



# Council Conference Meeting

August 12, 2024

5:30 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

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## Agenda

### Agenda

- [1.](#) Updating the City of Fridley Seal
- [2.](#) Discussion of the Fridley Firefighters Relief Association consideration of joining the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) Statewide Volunteer Fire Plan (SVF)
- [3.](#) Proposed Investment Policy Revisions and Safekeeping/Custodial Depository Change
- [4.](#) Public Arts Commission Recommendation for Art at Moore Lake Park

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- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cov neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

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# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** August 12, 2024

**Meeting Type:** City Council Conference

**Submitted By:** Melissa Moore, City Clerk/Communications Manager  
Danielle Herrick, City Manager Intern

## Title

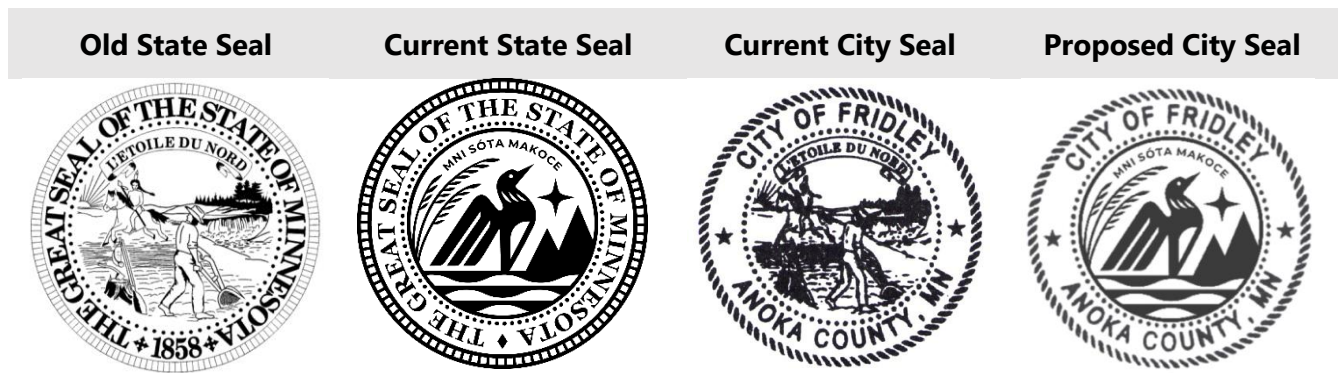
Updating the City of Fridley Seal

## Background

On May 11, 2024, Minnesota officially adopted a new Great Seal and State Flag, replacing the previous emblems. Pursuant to Section 1.04 of the Fridley City Charter, the City of Fridley (City) *may* "use and alter its seal at pleasure" therefore granting the City Council the authority to alter the City Seal when deemed appropriate.

The current City Seal mimics the old State Seal, featuring the City of Fridley and Anoka County names along its edge. In response to the State updating the State Seal, staff researched if the City should update the City Seal and if other cities were considering this action. Cities are not required to update their seals. However, some are choosing to do so to continue alignment of local and State tools.

In keeping with the City's historical practice of aligning with State symbols, staff propose a revised City Seal.



## Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** August 12, 2024

**Meeting Type:** City Council Conference Meeting

**Submitted By:** Maddison Zikmund, Fire Chief

## Title

Discussion of the Fridley Firefighters Relief Association consideration of joining the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) Statewide Volunteer Fire Plan (SVF)

## Background

The Fridley Fire Division has long held a pension fund for members under the Fridley Firefighters Relief Association (Relief Association) – a separate but partnered not-for-profit entity of the City. The Relief Association has a board of directors made up of elected firefighter members and ex-officio members including the Fire Chief, Finance Director, and Mayor. The Relief Association is responsible for the management of assets within a Special Fund (pension assets) and a General Fund (dues, fundraising, event assets). Of the nearly 800 Fire Departments in the State, approximately 500 of them operate a pension fund in this same manner. Pension plan types generically include two types: Defined-Benefit (DB) and Defined-Contribution (DC). DB plans guarantee a set dollar amount per year of service. DC plans provide equal assets to members during an active year of service. Each requires an annual audit, different actuarial evaluations, and considerations. Arguments can be made that either plan type is more attractive than the other. The Fridley Relief Association operates a Defined-Contribution plan type which allocates 100% of special fund revenue to plan members in a given year. Therefore, the plan is always 100% funded as the assets must equal liabilities.

In recent years, PERA has administered a SVF. The goal was/is to relieve the burden both financially and administratively from Relief Associations. There are over 200 Fire Departments/cities that have joined the SVF since its inception. During the most recent legislative session, the PERA SVF plan will now permit Defined-Contribution plan types into the program. The current Relief Association Board of Directors has had discussions about this option for the past several months and engaging with all members for their feedback. Thus far, there has been strong and consistent support to join the PERA SVF pending approval by the membership body and the City Council.

By joining the PERA SVF the Relief Association relinquishes all special fund assets to PERA for administration. PERA would then move forward in communicating with the City and Fire Chief for administration of the assets. The Relief Association may still exist as a fraternal organization and manage its General Fund assets which become completely separate from City business or transactions. The existing Fire State Aid which must pass through the City and onto the Relief Association would henceforth be paid directly to PERA and into the Fridley SVF plan.

## Vision Statement

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**Financial Impact**

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This proposal has no financial impact to the City. Currently, the City does not provide funding to the Fridley Firefighters Relief Association other than a pass-through of Fire State Aid which must be done according to statute. The financial impact of this proposal is to benefit the Fridley Firefighters Relief Association which currently spends approximately 25% of its revenue on administrative expenses. Furthermore, the state legislature has allocated one-time incentive funding for those plans who join PERA SVF on a first-come, first-served basis. If approved, that incentive payment would be made directly to the PERA SVF assets upon joining.

Beyond financial impact, this also relieves burden on Firefighters who must become educated and liable as fiduciaries in managing the pension assets. By transitioning this process to PERA, it significantly reduces liabilities to the City, Relief Association, and individual members.

**Attachments and Other Resources**

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**Vision Statement**

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# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** August 12, 2024

**Meeting Type:** City Council Conference Meeting

**Submitted By:** Joe Starks, Finance Director/City Treasurer  
Korrie Johnson, Assistant Finance Director

**Title**

Proposed Investment Policy Revisions and Safekeeping/Custodial Depository Change

**Background**

Staff are proposing a couple of revisions to the City’s Investment Policy. They are being proposed for clarification purposes, ease and effectiveness of the City’s treasury operations and include:

- Maximum Maturities – clarified language to note that to the extent possible, the City will match maturities to cash flow needs and that the maturities will be staggered (laddering) and the intention will be to have at least 50% of the City’s funds invested in maturities of 5 years or less and no more than 50% invested from 5 years to 10 years.
- Custodial Risk – added language to include broker/dealers as eligible institutions for safekeeping.
  - Assets are held in the name of the City, and not the safekeeping firm’s name or broker/dealer.
  - Securities are legally the City’s property , not part of a broker-dealer’s assets or capital
  - Allowed to purchase from any broker/dealer.
  - Robust reporting provided.

Staff are also proposing a change to the safekeeping/custodial depository. The City currently uses US Bank and is proposing to switch to UBS. The City has had a working relationship with UBS for investment management over the last two years and they have demonstrated their diligent stewardship of the City’s resources and one that can be trusted. Staff reached out to 3 cities who use UBS in a similar fashion, and all spoke very highly. A side benefit is that by utilizing them as a safekeeping/custodial depository, there should be cost savings to the City of approximately \$11,000 annually.

**Focus on Fridley Strategic Alignment**

<input type="checkbox"/> Vibrant Neighborhoods & Places	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Identity & Relationship Building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Stability & Commercial Prosperity	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety & Environmental Stewardship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizational Excellence	

**Attachments and Other Resources**

**Vision Statement**

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

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- Investment Policy Revisions

**Vision Statement**

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

safety and risk avoidance programs within the various departments. Staff will report to the City Manager, at least annually, on the results and costs of the risk management program for the preceding year.

The City will conduct at least every five years, using external consultants, a comprehensive risk management study and will implement the corresponding recommendations for the improvement of risk management that are found to be feasible and cost-effective. The City will maintain the deductible amount considered prudent in light of the relationship between the cost of insurance and the City's ability to sustain both per occurrence and annual loss costs.

Planned drawdown of the Self-Insurance Fund below the estimated working capital level will be permitted for operational purposes to cover extraordinary expenditures or to reduce the impact of increasing premiums or claims experience. Reductions in the fund balance are meant to be temporary and must be resolved through rate adjustments, implementation of a new permanent revenue source or reduction in expenditure levels. Surplus fund balance above the minimum level may be used to defer or reduce payments needed to support risk management operations.

## Investment Policy

This Investment Policy specifically outlines the investing philosophy and practices of the City and serves as a reference point for the management of City assets. It is the policy of the City to invest public funds in a manner which will provide for the following in order of importance: safety, liquidity and yield (i.e., return on investment) that conforms to all Federal, State and local regulations governing the investment of public funds.

The purpose of this Investment Policy is to develop an overall program for cash investments management, including: a high degree of professionalism; to ensure public trust; to establish that elected and appointed officials and employees are fiduciaries of a portfolio, which shall be subject to public review; and to establish cash investment objectives, delegation of authority, standards of prudence, internal controls, authorized investments, selection process for investments, and broker representations.

### Scope

This Investment Policy applies to all financial assets of the City. These funds are accounted for within the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and include:

- General Fund;
- Special Revenue Funds;
- Capital Project Funds;
- Debt Service Funds;
- Enterprise Funds;
- Internal Service Funds;
- Trust and Agency Funds; and
- Any new fund created by the City, unless specifically exempted by City Council; and/or falling under the constraints of a separate section of State law other than Chapter 118A.

**Prudence**

Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances existing at the time the investment is made, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering probable safety of the capital as well as interest yield to be derived.

The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the "prudent investor" standard and shall be applied in the context of managing the overall portfolio. Investment officers acting in accordance with written procedures and this Investment Policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal liability for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control adverse situations. Investment procedures developed for the Finance Department must be complied with by those with access to and management responsibilities for City investments, including any external investment managers, advisors, consultants, brokers and/or counterparties.

**Objective**

At all times, investments of the City shall be made in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 118A and amendments thereto. The primary objectives of the City's investment activities shall be in the following order of priority.

**Safety.** Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment portfolio. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The objective will be to mitigate credit risk, interest rate risk, and custodial risk.

**Credit Risk.** Credit Risk is the risk of loss due to failure of the security issuer to make payments on time and/or in full. Credit Risk will be minimized by:

- Limiting investments to the type of securities listed in this Investment Policy; and
- Diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any type of security or from any one individual issuer will be minimized.

**Interest Rate Risk.** Interest Rate Risk is the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in general interest rates. The City will minimize Interest Rate Risk by structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity. The City has also established diversification guidelines and maturity limits to control the sensitivity of the portfolio to changes in interest rates.

**Custodial Risk.** The City will minimize deposit Custodial Risk, which is the risk of loss due to failure of the depository bank (or credit union), by obtaining collateral or bond for all uninsured amounts on deposit, and by obtaining necessary documentation to show compliance with state law and a perfected security interest under federal law.



The City will minimize investment Custodial Risk by maintaining custody of securities and cash holdings ~~outside of authorized depository institutions~~ with an eligible custodian(s) that meets statutory and Investment Policy requirements or with a Federal Reserve Bank. Investment Custodial Risk is the risk that in the event of failure of a custodian, such as a broker/dealer, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investment securities that are in possession of an outside party and in that party's nominee name for which the City is a beneficial owner. Investments in investment pools and money markets are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form, and therefore are not subject to custodial Credit Risk disclosures.

### **Liquidity**

The City's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the City to meet all operating requirements that might reasonably be anticipated. The portfolio will be structured so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands (i.e., static liquidity). Furthermore, since all possible cash demands cannot be anticipated, the portfolio should consist largely of securities with active secondary or resale markets (i.e., dynamic liquidity). Alternatively, a portion of the portfolio may be placed in money market mutual funds or local government investment pools which offer same day liquidity for short-term funds.

### **Yield**

The City's investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate return. Securities shall generally be held until maturity with the following exceptions:

- A security with declining credit may be sold early to minimize loss of principal and the risk the investment will no longer comply with the requirements of Minnesota statutes, chapter 118A;
- A security swap (simultaneous sale and purchase) would improve the quality, yield, or target duration in the portfolio; and
- Liquidity needs of the portfolio require that the security be sold.

### **Trading**

Portfolio purchases will focus on holding investments until maturity to maintain securities at amortized value. Excessive investment portfolio turnover commonly referred to as "trading" or "overtrading" to obtain short-term gains is not consistent with the City's stated investment objectives and will be prohibited.

### **Delegation of Authority**

The investment program shall be operated in conformance with Federal, State, and other legal requirements. Authority to manage the City's investment program is derived from the following:

- Minnesota Statutes Chapter 118 A, Deposit, and Investment of Local Public Funds; and
- Fridley City Charter Section 7.13, Receipts to go to City Treasurer.

Management responsibility for the investment program is hereby delegated to the Finance Director, who shall establish written procedures for the operations of the Investment Program consistent with this Investment Policy. The Finance Director, with assistance from Finance Department, monitors performance of the investment portfolio, and ensures that proper internal

controls are developed to safeguard investments assets. Procedures should include reference to: safekeeping (custody), delivery versus payment (DVP), investment accounting, wire transfer agreements, collateral/depository agreements and banking service contracts. Such procedures shall include explicit delegation of authority to persons responsible for investment transactions.

No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this Investment Policy and the procedures established by the Finance Director. The Finance Director or Assistant Finance Director shall be responsible for all investment transactions and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials and any external parties.

### **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest**

Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from conducting personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Investment officials shall annually disclose to the City Clerk any material financial interests as required by State statute on an annual Statement of Economic Interest form. Employees and officers shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the City, particularly with regard to the time of purchases and sales, and shall refrain from undertaking personal investment transactions with the same individual(s) with whom business is conducted on behalf of the City.

### **Authorized Broker/Dealers and Investment Advisors**

The City will conduct investment transactions only with authorized broker/dealers that have met the following criteria:

- They act as primary or regional dealers that qualify under Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15C3-1 (Uniform Net Capital Rule); and
- Submit annually to the Finance Director an OSA Broker Certification Form.

All broker/dealer relationships, providing they meet the above requirements, will be maintained at the discretion of the Finance Director. The purchase of all investments must be from institutional brokers.

