

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Transportation & Public Works  
**Date:** 10/27/2015  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Prepared by:** Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator  
**Presented by:** Mary Altman  
**File type:** Action  
**Subcategory:** Staff Direction

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**Subject:**

Location of Great Blue Heron, Loon and Sage Grouse Fountain by Elliot Offner

**Description:**

Directing staff to work with the Ward 4 Council Office to identify an appropriate site for Great Blue Heron, Loon and Sage Grouse Fountain and report back to the City Council by March 2016.

**Previous Actions:**

March 20, 2015 – Approved retaining the following artworks on Nicollet Mall following its reconstruction, as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Panel and Minneapolis Arts Commission: *Hail Minnesota Manhole Covers, Enjoyment of Nature, Tableau, Stoneboats, Sculpture Clock* (reinstalled in 1991), and further directing staff to determine the feasibility of relocating *Great Blue Heron, Loon and Sage Grouse Fountain* to a location in North Mississippi Regional Park and to report on the issues involved with this potential relocation to the Public Art Advisory Panel, Minneapolis Arts Commission, and City Council by June 30, 2015.

January 16, 2015 - Authorized a Request for Proposals (RFP) for artists to design new artwork to be integrated into the New Nicollet Mall.

June 27, 2014 - Approved the concept for the Nicollet Mall and a project budget of \$50,000,000. Accepted a \$21,500,000 grant from the State of Minnesota, and authorized the proper City officers to, upon satisfactory review by the City Attorney's Office, execute a grant agreement with the State of Minnesota for acceptance of grant funds of up to \$21,500,000, subject to the City's approval of special assessments in the amount of \$25,000,000. The grant and matching funds will be used for the Nicollet Mall.

August 8, 2007 - Adopted Public Art Policies including policies for relocating and maintaining works of art.

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**Ward/Neighborhood/Address:**

Ward 4  
Multiple Neighborhoods.

**Background/Analysis:**

*Great Blue Heron, Loon and Sage Grouse Fountain* by Elliot Offner was recently removed from a location on Nicollet Mall and moved into storage due to reconstruction of the Mall.

In March 2015, the City Council directed staff to “determine feasibility of relocating *Great Blue Heron, Loon and Sage Grouse Fountain* to North Mississippi Regional Park.” City staff have since reviewed a number of possible locations within this Park with staff from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and determined that the fountain may pose a number of problems in this park, due to the lack of supervision at the site year-round and at night.

Staff recommend considering multiple locations within Ward 4, with the intent of identifying a location that best supports the sculpture and the needs of the residents, and reporting back to the City Council by March of 2016.

**Financial Review:**

**No financial impact.**