

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**



BACKGROUND

One of the most important 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 2018-2020 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.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Community Engagement & Feedback

In 2022, the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC), in partnership with the Minnesota State Arts Board, put out a survey and virtual community conversation to learn more about how Northfield seeks out arts and cultural experiences, how accessible and equitable those opportunities are, and what they would like to see more of, both in terms of public art investments and cultural opportunities in Northfield and the state.

Survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated a desire to see artwork incorporated into the design of everyday objects (such as lighting and street furniture), as well as more community public art events, and more youth-driven art. They also expressed interest in seeing more artwork in public buildings (such as schools, libraries, city hall) and around downtown.

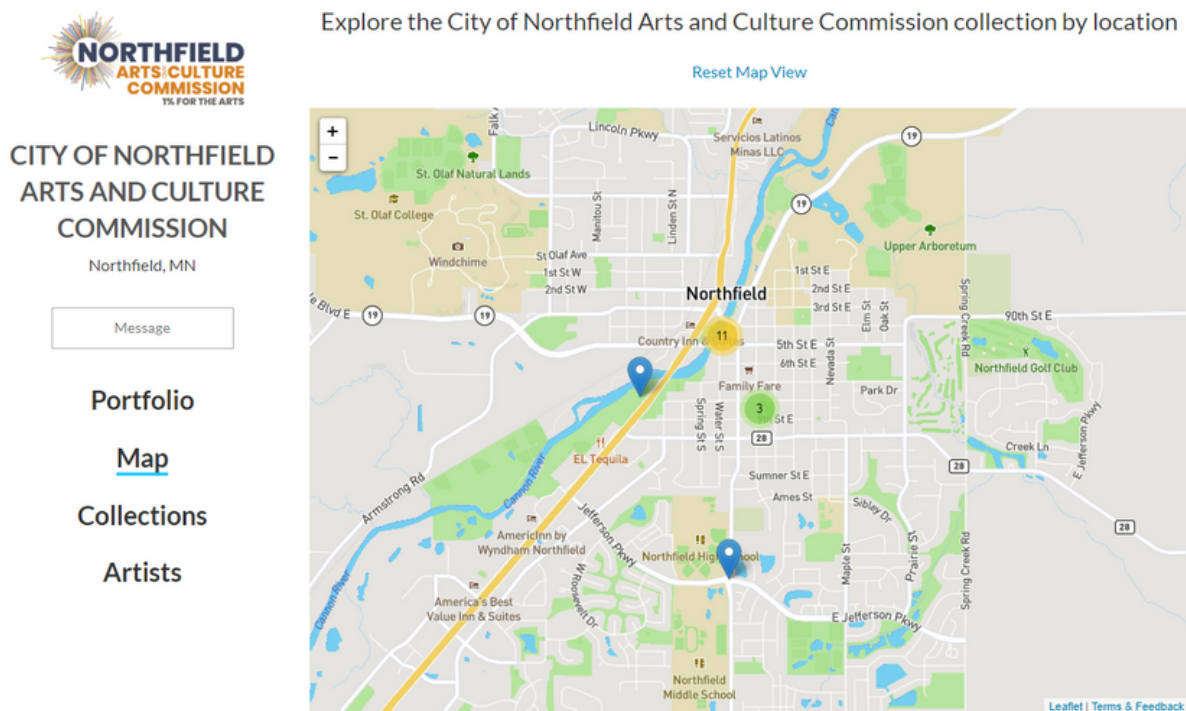
Bridge Square, the River Walk, and the Library emerged as the favorite community gathering spaces, and while the majority of respondents wished they could take a class, they also stated that a lack of time was a major factor preventing them from doing so. Also noted was that many people did not know where to find information about cultural experiences.

The community conversation revealed that transportation can be a major barrier for participation in the arts as well.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Advocacy & Awareness

Last year the ACC launched an Artwork Archive site. Not only does this public inventory raise awareness of city arts initiatives, but the backend allows city staff to run reports, document provenance and manage maintenance schedules.



Community- & Artist-Initiated Projects

The Arts and Culture Commission is planning for the possibility of a triennial open call for artist- and community -initiated projects, similar to Artists on Main Street, but expanded to include the whole city. This could be a way to encourage more community driven placemaking in neighborhood parks and public spaces, bringing elements of surprise and delight through permanent or temporary works of art to the whole community.

EXPENDITURES

2022-2023 PROJECTS & REVENUE SOURCE

2022-2023 EXPENDITURES

Hwy 3 and 3rd commission 2021 Street Project	\$21,204
City Hall Mosaic City Hall Renovation	\$10,000
Arte en Accion & the Wandering House 2022 NW Mill & Overlay	\$17,000
Artists on Main Street 2022 NW Mill & Overlay	\$10,000

\$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)



THE RIVER CONNECTS US (2022)

**LORI GREENE WITH TARA NIELSON, JULIETTE MYERS AND ADRIENNE
SHERMAN**

The painted mural and tile mosaic in Council Chambers was completed in April of 2022. The artwork depicts a colorful celebration of the contributions of the ordinary people that make Northfield extraordinary. Lori Greene, St. Paul-based artist, said "We hope that by bringing art and people together and pushing that art and those people to say something and to be something that we will all grow stronger as individuals and as communities." The artists' work can be seen all over Minnesota.





WANBLI MITAKUYE OYASIN (2022)

JOHN STERNER

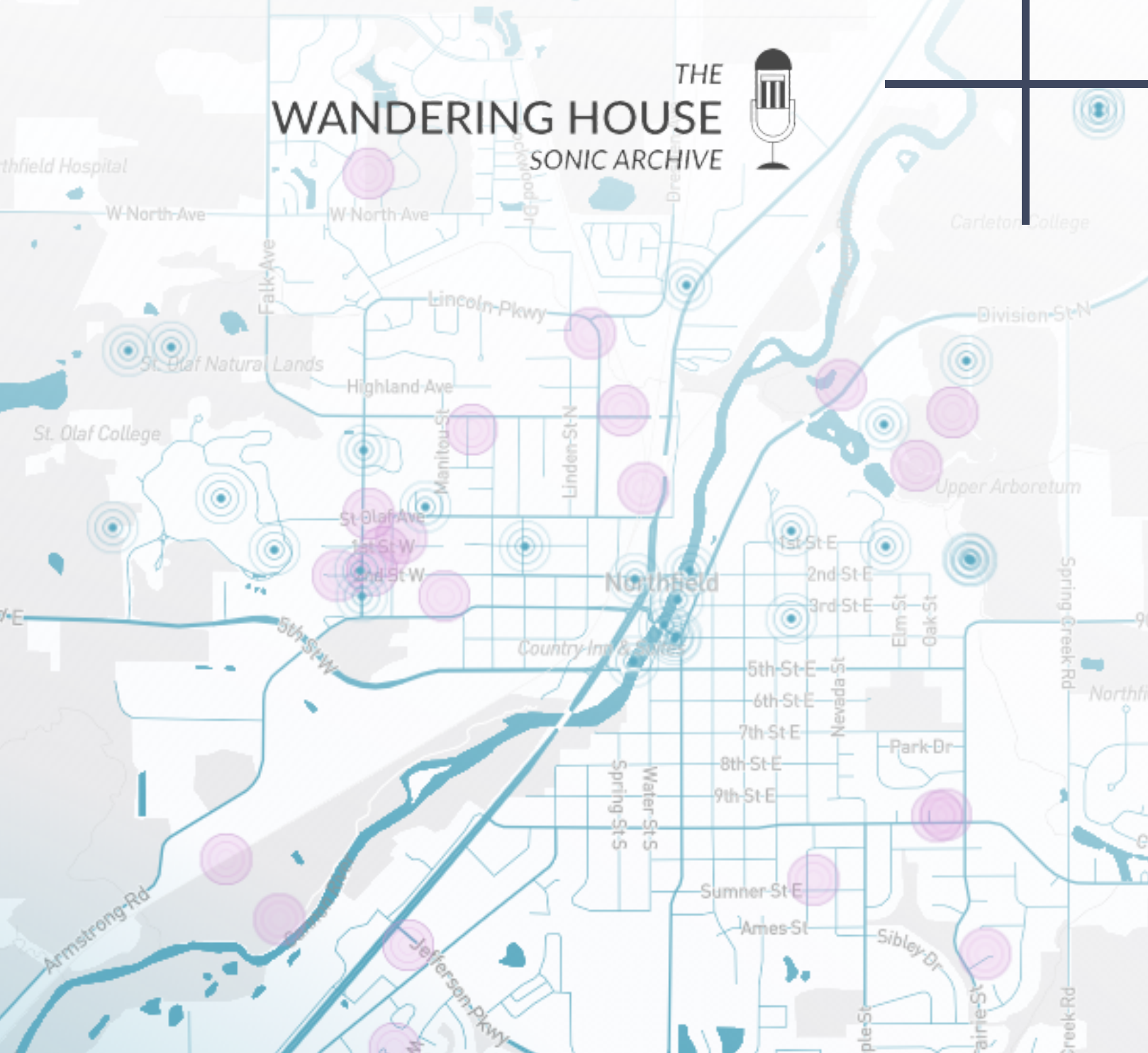
Lakota artist John Sterner was commissioned in 2020 to create an American Eagle sculpture for the northeast corner of highway 3 and 3rd Street. A plaque containing the City's Land Acknowledgement statement is included at the site. "Wanbli Mitakuye Oyasin", or "Eagle Relatives", was installed and dedicated in the summer of 2022.