The City may enter into contracts with investment advisory firms at the discretion of the Finance Director when their services are deemed beneficial to the City. Any such firm must be registered under the Investment Advisor's Act of 1940. The advisor may have authority to transact investments on behalf of the City and must comply with State statute and this Investment Policy.

### **Authorized and Suitable Investments**

Based on the investment objectives as defined in this Investment Policy, the City will limit its investments to securities authorized under Minnesota Statute 118A and future revisions. Current statute allows the City to invest in the following:

- United States Securities including bonds, notes, bills, mortgages, or other securities that are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress. Mortgage-backed securities that are defined as high risk or in certificates of deposit secured by letters of credit

- issued by federal home loan banks are not permissible investments;
- General obligation of state or local governments with taxing powers rated A or better by a national bond rating services;
  - Revenue obligations of state or local governments rated AA or better by a national bond rating service;
  - General obligation of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, which is a moral obligation of the State of Minnesota, rated A or better by a national bond rating service;
  - Any security which is an obligation of a school district with an original maturity not exceeding 13 months and (i) rated in the highest category by a national bond rating service or (ii) enrolled in the credit enhancement program pursuant to section 126C.55, Minnesota statutes.
  - Certificates of Deposits (i.e., Time Deposits) that are fully insured by the FDIC or the NCUA;
  - Bankers acceptances of United States banks rated with the highest short-term credit rating of any two Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NSROs), with a maximum maturity of up to 270 days from the date of purchase;
  - Commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest rating category by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less;
  - Money Market Mutual Funds provided such investment company is registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940, and which holds itself out as a money market fund meeting the conditions of rule 2a-7 of the SEC and is rated in one of the two highest rating categories for money market funds by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization, or whose shares are registered under the Federal Securities Act of 1933, as long as the investment company's fund receives the highest credit rating and is rated in one of the two highest risk rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization and is invested in financial instruments with a final maturity no longer than 13 months.
  - Shares of a Minnesota joint powers investment trust whose investments are restricted to securities described under sections 118A.04, 118A.07 and subdivision 7, Minnesota statutes.

In addition, the share value of the money market funds must be equal to \$1.00. The Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund (4M) that was established by the League of Minnesota Cities in 1987 to address the investment needs of Minnesota cities.

### **Concentration of Credit Risk**

It is the intent of the City to diversify its investments and thereby reduce the risk of loss resulting from the over-concentration of assets in a specific maturity, issuer, institution or market sector. No more than 50% of the entity's total investment portfolio will be invested in a single market sector and no more than 15% of the overall portfolio may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. The following investments are exempt from diversification restrictions: U.S. Treasury and Agency securities, Money Market Funds, Local Government Investment Pools and Deposits fully insured by the FDIC or NCUA.

Due to the fluctuations in the value of the portfolio, maximum percentages for a particular issuer or investment type may be exceeded at a point in time subsequent to the purchase or maturity of a particular security. Securities need not be liquidated to realign the portfolio; however, consideration should be given to this matter when future purchases are made.

Given the smaller portfolio of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the above restrictions will be waived. Prudent judgment in regard to concentration of credit risk should still be exercised when possible.

### **Collateralizations**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 118a.03, financial institutions will be required to provide collateral on the following:

- Certificates of Deposits (i.e., Time Deposits); and
- Demand Deposits.

The City chooses to limit collateral to the following U.S. government securities:

- Treasury Bills;
- Treasury Notes;
- Treasury Bonds;
- Federal National Mortgage Associations (FNMA);
- Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB);
- Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB);
- Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA); and
- Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC).

Deposits may additionally be collateralized by an irrevocable standby letter of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks.

The underlying securities will be subject to periodic (i.e., monthly) market valuations to ensure there is no market exposure. In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be 110% of market value of principal and accrued interest except that where the collateral is irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks. The amount of collateral shall be at least equal to the amount on deposit at the close of the financial institution's banking day.

For cash deposits on-hand collateral will always be held by an independent third party with whom the City has a current custodial agreement. Clearly marked evidence of ownership (i.e., safekeeping receipt) must be supplied by the entity and retained. Collateralization shall be in the form of specific securities held for the City. The only exceptions are FDIC, Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) and pre-approved insurance coverage. The right of collateral substitution is granted, subject to approval from the Finance Director.

### **Safekeeping and Custody**

~~Securities purchased shall be held in a segregated account for the City's benefit at a third party~~

~~trustee as safekeeping agent.~~ The investment dealer or bank from which the security is purchased shall issue a confirmation ticket to the City listing the specific instrument, issuer, coupon, maturity, Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures (CUSIP) number, purchase or sale price, transaction date, and other pertinent information. The financial service provider who executes the transaction on the City's behalf, if any, shall deliver all securities on a delivery versus payment method (DVP) to the designated custodian. DVP is a way of controlling the risk to which securities market participants are exposed. Delivery of securities (i.e. the change in their ownership) is done simultaneously with payment. This means that neither the buyer nor the seller is exposed to the risk that the other will default.

Investments, contracts, and agreements may be held in safekeeping with:

- Any Federal Reserve Bank;
  - Any bank authorized under the laws of the United States or any state to exercise corporate trust powers including, but not limited to, the bank from which the investment is purchased; or
- 
- [A securities broker-dealer or an affiliate of it, that is registered as a broker-dealer under chapter 80A or is exempt from the registration requirements; is registered by the securities and exchange commission; and maintains insurance through the Security Investor Protection Corporation \(SIPC\) or excess insurance coverage in an amount equal to or greater than the value of the securities held.](#)

The City's ownership of all securities should be evidenced by written acknowledgements identifying the securities by:

- The names of the issuers;
- The maturity dates;
- The interest rates; and
- Any CUSIP, serial numbers, or other distinguishing marks.

The City may not invest in securities that are both uninsured and not registered in the name of the City and are held by either the counterparty or the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the name of the City.

### **Maximum Maturities**

[To the extent possible, the City will attempt to match its investment maturities with anticipated cash flow liquidity demands \(static liquidity\). Portfolio maturities shall be staggered to avoid undue concentration of assets in a specific sector. Maturities selected shall provide for stability of income and reasonable liquidity. Because of the inherent difficulties in accurately forecasting cash flow requirements, a portion of the portfolio should be continuously invested in readily available funds such as local government investment pools, money market funds, or overnight repurchase agreements to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained to meet ongoing obligations.](#) -The City's goal will be to have at least fifty percent of the City's funds in each investment portfolio will be invested in securities maturing in 5 years or less, with no more than 520% of the City's funds being invested in securities maturing ~~in up to~~ [5 to 10 years.](#) ~~A minimum of 5% of the portfolio~~

~~will mature under 30 days.~~ Maturity is measured by average life, worst call date or expected life as opposed to final maturity.

Maturities selected shall provide for stability of income and reasonable liquidity. Because of the inherent difficulties in accurately forecasting cash flow requirements, a portion of the portfolio should be continuously invested in readily available funds such as local government investment pools and/or money market funds to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained to meet ongoing obligations.

### **Internal Control**

The Finance Director is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the City are protected from loss, theft or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of the costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

The City will engage an external auditor for an annual independent review to assure compliance with policies and procedures.

### **Performance Standards**

The investment portfolio will be designed to obtain a market average rate of return during budgetary and economic cycles, considering the City's investment risk constraints and cash flow needs. The investment portfolio will be structured to meet specific criteria addressing safety, liquidity and yield. The City's reporting system will provide information concerning cash position, investment performance, and percentage of the portfolio that is invested by security issuers and maturity structure.

