



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

Item Number: 4

**DATE:** June 10, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Community Development Committee

**LIAISON:** Mary Kate Berens, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** Tim Burkman, City Engineer  
Engineering

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution approving a special Community Enhancement Grant Agreement with the State of Michigan for 30 Division Avenue Areaway Abandonment in the amount of \$527,000**

In 2024, the State of Michigan appropriated community enhancement grant funds to support sidewalk construction around the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre (Public Act 121 of 2024, Article 9, Section 1050a[10], p. 256). This one-time appropriation supports the City of Grand Rapids' effort to abandon the areaway and improve sidewalks associated with the Civic Theatre's property at 30 Division Avenue North. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) is responsible for awarding the \$527,000 to the City.

Areaways are underground vaults beneath the sidewalks which were used for coal storage, merchandise storage, and business purposes. They are often in poor condition and it is good practice to abandon them when opportunities arise such as adjacent construction. New and appealing sidewalk improvements can be made at the same time.

The City's Engineering Department manages the 30 Division Avenue Areaway Abandonment project. The special Michigan Community Enhancement Grant will fund improvements including but not limited to areaway abandonment, private utility work, sidewalk construction, snowmelt system, and/or landscaping. The City will enter into a cost sharing agreement with the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre for its share of improvements. In addition, the project will be coordinated with the reconstruction of Division Avenue, which is managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation and which includes a portion of the sidewalk reconstruction.

The estimated project cost is \$834,719. Financing includes the State grant and Grand Rapids Vital Streets Fund. The attached resolution provides for approval of the special Community Enhancement Grant Agreement with the State of Michigan.

cc: Molly Clarin  
Stevie Parcell  
Cindy Irving  
Jon Westmaas  
Tracy Hover

#24065

Your COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE recommends the adoption of the following resolution approving a special Community Enhancement Grant Agreement with the State of Michigan for 30 Division Avenue Areaway Abandonment in the amount of \$527,000.

WHEREAS:

1. The State of Michigan appropriated community enhancement grant funds to support sidewalk construction around the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre (Public Act 121 of 2024, Article 9, Section 1050a[10], p. 256); and
2. The City of Grand Rapids applied for these funds; and
3. The State of Michigan issued a grant agreement to the City of Grand Rapids; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. That the City of Grand Rapids accepts a grant award from the State of Michigan in the amount of \$527,000, to support the 30 Division Ave Areaway Abandonment project, including areaway abandonment and sidewalk improvements and related work at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre; and
2. That the Grant Agreement between the City of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan be approved; and
3. That the City Engineer, or designee, is designated as the Authorized Representative for purposes of the Grant Agreement and related documents; and
4. That the Mayor, or Mayor's designee, and the City Clerk are authorized to execute the Grant Agreement, amendments, and related documents upon approval as to form by the City Attorney.

CORRECT IN FORM  
  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW