



Arts and Culture Commission

Percent for the Arts
2024 Annual Report



One of the goals of the Northfield Cultural Plan, adopted by the City in 2019, was the adoption of a 1% for the Arts Ordinance in order to provide sustainable funding for public art in Northfield and to ensure that art will have a place in public spaces throughout the city. On March 2nd, 2021 Northfield City Council approved this ordinance which requires all budgets for eligible capital improvement projects include an amount equal to 1% of the projected construction costs that is to be used for public art.

Once funding has been established, a Public Art Review Committee (PARC) is convened, typically consisting of members of the community, a city official from the sponsoring agency, and members of the Arts and Culture Commission. The site requirements and the nature of the community are seriously considered when the PARC makes its recommendations to the Arts and Culture Commission and City for final approval of the selected artwork.

A small investment with a big payoff, planning for public art plays a synergistic role in achieving goals laid out by other plans adopted by the city. As a part of the City's Strategic Plan, tourism is enhanced by way of arts and cultural events that bring people to Northfield. Over 170,000 people attend arts and culture events in Northfield every year. The Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Streetscape plan call for public art in prominent locations as an attraction for visitors. Public art can be a valuable tool in equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts, raising awareness about climate change and ecology, and can spur economic development in a variety of ways.

Expenditures



2024 PROJECTS

COST

Comprehensive Plan Illustrations	\$5,845.96
Bridge Square Concept	\$2,167.50
Water treatment Plant Concept	\$6,000
Oasis Mural	\$5,000
	Total:
	19,013.46

Fund balance (as of March, 2025): \$262,967

Anticipated projects in 2025:

- Ice Arena wall mosaic
 - \$125,000 budgeted from Percent for the Arts contribution
- Downtown placemaking
 - \$20,000 was budgeted from Arts and Culture fund to support Friends of Downtown grant application to state arts board

\$2.2 million dollars are generated by nonprofits in the arts and culture sector each year in Northfield; 59 FTE jobs are supported by the nonprofit arts and culture sector; Over 500 volunteers participate at organizations supporting arts and culture; over 170,000 people attend arts and culture events every year; 80% of the audiences are local. For every dollar invested in non-profit arts, \$5 is returned to the local and state economies. (Americans for the Arts, Arts and Economic Prosperity 2019)