### **Market Yield/Benchmark**

The City's investment strategy is conservative. Under this conservative philosophy, the City will purchase investments that fit in accordance with this policy. Given this strategy, the Finance Director may establish benchmarks, as appropriate, based on the investment needs of the City.

### **Reporting**

The Finance Director shall provide at least quarterly reports to the City Manager on the investment activity and returns of the City, which will include: security diversification information, maturity breakdowns and investment earnings, and a brief summary of current economic conditions affecting the portfolio. The City will also report this information as part of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

## **Community Investment Fund Policy**

The City acknowledges the limited financial resources available to support various capital projects throughout the community, such as improvements to park and recreation facilities, and public



# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** August 12, 2024

**Meeting Type:** City Council Conference Meeting

**Submitted By:** Scott Hickok, Community Development Director

## Title

Public Arts Commission Recommendation for Art at Moore Lake Park

## Background

The City of Fridley has been given the opportunity to install art in the newly reimagined Moore Lake Park. Contributions of \$6,000 from the Rice Creek Watershed District and \$10,000 from Mary T, (owner of Crooners) have made this art possible. The Public Arts Commission met on Wednesday evening and reviewed each of three art concepts submitted by Artist Jessica Turtle. Ms. Turtle, a long-time artist and Water Stewardship Program graduate, researched and made certain each concept presented emphasized the importance of the environment and water quality.

Attached please find Ms. Turtle’s Concepts. After much healthy discussion, the Public Art’s Commission Chose the Northern Leopard Frog (Concept #3). The sculpture will be in the water, in the pond and will appear as if it is on a floating lily pad.

## Financial Impact

Absorbed staff time, plus donated funds

## Recommendation

Staff will bring this item to the City Council for formal resolution approval on August 20, 2024

## Focus on Fridley Strategic Alignment

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vibrant Neighborhoods & Places   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Identity & Relationship Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Stability & Commercial Prosperity | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety & Environmental Stewardship             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Excellence                   |  |

## Attachments and Other Resources

- Artist Concepts 1-3

## Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

**Vision Statement**

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### Materials

#### Structure

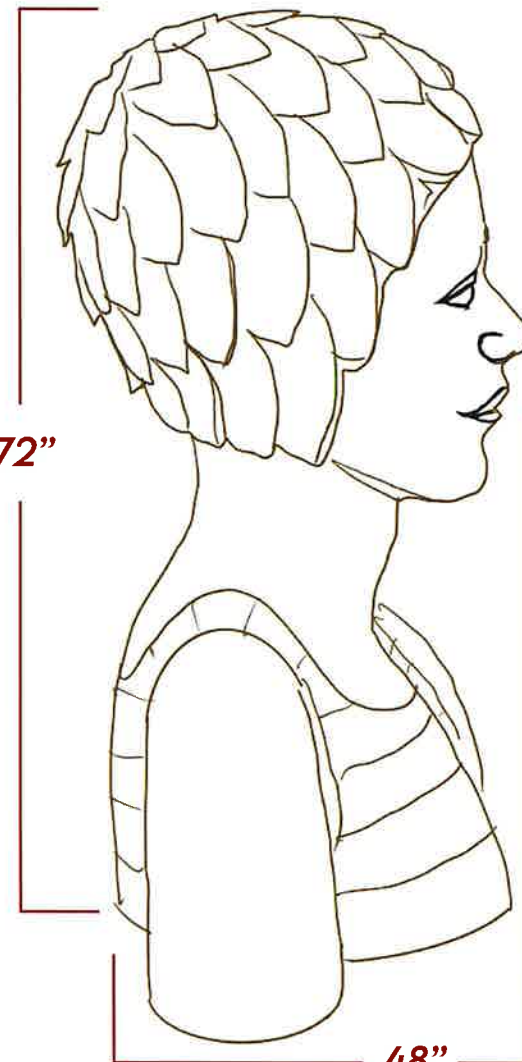
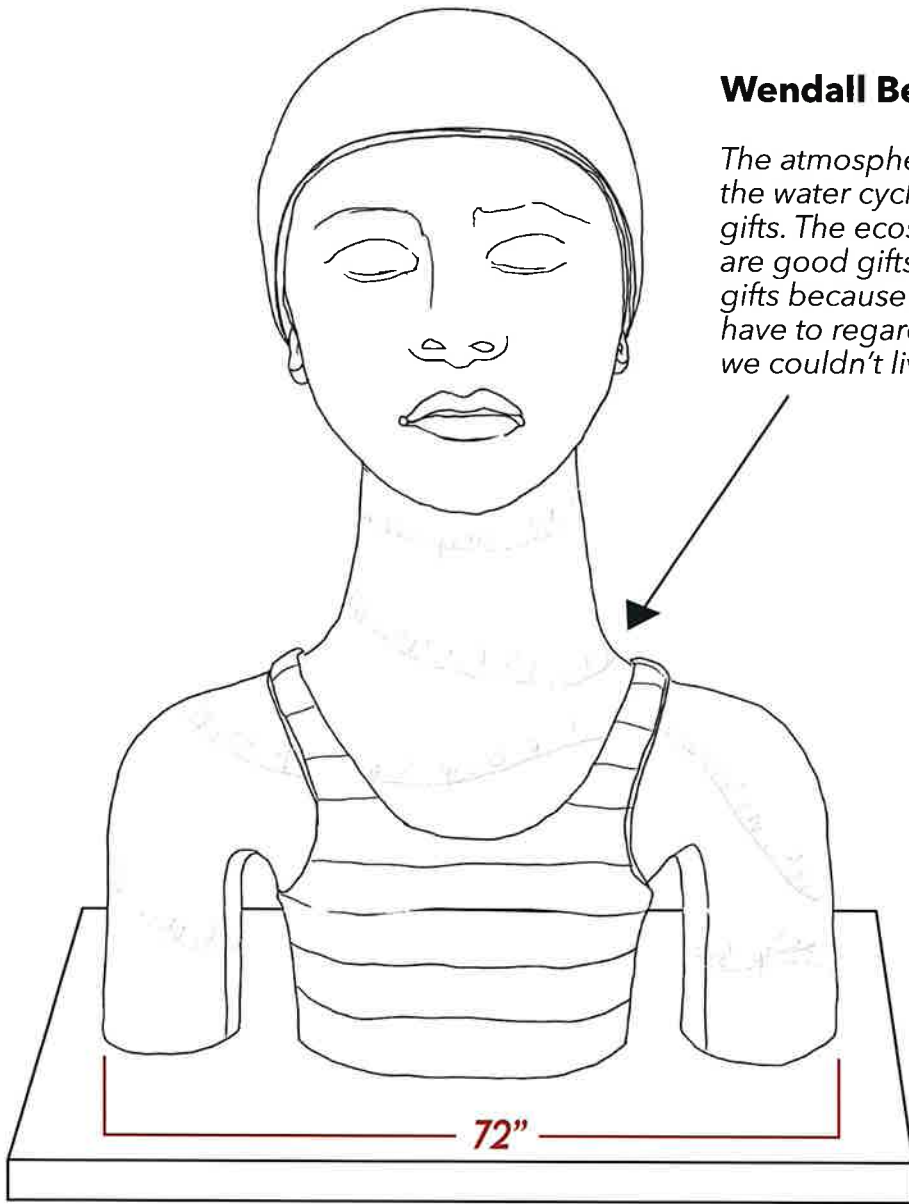
- Rebar Framing
- Metal Lath
- Cement Shell and Base
- Handmade High-fire Ceramic Tiles
- Prism Grout
- Lift tracks set into base to move 16' box truck to move

#### Quote

Brushed Aluminum Lettering

### Wendall Berry Quote:

*The atmosphere, the earth, the water and the water cycle -- these things are good gifts. The ecosystems, the ecosphere, those are good gifts. We have to regard them as gifts because we couldn't make them. We have to regard them as good gifts because we couldn't live without them.*



### Notes:

An endogenous being of water with resting eyes and a slightly upturned mouth. Soft androgynous features with a stark color fade from pale blue-white to a deep earthy blue-green, wearing a leafy cap and striped swimwear. The quote is wrapped wave-like around the figure. The direction of the tile placement will follow.

