

Location: Downtown, 101 4th St N

Theme: City on the Plains

Civic Plaza 2020

Scott Bishop

Project Type: Sculpture

Location: Downtown, 101 4th St N

Theme: City on the Plains

2020 City Hall Art Exhibits

Curated by TAP ArtWORKS

Project Type: Temporary Installation, *Material:* Various Visual Art

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

Community Water Tower

Black Ink Creative Partners, CT and Reach Partners, Fargo

Project Type: Infrastructure - Mural, *Material:* Acrylic Paint

Location: Downtown & North, 7th Ave N 11 St

Theme: Water Appreciation



64th Avenue Bridge

Dwight Mickelson & Lindsey Brammel,
Moorhead MN

Project Type: Infrastructure - Sculpture, *Material:*
Concrete and metal

Location: Southeast, 64th Ave and I94

Theme: City on the Plains



Dwight Mickelson & Maegin Elshaug standing on the 64th Ave bridge.
Used with permission, Jason Leonard, City of Fargo Engineering.

2021

Neighborhood Utility Boxes

Various Youth Artists (6)

Project Type: Infrastructure -Vinyl wrap, *Material:*
Digital image on vinyl

Location: Various

Theme: Local Artists

2021 City Hall Art Exhibits

Curated by TAP ArtWORKS

Project Type: Temporary Installation, *Material:*
Various Visual Art

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

2022

City Hall Panels - 2022

Brett Lysne, Fargo ND

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Digital image on vinyl

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St N

Theme: Embrace Winter and Seasonality

Skyway Mosaic

Tommy Schmidt and LesleyAnne Buegel, Fargo

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Tile and grout

Location: Downtown, 122 Broadway N

Theme: Embrace Winter and Seasonality



Skyway Mosaic. 2024 Image Credit, Rachel Asleson, Used with permission

Juneteenth

Frederick Edwards Jr, - Freds Dissonance, Fargo

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Festival

Location: Downtown, 650 NP Avenue

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity



Frederick Edwards, the founder and curator of Juneteenth celebrations, talks with an unidentified woman. Used with permission, Tahsan Photography 2022.

City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022

Troy T. Becker, Fargo ND

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Digital image on vinyl

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

One Vision

Wess Philome, Fargo ND

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Class

Location: Downtown & Southeast, 704 1st Ave N

Theme: Local Artists

ND Human Rights Festival

The Human Family

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Festival

Location: Downtown and virtual, 314 Broadway N

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity

Spirit of the Sandbagger

Karen Bakke, Fargo; Brock Davis, Fargo ND

Project Type: Sculpture, *Material:* Metal and Stone

Location: Downtown River Access, 1st Ave 2nd St N

Theme: Celebrate the River



Spirit of the Sandbagger. Image from The Flag.

Roger Maris Mural

Jared Froeber, Fargo & Cory Gillerstein, Moorhead

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Acrylic Paint

Location: Northeast, 1137 Elm St N

Theme: Local Artists

Inside Out at Madison School

Dan Koeck, Fargo ND

Project Type: Festival, *Material:* Photo reproduction on newsprint and wheat paste

Location: Northwest, 1040 29th St N

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity



Two students looking at the temporary installation of Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT at Madison Elementary School, Fargo. Credit: Dan Koeck (2022)

Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises

Anna Johnson, Fargo, ND

Project Type: Mural, *Material:* Acrylic Paint

Location: Southeast, 1557 University Dr S

Theme: Emerging Cultural Diversity



2022 Image Credit, Rachel Asleson, used with permission 2022

2023

2023 City Hall Art Exhibits

Curated by TAP ArtWORKS

Project Type: Temporary Installation,

Material: Various Visual Art

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

Transit Bus Wrap

Youth: 1st: Kaylee Trana, age 12, 2nd: D:Mya Houston; 3rd: Elizabeth Toomey, Fargo, ND

Project Type: Infrastructure - Vinyl wrap,

Material: Digital image on vinyl

Location: In transit

Theme: Embrace Winter and Seasonality

2024

2024 City Hall Art Exhibits

Curated by TAP ArtWORKS

Project Type: Temporary Installation,

Material: Various Visual Art

Location: Downtown, 225 4th St North

Theme: Local Artists

Visualizing the Results of Investment

RIPPLES OF IMPACT: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art

The following are comprehensive visual representations of how Fargo's investment in public art beautifies the city, strengthens community ties, and supports local culture. The data is a compilation of the public art activities and installations since the inception of the City's Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) in 2015 and the adoption of the Public Arts Master Plan in 2017.

The infographics illustrate the quantitative associated with public art projects in Fargo, including the City's financial investments. The areas of focus include public art visibility, volunteer and partner engagement, investment by funding sources, public art initiation processes, community engagement, and the relationship between annual investments in art and the city's broader budget. The results suggest:

- Arts and culture "is important to Fargo's community's quality of life and livability."
- Public art contributes to Fargo's landscape and works like the Community Water Tower (7th Ave N) and Four Seasons Skyway Mural (Broadway) have daily audiences of tens of thousands.
- A network of over 25 volunteer commissioners, 20 review panelists, and 54 community partnering organizations contribute to support Fargo's public art vision.
- To generate public art, Fargo uses adaptive financial strategies with city funds, grants, and private partnerships.
- Local creators received 78% of the total value of artist stipends, highlighting a strong dedication to supporting homegrown talent.

- A decade of investment has resulted in 53 projects, including sculptures, murals, and community-engaged initiatives.

The City of Fargo has made significant investments in public art between 2015 and 2024, enhancing community pride and economic impact. Public art projects, funded through various channels, including Capital Funds, Community-funded initiatives, and grants, have contributed to the city's aesthetic, cultural diversity, and infrastructure.

Public engagement data, such as traffic and pedestrian counts, reflect the visibility and reach of these installations, demonstrating their role in creating vibrant public spaces.

Volunteer efforts and collaborations between artists, city departments, and community members have fueled over 50 public art projects, with over 72 local artists participating. These initiatives span murals, sculptures, infrastructure improvements, and event-based art, aligning with themes like cultural diversity, winter celebration, and river stewardship.

The City of Fargo's public art investments have positively impacted its cultural landscape, strengthened community identity, and contributed over \$55 million in economic activity, supporting jobs and generating tax revenue. As a result, public art is a vital component of Fargo's development and a source of shared experiences for its residents.

The data was collected from the past 10 years of funding for the public art projects facilitated by the City of Fargo, found in the data from the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) report produced by Americans for the Arts, traffic and pedestrian counts collected by Fargo-Moorhead, MetroCOG and the ND Department of Transportation, and Post 2 Legion Baseball annual participation.

Diagram 1. Fargo Speaks Out About the Arts in 2023



Diagram 1. Fargo Speaks Out About Arts in 2023 Narrative - [Public View Link](#)

Nonprofit arts and culture organizations are vital businesses that create local jobs, support community services, and attract tourists. *Source: Arts & Economic Prosperity 6: The Economic and Social Impact Study of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences in the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Area. For more information about this study or about other cultural initiatives in the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Area, contact The Arts Partnership.*

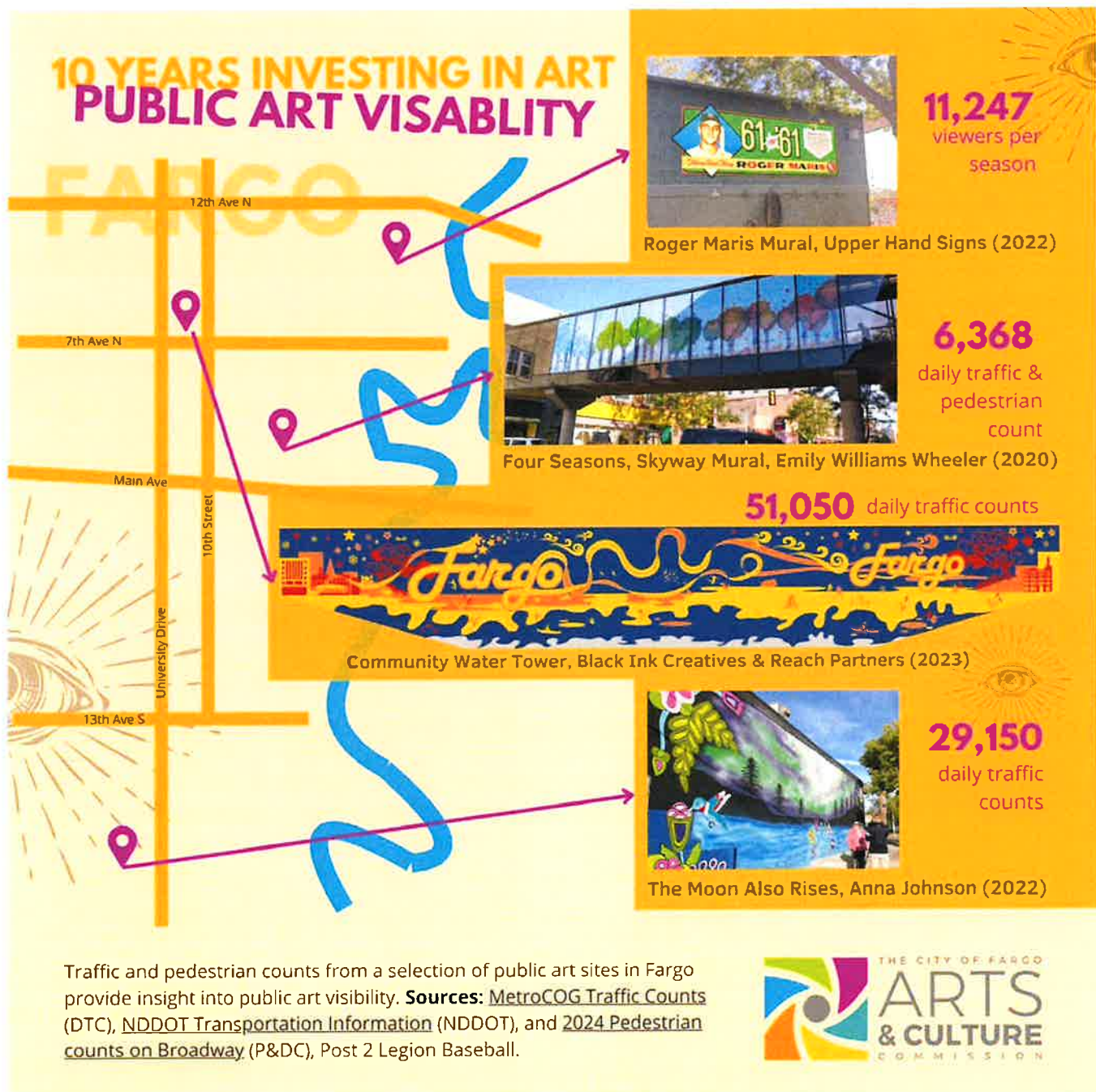
The Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) study, produced by Americans for the Arts, highlights the significant economic and social impact that nonprofit arts and culture organizations have on the Greater Fargo-Moorhead area.

