

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 13, 2022 | 5:00 PM
City Commission Chambers
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes.....Action Item
3. Review City Hall Panel Recommendations.....Action Item
4. Arts for the Holidays Request.....Action Item
5. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Capacity
 - b. Neighborhood
 - c. Development
6. Staff Report
 - a. Onboarding and workshop scheduling for late August
 - b. Project updates
7. Announcements
8. Adjourn – Next Meeting: September 21, 2022

Arts and Culture Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel TV Fargo 56 and can be seen live by video stream on www.FargoND.gov/streaming. They are rebroadcast each Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Minutes are available on the City of Fargo Web site at www.FargoND.gov/artsandculture.

People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Planning Office at 701.241.1474 or TDD at 701.241.8258. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements.

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

The Arts and Culture Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Deb Williams, Tracy Jordre, Tracy Walvatne, Denise Kolpack, Joe Williams, Monika Browne-Ecker, Ann Arbor Miller (via conference call)

Absent: Brad Bachmeier, Jon Offutt

Chair Jordre called the meeting to order and welcomed Members to the meeting.

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Member Kolpack moved to approve the Order of Agenda. Second by Member J. Williams. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 2: Approve Agenda and Minutes

Member Walvatne moved the Order of Agenda and the Minutes of the January 19, 2022 Arts and Culture Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member D. Williams. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3: Review Public Art Project Recommendations

Planning and Development Director Nicole Crutchfield presented a review of proposed projects.

Discussion was held regarding the involvement of Reach Partners, Inc., and a summary of applications was presented.

Member Kolpack stated she is running for City Commission, and noted a possible conflict of interest.

The Board members noted they did not have an issue with Member Kolpack voting on this project, or with Members J. Williams and Miller, due to their work with the Plains Art Museum.

Member D. Williams moved to approve recommendation to the City Commission for public art and Kresge Foundation funding. Second by Member Browne-Ecker. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 4: Subcommittee Reports

a. Capacity – No report provided.

b. Neighborhood - Member D. Williams spoke on the utility box wrap project with Fargo Public Schools. Ms. Williams stated they hoped to get one box wrapped before school is out, and noted the children will receive a framed picture of their art.

c. Development - Chair Jordre stated discussions were held regarding understanding the communication needs for all projects, and the need for an open forum with the local artist community.

Item 5: Staff Report

Ms. Crutchfield gave an update on the City Hall panel call for artists, noting the RFP went live May 17, 2022 and that The Arts Partnership has been hired for technical support. She stated the theme is past, present, and future, and \$24,000 is budgeted for artist's fees. She also stated the closing date for proposals is June 20th, with wrapping to be completed by the end of July 2022.

Ms. Crutchfield presented the various future projects, including an exhibit coordinated by Dr. Hogan, City bus wraps, Capital Improvement Project (CIP), and the 2nd Street pedestrian bridge.

Discussion was held regarding the City bus wraps project and discussion was also held regarding the Capital Improvement Project (CIP).

Ms. Crutchfield noted the first focus group meeting for the 2nd Street pedestrian bridge will be May 26th. She asked the board for volunteers to be on the focus group, and Member Walvatne stated she would be available.

Item 6: Announcements

Ms. Crutchfield stated the July meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission needs to be moved to a different location or different date due to a safety training at City Hall. A survey will be sent out for rescheduling of the meeting.

Member Browne-Ecker shared that Theatre B opens, Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric play, on May 19, 2022. More information can be found on their website theatreb.org.

Member J. Williams stated the Plains Art Museum will be hosting the Third Annual Northern Plains Summer Art institute, a two week intensive program taught by Native American art instructors. The Exhibition will be held on Friday June 24th at 11:00 a.m., and is open to the public.

Item 7: Adjourn – Next Meeting: July 20, 2022

The time at adjournment was 5:54 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arts and Culture Commission

FROM: Nicole Crutchfield, Planning Director

DATE: July 8, 2022

RE: City Hall Art Panel Recommendation

Included in this packet is a report from our technical consultant, Tania Blanich of The Arts Partnership. The City of Fargo hired The Arts Partnership to assist staff in the solicitation and the panel review process. The selection committee brings forward the attached recommendation for the City Arts and Culture Commission to consider. Staff's recommendation is for the members of the Arts and Culture Commission to select one of the two recommendations as presented.



