State Fiscal Year 2025 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Annual Report

Hmong Plaza at Phalen Regional Park

City of Saint Paul

SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Grantee City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation

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

City Leadership:

Mayor

Kaohly Her

City Council

Ward 1 Councilmember Anika Bowie, Ward 2 Council President Rebecca Noecker, Ward 3 Councilmember Saura Jost, Ward 4 Councilmember Molly Coleman, Ward 5 Councilmember HwaJeong Kim, Ward 6 Council Member 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, Portfolio Supervisor, sarah.hernandez@state.mn.us.

Project

Hmong Plaza at Phalen Regional Park

Project Funding

This project is funded by a State Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for $450,000. This phase of the project is not funded from any additional sources.

Project Duration

Project began on September 21, 2023 and concluded on June 30, 2025. This report covers activities performed during State Fiscal Year 2025.

Project Full Time Equivalents

0.46 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 2025

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.

Artist - $154,765.00
Construction - $0.00
Contracted services - $6,614.97
Direct and administrative staff costs - $27,619.68
Total expenses - $188,999.65

No frameworks have been developed for future uses from this funding source as the project is complete.

No subgrants were solicited or awarded from this grant.

Measurable Outcomes

Community Engagement Project Phase

Proposed Outcomes

1. Forming a Design Advisory Committee establishes a clear process, brings credibility to project, and establishes a conduit to receive approval of preferred artwork for construction.
2. Forming a Design Advisory Committee increases transparency for greater community.
3. A local artist brings cultural expertise and fabrication experience to the project to refine the preferred concept for construction.
4. Approval of a preferred artwork advances the design for fabrication.

Measurement Method

1. Form a new Design Advisory Committee (DAC) to advance preferred design of the Hmong Cultural features. Receive feedback through DAC through responses including, but not limited to, public comments, plan reviews, polling questions, and/or participant surveys.
2. Conduct one or more DAC meetings to receive community feedback on refined art features for fabrication.
3. Local artist(s) to be familiar with fabrication materials and methods.
4. Refine preferred concept during artwork fabrication.

Actual Outcomes Achieved During Fiscal Year

During the fiscal year, the Design Advisory Committee held one meeting to refine art features for fabrication and construction. Work continued with the local artist on design, fabrication, and preparation for commissioning of artwork. Community events were held on the Hmong Cultural Plaza.

Design and Construction Project Phase

Proposed Outcomes

1. Complete construction of the Hmong Mountain Wall and etching of concrete plaza with artistic elements at the Hmong Cultural Plaza that shows the Hmong culture.
2. Advance to, and begin, fabrication of a physical/artistic element(s) for the Hmong Cultural Plaza such as Qeej (reed instrument) and necklace that shows the Hmong culture.
3. Complete construction of site features including an irrigation system, plantings and electrical outlets.

Measurement Method

1. Hire artist to begin fabrication of a physical/artistic element(s) for the Hmong Cultural Plaza such as Qeej (reed instrument) and necklace that shows the Hmong culture.
2. Hire contractor to complete construction of site features including an irrigation system, plantings, and electrical outlets.

Actual Outcomes Achieved During Fiscal Year

During the fiscal year, site construction was substantially completed and the artist continued design and fabrication of art features that represent the Hmong culture.

Completed Hmong Plaza near the northern portion of Lake Phalen, open for cultural programming and ready to receive art pieces in fabrication

Sample of the qeej art piece prepared during fabrication of the art. The completed qeej, and other Hmong art pieces, will be installed at the Hmong Plaza when fabrication is complete.