Querido Northfield, soñamos con una ciudad donde **NUESTRA CULTURA ES VISTA**

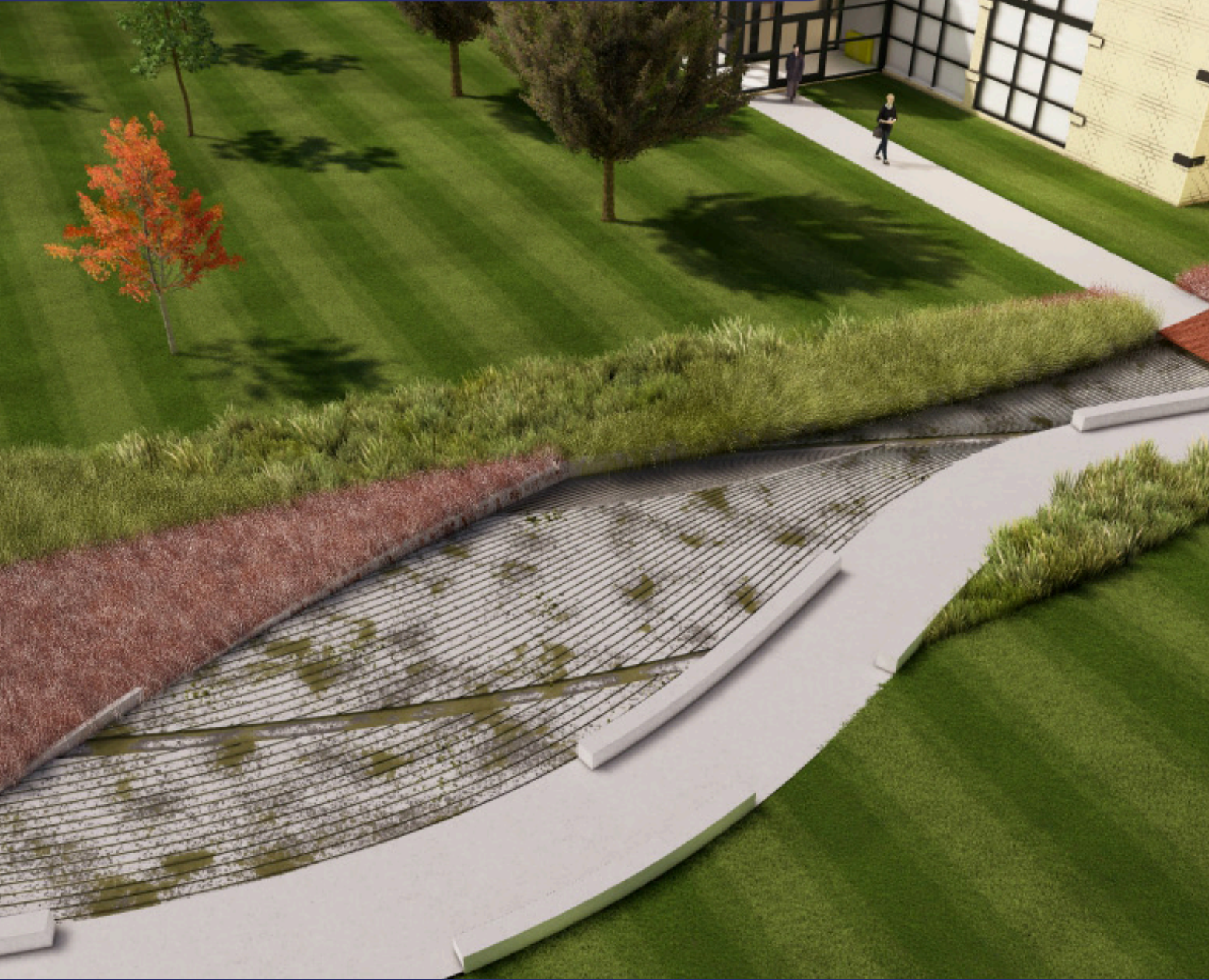


"Me gustaria que hubiera más entretenimiento para nuestra gente como musica, comedia. Muchos Hispanos van a Minneapolis porque aqui no hay mucho que hacer. Uno se aburre."

"Seria genial ver más murales como los de Chicago. Arte que representa a nuestra comunidad Latina."

Continuing work that began with Arte en Accion, a 2023 public art project, Rocky Casillas was commissioned to expand upon his poster series for inclusion in the 2045 Comprehensive Plan. The second set of posters focused on community conversations with the Latino/a/x community that asked participants what their vision for Northfield in 2045 is.