[AEP6 Greater FM Area](https://aep6.americansforthearts.org/local-regional-findings) <https://aep6.americansforthearts.org/local-regional-findings>

- “Americans Speak Out About the Arts in 2023”
- Arts and culture “is important to their community’s quality of life and livability” 86%
- Arts and culture are “important to their community’s businesses, economy, and local jobs” 79%
- Arts and culture “improves the image and identity of their community” 70%
- Arts and culture “provides shared experiences with people of different races, ethnicities, and beliefs” 72%
- Arts and culture “inspires a sense of pride in their community” 63%

AEP6 is the sixth economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the U.S. This study is conducted approximately every five years to gauge the economic impact (on employment, government revenue, and household income) of spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and the event-related spending by their audiences. Previous studies were published in 1994, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017. (Due to the unique nature of the realities of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the AEP6 study was postponed for 16 months.)

Building on its 25-year legacy, the AEP6 series documents the economic power that the arts and culture wield in 373 participating communities representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico—communities ranging in geography (Alaska to Florida to Maine to Hawaii), population (4,000 to 4.7 million), and population density (rural, suburban, and large urban).

Diagram 2. Public Art Visibility**Diagram 2. Public Art Visibility Narrative - [Public View Link](#)**

Traffic and pedestrian counts from a selection of public art sites in Fargo provide insight into public art visibility. Sources: [MetroCOG Traffic Counts](#) (DTC), [NDDOT Transportation Information](#) (NDDOT), and [2024 Pedestrian counts on Broadway](#) (P&DC), Post 2 Legion Baseball.

- 11,247 Viewers per season - Roger Maris Mural by Upper Hand Signs: games per season times the number of players/viewers
- 6,368 Daily - Four Seasons Skyway Mural, by Emily Williams-Wheeler: [P&DC](#) (2024) Broadway 1448 + [NDDOT](#) (2021) 4920
- 51,050 Daily - Community Water Tower by Black Ink Creatives: [NDDOT](#) (2016) 10th St N 13,850 + (2015) University 14,845 + (2015) 7th Ave N 11,755 + (2005) 7th Av N west of rail tracks 10,600. Depending on visual obstructions, the 150' water tower is visible for up to 3-5 miles.
- 29,150 Daily - The Moon Also Rises Midtown Mural, by Anna Johnson: [DTC](#) (2021) University S 27,400 + [NDDOT](#) (1994) 16th Av 950

Diagram 3. Volunteers & Partners



Diagram 3. Volunteers And Partners Narrative - [Public View Link](#)

A foundation of volunteers dedicated to guiding and evaluating public art efforts speaks to their level of investment and the perceived value of public art in the city. The number of partners demonstrates the city's ability to pool resources, expertise, and community insight, enhancing the reach and inclusivity of public art projects. Source: Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025.

54 Partnering Organizations

Bernie's Wines and Liquors, Bishop Land Design, Building and Grounds, Business Improvement District (BID), Buzz Lab at the Plains Art Museum, CHARISM, City of Moorhead, City of West Fargo, Fargo Communications Department, Community Family Market, Concordia, Creative Plains, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Downtown Community Partnership (DCP), Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA), Elinor Co., Fargo Cass Public Health, Fargo Juvenile Detention, Fargo Lions Club, Fargo Moorhead Conventions and Visitors Bureau, Fargo Native American Commission, Fargo North High School Art Students, Fargo Park District, Fargo Police Department, Fargo Public Schools District, Fargo Solid Waste, Fargo Streets, Fargo Sustainability and Resilience Committee, Fargo Theatre, Fargo Youth Initiative (FYI), Folkways, Forecast Public Art, Great Northern Bicycle Company, Insight to Action, Kilbourne Group, Legacy Children's Foundation, Luna Fargo, Madison Elementary School, MATBus/Transit, Minnesota State University Moorhead, New American Consortium, Office Sign Company, Plains Art Museum, Plains Art Museum, Post 2 American Legion Baseball, River Keepers, Roger Maris Family, Rourke Art Gallery, The Arts Partnership (TAP), The World in FM, Theatre B, West Acres, Y-94, Zambroz

25 Volunteer Arts & Culture Commissioners (2015-2024)

2024 Members: Tracy Jordre, Chair, Jon Offutt, Anna Johnson, Joshua Zeis, Deb Williams, Tracy Walvatne, Danyel Moe, Monika Browne-Ecker, Tori Benders

Past: Arlette Preston, Chelsea Thorson, Colleen Sheehy, David Bertolini, Dayna Del Val, Joe Williams, Jessica Jung, Michael Olsen, Cassandra Miller, Netha Cloeter, Tim Lamey, Mark Johnson, Denese Odegard, Denise Kolpack, Ann Arbor Miller, Brad Bachmeier

20 Volunteer Review Panelists

Olivia Bain, Tania Blanich, Camille Brandt, Eloise Breikjern, Kimble Bromley, Sean Coffman, Cyndee Engberg, Bernie Erickson, Lynn Fundingsland, Tracy Jordre, Matt Mastrud, Dwight Mickelson, Merrill Piepkorn, Arlette Preston, Karis Thompson, Sandy Thompson, Andi Thoreson, Rooth Varland, Deb Williams, Joe Williams

Estimated Arts & Culture Commissioners Volunteer Hours: 1,136

Diagram 4. Investments by Funding Source + Artist Stipends**Diagram 4. Investment by Funding Source Narrative + Artist Stipends Narrative - [Public View Link](#)**

Public art projects in a city are supported through various funding sources, each with its mechanisms and guidelines. These include capital funds integrated into city infrastructure, community-funded initiatives, grants, and public arts funds allocated by the City Commission and managed by the Arts and

Culture Commission (ACC). Source: Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025.

Diagram 4. Funding Source Definitions:

