

**TID 110 – Vel R. Phillips and Michigan  
Periodic Report  
12/31/23**

**District Created: 2022**  
**Authorized expenditure (excluding interest): \$11,900,000**  
**Authorizing resolution(s): #221108**  
**Projected TID cost recovery: 2042 (levy year)**  
**Maximum legal life: 2049**  
**Base property value: \$35,608,200**  
**Completion Status:**

**Project description:**

The Vel R. Phillips and Michigan Tax Incremental District #110 was created in 2022 to assist Fiserv, Inc. in redeveloping a portion of the building at 331 West Wisconsin Avenue/640 North Vel R. Phillips Avenue in downtown Milwaukee into its new global headquarters. The District will provide up to a \$7,000,000 grant to Fiserv, Inc. for investing \$37,000,000 into the property and locating at least 780 employees at their new headquarters. Work began in 2022 and Fiserv opened their new headquarters in late 2023.

In addition, the District funded \$4,600,000 in public infrastructure improvements for nearby streets and public spaces.

**Incremental Value:**

Year	Incremental Value	Increase
2023	\$ -	

2023 will be the base year for this district as per State Statute the municipal resolution was adopted after September 30, 2022. Consequently, there is no incremental value.

**Expenditures - Life to Date (as of 12/31/2023)**

	Project Plan Budget	Appropriations	Encumbrances	Expenditures	Remaining
Administration	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 1,159	\$ 98,841
Public Infrastructure	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 1,445,493	\$ 125,094	\$ 3,029,412
Grant to Developer	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,900,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,700,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,445,493</b>	<b>\$ 126,253</b>	<b>\$ 3,128,253</b>

**Financing Costs – Interest Paid through 12/31/2023: \$574**

**Revenue/Value Performance (as of 12/31/2023)**

	Projected	Actual
Property value	\$ 26,396,300	\$ 35,608,200
Incremental value	\$ -	\$ -
Incremental taxes	\$ -	\$ -
State aid	*	\$ -

\* Not projected.

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Is the project within budget?  Yes  No If no, explain:

Is the project on schedule?  Yes  No If no, explain:

Identify any significant concerns that might affect budget or schedule of this project in the future: None.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29, 2024



## Finalists for Artist Commission at Vel R. Phillips Plaza announced

**MILWAUKEE** - The Department of City Development (DCD) is proud to announce the three finalists for an Artist Commission at the Vel R. Phillips Plaza.

DCD is commissioning an original public art installation at a new public plaza to be named in honor of Milwaukee politician, attorney, jurist, and civil rights activist, Vel R. Phillips.

The Vel R. Phillips Plaza will be situated south of Wisconsin Avenue between North 5th Street and North Vel R. Phillips Avenue. Full funding for the Vel R. Phillips Plaza has been approved by the City of Milwaukee. Construction on the plaza began in summer 2023. In addition to various public amenities, the Plaza will feature an original City-commissioned art installation in honor of Vel R. Phillips.

“The creation of the Vel R. Phillips Plaza isn’t just about transforming a parking lot, it’s about inviting creativity into our shared spaces, embracing connection, and honoring a legacy,” said **Department of City Development Commissioner Lafayette Crump**. “This initiative will enrich the lives of those who call Milwaukee home, and I celebrate the artists eager to make a profound impact.”

The final art installation will serve as a creative representation of Vel R. Phillips’ work in breaking down social and cultural barriers for women, and women of color, in the City of Milwaukee, throughout the State of Wisconsin, and around the United States.

“As a tribute to Vel R. Phillips, a true trailblazer, we’re thrilled to reveal the three exceptional finalists for the Vel R. Phillips Plaza Artist Commission,” **District 6 Alderwoman Milele Coggs** said. “The chosen artist(s) will work with our city to breathe life into this transformative project, creating a vibrant social space for our community. I anticipate the unveiling of the final masterpiece in 2025.”