Base is buried giving the illusion that the figure is swimming within the earth. The base will stabilize the form and prevent long-rooted plants from

### GOOD GIFTS



## Inspiration & Thought Process:

The effort to improve park spaces and water quality in Fridley will have a great and lasting impact on the community's overall health. In observation and conversation with community members over the past few months, I've learned that the benefits of these revitalized spaces are known and valued by many. Good Gifts is a visual representation of a being who advocates for a body of water's protection and health. Representations of water beings or "Keepers" exist in nearly all cultures worldwide. This proposed version of a Keeper uses the feeling of peace and calmness to remind us that we are part of nature and our action to care for it makes a difference no matter how small the action.

The sculpture is roughly 6 feet tall, just shy of the plant height along the Moore Lake shoreline. The intention is to place the piece just within the plants as though it is emerging from the earth and watching over the water. The bright white to deep blue-green color scheme complements the green of the surrounding plants in the summer; in winter, the colors are striking against the ice and snow. Because blue and green are analogous colors, they naturally harmonize when used together. Blue is also calming, further supporting the gentle facial expression and posture.

The figure will feature a powerful quote by Wendall Berry, an American novelist, poet, essayist, and environmental activist who reminds us to be grateful for the natural world and to act as though our life depends on it.

*"The atmosphere, the earth, the water, and the water cycle - those things are good gifts.  
The ecosystems, the ecosphere, those are good gifts.  
We have to regard them as gifts because we couldn't make them.  
We have to regard them as good gifts because we couldn't live without them."*





Title	Material Budget	Fabrication	Transportation	Installation	Insurance	Estimate:	
Good Gifts	Clay: 50 lbs * 8 @ \$44.23 = \$353.84 Glaze: \$21 pint * 40 = \$840 Grout: \$250 Cement: \$16 (50lbs.) * 15 = \$240 Rebar: \$7.50 * 100 = \$750 Lath: \$21.50 (2' x 3') * 20 = \$430 Welding Wire: \$25.00 * 2 = \$50 Misc. \$300	300 hrs @ \$50/hr	Box Truck Rental: \$300 Gas: \$125	Contractor Sub: \$2500	Box Truck Insurance: \$100.00 Additional Liability Coverage: \$150		
	\$3,213.84	\$15,000.00	\$325.00	\$2,500.00	\$350.00	<b>\$21,388.84</b>	<b>\$16,388.84</b>

Smaller version with different placement.

### Materials

#### Structure

- Rebar Framing
- Metal Lath
- Cement Shell
- Handmade High-fire Ceramic Tiles
- Epoxy Grout

#### Pathway

- Gravel
- Sand
- Metal Lath
- Cement
- Handmade High-fire Ceramic Tiles
- Prism Grout
- Double Stack, Cafe Stone Boarder

#### Perennial Garden

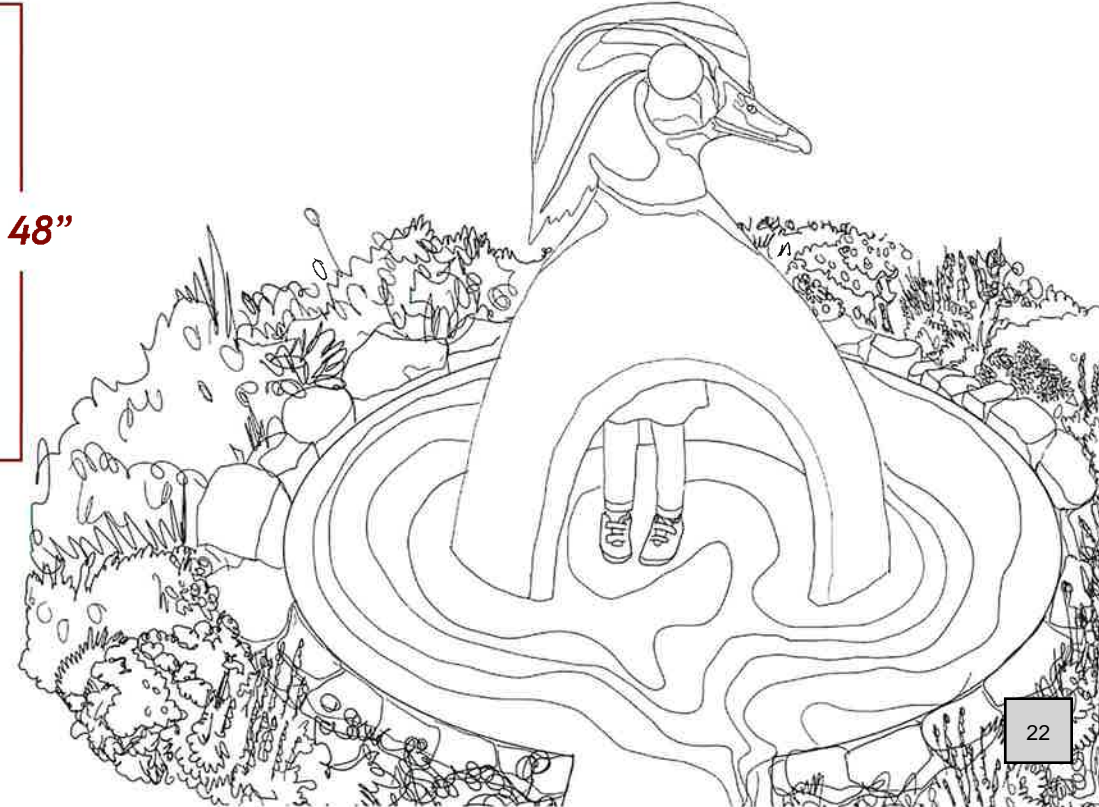
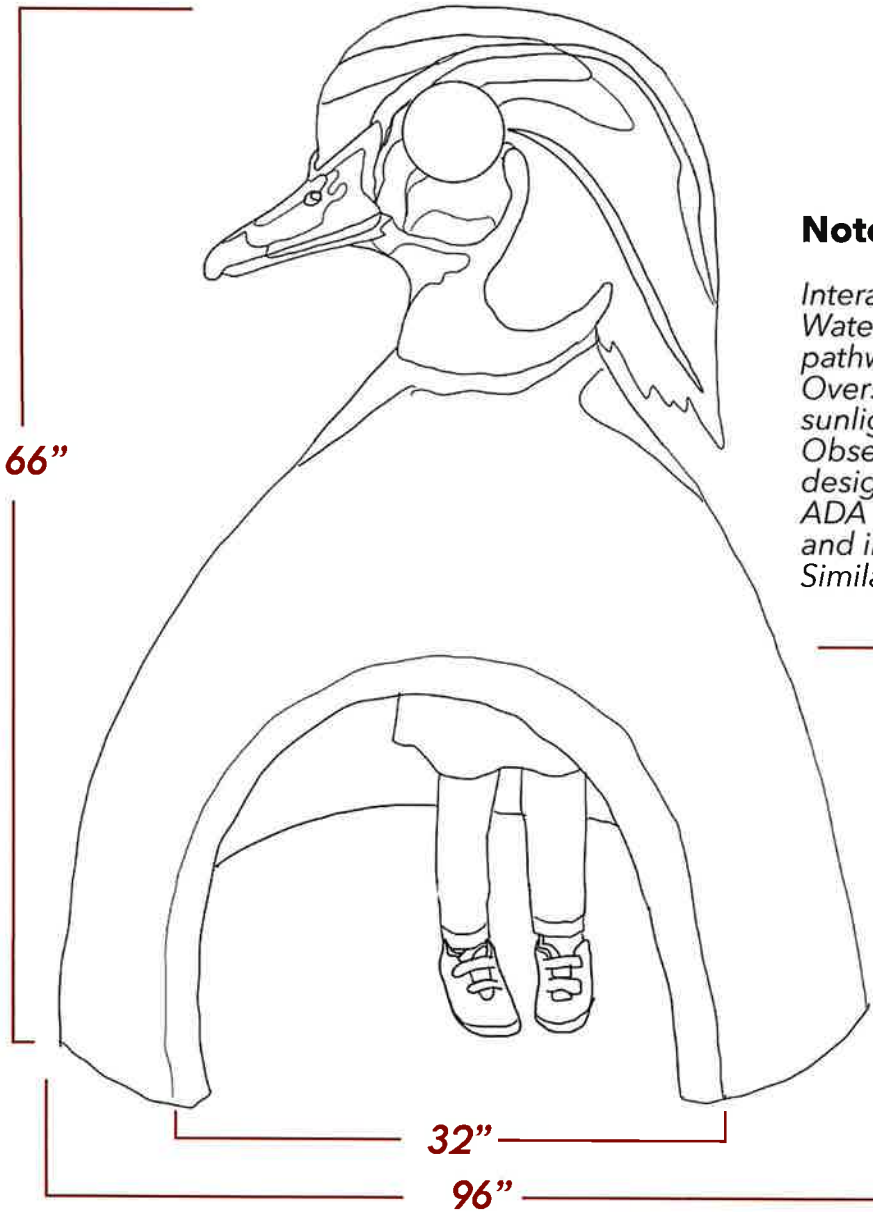
- RCWD Can Advise



