



Arts and Culture Commission

Percent for the Arts
2025 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. In 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 volunteer Public Art Review Committee (PARC) is convened, typically consisting of community members and relevant stakeholder groups, a city official from the sponsoring agency, and representatives from the Northfield Arts Guild. The site requirements and the nature of the community are seriously considered when the PARC makes its recommendations to staff for final approval of the selected artwork.

A small investment with significant benefit, planning for public art can play 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 to spur economic development in a variety of ways.

The Arts and Culture Commission, established in 2006, was phased out at the end of 2025. The Northfield Arts Guild now serves as a Local Arts Agency (LAA) on a year-year basis to assist the City in coordinating public art projects.

Expenditures



2025 PROJECTS

COST

Bridge Square (sculpture restoration and maintenance).....	\$28,030.00
Ice Arena (concept).....	\$4,500.00
Downtown murals.....	\$45,000.00
Archer House site fence mural.....	\$20,860.50
Local Arts Agency fees.....	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total in 2025.....	\$108,390.50

Fund balance (as of March, 2026): \$174,666.38

Planned projects in 2026:

- Ice Arena wall mosaic
 - installation late summer 2026
- Downtown placemaking
- murals, Young Sculptors Project

\$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)



KCI Conservation
“Anniversary Fountain” Restoration
“Harvest” Graffiti removal and cleaning

After more than 40 years, the fountain sculpture needed more than a thorough cleaning. In addition to the fountain, KCI also cleaned and removed graffiti from Harvest, another Ray Jacobsen sculpture on the Riverwalk.

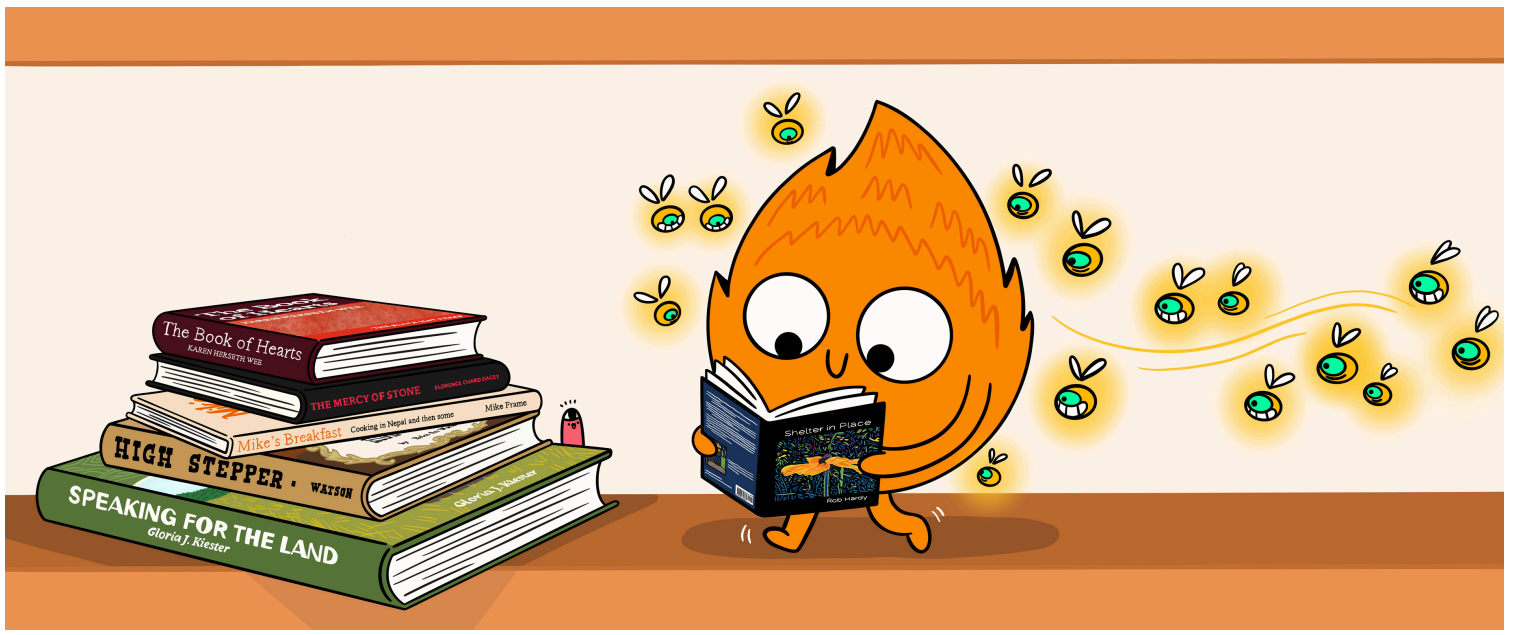


Downtown Murals **Dan Toro and Natasha May Platt**

Dan Toro of Laramie Wyoming was one of many artists from around the country who responded to our summer call for downtown murals. He worked with Loon Liquors owners to refine the concept which honors the history of milling in Northfield. The mural faces west and is best viewed in the afternoon at the “golden hour”.

Natasha May Platt (pictured next page) came from South Dakota and created a wraparound mural for a graffiti-prone space under the pedestrian bridge. The mural depicts the natural and historic beauty of the Cannon River.





**Rocky Casillas Aguirre
Archer Site fence mural**

Rocky Casillas Aguirre created a 170 foot long digital mural which was printed on 70/30 mesh for durability and mounted to the construction fencing surrounding the former site of the Archer House. The mural depicts Rocky's beloved characters on a bookshelf, engaging with more than 100 books, all written by Northfield authors.



Ice Arena Mosaic
Artists' concept drawing for mosaic installation
Michael Sweere

The concept, approved by a majority of PARC members with representatives of the Hockey Association being on the majority side of the vote, features youth engaged in skating and hockey. The final piece will be approximately 9 x 120 feet, the linear nature lending itself well to depictions of skating on a frozen river. It will be rendered in sustainably sourced tile and fabrication will involve community participation.

Support and Partners



Friends of Downtown Northfield
Southeastern Minnesota Arts
Council
Minnesota State Arts Board
Northfield Public Library
Public Art Review Committee
volunteers

Communications & Human
Resources Department
Northfield Arts Guild
Public Works Department staff,
with special thanks to Jayson
Dwelle, Andrew Prytz, Cole Kavitz,
Andrew Tussing, and their teams

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