THE Arts Partnership

Cultivating community through the arts

To: Nicole Crutchfield
Director of Planning and Development, City of Fargo

From: Tania Blanich
Director of Operations, The Arts Partnership

Date: July 1, 2022

Re: Recommendations for the City Hall Art Panels

The Arts Partnership (TAP) was pleased to consult with the City of Fargo on the process for selecting the art for the City Hall Art Panels. The review panel met on Tuesday, June 28 and has recommended unanimously two options for the Arts & Culture Commission's consideration.

Process Overview

- The panelists were:
 - Brad Bachmeier, artist, arts educator and representative of the Arts & Culture Commission
 - Richard Kendra O'Brien, arts advocate
 - Richard Moorhead, architect
 - Arlette Preston, City Commissioner and arts advocate
 - Franklin Ugochukwu, artist
- The RFP was sent directly to approximately 400 artists through the City Planning and TAP email lists. It was also posted on social media and on the City's and TAP's websites.
- 29 eligible proposals were submitted, significantly more than the 17 proposals received and considered for the inaugural panels.
- The panel was asked to provide a preliminary assessment of the proposals, using the following criteria:
 - Artistic Quality
 - Design
 - Theme - *Fargo: Past, Present & Future*
 - Story
 - Originality
- The preliminary rankings were used to narrow down the pool of proposals for consideration from 29 to 15.

- After thoughtful discussion, the panel recommended two proposals that “hit the mark” on all five of the criteria. Indeed, the proposals were tied in terms of scoring. The panel was agreed in recommending that the ACC consider both proposals.

Proposals Recommended for Consideration

- The two proposals were submitted by artists **Troy Becker** and **Brett Lysne**. The full proposals are included for consideration.
- Both artists earned the praise of the panel for their bold, colorful and graphic approaches and for the fully conceived and cohesive designs for all three facades. The panel felt strongly that both designs would read well from afar and also close-up given the simple lines/design proposed.

Proposal Concepts

Becker presents a mix of iconic images (Fargo Theatre) with local backdrops (technology in agriculture) through the seasons.

Lysne presents imagery centering on exchange, agriculture and sustainability. There is a strong theme of seeds/flora carried throughout the panels, carrying us from the past to the future.

- Becker and Lysne are mid-career artists and share a similar background as illustrators and graphic designers.

Becker has been an illustrator, cartoonist and graphic artist for Forum Communications for nearly 15 years. He has a BA in Art and Communications from Concordia.

Lysne creates custom work through his illustration and graphic design studio, Sandwich Club Design. He has a BA from the U of Minnesota, Morris and his Masters of Fine Arts from Washing State University (Pullman).

- Becker’s proposal presents finished designs while Lysne’s presents a sample of one of the designs fully conceived. The panel had no concerns recommending Lysne’s design based on that single “finished” panel and the color palette he will use.



FARGO

Past, Present & Future

City Hall exterior art panel proposal

Prepared by

**TROY
BECKER**

June 2022

FARGO Past, Present & Future

Arts and Culture Commission,

The imagery for my “ Fargo: Past, Present, Future ” presentation is a mixture of iconic and conceptual. A variety of familiar places (Fargo Theatre) and strong local backdrops (technology in agriculture). These ideas exist throughout our wonderfully distinct seasons. During the creative process I strove to express some locations or images we haven’t seen. I want the viewer to feel at home in Fargo, yet search for all this great city has to offer. I believe my art is a vessel for this environment.

For my panels I chose a color palette that would playfully cooperate with City Hall. The images are eye-catching but not distracting. The colors also serve to link the time periods together. Each time period can stand alone - but they are also connected. Bold images grab the attention of the viewer, whether they are driving or walking by.

Thank you for your consideration. I am excited to show you what I have created.