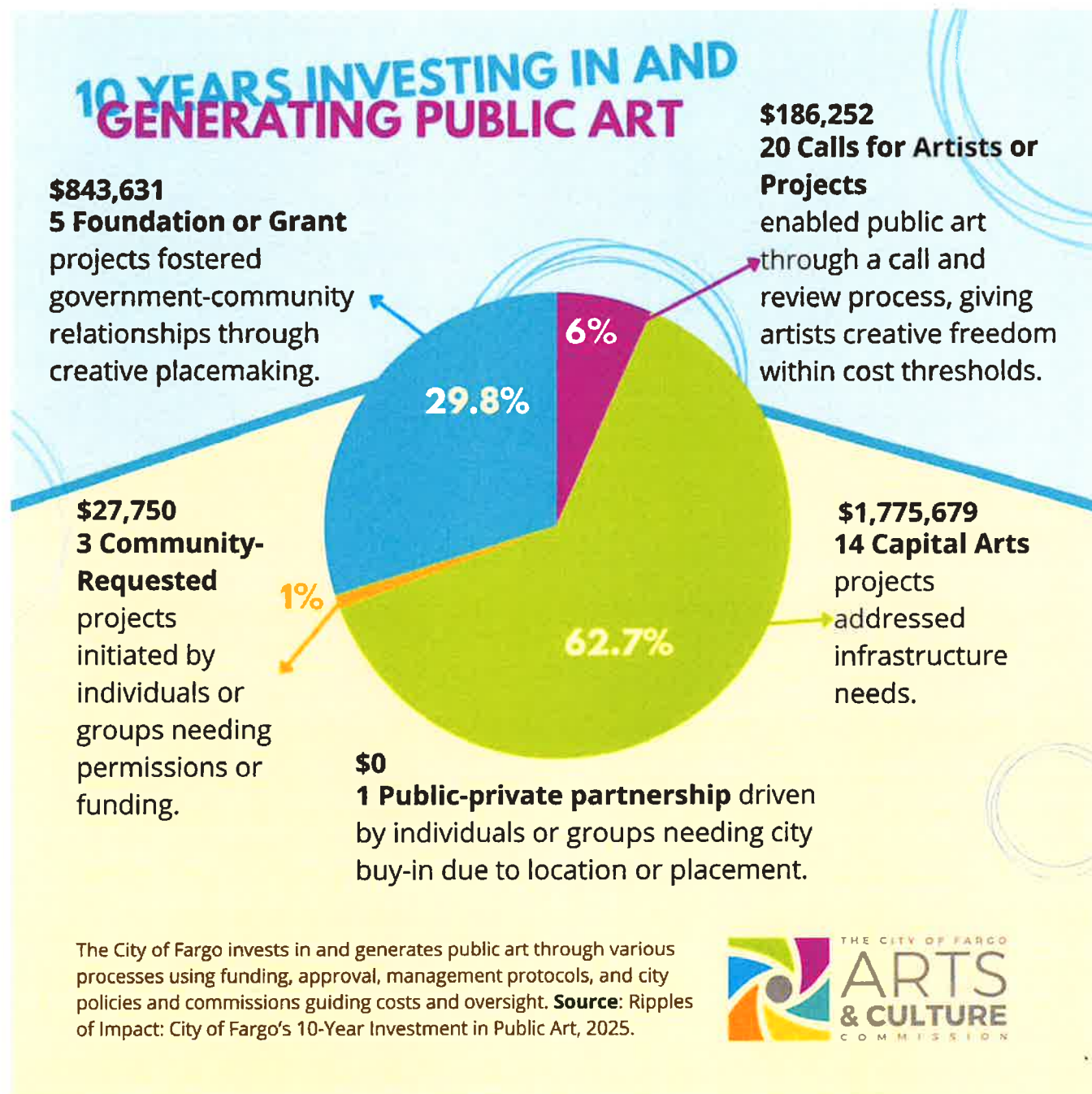
- **Capital Funds**—This is the mechanism through which only a municipality can facilitate public art; no individual community member, non-profit, arts organization, or group can independently incorporate public art into public infrastructure. A public art component added to an infrastructure or service project follows the procurement and financial policies of the given City department (Administration, Engineering, Planning, Water Reclamation, etc.). Ideally, the City establishes a policy allocating a minimum percentage of infrastructure project funds set aside for public art.
- **Public Arts Funds**—The City Commission allocates funds from the general fund for public art projects administered by the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) and overseen by the Planning Department, following established procurement and finance policies.
- **Grants & Foundations**—City departments may be able to apply for and manage state, federal, or foundation grants that align with the municipality's mission and the funding entity's goals. Projects that seek to strengthen government-community relationships through creative placemaking link public art with community planning outcomes and initiatives.
- **Community Funded**—In cases where a group or individual funds a public art project, the installation occurs on public spaces or municipality-maintained buildings, infrastructure, or utilities, adhering to relevant municipal policies.

Diagram 4. Investments by Funding Source Chart

No.	Public Art Funding Source	City Investment	Artist Stipends	Grants
9	Capital Funds City Hall Panels - 2018, Sodbuster Refurbishment, Civic Plaza 2020, FarMore Heart Selfie Station, City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022, City Hall Panels - 2022, 2023 City Hall Art Exhibits, 64th Avenue Bridge, Transit Bus Wrap, Community Water Tower	\$1,803,650	\$87,000	\$0
1	Community Funded Spirit of the Sandbagger	\$0	\$0	\$0
11	Grant and Foundations Phase 2 World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project), Phase 3 World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project), World Garden Commons Summer Series, Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session, Officer Bloom's Police Mural Dance Showcase, Inside Out at Madison School, Juneteenth, One Vision, ND Human Rights Festival	\$772,476	\$90,476	\$1,010,476

Diagram 4. Investments by Funding Source Chart

No.	Public Art Funding Source	City Investment \$149,436	Artist Stipends \$101,840	Grants \$0
26	Public Arts Funds Peace by Piece, Shakespeare Fest, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture, Canoe Parade, 2017 City Hall Art Exhibits, *Artistic Dumpster Screen 2018 City Hall Art Exhibits, 7th Av Utility Box Wraps, Red Ball, Public Art Workshop, artist stipends, 2019 City Hall Art Exhibits, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, Utility Boxes (6) Benches Wraps (5), Community Family Market Mural, 2020 City Hall Art Exhibits, 2021 City Hall Art Exhibits, Neighborhood Utility Boxes, *Peggy Lee Mural, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, Roger Maris Mural, Skyway Mosaic, 2024 City Hall Art Exhibits			

Diagram 5. Generating Public Art**Diagram 5. Generating Public Art Narrative - [Public View Link](#)**

The City of Fargo generates public art through various processes using funding, approval, management protocols, and city policies and commissions guiding costs and oversight. Source: Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025.

Public art is generated through various processes using funding, approval, management protocols, and city policies and commissions guiding costs and oversight. Calls for Artists (CFA) or Projects (CFP) are public announcements inviting artists or creatives to propose ideas for public art projects. This process enables artistic freedom while adhering to specific budgetary and logistical guidelines. Capital Arts projects address infrastructure needs and require city collaboration and approval. Community-requested projects are initiated by individuals or groups needing city funding or permissions. Foundation or grant projects foster government-community relationships through creative placemaking. Public-private partnerships are driven by individuals or groups needing city buy-in due to location or placement.

- **Calls for Artists (CFA) or Projects (CFP)** are public announcements inviting artists or creative professionals to propose ideas for public art projects. This process enables artistic freedom while adhering to specific budgetary and logistical guidelines. The review process involves community advisors. Selected artists have a great deal of freedom in what and how they produce public art. Cost thresholds follow purchase policies. Examples: Emily Williams-Wheeler’s Skyway Mural: Four Seasons (2020), support for The Human Family’s ND Human Rights Film Festival (2022), and UpperHand Signs’ Roger Maris Mural (2023).
- **Capital Arts** projects contribute to the City’s public art inventory by responding to an adjacent infrastructure or supporting a city facility’s need. Projects have a large cost threshold approved by the Commission and require project management and the artist’s partnership with the city department responding to the need. Examples: Community Water Tower (2020), and the 64th Bridge over I-29 (2020).
- **Community-Requested** projects have been initiated and defined by individuals or a group where funding or permissions are needed from the City due to location or placement. Cost thresholds follow purchase policies. Example: Brad Bachmeier and Forecast’s Public Art Workshop (2017), Red Ball Kurt Perschke of Brooklyn, NY traveling public art (2018)
- **Foundation or Granted** projects advance government and community relationships through creative placemaking: connecting public art with department discoveries, community-based plan findings, and change makers. Cost thresholds follow purchase policies and require Commission approvals. Examples: Wess Philome’s One Vision (2022), World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project) (2018), Juneteenth celebration (2022)
- **Public-Private Partnership** projects have been initiated and defined by individuals or a group where buy-in or permissions from the City are needed due to location or placement. An example is Karen Bakke and Brock Davis’s ND Spirit of the Sandbagger (2022), funded by the Fargo Lions Club.

Diagram 5. Generating Public Art Chart

No.	How public art is initiated or generated	City Investment
20	Call for Artists (CFA) or Projects (CFP)	\$186,252
	City Hall Panels - 2018, City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022, City Hall Panels - 2022, Dance Showcase, Inside Out at Madison School, Juneteenth, ND Human Rights Festival, Peace by Piece, Shakespeare Fest, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture, artist stipends, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, Utility Boxes (6) Benches Wraps (5), Community Family Market Mural, *Peggy Lee Mural, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, Roger Maris Mural, Skyway Mosaic	
14	Capital Arts Projects	\$1,775,679
	Sodbuster Refurbishment, Civic Plaza 2020, FarMore Heart Selfie Station, 2023 City Hall Art Exhibits, 64th Avenue Bridge, Community Water Tower, Canoe Parade, 2017-2024 City Hall Art Exhibits, 7th Av Utility Box Wraps, Neighborhood Utility Boxes, Transit Bus Wrap	
3	Community-Requested Projects	\$27,750
	*Artistic Dumpster Screen, Red Ball, Public Art Workshop	
5	Foundation/Grant Projects	\$843,631
	Phase 2 and 3 World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project), World Garden Commons Summer Series, Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session, Officer Bloom's Police Mural, One Vision	
1	Public-Private Partnership	\$0
	Spirit of the Sandbagger	

Diagram 6. Defining Community Engagement in Public Art**Diagram 6. Community Engagement in Public Art Narrative - [Public View Link](#)**

Public art projects can arise as creative solutions to community challenges, be initiated by engaged citizens, enhance larger infrastructure projects, or respond to calls for art. This infographic highlights key differences in how the public engages with public art, community-based art, and creative practices in Fargo. Source: Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025.

Diagram 6. Community Engagement in Public Art Definitions

The following chart highlights a few differences in how the public is engaged in public art the City of Fargo has produced. The following are highly simplified descriptions of public art, community-based art, and creative practices.