10" Eye Holes

### Notes:

Interactive play structure  
 Water-theme visual narrative on pathway  
 Oversized eye holes - allows sunlight in and encourages play  
 Observation pollinator garden design for youth  
 ADA compliant entrance, pathway, and internal turn radius.  
 Similar color-scheme to playground



48"

### PEEK-A-BOO WOOD DUCK



## Inspiration & Thought Process:

While walking the wooded trail systems in Fridley and referencing submissions to the iNaturalist Application for the area, I found Wood Ducks to be a relevant and much-loved animal in the area. Wood ducks represent the wonders of evolution and ecology, life's fragility, and conservation's value. They are also unique because they are one of the few waterfowl species that nest and perch in trees, using their sharp webbed nails to balance branches and access tree cavities.

## Wood ducks play a significant role in the ecosystems they inhabit, including:

By eating seeds and fruits, wood ducks play a crucial role in spreading plant species, contributing significantly to the health and diversity of their habitats. Their diet, which includes insects and other invertebrates, helps keep pest populations in check and maintain balance in their ecosystems. Their movement around wetlands can also lead to accidental transportation of plant or animal species to new locations, further contributing to ecological balance.

The sculpture is 5.5 feet tall and has an ADA-compliant entrance, pathway, and interior turn radius. It should be installed in a sunny part of the park within the sightline of the playground; the sculpture was intentionally designed to extend opportunities for youth interaction, observation, and playful imagination within the park. Over time, the piece could inspire further landscaping for natural play like Nature School Playgrounds. The structure is relatively low maintenance, cold-weather hardy, and can withstand robust play. The smoothness of the exterior surface deters climbing, and graffiti removal using the Krud Cutter Graffiti Removal solution is generally possible.

The wood duck's finish is true to nature, using vibrant greens, browns, blacks, yellows, blues, green, and red—emphasizing the speckled chest pattern and bold lines and shapes within the duck's features. The eye holes allow sunlight into the center and a playful peek-a-boo window out.

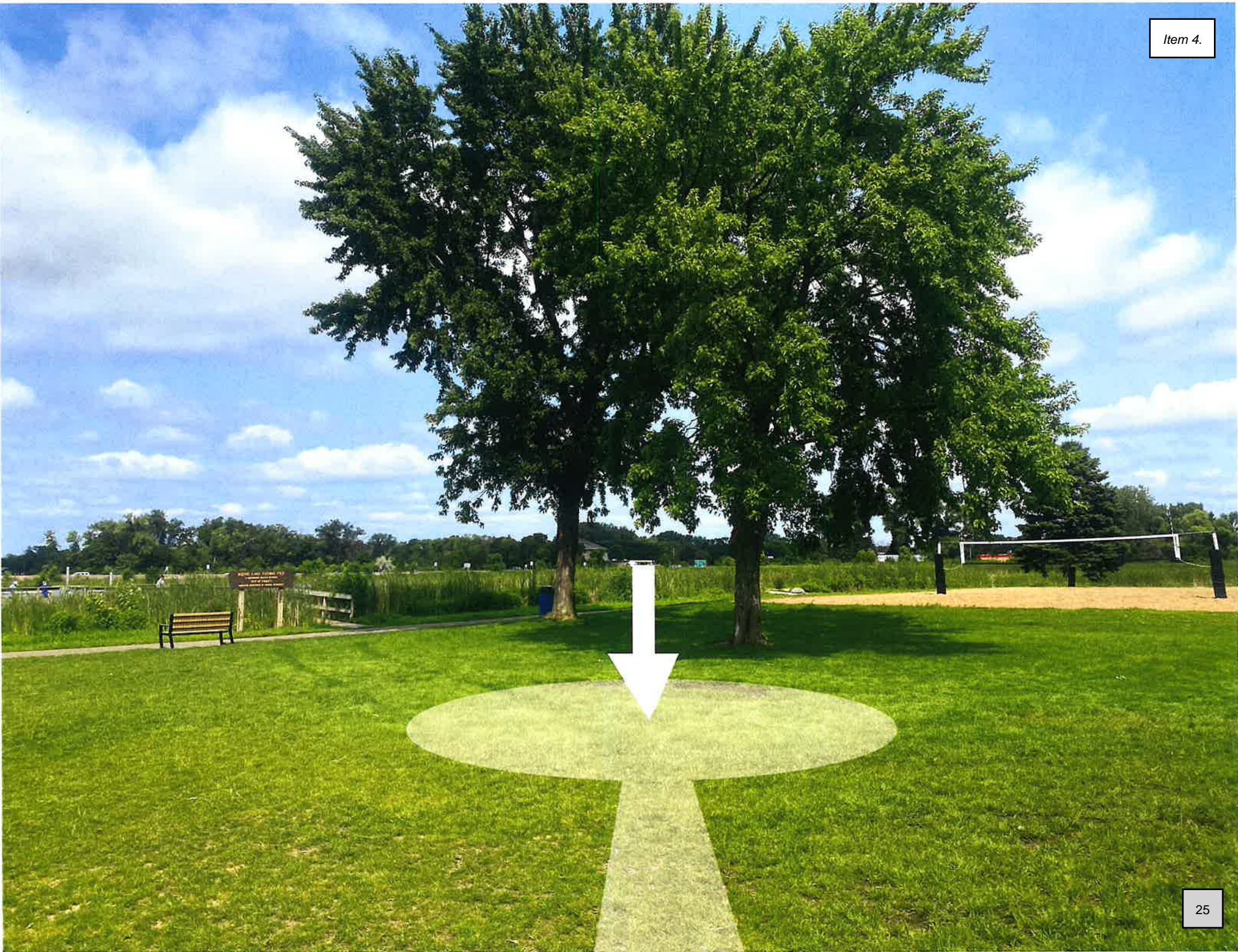
The mosaic pathway includes a visual narrative about the Wood Duck life cycle, ecosystem, and diet. The landscaping, designed by the Twin Cities Wildflower Project, will frame the sculpture and provide youth observation opportunities while providing food and homes to beneficial insects. Twin Cities Wildflower Project will select plants that are easy to maintain and hearty in the wake of trampling and pet urine.