Water Treatment Plant (concept) | Ivan Depena

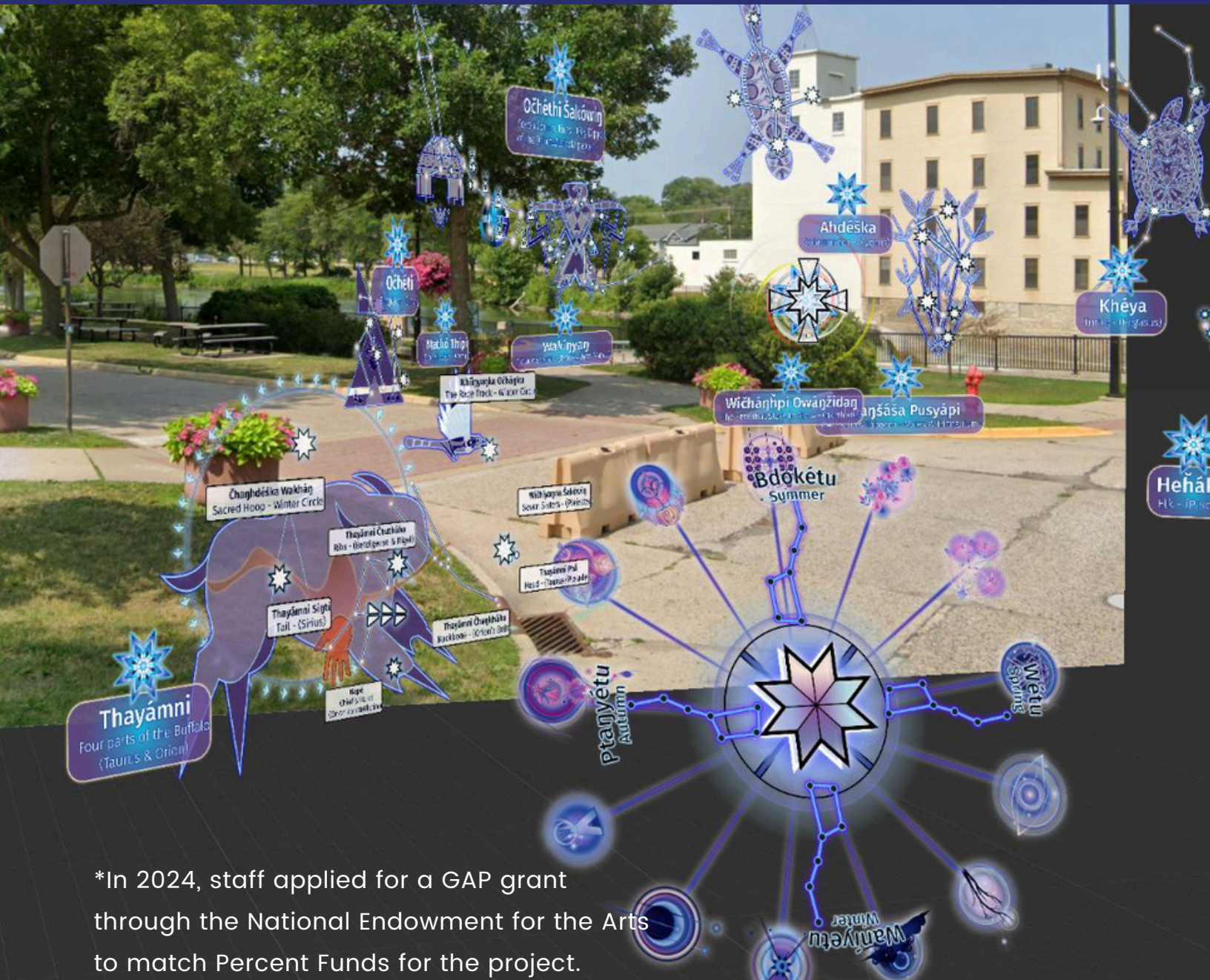


Ivan Toth Depena (Miami, FL), was selected from 50 artists who responded to the RFQ for public art integration at the water treatment plant. The approved concept, “Flow”, is an earthwork design intended to harmoniously integrate with the landscape design and “interpret the natural flow of water and currents, offering a visual and spatial dialogue between the movement of water and the surrounding landscape”.

Bridge Square (concept) | Marlena Myles and John Sterner



Indigenous artists Marlena Myles and John Sterner collaborated to create a concept for a public art installation in Bridge Square that weaves Dakota star maps into a physical and digital experience. Combining sculpture with augmented reality, visitors to Bridge Square will be invited to walk through a “forest of stars” as they enter Water Street.



*In 2024, staff applied for a GAP grant through the National Endowment for the Arts to match Percent Funds for the project.

Oasis Mural Project | Paula Rojas



In partnership with the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library (FFNPL), and with support from a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC), an original mural by Paula Rojas was commissioned for the Library's new Oasis location in the Northfield Community Resource Center. The mural, which depicts landscapes of Central and South America and the upper Midwest, evoking both home and travel, received additional funding support by the FFNPL (\$5,000) and a SEMAC grant (\$5,000). The mural was dedicated in the spring of 2024.



Friends of Downtown Northfield
Southeastern Minnesota Arts
Council
Minnesota State Arts Board
Northfield Public Library
Friends & Foundation of the
Northfield Public Library

Communications & Human
Resources Department
Northfield Heritage Preservation
Commission
Northfield Arts Guild
City of Northfield Public Works
Department

Arts and Culture Commission Members

- Paula Granquist
- Martha Anderson
- Kate Woodstrup
- Leah Rich
- Amanda Wigley
- Anna Lisa Rustad
- Michael Johnson
- Kaia Markofski
- Emerson Carlson
- Kyla Theiling
- Victoria Hemmah

Staff liaisons

- Natalie Draper
- Becky Novotny



Report prepared by Natalie Draper, ACC logo by Steve Maus