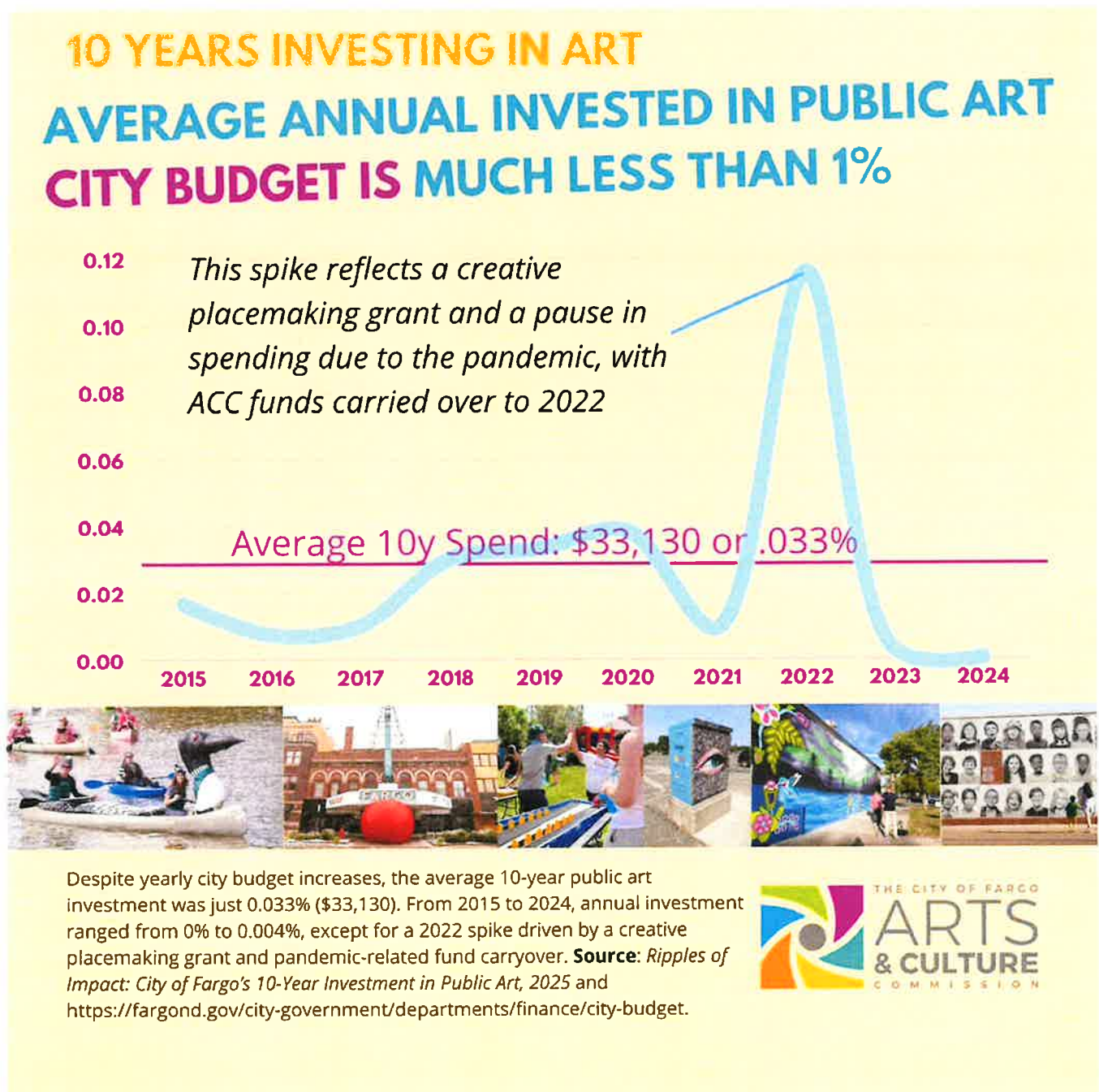
Diagram 6. Defining Community Engagement in Public Art

	Public Art	Community-Based Public Art	Creative Placekeeping
Project Basis	Project focused on a public artifact.	Project focuses on a public artifact and <i>includes</i> community input or engagement to be realized or created.	Project focused on a community-engaged <i>process</i> to address, or highlight an issue with outcomes being awareness, understanding, shared experience, to develop and enhance community change plus the artwork itself.
Level of Community Engagement	Artist creates an artifact <i>for</i> the community.	Artist <i>consults with and involves</i> a community to contribute to an artifact.	Artist collaborates with the community through a process of meaning-making through which the community <i>shares authorship</i> in the resulting artifact.
Results	Implementation or fabrication	Community engagement, project concept planning, and implementation or fabrication.	Community engagement for problem-solving, project concept development, iteration, and planning. Initial funding may or may not include implementation or fabrication. Generally, addresses a geographical place or origin.

Diagram 6. Community Engagement in Public Art Projects Chart

Public Art	Shakespeare Fest, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture, 2017 City Hall Art Exhibits, *Artistic Dumpster Screen, 2018 City Hall Art Exhibits, 7th Av Utility Box Wraps, City Hall Panels - 2018, Red Ball, 2019 City Hall Art Exhibits, Dance Showcase, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, Sodbuster Refurbishment, Utility Boxes (6) Benches Wraps (5), 2020 City Hall Art Exhibits, Civic Plaza 2020, FarMore Heart Selfie Station, 2021 City Hall Art Exhibits, Neighborhood Utility Boxes, *Peggy Lee Mural, City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022, City Hall Panels - 2022, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, ND Human Rights Festival, Roger Maris Mural, Skyway Mosaic, Spirit of the Sandbagger, 2023 City Hall Art Exhibits, 2024 City Hall Art Exhibits
Community-Based Public Art	64th Avenue Bridge, Transit Bus Wrap, Community Water Tower, Inside Out at Madison School, Juneteenth, One Vision, Peace by Piece, Canoe Parade, Community Family Market Mural
Creative Placemaking or Placekeeping	World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project), World Garden Commons Summer Series, Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session, Officer Bloom's Police Mural, Public Art Workshop

*project abandoned

Diagram 7. Annual Invested Compared to City Budget**Diagram 7. Annual Invested Compared to City Budget - [Public View Link](#)**

Despite yearly city budget increases, the average 10-year public art investment was just 0.033% (\$33,130). From 2015 to 2024, annual investment ranged from 0% to 0.004%, except for a 2022 spike driven by a creative placemaking grant and pandemic-related fund carryover. **Source:** Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025 and <https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/finance/city-budget>.

Diagram 7. Annual Invested Compared to City Budget Narrative

The city's approach to spending on art projects relative to its annual budget reveals several key insights. The pandemic's impact in 2021 led to the absence of a Call for Artists, causing a temporary dip in art-related spending. This mirrors a broader trend where non-essential expenditures were paused during the crisis. However, the decision to save those funds for a 2022 Call for Projects reflects fiscal prudence, ensuring that art initiatives were delayed, not abandoned.

The 2022 spike in spending can be attributed to two factors: the reallocation of saved 2021 funds and the use of a grant to operationalize creative placemaking. While this spending increase may seem unusual, it does not necessarily signal a permanent shift but rather highlights the city's capacity to invest in the arts when conditions allow.

The 2022 grant supporting creative placemaking focused on embedding the arts into the city's development and cultural landscape to explore systems and infrastructures for artistic engagement and problem-solving within the community.

The comparison of the annual art spending with the overall city budget reveals how much priority is given to public art. A consistent level of funding, despite economic challenges, indicates the city's commitment to cultural and community-building efforts. Conversely, fluctuations suggest that art funding is discretionary.

The city's ability to save funds during a period of inactivity and strategically apply them later demonstrates adaptive financial management. This approach indicates a long-term vision for flexible art funding that aligns with broader fiscal realities while continuing to support artistic growth and development.

Diagram 7. Chart: Annual Invested Compared to City Budget (excluding Capital and grant-funded projects)

No.	Year	Projects	Investment in Art	Annual Budget	Art % of City Budget
2	2015	Peace by Piece, Madison Park Art Sculpture, ShakespeareFest	\$15,000	89,857,000	0.0167%
1	2016	Sudden Park Ice Sculpture	\$7,000	94,115,000	0.0074%
2	2017	Canoe Parade, City Hall Art Exhibits	\$9,800	95,706,000	0.0102%
3	2018	7th Av Utility Box Wraps (7), City Hall Panels Red Ball, *Artistic Dumpster Screen	\$57,403	96,368,000	0.0303%
6	2019	Dance Showcase, Police HipHop Session & Mural -3 National artists, Public Art Workshop, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, Artist Stipends, Utility Boxes (5) Benches Wraps (5)	\$40,973	98,238,000	0.0332%

Diagram 7. Chart: Annual Invested Compared to City Budget *(excluding Capital and grant-funded projects)*

No.	Year	Projects	Investment in Art	Annual Budget	Art % of City Budget
4	2020	Community Family Market Mural, Community Water Tower, 64th Avenue Bridge, FarMore Heart Selfie Station	\$95,315	107,380,300	0.0385%
2	2021	Neighborhood Utility Boxes, TAP ArtWORKS	\$9,426	102,922,900	0.0092%
10	2022	City Commission Chambers Panels, City Hall Panels Inside Out at Madison School, Juneteenth, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, ND Human Rights Festival, One Vision, *Peggy Lee Mural, Roger Maris Mural, Skyway Mosaic, Spirit of the Sandbagger	\$121,345	104,520,900	0.1161%
1	2023	Transit Bus Wrap Youth, City Hall Exhibits	\$3,000	111,850,710	0.0027%
1	2024	City Hall Art Exhibits	\$2,400	\$119,770,238	0.002%

*abandoned project

Diagram 8. Local vs National Artists Funded, Calls for Artists & Projects



Diagram 8. Local vs National Artists Funded, plus Calls for Artists & Projects Narrative [Public View Link](#)

The City has invested \$279,816 in artists' and projects, with a significant focus on local talent. It allocated \$237,685 to 59 local artists (84.9%) and \$42,131 to 5 artists outside the region (15.1%). Between 2015 and 2024, the City of Fargo has issued 6 calls for artists or projects resulting in 43 applications; 20 (46%) of applications have been awarded.

- 59 Local Artists (\$237,985)
- 5 National Artists (\$42,131) - National Artists include Kurt Perschke, Brooklyn, NY; Black Ink Creative Partners, CT, "Wordsplayed" and Delgis Mustafa of San Diego, CA; and Alex Lopez, Miami, FL
- 43 Applications: 20 Awarded

Diagram 9. Public Art Projects in 10 Years



Diagram 9. Public Art Projects in 10 Years Narrative - [Public Viewing Link](#)

Between 2014 and 2024, the City of Fargo invested in or leveraged grant dollars for 53 public art projects that resulted in 7 sculptures, 9 murals, 23 utility boxes and bench wraps, 11 festivals or temporary events, and 3 infrastructure projects. **Source:** *Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025.*

Diagram 9 Chart: Public Art Projects in 10 Years

7 Sculptures	Creative Bike Rack, Civic Plaza, Peace by Piece, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture, Sodbuster Refurbishment, FarMore Heart Selfie Station, Spirit of the Sandbagger, *Artistic Dumpster Screen (not included)
9 Murals	City Hall Panels 2018, Officer Bloom's Police Mural, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, Community Family Market Mural, City Commission Chambers Panels, City Hall Panels 2022, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, Roger Maris Mural, Skyway Mosaic
23 utility or bench wraps	7th Av Utility Box Wraps 2018 (6), Utility Boxes Benches Wraps 2019 (11) Neighborhood Utility Boxes 2021 Various Youth (6)
11 Festivals or short-term events	Dance Showcase, Public Art Workshop, Shakespeare Fest, Canoe Parade World Garden Commons Summer Series, 2022 Juneteenth, ND Human Rights Festival, Inside Out at Madison School 33 Variations by Moises Kaufman Beethovenfest, Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session, One Vision, Red Ball
3 Infrastructure projects	Community Water Tower, 64th Avenue Bridge Transit Bus Wrap

Diagram 10. Projects by Department**Diagram 10. Public Art Projects by Department Narrative - [Public Viewing Link](#)**

Public art projects may align with the Public Art Master Plan (2017), Core Neighborhoods strategy (2022), GO2030 (2012), or other City strategies. Departments can submit project ideas for Arts and Culture Commission review, with oversight support from the Planning Department. **Source:** *Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025.*

Diagram 10. Projects By Department Lead Chart

No.	Department Lead	City Investment	Artist Stipends	Grants
23	Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) Peace by Piece, Shakespeare Fest, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture, Canoe Parade, City Hall Art Exhibits (2017-2023), Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, Utility Boxes (6) Benches Wraps (5), Neighborhood Utility Boxes, Inside Out at Madison School, Juneteenth, One Vision, 2022 Call for Public Art, ND Human Rights Festival, *Peggy Lee Mural, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, Roger Maris Mural, Skyway Mosaic	\$152,538	\$133,120	\$51,845
9	City of Fargo Administration World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project) City Hall Panels - 2018, Sodbuster Refurbishment, FarMore Heart Selfie Station, Civic Plaza 2020, City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022, City Hall Panels - 2022, Transit Bus Wrap, 2023 City Hall Art Exhibits	\$2,548,650	\$137,000	\$1,035,000
2	Engineering Department 7th Av Utility Box Wraps, 64th Avenue Bridge	\$14,928	\$11,750	\$0
3	Planning & Development Department World Garden Commons Summer Series, Public Art Workshop Dance Showcase	\$17,250	\$17,250	\$16,500
2	Fargo Police Department Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session, Officer Bloom's Police Mural	\$22,131	\$22,131	\$22,131
1	Water Reclamation Department Fargo Community Water Tower	\$35,000	\$20,000	\$0
1	Fargo Cass Public Health Community Family Market Mural	\$10,815	\$10,815	\$0

Diagram 11. Public Art Masterplan (2017) Themes

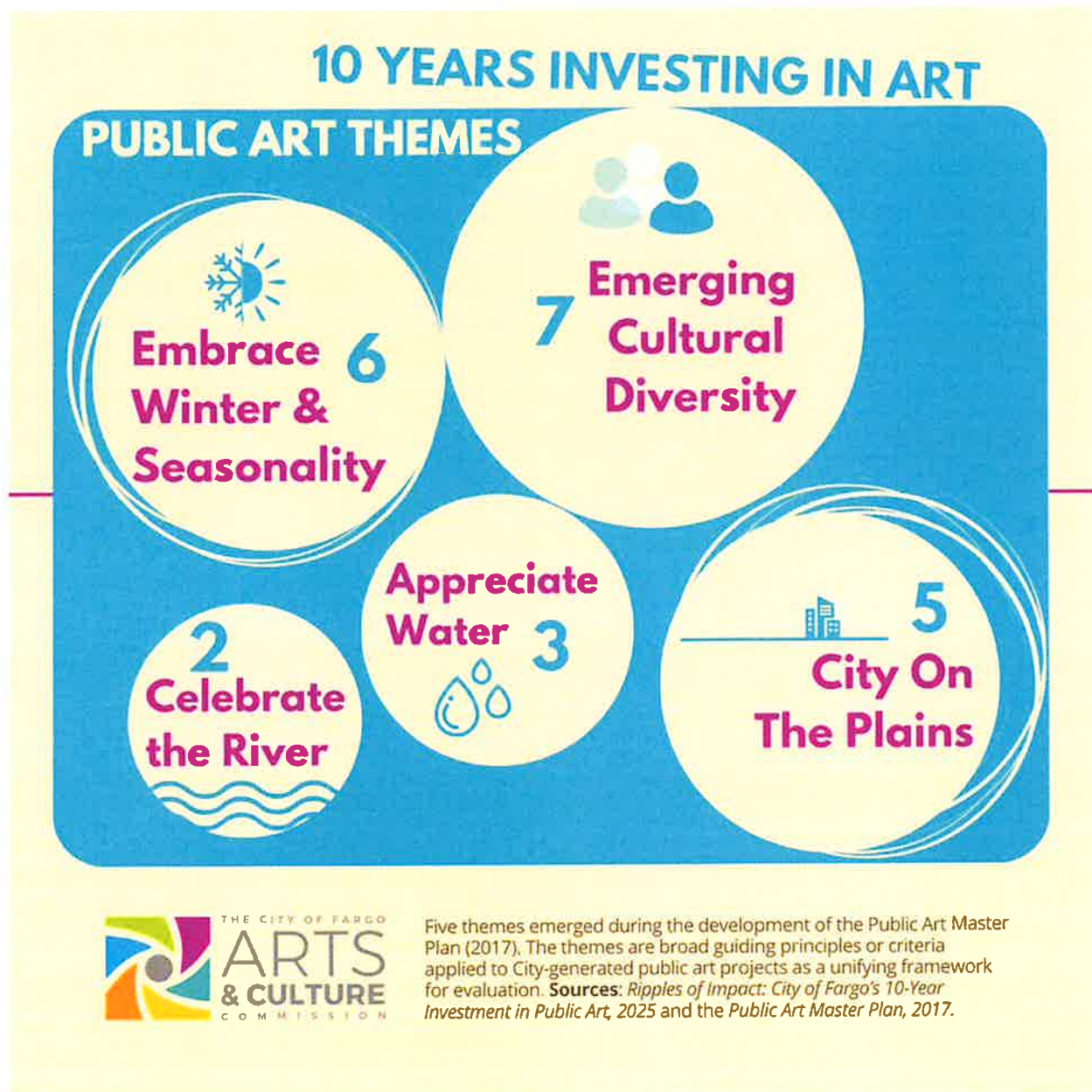


Diagram 11. Public Art Masterplan Themes Narrative - [Public Viewing Link](#)

Five themes emerged during the development of the Public Art Master Plan (2017). The themes are broad guiding principles or criteria applied to City-generated public art projects as a unifying framework for evaluation. Source: *Ripples of Impact: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art, 2025*.

Diagram 11. Public Art Masterplan (2017) Themes Definitions

- **Emerging Cultural Diversity** Bring communities together and create opportunities for understanding and awareness-building between different cultures and raise the currency of human values and bring out the human qualities in us.
- **The City on the Great Plains** The use of BIG art, earthworks and land art to emphasize the vast landscape that Fargo is built upon. Major roadways, corridors and gateways can be planted with prairie, savanna and orchard plants to emphasize the historical nature of the land, and artworks can capture the pioneering spirit of Fargo's culture. Use the momentum of Sodbuster's re-installation to inspire big ideas and bold visions.
- **Celebrate the River** Public art that focuses attention on Fargo's river to increase use of the natural resources, as well as raise awareness of its value and the importance of river stewardship. The art can be kinetic, interactive, and engage people in fun and educational ways—day and night, in all seasons.
- **Embrace Winter and Seasonality** Fargo's climate provides opportunities for art events, installations, and activities year-round. Public art can help celebrate the cold of winter, the warmth of summer, and everything in between. This can be done through a variety of season-specific projects and events.
- **Water Appreciation** Expand upon The Fargo Project, using art and landscape to increase community awareness and understanding about Fargo's watershed, drinking water, stormwater ponds and runoff, drainage ditches, the FM Area Diversion project, and more. Public art can also help create a connected network of parks and trails using waterways and build a sense of identity for Fargo neighborhoods.
- **Celebrate Local Artists** While not included as a theme in the 2017 Public Art Masterplan, many projects feature the studio work of celebrated artists local to Fargo, ND.

Diagram 11. Chart: Public Art Masterplan (2017) Themes

No.	Theme	Project	City Investment	Artist Stipends
2	Celebrate the River	Canoe Parade, Spirit of the Sandbagger	\$8,000	8,000
5	City on the Plains	Red Ball, 64th Avenue Bridge, Civic Plaza, Sodbuster Refurbishment, FarMore Heart Selfie Station	\$1,734,650	\$10,000
6	Embrace Winter and Seasonality	Transit Bus Wrap, City Hall Panels, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, City Hall Panels, Skyway Mosaic, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture	\$74,842	\$66,500

Diagram 11. Chart: Public Art Masterplan (2017) Themes

No.	Theme	Project	City Investment	Artist Stipends
7	Emerging Cultural Diversity	Juneteenth, ND Human Rights Festival, Inside Out at Madison School, Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session, Officer Bloom's Police Mural, Community Family Market Mural, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises, Creative Bike Rack	\$87,791	\$87,791
3	Water Appreciation	World Garden Commons Summer Series, Community Water Tower, Phase 2 World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project)	\$399,500	\$34,500
14	Celebrate Local Artists	Peace by Piece, Shakespeare Fest, 2017 City Hall Art Exhibits, 2018 City Hall Art Exhibits, 7th Av Utility Box Wraps, 2019 City Hall Art Exhibits, Utility Boxes (6), Benches Wraps (5), Dance Showcase, 2020 City Hall Art Exhibits, Neighborhood Utility Boxes, One Vision, Roger Maris Mural, City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022, 2024 City Hall Art Exhibits	\$84,779	\$70,525

Diagram 12. North Dakota's Art & Culture Sector**Diagram 12. North Dakota's Art & Culture Sector - [Public Viewing Link](#)**

The North Dakota arts and culture sector was a \$1.6 billion industry in 2022 (2.22% of the state's GDP), representing 12,955 jobs (2.9% of North Dakota's workforce), and total compensation of \$884.7 million. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (2024). Data collected for 2022. https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/

No Diagram. Number of Infrastructure projects

The following projects contribute to the City's public art inventory by responding to an adjacent infrastructure need. Adding or incorporating public art into infrastructure or physical assets to serve utilities or capital investments like a bridge. The source of funds attributed to the infrastructure asset being built (i.e., a portion of the cost of a bridge).

No Diagram. Number of Infrastructure Projects Chart

Infrastructure Project	City Investment	Artists Stipend	Fabrication or other fees
Transit Bus Wrap	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$10,591
7th Av Utility Box Wraps	\$4,928	\$1,750	\$3,177.93
64th Avenue Bridge	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$3,200,000
Community Water Tower	\$35,000	\$20,000	\$186,981*

*notes the cost of painting the Water Tower, \$7.9M is the total cost of the infrastructure

No Diagram. Public Art Locations (per PAMP Pg 17)

There is not much spread outside the downtown area.

The Public Art Masterplan (2017) offered a perspective of Fargo as a collection of distinct districts or zones to further develop a citywide public art strategy, not just focused on the downtown core. This lens fosters the development of district characteristics and authentic identities to define the city's physical and cultural landscape.

No Diagram. Public Art Locations Chart:

District/Zone	Number of Artwork	Artwork
Downtown	20	Shakespeare Fest, Sudden Park Ice Sculpture, Canoe Parade, 2017 City Hall Art Exhibits, City Hall Panels - 2018, 2018 City Hall Art Exhibits, 7th Av Utility Box Wraps, *Artistic Dumpster Screen, Sodbuster Refurbishment, Skyway Mural: Four Seasons, 2019 City Hall Art Exhibits, Utility Boxes (6) Benches Wraps (5), FarMore Heart Selfie Station, Civic Plaza 2020, 2020 City Hall Art Exhibit, Skyway Mosaic, City Hall Panels - 2022, Juneteenth, City Commission Chambers Panels - 2022, 2024 City Hall Art Exhibits
Downtown+	4	Community Water Tower, One Vision, ND Human Rights Festival, Spirit of the Sandbagger
Northeast	2	Dance Showcase, Roger Maris Mural
Northwest	2	Inside Out at Madison School, Peace by Piece
Central	3	Community Family Market Mural, Officer Bloom's Police HipHop Session Officer Bloom's Police Mural
Southeast	2	64th Avenue Bridge, Midtown Mural: The Moon Also Rises
Southwest	3	One Vision, World Garden Commons at Rabanus Park (The Fargo Project), World Garden Commons Summer Series

Artist Case Studies

RIPPLES OF IMPACT: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art

The City's specific administrative capabilities differentiate it from arts-based community nonprofits and grassroots organizations. Only a city can facilitate large-scale projects integrating functional and aesthetically enriching public art into urban infrastructure. Plus, a city can allocate public funding, provide infrastructure support, and engage with a broad network of stakeholders, including other governmental agencies.

Five artists generously provided interviews for case studies to exemplify how public art can encourage community participation and respond to community needs while enhancing public space. By understanding the key principles for public art, the internal systems required for success, and the roles of those involved, the City of Fargo can leverage its unique capacity to cultivate a vibrant public art landscape. Themes from this qualitative data include:

Thorough plans, early design parameters, project management, and contingency budgets are essential for managing inevitable challenges.

Communication strengthens ties, enhances impact, and ensures logistical efficiency.

Art can be a powerful tool to educate and promote understanding of social issues.

Co-creating art with the community amplifies representation and builds shared ownership.

Inclusive planning principles ensure community art projects meaningfully serve and represent diverse perspectives.

The case studies briefly describes a project, how the artist approached the work, their challenges and lessons learned, and the project's impact on the community. The artist case studies represent a variety of art, events, or performances that encourage community participation or complement, enhance, or modify a public space.

The Moon Also Rises - A Mural by Artist Anna Johnson, 2022

A neighborhood mural reflects the artist's Indigenous culture and aesthetic. The artist partnered with a local business to apply for and secure funding during the City's 2022 call for public art projects.

The Four Seasons Skyway Mural by Emily Williams-Wheeler, 2019

A large mural enhances the downtown landscape with the changing seasons. The artist identified the location for public art, then applied for and secured funding during the City's 2019 call for public art projects.

Frederick Edwards' Juneteenth Celebration, 2022

A community event that brings awareness to the history, struggles, and contributions of minority cultures to enhance overall community identity and cohesion. The artist applied for and secured funding during the City's 2020 call for public art projects.

The 64th Avenue Bridge Project with Artist Dwight Mickelson, 2020

The artist was invited to influence the aesthetic of a bridge spanning I29. Funding for the artist was included in the infrastructure's capital budget.

Dan Koeck's Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT, a Madison Neighborhood Project, 2022

A temporary installation covered the school's exterior with portraits of the students and staff within. The artist received funding earmarked for the Madison Neighborhood during the City's the City's 2022 call for public art projects.

Public Art and Community Building

Dan Koeck's Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT, a Madison Neighborhood Project



A student poses in front of his portrait during the temporary installation of Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT at Madison Elementary School, Fargo. Credit: Dan Koeck (2022)

“When it comes to public art, I believe it's crucial to be part of the community you're serving rather than just swoop in to build your portfolio and then leave. This project allowed me to do something meaningful for a neighborhood I care about.”

—Dan Koeck, Photographer

Public art has the potential to bring communities together, reflect local culture, and create a sense of belonging. In this case study, photographer Dan Koeck shares his experience with his public art project in the Madison neighborhood, exploring how the intersection of art, community, and effective project management can foster meaningful connections.

Dan Koeck, an experienced photographer with a background in photojournalism, was inspired by a public art workshop that sparked his idea to take on a public art project. He had been

volunteering with the Big Brother Big Sister Program at Madison Elementary for 15 years, developing a deep connection with the community. This personal bond motivated him to propose a public art project that would reflect the people and culture of the neighborhood.

Koeck's project aimed to celebrate the community by installing large-scale portraits of the students and staff at Madison Elementary, which serves as the heart of the neighborhood. The themes of identity, diversity, community, and

art, co-created by the artist and the principal, were infused into school-wide classroom activities leading up to the installation. The 130 portraits, printed by Inside Out—a global photography organization known for public installations—were displayed on the school building as temporary art. The project aligned Koeck’s creative process with the community’s needs, highlighting pride in the school’s diversity.

Systems and Resources

Managing a public art project requires more than artistic skill—it demands careful planning, communication, and resource management. Koeck’s project relied on financial resources, communication, time management, labor, and support.

The project relied on a grant from the City of Fargo Arts and Culture Commission’s 2022 Call for Projects, and the backing of Madison Elementary’s Principal, Lori Conmy, the Fargo Public Schools, and Inside Out. The budget covered printing, materials, labor, and cleanup efforts.

One of Koeck’s primary challenges was coordinating between the school district, the City of Fargo, and Inside Out. Each organization had specific requirements, from the legal considerations of the City and privacy concerns of the school district to the process-oriented approach of Inside Out.

The project spanned approximately nine months. Koeck worked with Principal Conmy to develop the project themes in September, met each classroom in November, took photos in February, and hosted an event with students in the Madison Elementary Leaders Council (MELC) in March while the pictures were being printed, and installed the portraits in May. By late June, the

photos were removed to complete the temporary project as planned.

Koeck had help from the Madison Elementary staff, friends, and North Dakota State University art students, as well as support from Reach Partners, who assisted with project management and communications. His community connections played a role in navigating challenges.

Roles and Responsibilities

Several the people in the following roles contributed to the success of the project:

- **Artist (Dan Koeck):** Koeck conceived and executed the project as the creative lead. His long-standing connection to the Madison neighborhood allowed him to create artwork that resonated with the community.
- **School Administration (Principal Lori Conmy):** Principal Lori helped secure permissions, facilitated obtaining model releases from students, organized the celebration day for the installation, and advocated for the project to the school district administration.



