

# Memo

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director  
**Date:** January 22, 2016  
**Re:** Public Art for Communities 2016

---

I am requesting the City Council authorize an application to the Public Art for Communities 2016 grant program from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership. I have attached the RFP here for your reference.

This grant would provide the community \$10,000 to commission a new piece of public art for display in a prominent location in the community.

We are forming an ad-hoc public art committee to undertake the project, as required by the program. The committee work will include developing a Request for Proposals from Michigan artists to create a piece of public art based on a theme chosen by the committee, and which is representative of the community. While many of the past awards made under this grant program have resulted in ‘modern art’ style installations, our committee would be looking at something more traditional.

Some of you may remember that we applied for this grant last year. We did not receive the funding, however I met with LEAP after the fact and was encouraged to apply again. LEAP reported that there were no deficiencies with our application and felt that it would likely get funded in a future funding round. They indicated that most communities had to apply a couple times before they were funded.

Like last year, we would be working with the owner of Peter’s Circle based on that being the proposed project location.

While no local matching funds are required, I would ask the City to commit to at least performing the site preparation and assist with the

installation of the art piece upon its completion. It is difficult to predict the entire expense of the installation prior to the artwork itself being commissioned. However, this installation expense would be known prior to the city's annual budget adoption, and I would suggest an upper limit of \$5,000.

I believe this grant could help the city's ongoing downtown revitalization effort, especially as it regards downtown appearance and place making, which is a statewide economic development priority.

The application is due February 19. I am requesting that this first reading be approved on Monday, but the grant committee itself will make a brief presentation at the February 8 council meeting prior to you voting on its second reading and final approval.