ARTE EN ACCION (2023)

CECILIA CORNEJO, ROCKY CASILLAS, HERIBERTO ROSAS, AND JORGE ZUCCOLOTTO

Arte en Acción is a collective of Latine artists and activists who live and work in Northfield. They have crafted a multi-faceted public art project that connects community members to one another while placing a special emphasis on uplifting Latine voices. This project is designed to encourage the residents of Viking Terrace and members of the Latine community in general to share their talents and dreams with the larger community of Northfield, creating an opportunity for an historic, immigrant neighborhood to lead and engage in placemaking efforts, defining a community on its own terms and giving the city the opportunity to support and build relationships with artists in the community. A capstone project will be presented to the community during Hispanic Heritage Month in 2023.



WANDERING HOUSE ARCHIVE AND LISTENING STATIONS (2023)

CECILIA CORNEJO

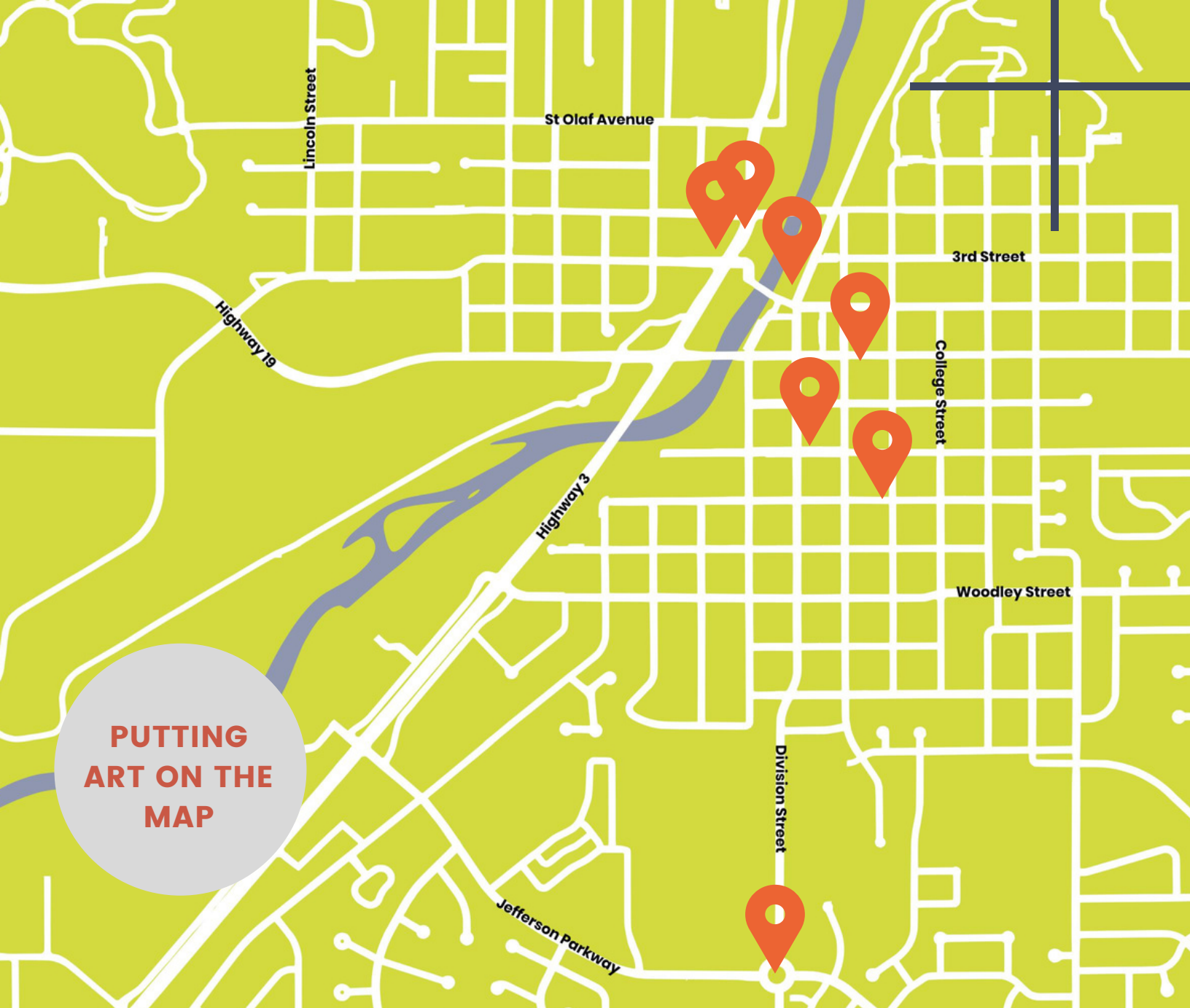
The Wandering House examines the meaning of "Home" from the perspective of evolving towns in rural Minnesota. The Sonic Archive contains recordings gathered by the artist since 2019, which feature the diverse voices and reflections of community members as well as soundscapes. Placards featuring the Wandering House illustration will be made and installed in the spring to raise awareness and engage passersby in the archive, both as listeners and participants. The archive will be open to submissions for one year.



ARTISTS ON MAIN STREET (2023)

FRIENDS OF DOWNTOWN SUPPORTING ARTIST-INITIATED PROJECTS

