

Public Art

St. Louis Park has embraced public art in the community and taken a number of steps to proactively integrate it into the community fabric. Art has been incorporated through placing art in new developments and public infrastructure improvements; giving grants through the annual Arts and Culture Grant Program; placing art in city buildings; and through creating a utility box wrap program.

Most notably, the city partners with St. Louis Park Friends of the Arts (FotA), a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing the arts in St. Louis Park. FotA's work is to "connect people and organizations around the arts, share arts-related information and resources, and coordinate community arts programs." FotA partners with arts-based community groups, hosts a wide range of arts-related events, and offers a range of resources for local artists.

FotA strives to:

- » Ensure access to the arts for everyone and promote strong community support of the arts by strengthening existing programs and creating new arts opportunities.
- » Serve as a liaison between community organizations, schools, parks and recreation and community education.
- » Be a resource for community members, artists and existing programs.
- » Provide multicultural and multi-generational arts opportunities.

For the future, the city and FotA are working together to create a Strategic Roadmap for advancing arts and culture in the community. This will include determining where efforts should be focused, how to express its importance to being a vital community, and building cross-sector support as arts and culture affects all elements and aspects of a community. The intent is that arts and culture can be a key contributor to economic and community development when approached strategically and included as a tool and part of the solution to our community's challenges.