The top three artists and teams include:

### Karyn Olivier

Philadelphia-based artist **Karyn Olivier**, born in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, has completed numerous public art projects in Pennsylvania, Lexington, KY, Houston, TX, and New York, among others, over the past two decades. Recent one-person exhibitions have been held at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; the Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York; and Third Space Art

Projects, Toronto. Her work was included in Documenta 15, Kassel, Germany, in 2022; Arte in Memoria Biennale 10, Rome, Italy, in 2019; and Drifting in Daylight, a group project by Creative Time in Central Park, New York, in 2015. She currently teaches at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University, Philadelphia.

### **Nicolas Lampert and Glenn Williams Collaborative Team**

Milwaukee-based artist **Nicolas Lampert** is the head of Community Arts and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2013 he published *A People's Art History of the United States: 250 Years of Activist Art and Artists in Social Justice Movements*, published by The New Press, New York. His printed work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, Harvard University Art Library, and other public collections across the country. Lampert is also an art organizer for Voces de la Frontera, Milwaukee, and is producing permanent artwork for the Baird Center, Milwaukee, opening in 2024.

**Glenn Williams** is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Williams has been creating sculptures for over two decades, with permanent works in Milwaukee, Columbia, Missouri, and Ames, Iowa. He recently had a one-person exhibition at the James Watrous Gallery, Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Letters Madison. His work was included in the 2018 Wisconsin Artists Biennial at the Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend, and in a group show at the Franconia Sculpture Park in Franconia, MN, in 2016, among others.

### **Ken Lum**

**Ken Lum**, a naturalized American citizen born in Canada, works in Philadelphia and teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. He has permanent public artworks in the United Kingdom, the United States, Austria, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and Italy. In Canada, he has permanent works in Vancouver, Edmonton, and Toronto. Lum is the co-founder of Monument Lab, a public art think tank considering the role of monumentation in contemporary society. Recent one-person exhibitions have been held at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Remai Modern, Saskatoon, Canada; Middelheim Museum, Antwerp, Belgium; Sculpture International Rotterdam at Kruisplein, The Netherlands; and Royale Projects, Los Angeles.

### **Phase I**

In the fall of 2023, the City of Milwaukee invited professional artists and artist teams across the country and Europe to submit their qualifications for the Vel R. Phillips Plaza Artist Commission Opportunity.

In recognition of one of the country's leading Black woman jurists, politicians, and civil rights leaders, the City of Milwaukee is proudly working to transform a surface parking lot into an activated social space named after Milwaukee's own trailblazer, Vel R. Phillips. The all-inclusive budget for the Artist Commission is \$600,000.

The Art Committee team, made up of 14 curators, artists, collectors, community members, and City staff, scored 60 projects and narrowed down to the top three finalists.

### **Phase II**

Artists have been contracted with a Memorandum of Understanding, facilitating a comprehensive site visit. This phase includes the development of a detailed outline for the proposal timeline, reporting schedule, and procedures for proposal submissions and subsequent interviews.

The culmination of Phase II will see the final artist(s) chosen by the Art Committee in the fall of 2024.

### Phase III

The chosen artist(s) will work closely with the City on various aspects crucial to the project's success, including crafting a timeline, submitting engineer plans to secure necessary permits, and coordinating the shipping and installation logistics.

The final artwork will be installed and unveiled to the public in 2025.

The Department of City Development invites the community to stay tuned for further updates.

### Year of Vel Phillips

The Vel R. Phillips Plaza will open to the public in the summer of 2024 and is part of the Year of Vel Phillips celebrations in honor of Mrs. Phillips. The official launch of the Year of Vel Phillips activities will take place at the Milwaukee Art Museum on February 18, 2024, the actual date of Vel Phillips' birth. Additional activities celebrating Vel Phillips include the installation of a sculpture by Radcliffe Bailey in honor of Vel Phillips in Madison at the State Capitol grounds; poetry readings, book discussions, and an exhibition that will include images of Vel R. Phillips.