**<https://www.thewildflowerprojectmn.com>**

Side Note: the garden could be maintained by a local garden club, youth program, or the like. It's also possible for the garden to be slightly raised and used as a vegetable garden, providing free food to park goers.







Title	Material Budget	Fabrication	Transportation	Installation	Insurance	Estimate:	
Peek-a-boo Wood Duck	Clay: 50 lbs * 16 @ \$44.23 = \$707.68 Glaze: \$21 pint * 60 = \$1260 Grout: \$300 Cement: \$16 (50lbs.) * 30 = \$480 Sand/Gravel: waiting on estimate Rebar: \$7.50 * 100 = \$750 Lath: \$21.50 (2' x 3') * 30 = \$645 Welding Wire: \$25.00 * 2 = \$50 Prairie Plants & Stones: \$1,800 Misc. \$300 \$6,292.68	300 hrs @ \$50/hr	Box Truck Rental: \$300 Gas: \$125	Sub Contractor: 1500	Box Truck Insurance: \$100.00 Additional Liability Coverage: \$150	Includes: mosaic path and garden	Omits: mosaic path and garden
		\$15,000.00	\$425.00	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	<b>\$23,467.68</b>	<b>\$17,967.68</b>

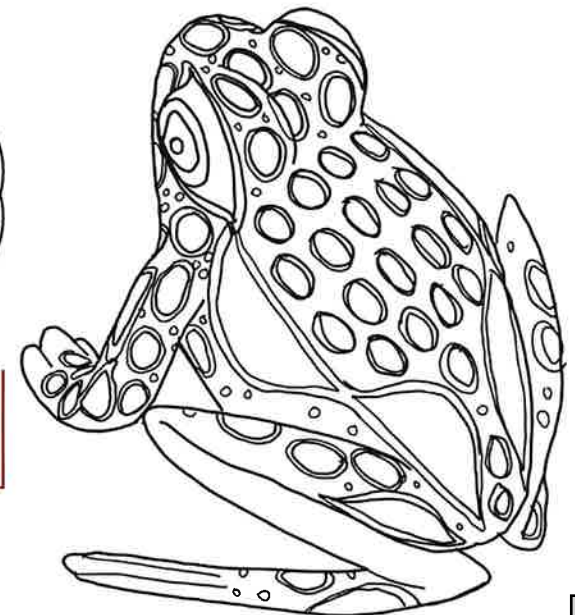
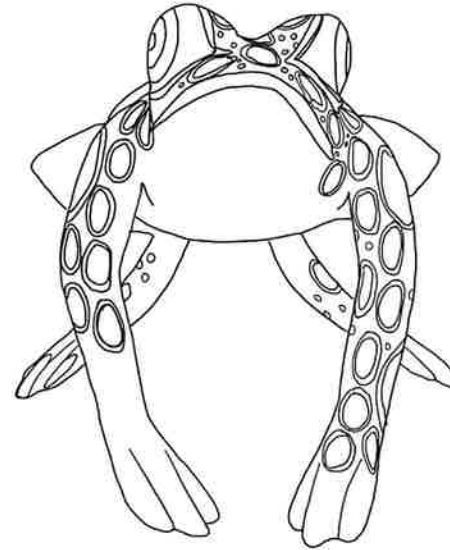
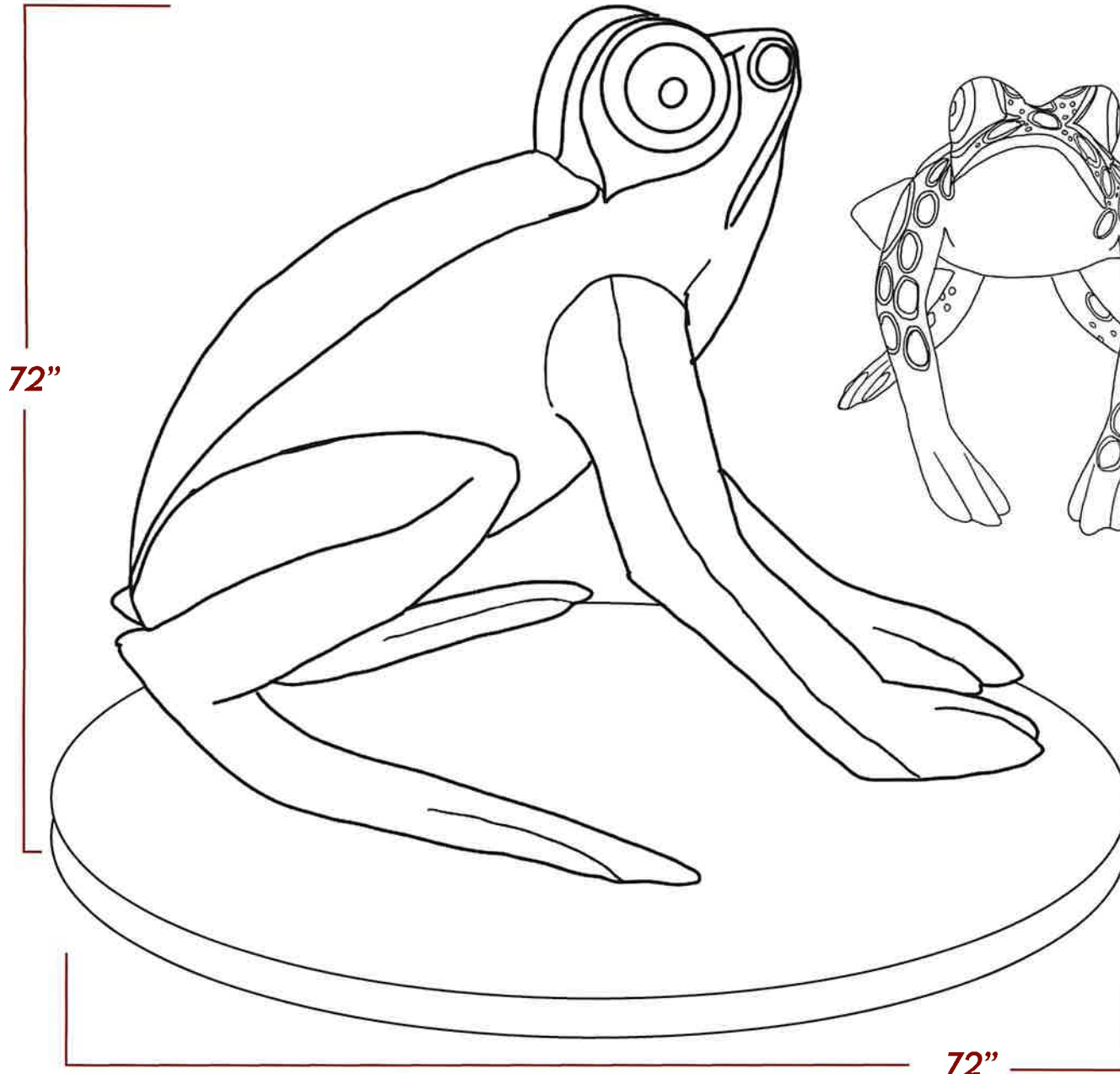
### Materials

