

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Arts Board to request an increase in funding. In light of the recent study that reported over 32 million dollars in economic activity related to the arts, we, the La Crosse Arts Board, think an increase in city funds for the Arts Board is a wise investment. While we have made good use of our existing five thousand dollars, we think we could do even more with twenty thousand dollars. Please see our activity and projections below.

Activity the last two years:

- Facilitated public art at La Crosse library and City Hall.
- Created, hung, and held receptions for four art shows at the La Crosse County Administrative building that included:
 - High School Art from local schools.
 - “Flower Cloth” (Paj Ntaub) traditional Hmong embroidery.
 - “Hear, Here” in conjunction with UW-L.
 - “Goodbye Tent City” (currently on view) in conjunction with the Homeless and Arts committee.
- Facilitated the display of “Hatched Baby” by Wolfgang Auer of La Crosse’s sister city Friedberg, Germany
- Solicited a local artist to paint a new mural downtown, “Helping Hands” for spring 2018.
- Sponsored Artspire 2018 where both the Arts Board and ReNew, an Arts Board-created new subcommittee to support the arts on the North Side, will have booths.
- Juried public art from Artspire 2017.
- Sponsored two listening sessions, Placemaking, and Arts and Social Justice (where we reinvigorated the discussion of “Hiawatha”).
- Lent partnership to two La Crosse Reads events.
- Contributed to La Crosse Herons 10th anniversary project.
- Considered sustainable/environmental art for Riverside North.
- Received input from the public on recommended art projects and criticisms thereof.

Projections for the next two years:

- Continue to support all previous activities.
 - Continue to create, hang, and hold receptions at the County Building for art that is purposeful to our community.
 - Continue to support public art collaborating with local schools and other public institutions.
 - Plan and execute *more* murals, city-wide, to facilitate placemaking.
- Undertake an inventory of all public art for the purposes of maintenance and requesting CIP funding for repair.
 - (note: actual maintenance is not included with this budget request)
- “Stick Art” sustainable/environmental art on the Riverside North trail.
- Support the creation of “maker spaces”.