"I am excited to witness artistic brilliance as we proudly unveil three outstanding finalists for the Vel R. Phillips Plaza Artist Commission," **Mike Phillips, son of Vel Phillips and Art Committee Chair**, said. "The selected artist(s) are poised to infuse life into our vision and I eagerly await the 2025 reveal and the transformative power our final artist(s) will bring to our community."

For further information on this project, visit [milwaukee.gov/velrphillipsRFQ](https://milwaukee.gov/velrphillipsRFQ).





City of Milwaukee  
Department of City Development  
Purchasing Division

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF RFP EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Thank you for participating in the evaluation committee for this Request for Proposals (RFP). To protect the integrity of this formal solicitation and the evaluation process, it is essential that each participant understand and abide by the following responsibilities.

Adherence to these requirements will help assure the effectiveness of the evaluation team as a whole, and it will protect the overall interest of the City of Milwaukee and the vendors in the award of this RFP.

1. Fairness and Integrity. It is the responsibility of every member of the evaluation committee to collectively ensure that the evaluation is conducted in an inclusive, transparent, objective and professional manner.
2. Understanding of the Project. Your success as an effective member of the team depends on your comprehensive understanding of the project, and your familiarity with the requirements and deliverables contained in the RFP. Please review the RFP and Addendums (if any) thoroughly prior to beginning your evaluation of vendor proposals.
3. Attendance. Attendance of all committee members at all scheduled meetings is crucial to the quality of the evaluation process. Without all representatives present, meetings are not effective, as not all opinions can be shared in a group setting. Members must be present at the meeting to be considered participating members, and they must attend all meetings of the committee, including interviews with the proposers, if conducted, and any off-site visits, if scheduled.
4. Confidentiality. To preserve the integrity of the evaluation process, the following rules of confidentiality must be observed:
  - a. Committee members must not communicate with others outside of the evaluation committee on the nature or content of the written proposals, product demonstrations, interviews, evaluation proceedings, deliberations of the evaluation committee, or individual opinions about the proposers or the project.
  - b. Committee members must not communicate with proposers about this project outside of any scheduled and sanctioned evaluation activity. If you had any communication with a finalist about this project, you will declare the circumstances immediately and remove yourself from the committee.
5. Conflicts of Interest. You may not participate as a member of this committee if you have, or a member of your immediate family has, a financial interest pertaining to this procurement.
  - You must agree that if you currently have, or later discover, a conflict of interest which meets these criteria, you will declare the circumstances immediately to the DCD Procurement and Compliance Manager or and remove yourself from the committee.
  - No official or other City employee may use or attempt to use his/her position to influence or gain unlawful benefits, advantages, or privileges for him/herself or others, in accordance with *City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, Chapter 303 – Code of Ethics – Section 303-5.5 Standards of Conduct.*

***I understand and agree to adhere to the above guidelines or proposal evaluations. I do not currently have a Conflict of Interest which would prevent my participation in this process.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_





To: Voting members of the Plaza Art Committee:  
Ald. Robert Bauman (1), Ald. Jonathan Brostoff (2), Ald. Milele Coggs (3),  
Ald. Russell Stamper II (4), Commissioner Lafayette Crump (5), Michael Phillips (6),  
Phoenix Brown (7), Mutópe Johnson (8), Lynne Shumow (9), Polly Morris (10), Brad Pruitt (11),  
Sande Robinson (12), Dr. Kantara Souffrant (13), Whitney Wright (14), Ruth Yasko (15), Beth  
Weirick (16)

CC: INFORMATION ONLY  
Non-voting members of the Plaza Art Committee  
Dan Casanova, Ald. Michael Murphy, Holly Rutenbeck, Ken Saiki

From: Scott Stange, DCD Procurement and Compliance Manager

Date: 8/15/24

Re: **\*\*CONFIDENTIAL\*\***  
EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS FOR: VEL R PHILLIPS PLAZA ARTIST COMMISSION

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The Department of City Development (DCD) has requested that you be on the evaluation team for the responses received through the Phase II Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Vel R Phillips Plaza Artist Commission. DCD is working with Marilu Knode of Cultural Compound, LLC, to help manage the RFP process. This is the final phase of the process to award the commissioning of the Art Work in the Vel R. Phillips Plaza.