After several successful years of Artists on Main Street, the NDCC program paused in 2022. This summer, the Friends of Downtown will resume the program supporting artworks by multiple artists, activating spaces all over downtown. This will be the first year the program is directly supported through 1% for the Arts, with additional funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board and from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMACE).



**PUTTING
ART ON THE
MAP**

MAP OF INSTALLED AND UPCOMING 1% PROJECTS

Information Kiosk, 2019, Rick Swearer
Love Mural, 2019, Brett Whitacre
Threshold, 2018, Kristopher Swanson
Roundabout Mural, 2021, Adam Turman
Poetry Steps, 2021, collective effort
Wanbli Mitakuye Oyasin/Eagle
Relatives, 2022, John Sterner
City Hall Mosaic, 2022, Lori Greene, Tara
Nielson, Juliette Myers and Adrienne
Sherman

Current Projects:

Arte en Accion & the Wandering
House

Upcoming:

Artists on Main Street in
partnership with Friends of
Downtown

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Friends of Downtown

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Minnesota State Arts Board

Northfield Human Rights

Commission

Northfield Chamber of Commerce

Northfield Public Library

City of Northfield 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, George Brophy, Anna Lisa Rustad, Andrea Sjogren. Youth on Boards members Sam Nelson, Carsten Walter, Genevieve Tassava, and Seth Knutson. Staff liaisons Natalie Draper and Kathy Rush Vizina.



Arts and Culture Commission 1% for the Arts logo designed by Steve Maus

Report prepared by Natalie Draper