

## **Item 25-0592: Request from Neo Medina and the Trout Museum of Art to paint a mural to be located inside of the Red Ramp located at 134 S. Superior Street**

**Appleton Public Arts Committee**

Wed, Jun 04, 2025 8:00AM

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 02:02**

So, our next step, then—we don't have any public hearings, it looks like. So, we can move on to our action items, correct? So, the action item for today is the request from Neo Medina and the Trout Museum of Art to paint a mural to be located inside the red ramp located at 134 South Superior Street, as described in the attached documents and subject to the conditions in the attached staff memo. So did everyone get a chance to look at this mural, and I don't know—

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development) 02:37**

Yeah. Do you want me to give an overview? Do you guys have any questions? I did—we did receive one comment from Kim. Her comment was just concerns about any of like the handicapped parking signs and things like that. So actually, those are all taken off the wall. The mural is done, and they're actually put back exactly where they were in the past.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development) 02:56**

But so, this actually happened last year. This is part of Trout Museum's Spray Camp. Neo Medina, he is a muralist in the area. He is actually the supervisor for that class. And so, it's usually like high school aged people that sign up for this class. And since it's literally just—well, it was across the street; now it's a little bit farther down. They go and they paint a mural. You can see the design on there. So he supervises the whole thing. He does do some work like after hours, just because you can't trust kids all the time. But it's—so it's on the second level instead of third level. The last year it was to the breezeway to the paper Valley. Now it's on the stairwell on the east side.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development) 03:43**

Let's see—yeah, so I mean, it's the same as last year. So, he'll follow all the, you know, graffiti coatings, all the sign restrictions, and then he'll get the necessary permits, like right of way permits like that in the parking ramp. This will go to Municipal Services Committee, since they own the parking ramps—or the public works on the public parking ramps, and then it'll have final approval at Common Council as well.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 04:13**

Okay. I didn't see that if he had—I was hoping to ask him a little bit about just, like, the design and how he came up with that.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development) 04:22**

I was not aware of the story behind it either.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 04:26**

Okay, just because I think it's really great. I just, I'm a little concerned about some of the anatomical, maybe more extreme aspects of it, bursting open and stuff, but—and how just to be mindful of, like, with our recent just how the community might perceive certain things.

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**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 04:44

Sure.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 04:45

That's one thing that I was wondering. And just like, how that came to be, and if there were any other, like, designs, or if this is \*the\* design, so it seems to be this is the design.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 04:59

Correct.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 05:01

Does anyone else have any questions or comments about it?

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 05:06

There's a comment that I have is the idea of the suggestion by Kim. Yeah, make sure the handicap sign is visible. That's only—the only, the only thing that I that I support, yes. I mean, but you say that they want to take the sign apart, they want to paint, and be sure it's—it looks clear, right?

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 05:26

Yeah, right.

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 05:27

That's—

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 05:28

So, okay. That makes sense.

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 05:29

Yeah.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 05:31

Yeah. It looks like it's going on like the yellow part, which will hopefully have more contrast. Yeah.

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 05:39

Would it be possible to put, like, perhaps, a dark color in that area, so—

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 05:46

Almost, like, switch it?

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 05:47

Yeah, flip the design.

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 05:48

Well, maybe not switch the design, but maybe just put something there with the handicap sign over it. That's going to allow the handicap sign to be seen the contrast more visually.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 06:01

You mean, like—

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 06:02

—almost—

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 06:02

Like an outline, essentially?

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 06:04

Yeah, because we have a white and a yellow, which can throw some people off I believe if.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 06:12

Like, a thicker, dark—like a frame, like a blue, dark, darker blue frame, or something around?

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 06:16

Or a heart.

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 06:17

A heart, a circle.

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 06:19

Yes, yeah, it could be cool if they find a way to incorporate the handicap design in the—or the handicap sign in the design overall. I'm not entirely sure how they would do that, but—

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 06:31

Well, that—but that's very, very mindful, actually, you know, taking considering advising the surrounding.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 06:40

Okay. Do you want that included in the motion, or do you want that just as a suggestion to the artist?

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 06:47

How would you to suggest that [...]

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 06:51

You have a couple options that way.

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 06:54

I guess just a suggestion as far as I'm concerned. I don't know how you guys feel about it, but I would just—for in my opinion, just like a soft suggestion, not necessarily a hard "You have to do this."

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 07:06

Okay.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 07:08

I feel like it—yeah, I mean, I guess I would just like to maybe see another design—

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 07:13

Okay

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 07:13

—with it in it is my personal opinion. But, um—

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member)** 07:17

What are the—are there restrictions? Are there regulations on what has to happen for the signage? Does the ADA community have, you know, certain requirements is what I mean.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 07:30

No, not that we're aware of.

**Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development)** 07:32

Yeah. I mean just the placement of handicapped accessible parking is just a general building code requirement. Our commercial building inspector's involved in a review and approval of that. So obviously the location predates the proposal for the mural. The mural's attempting to work around the existing signage. So, I think best guess is the sign placement and distance from entrance/exit is going to remain exactly as is.

**Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development)** 08:06

So, I think under the purview of the Arts Committee, it's really a focus on, are we comfortable with the proposed design or not? Kind of picking up some vibes that maybe you'd like to offer suggestions for rethinking that small part of the overall mural which we can certainly relay to the artist. Or if you want to be more, I'd say, firm or direct, we could, like Lily mentioned, include a condition of approval or stipulation of some kind that—and maybe it doesn't specify a specific color, but, you know, says "Darker color surrounding the existing signage", if you wanted to go that route. Otherwise, you know, a soft suggestion would be just something that we could communicate back to them to the artist, and I'm sure, given past interactions with him, he'd be happy to accommodate that in some way.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 08:59

Yeah, he's a pretty—he's pretty mindful of a lot of that stuff too.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 09:05

Yeah, also, if you wanted to see another design, so essentially, you wouldn't approve this then, and you'd table it, and we'd have to bring it back. With the timing, I guess, with when he wants to start, it could happen that—actually it would not be able to happen. So, since it's in July, so then we would have to do a special meeting, if you guys were open to that, if that was the decision you guys made today, which is totally fine. Like, like we said, Neo is very open, I'm sure, to other ideas.

**Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development)** 09:37

Just as a kind of a general comment. I mean, certainly the aesthetics are under the purview of the Arts Committee. I guess I would just caution wanting like whole wholesale redesign when things are, you know—it's kind of like an action, right, like you either review or approve, or you can add stipulations of some kind. But I think it may be a little bit outside the ordinary to basically say, like, "Come back with the separate design completely." And I'm not trying to put words in your mouth. Maybe that wasn't what you were referring. Maybe it was just a subtle, a subtle tweak to that one area on the left side of the mural.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 10:22

Yeah, I guess I just in my mind, it was just more of a wondering of and wanting to question him but not having the opportunity. But I feel like the ADA—like, the handicapped sign is more of a pressing thing that we just

maybe would suggest to him that—I'm comfortable with the soft suggestion, knowing that his history and that he would be willing to accommodate. How does everyone else feel about that?

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 10:51

Yeah, I think that's fair. Yeah, just to just to say, "Hey, this is our main concern, is the sign, and we just want to make sure that it's visible. So as an artist, whatever you feel, is best to make sure that this is visible," but to just make sure to make it a point so that he's aware that that's like one of our main concerns.

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 11:18

I'm okay with a soft suggestion as well, and that the—I see that the previous color is almost contrasting. It doesn't contrast as much as the yellow even I believe—

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 11:37

That's true.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 11:41

You mean the gray?

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 11:41

—which is good. Yeah, the gray.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 11:43

Yeah, the yellow is a little bit more contrasting because it's a different tone. But if we really wanted a contrast, we could suggest maybe, like a frame or some sort of other element that could help it pop a bit more.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 11:57

Honestly, just my opinion, like he could even move the purple hand over, and it could just be in the middle of the hand.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:09

Well, I'm sure he'll make a good choice.

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 12:11

I think so.

**Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development)** 12:11

I mean, in zooming in a little bit, one of the things just to make note of is there is—with the sign itself there's it looks like a darker shade outline already in existence. That's there already.

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 12:26

Things say [...] right? Should be a green color?

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:30

Well, I think, like what—it's just like when you look at something that's really swirly, sometimes you can miss, like, even an obvious object, just like visually at first. And so that's just maybe, like, where concern comes from, especially if, like—I know Kim has probably with her background some—

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 12:48

Oh sure.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:50

—like, why she would have brought that up too. So not speaking for her, but just knowing what she does. All right. Well, any other comments or questions on this? Otherwise, I think that...

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 13:05

I would say the option of moving the purple hand over is probably not, not—it makes it more busy. So.

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 13:15

Yeah, I agree with that.

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member)** 13:18

The safer of the two, I feel would be the yellow.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 13:23

What's on the other side of like—because the whole thing can't just be pushed down a little bit to the right, can it? Is there a specific reason why it's like—?

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 13:32

I think it's because they're trying to keep it towards like entrances and exits so that it makes the most impact. But, yeah, if it's moved over, like a couple feet, I'm sure it still has the impact I would, I would say at least. So, we could have it, I guess, out of the handicap stall altogether.

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member)** 13:51

Is this the only handicap parking spot on this floor?

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 13:54

No, no.

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member)** 13:55

Okay, so they would see that there's—are there others on the left of it? So, then it would be more obvious—

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 14:03

That that's a—yeah, that makes so.

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member)** 14:05

—this is a handicap spot.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 14:09

Yeah. That makes sense. Yeah, even if it was pushed over and one of the ovals was like, there instead, or something. So, okay, well, I think there's some things for him to think about. I'm sure that he can reread our notes and—

**Lily Paul (Economic Development Specialist - Community Development)** 14:25

Yeah.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 14:25

—take something into consideration. So yeah, I think that for motioning it would be good to just have that soft suggestion kind of popped in there. So, all right. I think we're—if we are ready to move it to see if it's—if people are comfortable moving it can go ahead and do that.

**Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development)** 14:51

See, you need a motion to get

**Luis Fernandez (Public Arts Committee Member)** 14:53

Motion to approve.

**Jake Bauer (Public Arts Committee)** 14:55

Second.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 14:56

All right, all in favor? Aye. All right, perfect.