Before you begin the review of the proposal, please read, sign and return to me the attached form entitled "Responsibilities of RFP Evaluation Committee Members."

As a member of the Art Committee to review the proposals submitted for the Vel R. Phillips Plaza Art Work, your role is to ensure high-level thinking and discussion to ensure the best possible Art Work and Artist/Artist team is chosen to honor Vel Phillips.

Included with this memo is a copy of the RFP along with the Addendums issued in response to questions DCD received from the finalists through this phase of the process. Additional information about the project site may also be found at the following link: <https://city.milwaukee.gov/DCD/Projects/RFPs/Vel-Phillips-Plaza-RFQ>. In the RFP (and below in this memo) you'll find the scoring criteria to be used in evaluating the proposals. These numerical scores should then be recorded on the enclosed sheets marked, "Evaluation Criteria for Vel R. Phillips Artist Commission - Phase II RFP." When using this form to evaluate the proposals please use the number above (next to your name) on the score sheets, rather than your name. Score each submission on the scoring spreadsheet ensuring that each criterion for each submission is given a score. **Please email the spreadsheet with your initial scores to Celeste Jantz [cejantz@milwaukee.gov](mailto:cejantz@milwaukee.gov) prior to September 6, 2024.**

An in-person / on-line meeting has been scheduled for September 13, 2024, beginning at 8:30 am. At this meeting, each of the three finalists will give a virtual presentation. At the conclusion of each presentation, the Art Committee would be giving a brief opportunity to ask each finalist any follow up questions. At the conclusion of the three presentations with the finalists, you may adjust your final scores based upon discussion among the Art Committee. The final outcome for this meeting is to confirm the Art Committee's choice for awarding the commissioning of the Art Work to the finalist's proposal with the highest point total.

Please do not share any information with any outside sources on the Artist/Artist Teams who have submitted their proposals, on your scoring process or the discussions during the in-person meeting. The proposals received are not public record until a contract is awarded and executed. Please note that any open records requests and requests regarding the scoring of a qualification package should be referred to me.

**Suggestions before you begin scoring:**

- Read through the Phase II Request for Proposals and the Addendums.
- Be consistent with your scoring—whether you rate high or low, maintain consistency through your scoring process
- Each of your individual scores for each artist will be added together with the totals from other evaluators.

**The Art Committee will score the proposals based on the following criteria, as per the RFP:**

- Design quality. A creative and unique design that addresses project goals. (up to 50 points)
- Feasibility, budget and phased approach to design (up to 25 points)
- Timeliness/Relevance: Work effectively expresses the complexities of our time and the legacy of Vel Philips' work through inspiring visual language (up to 15 points)
- Small Business Enterprise Participation (up to 10 Points)

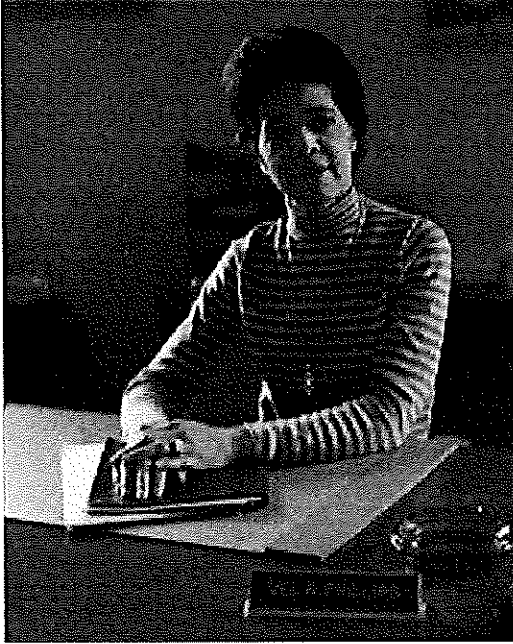
**Goals for the Artist Commission include:**

