
Public Artist in Residence (PAIR) Evaluation Report

Community and Economic Development Committee
October 22, 2025

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— PAIR Planning



What is PAIR?

PAIR is an artist in residence program led by the Milwaukee Arts Board that pairs an artist with a city department to leverage the benefits of collaboration and interdisciplinary problem-solving.

Greater Milwaukee Foundation Application

- Applied for \$25,000 to fund the Liaison position
- Grant will be matched with Arts Board funding for public art projects, matching funds will be for the artist's time and project expenses
- Grant awards announced December, 2025

PAIR Program Evaluation

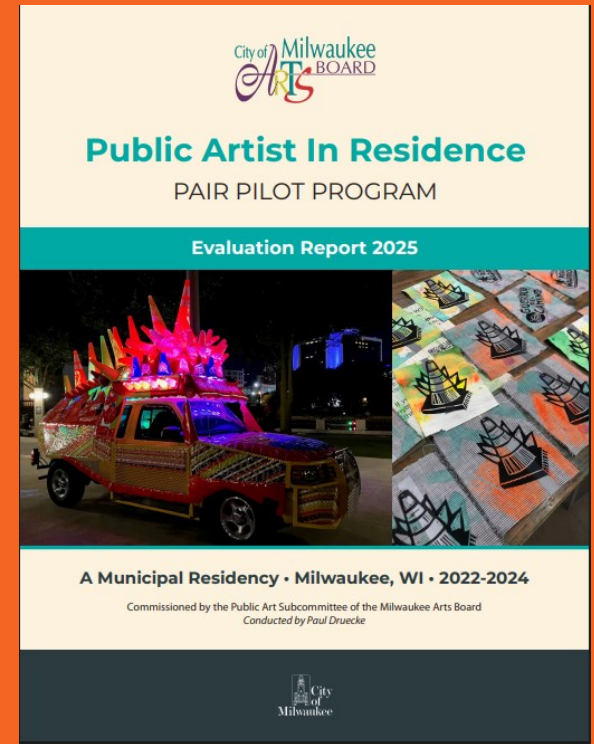
- Recommendations from the PAIR pilot evaluation report are being incorporated into the program design and implementation plan for future PAIR iterations
- The PAIR Evaluation Report can be found at [Milwaukee.gov/PAIR](https://milwaukee.gov/PAIR)

Next Steps

- Next PAIR iteration to be launched in 2026, beginning with a call for interested City departments to submit a topic for an artist to work collaboratively on a pressing civic issue
- A request for proposals from Milwaukee artists will be issued following the determination of a host department

The ER recommends:

- Structuring the first three months (minimum) as a time for introductions, immersion, and learning without any major decision being made. This period is crucial to PAIR's story. As the artist learns about city processes, and city employees learn about the artist's approach to problem solving, those experiences are shared with the public who learn about both. One major goal in such an approach is to inspire more community engagement throughout the residency.
- PAIR iterations should include two or more residencies within the same cycle. It is crucial for a successful program to enact its own future. Downtime between programmatic cycles will ultimately require more effort to sustain.
- Refining the Liaison role so as to offer more logistical support for DCD staff including an evaluative component, making notes in real time that will contribute to the program's evaluation. The liaison should have the potential, and be well-positioned, to consult and help problem-solve across the entire spectrum of PAIR activities.
- Broadening the program's core team, supporters, and advocates to include a diverse range of community leaders, business owners, and Milwaukee enthusiasts. The goal is to expand the notion of stakeholders so as to support overall workload while allowing the program to better tell its story to the broadest possible audience.
- Allocating more resources to telling PAIR's story as it unfolds and gauging response so that an effective feedback loop exists in real time.
- Allowing the thematic focus of any residency to develop over the first three to six months. This avoids predetermining the artist's time with specific language such as "addressing issues of reckless driving." It's possible the same project might have been produced, but the language describing it would have resulted from collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches.



Available at: [Milwaukee.gov/PAIR](https://milwaukee.gov/PAIR)

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