Students involved in the Madison Elementary Leaders Council (MELC) discuss art, leadership and identity during a conversation with the artist and the INSIDE OUT national office. Credit: Dan Koeck (2022)

- **Collaborating Organization (Inside Out):** Inside Out handled the printing and provided educational resources to Koeck, emphasizing that the project was not about building his portfolio but rather about community impact.
- **Project Manager (Reach Partners):** This role was essential for overseeing logistics, coordinating between various stakeholders, and maintaining clear communication channels. Reach Partners assisted the artist in ensuring the project stayed on track and that messaging was aligned with community goals.
- **City Staff:** The City ensured the project met legal standards and supported the initiative by promoting it in the local press.
- **Community and Volunteers:** Friends, students, and staff played key roles in the installation process, exemplifying public art collaboration.

Challenges and Solutions

Koeck encountered several challenges during the project. Navigating the differing needs and priorities of Inside Out, the school district, and the City required diligent communication. Koeck ensured everyone's expectations were met while maintaining the project's core vision.

Changes in school leadership introduced new challenges, but with Principal Lori's advocacy, Koeck managed these transitions.

The textured brick school building made installation and clean-up more difficult than expected. Koeck hired a professional cleaning service from a contingency fund the city set aside for public art projects.

Community Impact

The [Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT, a Madison School Photography Project](#) exemplifies the importance of adaptability and stakeholder engagement in public art. Because he had 15



Two students run along portraits of their classmates during a celebration of the temporary installation of Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT at Madison Elementary School, Fargo. Credit: Dan Koeck (2022)

years of involvement in the community, Koeck ensured that the artwork resonated, enhancing local pride. The temporary nature of the installation also reflected a sustainable approach to public art—one that respected the space while fostering conversations and connections. Koeck shared, “One memorable moment was a kid coming out of the school, seeing his photo on the wall, and exclaiming, “This is amazing!” with outstretched arms. It showed the power of public art in making people feel seen and valued.”

Dan Koeck’s Madison School project is a prime example of how public art can serve as a tool for community building and cultural celebration. Through effective project management, strong communication, and a deep connection to the neighborhood, Koeck created a piece that brought people together and showcased the power of public art. His experience demonstrates that the meaningful public art projects align the artist’s vision with community needs, ensuring lasting value beyond the artwork itself.

Takeaways for Public Art with Shared Authorship

- *Meaningful public art is co-created when artists work alongside the community, rather than executing a solo vision.*
- *Ideas are enhanced when community members actively participate, making the art a collective achievement rather than an external imposition.*
- *Shared action not only fosters a sense of ownership but also strengthens relationships among participants.*
- *Integrating art into everyday life makes it a relevant part of the community’s culture*
- *Public art can be the catalyst for ongoing collaboration, inspiring further initiatives driven by the community’s aspirations.*



Artist Dan Koeck collaborates with the school’s environmental services staff during the installation of student and staff portraits on the exterior of Madison Elementary School, Fargo. Credit: Dave Wallis (2022)



A student poses near her portrait during the temporary installation of Believe in Us | INSIDE OUT at Madison Elementary School, Fargo. Credit: Dan Koeck (2022)

Art, Community, and Collaboration

The 64th Avenue Bridge Project with Artist Dwight Mickelson, 2020



Conceptual drawing of the 64th Avenue bridge provided by the Artist Dwight Mickelson. Used with permission.

“The community should have the agency, a direct voice. Engagement could be infused into a much longer arch of a project with a self-identified group who say, “We need this in our community; How can we do it?””

–Dwight Mickelson, Artist

The 64th Avenue Bridge project, led by artist Dwight Mickelson, sought to integrate artistic elements into the design of a bridge crossing Interstate 29. The vision was a gateway into Fargo, reflecting the community culture and creating a welcoming and aesthetically engaging structure for local residents and passersby.

Dwight Mickelson’s role in the project was to serve as a creative conduit, tasked with finding ways to merge aesthetic ideas with community engagement and experiment with concepts that sought to humanize the infrastructure and embed it within the city’s cultural fabric. From the city’s perspective, Dwight was able to impact the overall design beyond what they initially thought: he influenced the pier details, inner walkway facade, and lighting selection. Yet Dwight was challenged by not having the full engineering parameters from the beginning.

To address the challenge of creating something reflective of the community, Dwight collaborated with graphic designer Lindsey Brammell and community contributors. They aimed to incorporate community-driven ideas, such as multilingual welcome messages, and bring new perspectives to the design.

One key lesson Dwight learned was the importance of early and authentic community engagement. Adding a perspective of the Indigenous community late in the process was determined tokenistic, so those ideas were scrapped. He realized that in projects like this, genuine partnerships with community members should start from the beginning to ensure their voices are reflected in the outcome. The lack of early-stage engineering parameters also became problematic, resulting in creative ideas being constrained once technical restrictions came to light.

He also reflected on the complexities of balancing personal art and large-scale public projects. For artists accustomed to working in solitude or focusing on their studio work, community-based projects can be overwhelming. Dwight emphasized the need for clarity on how community input will be utilized to manage expectations and ensure participants feel heard.

While the project aimed to reflect the local community, Dwight acknowledged that the final product does not reflect community engagement. Some of the original ideas, such as the multilingual messages, were simplified or modified due to the Department of Transportation's requirements and budget allowance.

However, the project highlighted important lessons in community-driven art. It underscored the need for public art projects to focus on the needs and desires of the community, rather than becoming a vehicle for the artist's vision. Dwight stressed that future projects should allow for longer-term engagement, where the community has agency and ownership over the outcome.

The project also influenced Dwight's thinking about large-scale public art. He found himself questioning the role of the artist in socially engaged work and became more aware of the risk of manipulating community involvement to serve artistic goals. In many ways, the 64th Avenue Bridge project has re-calibrated his view on the balance between art, community, and infrastructure.

The 64th Avenue Bridge project serves as a case study in the complex dynamics of large-scale public art, community involvement, and collaboration across sculpture, graphic design, and engineering disciplines. Dwight Mickelson's experience highlights the importance of early community engagement, clear communication, and flexibility in the face of project constraints. While the final design may not fully reflect the community's input, the project offers valuable insights into the relationship between artists and the community.

Takeaways for Artists and Administrators

- *Obtain full design parameters early to mitigate restrictions.*
- *Develop a communication plan for community engagement, expectations, and follow-up.*
- *Look to mature communities (like Reykjavik, Iceland) for examples of art and culture integration into infrastructure.*
- *It may take years to integrate community-based projects effectively.*



Artist Dwight Mickelson and City Planning Coordinator, Maegin Elshaug pose on the 64th Avenue pedestrian bridge that spans I-29. Credit: Jason Leonard, City of Fargo Engineering

Empowering Community Through Art

The Impact of Frederick Edwards' Juneteenth Celebration, 2022



Frederick Edwards, a community leader, organizer, and spoken word artist, initiated Fargo, North Dakota's annual Juneteenth celebrations through his non-profit, Fred's Dissonance. In 2022, for the third year of this event, Frederick focused on community education, healing, and inclusion, centering the experiences of Black individuals. His work raised awareness of societal issues and fostered a sense of belonging and reflection within the diverse Fargo community.

The 2022 Juneteenth celebration was a multifaceted event designed to educate the community about racial injustice and the historical significance of Black people in the Northern Plains. It included educational activities, free meals, a block party, and an art exhibit at North Dakota State University's Renaissance Hall. The event highlighted the legacy of racial profiling and Black history in North Dakota and Minnesota. In collaboration with researchers, artists, and community organizations, Frederick's event became a space where various voices and experiences could be shared.

Frederick's approach to the project emphasized inclusion and harm reduction. He began planning in October, laying the groundwork with a mission and vision that centered on the experiences of Black people. His goal was to create an intentional, inclusive environment where the community could come together for reflection and celebration.

Lessons Learned

Frederick emphasized that intention is key to creating impact particularly when it comes to inclusion and harm reduction while observing the importance of collaboration, marketing, budget management, and contingency planning to ensure smooth project execution. As Frederick noted, "This project is more than just event planning; it's about being intentional about placing harm reduction before logistics; a clear focus on inclusivity is crucial."

Impact on the Community

The 2022 Juneteenth celebration created a safe space for people of all backgrounds to come together and learn. The event's success earned Frederick the 2022 Governor's Main Street Award and the Healthy Vibrant Community Award. It also inspired the creation of other Juneteenth celebrations and initiatives, like the Asian Night Market, showing the ripple effect of his work.



(Previous page) A youth dance group poses together, Juneteenth program flyer, (above) Frederick Edwards, the founder and curator of Juneteenth celebrations, talks with an unidentified woman. Images used with permission, Tahsan Photography for Juneteenth, 2022.

“This project is more than just event planning; it's about being intentional about placing harm reduction before logistics; a clear focus on inclusivity is crucial.” –Frederick Edwards, Artist and Community Organizer

Minority-focused activities foster inclusion and educate the broader community to strengthen social bonds. By supporting such initiatives, the city acknowledges the historical contributions of minority groups and empowers marginalized communities. In Frederick's case, support from the City of Fargo helped create a platform for conversations about racial justice and diversity.

Frederick continues to focus on intentional collaboration and early preparation for future projects. His advice for others planning similar events includes the need for contingency plans, budgeting for unexpected costs, and maintaining persistence despite challenges. His works emphasize the importance of centering marginalized voices in public art as well as in all aspects of project planning and execution.

Frederick Edwards' Juneteenth celebration showcases the ethical responsibility of leaders in fostering community engagement through inclusive and intentional events. His project created lasting connections, raised awareness of important societal issues, and inspired additional public art initiatives. The reception of his work underscores the critical role of public-supported activities in recognizing and celebrating social equity, ensuring contributions are honored and recognized and voices are heard with empowered community presence.