#### Structure

- Rebar Framing
- Metal Lath
- Cement Shell
- Handmade High-fire Ceramic Tiles
- Prisma Grout

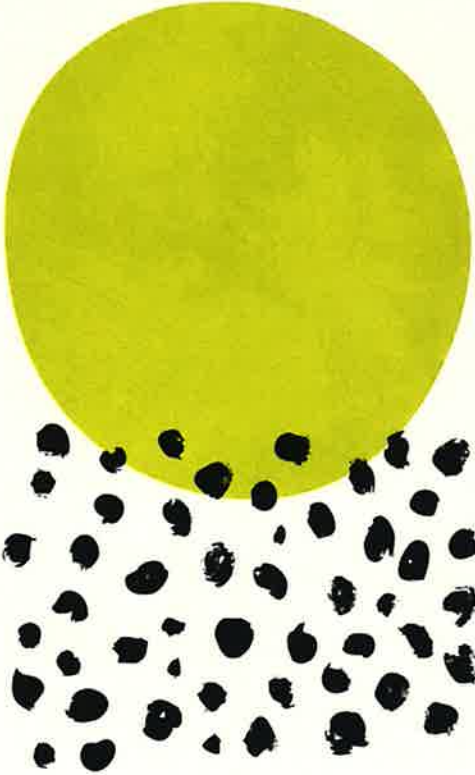
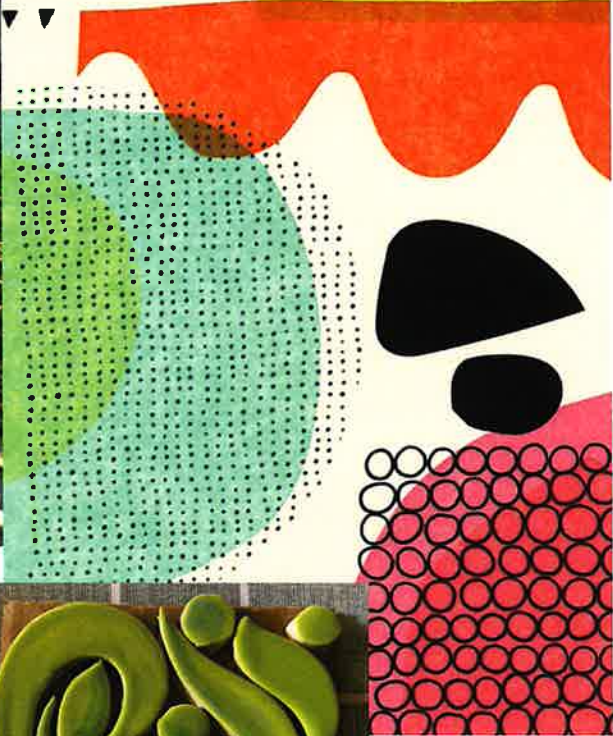
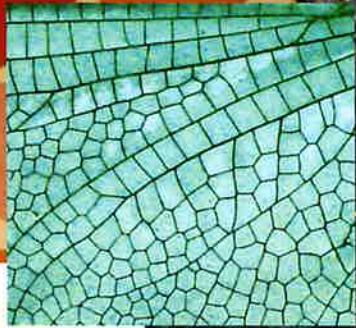
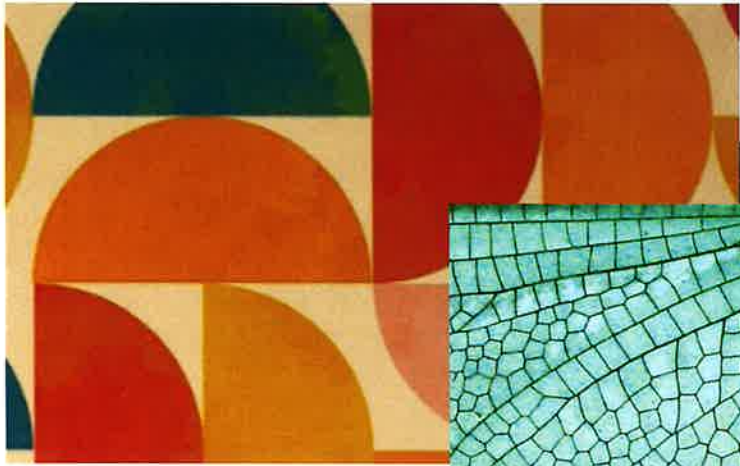
#### Notes:

Place in either holding pond  
 Funky Patterns and shapes  
 Colors match the playground  
 Lighthearted and whimsical  
 Make base into lily pad shape?



### NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG





**Inspiration & Thought Process:**

Northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) is native to Minnesota and is the state's amphibian. They can be found in ponds and lakes across the state and are one of Minnesota's most common frogs.

Frogs are considered keystone species because they are connected to many other species in their food webs; they eat a variety of things, and many things eat them. Consequently, frogs are considered an indicator species; if they are in trouble, it means other, less obvious species are likely to be, too. More importantly, frogs are the gateway creature for many people. Some people are drawn to the unique qualities of frogs, like their slimy skin, beautiful sounds, or ability to jump great distances. And let's not forget the cultural associations with frogs – from Kermit the Frog to fairy tales, frogs have a positive place in many people's hearts.

The sculpture is roughly 6 feet tall and hovers within the holding pond's ebbing waterline. The frog's finish is playful, with bold shapes and retro patterns, primarily using the colors from the nearby playground.



Title	Material Budget	Fabrication	Transportation	Installation	Insurance	Estimate:
Northern Leopard Frog	Clay: 50 lbs * 8 @ \$44.23 = \$353.84 Glaze: \$21 pint * 40 = \$840 Cement: \$1000 Rebar: \$7.50 * 100 = \$750 Lath: \$21.50 (2' x 3') * 20 = \$430 Welding Wire: \$25.00 * 2 = \$50	200 hrs @ \$50/hr	Box Truck Rental: \$300 Gas: \$125	Sub-Contractor: \$2500	Box Truck Insurance: \$100.00 Additional Liability Coverage: \$150	<b>\$16,598.84</b>
	\$3,423.84	\$10,000.00	\$425.00	\$2,500.00	\$250.00	