Troy T. Becker



1413 8th St. S., Fargo, N.D. 58103



218-535-1495



ttbecker@gmail.com



FARGO Past, Present & Future

The PAST

Farming // Agriculture



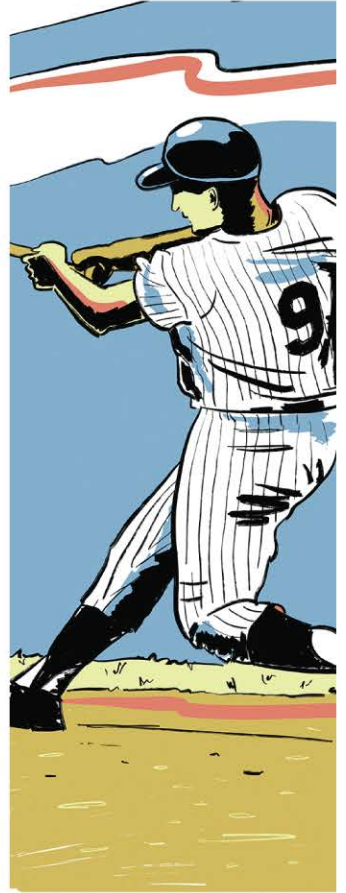
Island Park // Gazebo



Railroad // Depot



Rich baseball history



Prepared by
**TROY
BECKER**

FARGO Past, Present & Future

The PRESENT

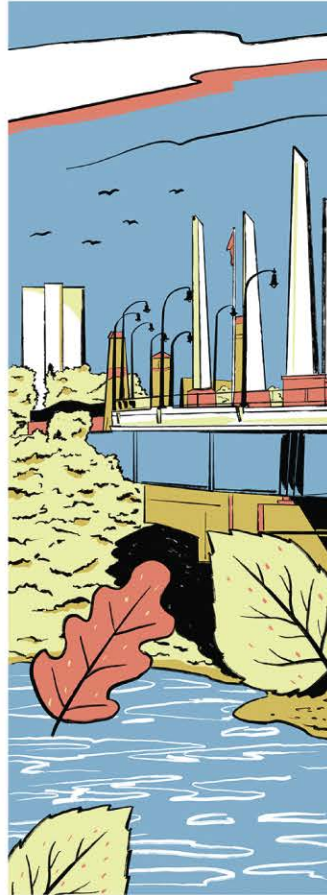
Arts // History



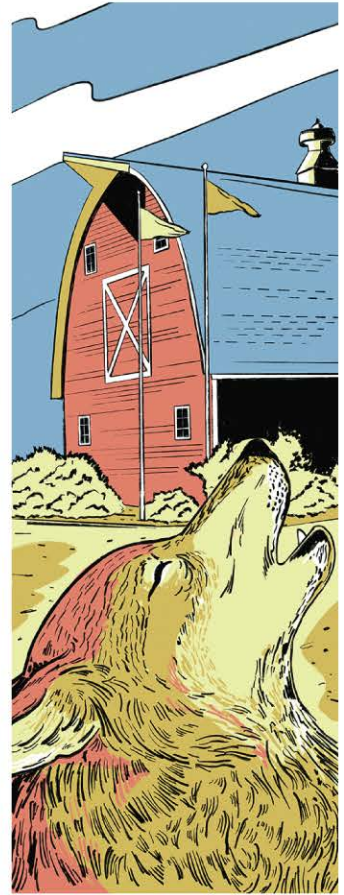
Tourism // Hospitality



Red River // Gateway



Zoo // Recreation



Prepared by
**TROY
BECKER**

FARGO Past, Present & Future

The FUTURE

Technology in Agriculture



Travel // Hub City



Arts // Vibrant Culture



Wind // Innovation



Prepared by
**TROY
BECKER**

June 2022

FARGO Past, Present & Future

Artist BIO

It starts in New York Mills, MN where I was born and raised. After an affinity for drawing, comics and art - I graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN with a B.A. in Art and Communications. After a few stints in Minneapolis, Connecticut and Wisconsin I found myself back in the F-M area. I have been an illustrator, cartoonist and graphic artist for Forum Communications for nearly 15 years. One of my favorite projects is creating covers for Bison Football Gamedays in The Forum. I also served as an adjunct professor at MSUM from 2015-2020. I find the time for a few choice freelance assignments as well. The art continues in my home studio where I enjoy creating screen prints, comics and graphic novels. I am constantly pushing myself artistically and looking for the next challenge. I live near downtown Fargo with my lovely wife and three busy children. You can find my work this summer during the 63rd Annual Midwestern at the Rourke Art Museum, and via the adult show at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center.