- The permanent placement of an Art Work of significant aesthetic value in today's world
- The Art Work will engage Plaza users, downtown workers, residents, and visitors for a meaningful cultural experience
- The work will provide a focal point of attention in what will become a newly-bustling, multi-use space and will be visible to the surrounding areas
- The work will be of durable materials able to withstand weather and human interaction

Thank you for your assistance in our evaluation process. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 414-704-2845 or [sstang@milwaukee.gov](mailto:sstang@milwaukee.gov)

# Request for Qualifications - Vel R. Phillips Plaza

## Artist Commission Opportunity with City of Milwaukee



In recognition of one of the country's leading Black woman jurists, politicians, and civil rights leaders, the City of Milwaukee is proudly working to transform a surface parking lot into an activated social space named after Milwaukee's own trailblazer, Vel R. Phillips.

The Plaza will feature original art work honoring Vel R. Phillips. The final art work will serve as a creative representation of Vel R. Phillips' work in breaking down social and cultural barriers for women, and women of color, in Wisconsin and around the United States.

The Vel R. Phillips Plaza will also feature informational kiosks to provide educational information about Vel R. Phillips and her vital contributions to the city, state, and nation, in providing support and context for the final commissioned art work.

***"What have you done today, that's good?"***

### **About Vel R. Phillips**

In preparation of an Artist/Artist Team statement, the Artist/Artist Team should consider the groundbreaking work Vel R. Phillips accomplished, and the specific historical forces, political overlays and modern challenges that have shaped the Milwaukee community. The final chosen Artist/Artist Team will also need to demonstrate an understanding of our contemporary, critical period in the nationwide consideration of monuments, in how we honor citizens of the country and why.

**Vel R. Phillips's life dates:**

February 18, 1924 – April 17, 2018

**Vel R. Phillips quote:**

*"What have you done, today, that's good?"*

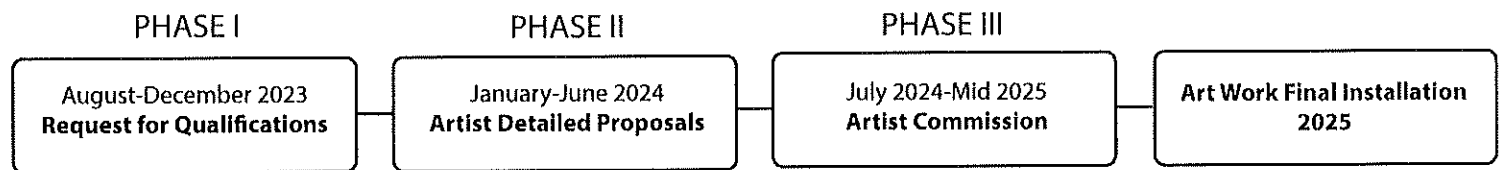
**Vel R. Phillips's many firsts:**

- 1951 First Black woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School
- 1956 First woman and first Black citizen elected to Milwaukee's Common Council
- 1960 First Black citizen elected to the National Committee of either major political party
- 1971 First woman judge in Milwaukee County, and first Black judge in Wisconsin
- 1978 First Black citizen, and first woman, elected to statewide office (Secretary of State)

**Goals for the Artist Commission:**

- The art work will serve as a permanent placement of significant aesthetic value in honoring Vel R. Phillips.
- The art work will engage downtown workers, residents and visitors for a meaningful cultural experience.
- The art work will provide a focal point of attention in what will become a newly-bustling, multi-use space that will be visible to nearby areas.
- The art work will be constructed using durable materials that can withstand weather and human interaction.
- The art work will represent an engaged artistic practice.

