

# **State Fiscal Year 2023 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Annual Report**

## **China Garden at Phalen Regional Park**

### **City of Saint Paul**



**SAINT PAUL**  
**MINNESOTA**



**Grantee** City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation

**Grantee Contact** 651-266-6400, ParksCustomerService@ci.stpaul.mn.us

**City Leadership Mayor** Melvin Carter III

**City Council** Ward 1 Councilmember Anika Bowie, Ward 2 Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Ward 3 Councilmember Saura Jost, Ward 4 Council President Mitra Jalali, Ward 5 Councilmember Hwa Jeong Kim, Ward 6 Councilmember Nelsie Yang, Ward 7 Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson

**Parks and Recreation Director** Andy Rodriguez

**Administering Agency** This grant is a pass-through grant administered by the Minnesota Department of Administration. More information from this agency can be retrieved from Sarah Hernandez, Business Unit Coordinator, sarah.hernandez@state.mn.us

**Project** China Garden at Phalen Regional Park

**Project Funding** This project is funded by a State Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for \$400,000. This phase of the project is not funded from any additional sources.

**Project Duration** Project began on April 6, 2022 and concluded on June 30, 2023. This report covers activities performed during State Fiscal Year 2023.

**Project Full Time Equivalents** 0.74 FTE funded over full project.

**Project Information** Additional Information about the project can be found on the project's webpage - <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/phalen-regional-park-projects>.

### **Project Expenses During Fiscal Year 2023**

**Artist** - \$23,810.00

**Construction** - \$243,014.11

**Contracted services** - \$34,410.72

**Direct and administrative staff costs** - \$63,795.67

**Total expenses** - \$365,030.50

The next phase of the Hmong Plaza will be completed with a Fiscal Year 2024 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant and other funding. No frameworks have been developed for future uses from this funding source as the project will be complete.

No subgrants will be solicited or awarded from this grant.



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**FY 23 Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy Report**  
**China Garden at Phalen Regional Park**



## **Measurable Outcomes**

### **Community Engagement Project Phase**

#### *Proposed Outcomes*

- 1) Forming a Design Advisory Committee (DAC) establishes a clear process, brings credibility to project, and establishes a conduit to receive approval of preferred concept. DAC helps to establish Hmong migration story to educate other Minnesotans.
- 2) Increases transparency for greater community.
- 3) A local artist brings cultural expertise to the project to creatively present the Hmong migration story.
- 4) Approval of a preferred concept advances the design in order to complete construction documents.

#### *Measurement Method*

- 1) Form a DAC to approve concept before proceeding to construction documents. Receive feedback through DAC through responses including, but not limited to, public comments, plan reviews, polling questions, and/or participant surveys. DAC to help establish Hmong migration story from Asia to United States.
- 2) Conduct one or more public meeting to receive community feedback on concept plan.
- 3) Local artist(s) to be a resident of Minnesota and familiar with traditional Hmong patterns, cultural symbols, and heritage.
- 4) Develop preferred concept approve by DAC before proceeding with construction documents.

#### *Actual Outcomes Achieved During Fiscal Year*

The DAC continued to be a conduit to the community and the project completed ten DAC meetings, one public open house, one Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, and one Payne-Phalen Community Council meeting. The DAC helped to determine culturally significant patterns and features recognizable for Hmong Minnesotans of all ages. A concept plan and artwork was design by a local Hmong artist with knowledge of the Hmong culture. The final plan was approved through the DAC.

### **Design and Construction Project Phase**

#### *Proposed Outcomes*

- 1) Advances design to seek construction funding. Develops a cost estimate for bidding purposes.
- 2) Increases awareness of Hmong heritage by designing a physical/artistic element(s) such as a wall or mural that reflects the Hmong culture and/or migration story. Incorporates traditional Hmong patterns, symbols and cultural elements.

#### *Measurement Method*

- 1) Complete 100% Construction Document Plans and Specifications to be used for bidding and future funding opportunities.
- 2) Construction of a 2,000 square foot (sf) Hmong Cultural Plaza that includes a physical/artistic element(s) such as a wall or mural that reflects the Hmong cultural and/or migration story.



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### *Actual Outcomes Achieved During Fiscal Year*

100% construction documents were completed for cost estimates, bidding, and construction. The City hired a local contractor to complete construction of a 2,000 square foot Hmong Cultural Plaza that included walls and art features. The project increases awareness of the Hmong heritage through installation of physical infrastructure that resembles the traditional Hmong culture and can be used for future programming events.



*View of the Hmong Plaza's location relative to the Chinese pavilion near the northern portion of Lake Phalen*

*View of the completed Hmong Plaza. Additional features will be added in future phases.*



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