■ Visit more works at www.troybeckerart.com



Prepared by

**TROY
BECKER**

June 2022

Fargo City Hall Art Panel Application

Brett Lysne
905 N 5th St #21
Fargo, ND 58102

701-203-5408
sandwichclubdesign@gmail.com
sandwichclubdesign.com

Statement on the proposed artwork

My proposed set of 12 panels depicts a boldly colored collage of imagery centering on exchange, agriculture, and sustainability in Fargo. Representing the past, panels include symbols of both western agriculture and indigenous crops, alongside the rails that ushered in Fargo's growth. For the present, one panel highlights a farmer's market scene, celebrating the bounty of the Red River Valley, while other panels have symbols for education, resilience, and preservation. The future section features sustainability endeavors including community gardens, alternative energy, and pollinators. The style of the work is bold, clean-cut, and reminiscent of woodcut prints. The large, dynamic shapes and clear compositions will display well to cars passing by City Hall while also offering rich detail for those who approach the work on foot. The background diagonal shapes in the designs play off the cubic shape of the building and serve to unite the three different sides.

Artist Bio

Brett Lysne is an artist, graphic designer, and educator living in downtown Fargo. For the past three years, Brett has been an Assistant Professor of printmaking and drawing at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Additionally, Brett creates custom work through an illustration and graphic design studio, Sandwich Club Design.

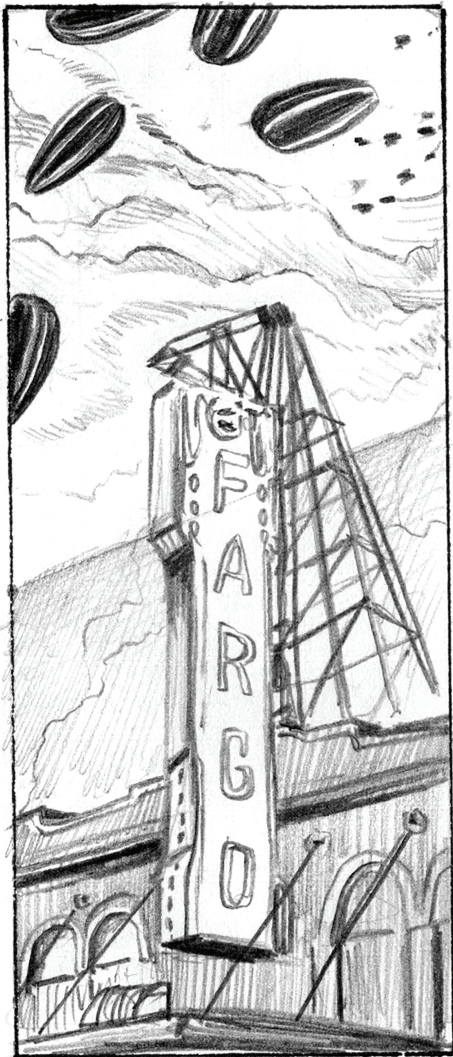
Born in Fargo and raised in Crookston, MN, he obtained an undergraduate degree in art from the University of Minnesota, Morris. In 2012, he completed a Masters of Fine Arts degree at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. After his studies, Brett partook in numerous artist residencies, from one with the print studio at NDSU to a month-long stay making sketches in rural Finland. He also spent a year teaching English at an arts-centered high school in France.

For the past five years, Brett has become increasingly embedded in the Fargo arts community, participating in exhibits at the Rourke, the Plains Art Museum, and the university galleries at MSUM and NDSU. His work has been accepted annually into the North Dakota Human Rights Arts Festival exhibit, which tours the state. He has taught drawing and illustration workshops through the Plains Art Museum and Unglued, and has created murals for Wild Terra and Prairie Roots Food Co-op. Most recently, he was commissioned by the Fargo campus of Microsoft to create a custom 15-foot-long vinyl piece that depicts Fargo–Moorhead as a detailed map of landmarks.

Proposal for City Hall Art Panels

June 2022

Example of a panel taken from a grayscale sketch to a fully realized design in color:



Brett Lysne

sandwichclubdesign.com

sandwichclubdesign@gmail.com

701-203-5408

Proposed color scheme across all panels of the project.