The all-inclusive budget for the Artist Commission is \$600,000.



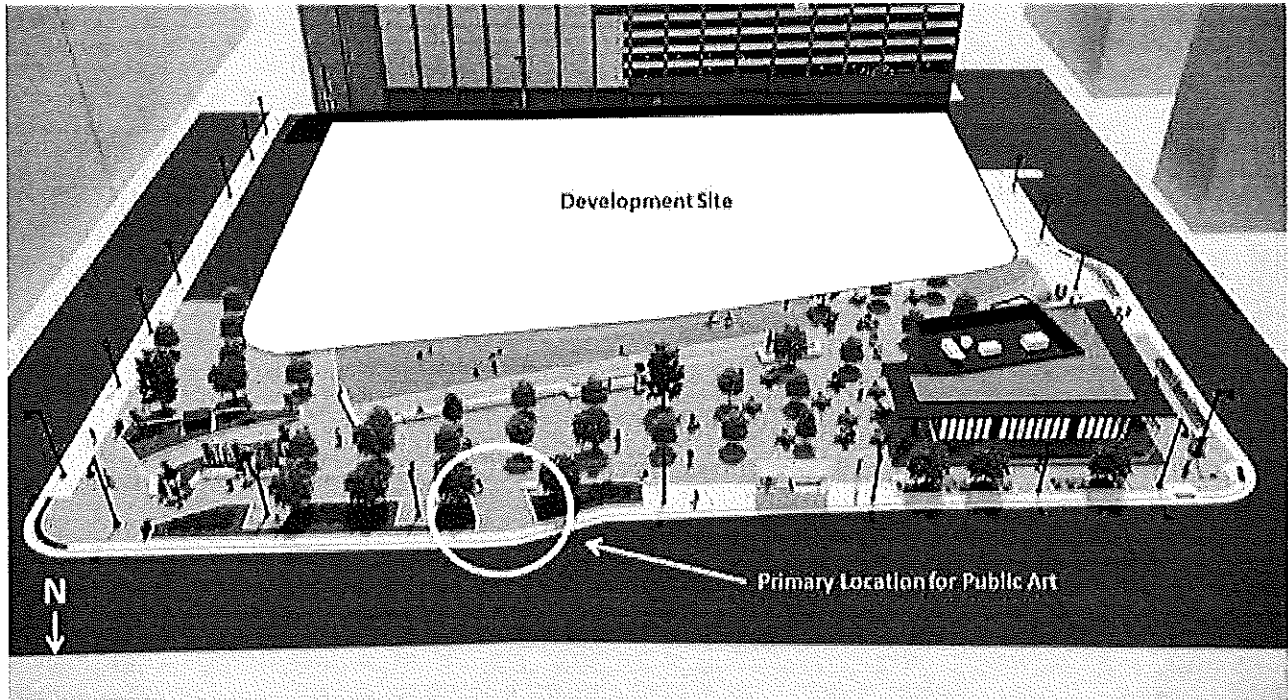
**About the Vel R. Phillips Plaza Area and Redevelopment Plan**

The creation of the Vel R. Phillips Plaza on City-owned property will:

- Serve as an anchor for the business, residential, retail and entertainment densification that is occurring on West Wisconsin Avenue
- Create a new social gathering space in the evolving Westtown area
- Provide space for the future expansion of Milwaukee's light rail (The Hop) and bus systems to serve residents with more public transportation options

Invest in the previously under-resourced gateway to the areas west and north of downtown  
Expand job opportunities for Milwaukee residents and provide future opportunities for pop-up cultural activities

The Plaza master plan and current design is by Kubala Washatko Architects, landscape architect Saiki Design, and civil engineer HNTB.



*Schematic drawing of site redevelopment with primary area for artist consideration noted*



*Current demolition of site looking at northern portion of the site*