Takeaways for City Arts Administrators:

- *Art can be a powerful tool to educate and promote understanding of social issues.*
- *Inclusive planning principles ensures community art projects meaningfully serve and represent diverse perspectives.*
- *Community art projects can inspire future initiatives and have a lasting influence. Projects that partner with local organizations and leaders amplify a project's impact.*
- *Public funding and community support are essential for promoting social equity in public art.*

Enhancing Community Identity

The Moon Also Rises - A Mural by Artist Anna Johnson, 2022

"The Moon Also Rises" is a public mural created by artist Anna Johnson in collaboration with Luna and Bernie's Wines and Liquors. The project was initiated after a serendipitous conversation between Johnson and Luna's owner, Nikki Berglund coupled with the City's 2022 Call for Public Art Projects. Anna, an experienced print-maker and collage artist, took on the challenge of creating her first outdoor mural.

Anna's mural embodies the Indigenous perspective and illustrates how public art can strengthen community pride and cultural identity. Inspired by a deep connection to her Native American heritage, the mural blends floral motifs with a moonlit landscape. Her goal was to create a piece that transcends decoration, serving as a visual tribute to her community's cultural and historical roots.

Anna approached the mural focusing on community representation and artistic integrity. She insisted that the mural should be a work of public art rather than an advertisement, emphasizing the

importance of art as a community asset. Her method involved creating an initial ink and watercolor collage to conceptualize the mural, with minimal input from Nikki on the design elements.

She encountered several challenges during the project. As her first outdoor mural, she faced the complexities of managing logistics on a large scale. Additionally, she had to contend with a broken foot. On the financial side of the project, Anna navigated the intricacies of cost management and material acquisition, a process made easier with Nikki's assistance.

Reflecting on the project, Anna offered valuable advice for future endeavors. She emphasized the importance of not undervaluing one's work, noting that pricing should accurately reflect the effort, skill, and materials involved. She recommends developing a detailed plan for logistics and execution for the success of large-scale projects. Additionally, she highlighted the necessity of clear communication from the beginning of the project, stressing that setting explicit expectations with stakeholders helps prevent misunderstandings and ensures smoother project execution.



Artist Anna Johnson outlines a mural design projected on the side of Bernie's Wines and Liquors. Image used with permission, Rachel Asleson, 2022.

“Representation matters. The mural reflects the Native American perspective, which is significant in our community with a substantial Indigenous population. I believe in the importance of community and public art.”

—Anna Johnson, Artist

The mural’s impact highlights the area’s Indigenous heritage, visually acknowledging the Native American perspective and deepening cultural representation. It transforms a corner along a busy corridor by adding color to an otherwise nondescript commercial building. Additionally, the mural created positive ripple effects for Anna, leading to new opportunities, including commissions, an artist residency, and increased involvement with local galleries, extending the mural’s influence far beyond its initial scope. Anna’s experiences illustrate the potential of public art to create lasting ripples within a community and for the artist.

Anna’s Advice to Artists

- *Don’t undervalue your work. Artists should ensure their work is priced to reflect the effort, skill, and materials involved.*
- *Thorough planning. A detailed plan, including logistics and execution, is crucial for the success of large-scale projects.*



The Moon Also Rises, a mural by Anna Johnson is located at 16th Ave south on University Drive. Image used with permission, Rachel Asleson, 2022.



2020 Four Seasons, by Emily Williams-Wheeler. Used with permission.

Transforming Space Through Public Art

The Four Seasons Skyway Mural by Emily Williams-Wheeler, 2019

The Four Seasons Skyway Mural in Downtown Fargo is a year-round representation of Fargo's dynamic seasons, created by local artist Emily Williams-Wheeler. Designed for pedestrians, bikers, drivers, and office workers alike—the mural turns an often-overlooked skyway into an iconic canvas. Emily's goal was simple: create something bold and colorful without distracting from the city's flow, reflecting the resilience and character of Fargo.

Artist's Approach

Emily approached the City of Fargo with the skyway mural concept before a call for projects was made. When selected, she navigated multiple departments—including Engineering, Planning, and local vendors—to bring her vision to life. A meticulous planner, Emily crafted a schedule and aligned stakeholders early on. Despite limited funding and rising costs, she maintained clear communication, ensuring the project stayed on track. Her foresight was key in managing installation challenges, such as weather constraints, which delayed the process until June.

Her creative process was grounded in her community understanding and experience as an established artist. Emily chose to paint the mural on watercolor paper and have it scanned for large-scale printing. The vibrant, yet simplistic mural reflects her experience with Fargo's seasonal diversity and challenges

“I thought about the project holistically: how to create the mural, how it was going to get scanned and printed, and what it was going to look like on the skyway. I knew the size and scale. Everything was timed, and everyone was on my schedule, so I didn’t feel rushed.”

–Emily Williams-Wheeler, Artist

of living with the weather. The color scheme and design were deliberate to create impact while maintaining safety for drivers passing by.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The project faced several hurdles. Temperature restrictions, delayed installation, and budget constraints left Emily with minimal pay. She also encountered technical issues during installation. Despite these challenges, the project taught Emily valuable lessons about budgeting, planning, and the necessity of contracts to protect all parties involved.

The Four Seasons Skyway Mural is a welcoming landmark in Downtown Fargo. The bold colors and simple design grant people to experience art in their everyday routines, whether walking, biking, or driving through the city. Emily hopes the mural brings the same vibrancy to Fargo as public art in cities like Sioux Falls.

The Four Seasons Skyway Mural is a case study of how thoughtful planning and strong project management can enhance public spaces to positively impact a community. Emily’s experience underscores the importance of artist-led initiatives, robust communication, and careful budgeting in bringing public art projects to life. This mural represents Fargo’s spirit and creativity, a ripple of impact in an evolving downtown landscape.

Emily’s Advice to Artists

- *Communication is essential. Working closely with city departments and vendors ensured that logistical issues were addressed quickly.*
- *Budget for the unexpected. The final project costs were higher than anticipated, a reminder of the importance of thorough financial planning.*
- *Written agreements are key. Emily held contracts with vendors ensuring accountability and smooth collaboration.*

10 Lessons Learned

RIPPLES OF IMPACT: City of Fargo's 10-Year Investment in Public Art

Over the past decade, completing more than 50 public art projects and managing three nationally funded grants have provided valuable lessons and insights into creating successful public art initiatives. These projects thrive with a structured approach that combines professional project management, effective stakeholder collaboration, clear communication, and adaptable processes.

The following lessons and recommendations are designed to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the City's public arts program:



A dancer performs at the World Garden Commons Grand Opening in 2018. Used with permission.

10 Lessons Learned

- 1. Integrate Operations** Equip city staff with the skills necessary to manage public art programs effectively. Provide training in public art administration, project management, and community engagement techniques. Encourage collaboration across city departments to integrate public art seamlessly into city projects.
- 2. Maintenance Fund** Establish a dedicated fund to preserve and maintain public art installations such as sculptures and infrastructure projects. Develop a schedule for routine assessments and upkeep to ensure these works continue to provide value and remain in excellent condition for the community.
- 3. Engage a Project Manager** Assign a professional project manager to oversee all aspects of the project. From planning and communication to administration, a project manager ensures smooth execution, serves as a liaison between artists and stakeholders, and resolves conflicts efficiently. For example, allocating resources proportionally might mean budgeting \$7,000 for project management within a \$15,000 mural project.

4. **Host Informational Sessions** During calls for public art, offer informational sessions to help artists understand the application process, clarify requirements, and identify potential partnerships with city departments. This step fosters inclusivity and sets artists up for success.
5. **Align Expectations** Hold a kickoff meeting upon awarding public art funding. Include the artist, project manager, and stakeholders to align goals, clarify roles, and outline expectations. Schedule regular check-ins to share updates, address challenges, and track permissions and approvals.
6. **Identify Stakeholders** Engage stakeholders—such as community members, contractors, partner agencies, or volunteers—early in the project. Clarify their roles and involve them in key decisions to build support and ensure alignment with community needs.
7. **Develop Key Messages** Streamline communication by fostering collaboration among artists, stakeholders, and partner agencies. Create clear, consistent messaging for public announcements and coordinate media outreach to maintain project momentum and enhance visibility.
8. **Establish a Contingency Fund** Maintain a contingency fund for unexpected expenses during public art projects. This fund ensures flexibility when managing artist stipends, administrative needs, or unforeseen challenges, helping staff navigate complex projects more effectively.
9. **Embrace Timeline Flexibility** Acknowledge that public art projects often involve part-time artists and volunteers. Build flexibility into project timelines to accommodate potential delays while maintaining momentum and quality.
10. **Celebrate the Work** When a project is complete, organize public celebrations to recognize the effort and share the achievement with the community. Use social media to highlight new works, share behind-the-scenes stories, and encourage community participation in storytelling about the impact of public art.



The City Hall Panels by artist Brett Lysne, of Fargo were produced in 2022 for the exterior of City Hall. Image used with permission.



Dancers participate in the Native American Commission Mini Powwow during the 2017 World Garden Commons Summer Series. Image by Anita Hoffarth.



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FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A SAFE AND UNIFIED COMMUNITY BUILT ON TRUST, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

MEMORANDUM

To: FAHR Committee and City Commissioners

From: Chief David B. Zibolski *DZ*

Date: February 6, 2026

RE: Overview of Immigration-Related Enforcement and Use of Force

Dear City Commissioners,

I will be providing an overview to the City Commission regarding immigration-related enforcement and our department's use of force policies. This overview is being provided considering the recent increase in national Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations and related protest activity across the country.

I look forward to discussing these important topics with you and answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

David B. Zibolski
Chief of Police

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