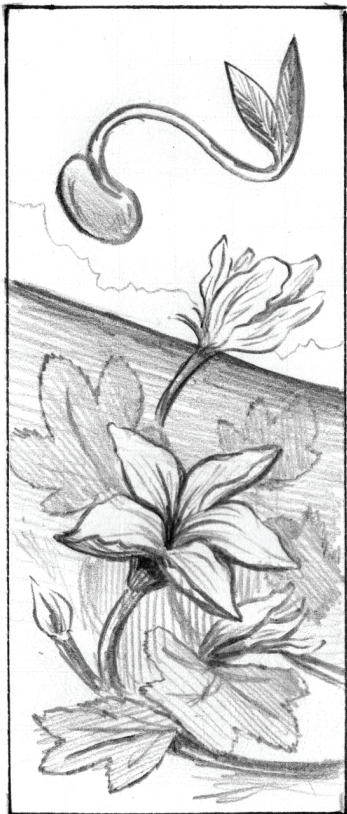
Proposal for City Hall Art Panels

June 2022

Brett Lysne

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701-203-5408

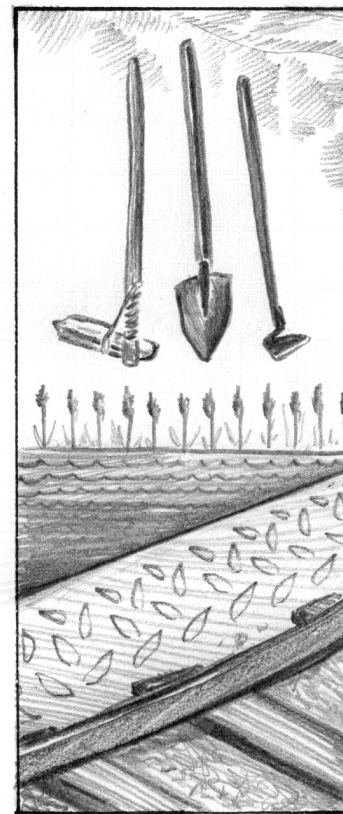
DRAFTS FOR SIDE 1: PAST



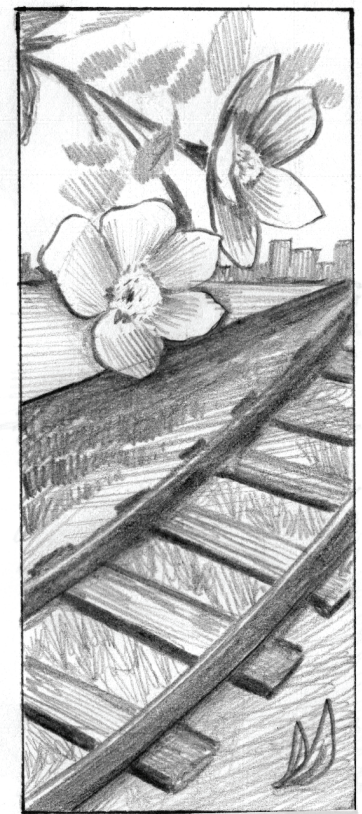
Panel 1:
Squash flowers, bean
sprouts, indigenous
crops



Panel 2:
Prairie grasses,
provisional text reads
"Honoring the past and
planting roots"



Panel 3:
Tools for working the
land, grain crops and
seeds, railroad tracks



Panel 4:
Prairie roses (ND's state
flower), railroad tracks,
growing city in the
background

Proposal for City Hall Art Panels

June 2022

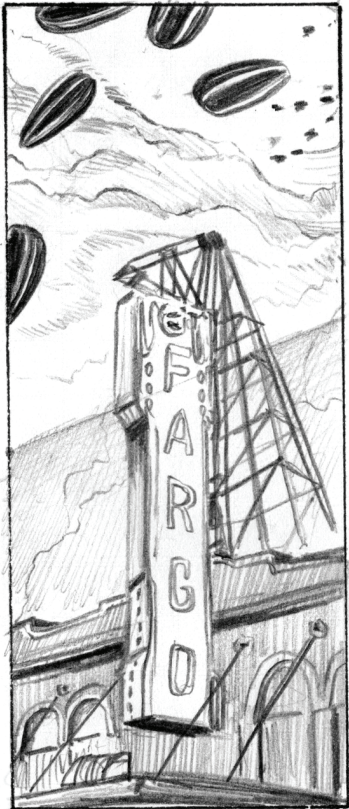
Brett Lysne

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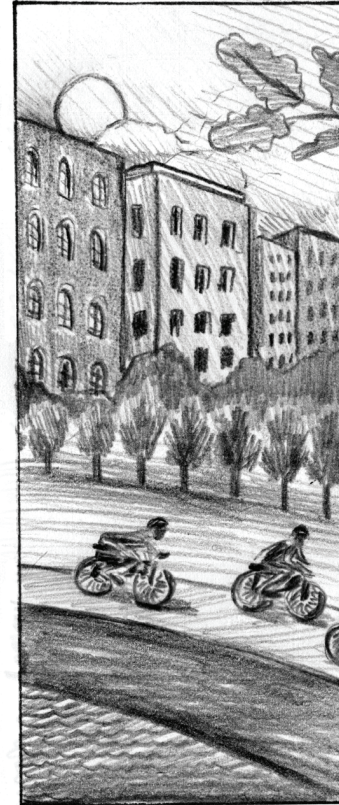
DRAFTS FOR SIDE 2: PRESENT



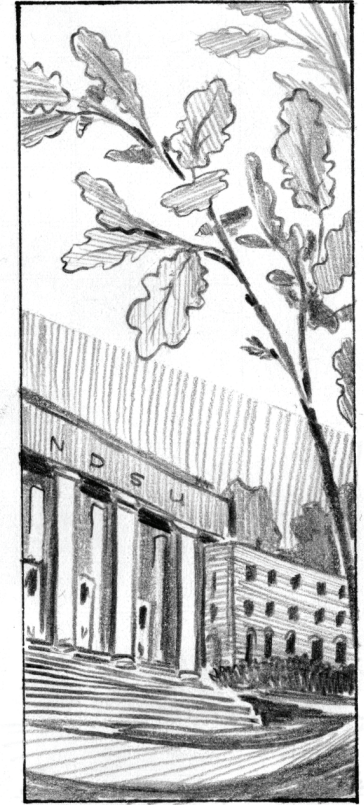
Panel 1:
Fargo Theatre in the
spirit of preserving local
history, sunflower seeds



Panel 2:
Farmer's market booth
highlighting local
exchange and small
businesses



Panel 3:
Cyclists on a Greenway
path, growing city
looking over the river



Panel 4:
Academic buildings
representing local
schools and universities,
an oak branch for
resilience

Proposal for City Hall Art Panels

June 2022

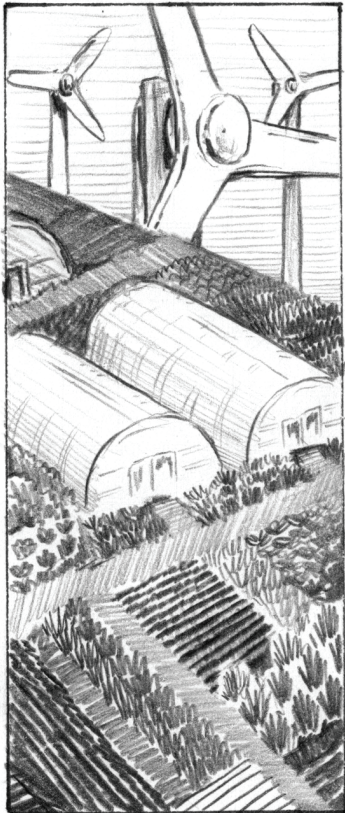
Brett Lysne

sandwichclubdesign.com

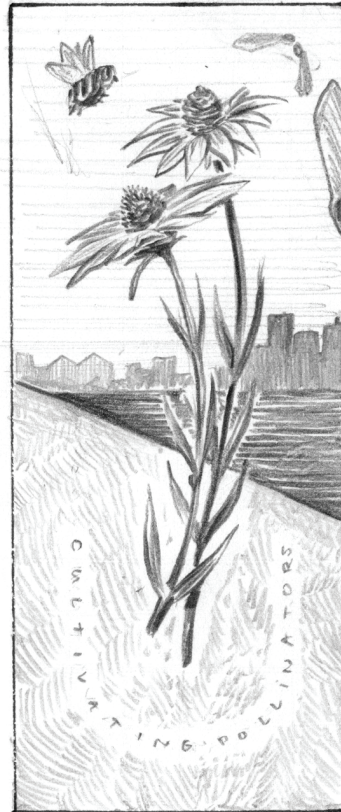
sandwichclubdesign@gmail.com

701-203-5408

DRAFTS FOR SIDE 3: FUTURE



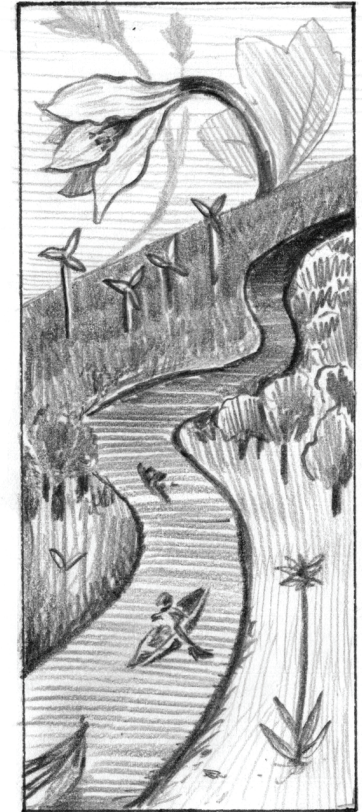
Panel 1:
Community gardens
featuring crop variety,
greenhouses, wind
turbines



Panel 2:
Prairie wildflower and
bee as symbols for
pollinator gardens, land
stewardship, and water
conservancy



Panel 3:
Maple seeds as a
symbol for new ideas
and exchange, vibrant
city below



Panel 4:
Squash flowers, wind
turbines, a clean river
with kayaks/canoes
representing outdoor
recreation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arts and Culture Commission

FROM: Nicole Crutchfield, Planning Director

DATE: July 8, 2022

RE: Arts for the Holidays funding request

The Planning Department received a request from the Fargo Moorhead Visual Artists (FMVA) for funding for the second annual Arts for the Holidays event. Last year, the City approved \$10,000 in funding for the first event located at the Civic Center, with funds being used for rental of the facility and marketing. This year, the FMVA is requesting \$10,000 for the event.

Staff recommends approval of the funding, but looks to the Commission to affirm the allocation of the funds. The funds are available in the Social Service & Arts Fund line item, and the request meets City of Fargo purchase policy.



I am writing today to inquire about funds that might be available from the city of Fargo to help fund the second annual Arts for the Holidays event.

We made a big impression our first year, with outstanding sales and great feedback from the public. 40 artists and eight arts organizations participated, and all expressed a strong interest in coming back for a 2022 event.

In 2021, the city contributed \$10,000, with which we paid for rental of the Civic Center and marketing. With that city funding and American Rescue Plan funding, we had a robust marketing campaign with the High Plains Reader, Midwest Nest, Inspired Home, the Forum, and WDAY television. People also learned about Arts for the Holidays from billboards and boosted social media posts.

We have applied to the FM Area Foundation for 2022 funding and expect to hear whether we'll receive it in mid summer.

I hope we can partner with the city again this year to host another Arts for the Holidays event.

Jon Offutt

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arts and Culture Commission

FROM: Nicole Crutchfield, Planning Director

DATE: July 8, 2022

RE: July Staff Report

June – July report

The primary purpose of this report is to provide an update on the status of the public art projects the ACC selected for 2022 programming and funding.

- Staff continues to work with Reach Partners, and over the course of June, met with each of the artist teams in order to advance each of the projects for final agreements and documents.
- Reach Partners remains available for each of the artist teams to work with as project management needs are requested or to advance city communications regarding the projects.
- Juneteenth, the event by Fred Dissonance and Mid-Town Mural by Luna & Anna Johnson are two projects advancing towards completion at this time. Press releases, social media channels, and other internal city coordination with city communications team to produce content was offered to each team.
- Through the 2022 Public Art programming submittals and after conferring with the Kresge Foundation for operational support, we now have a total of 10 projects moving forward. We will provide more detail as the projects continue to develop.
- Each project has its own contract and communications plan to advance the City of Fargo Arts and Culture Commission's mission.