



# CGF Meeting Feedback Form

**Submitted On:**

Jul 20, 2025, 03:22PM CDT

City of Grand Forks

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	City Council Meeting
<b>Full Name</b>	<b>First Name:</b> Michael <b>Last Name:</b> Wittgraf
<b>Full Address</b>	<b>Street Address:</b> <b>City:</b> Grand Forks <b>State:</b> ND <b>Zip:</b> 58201
<b>Agenda Item Number / Topic:</b>	2.2 Mayor's Budget
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>I see in the Mayor's budget, under "Special Funds/Economic Development (Fund 2163), that Special Events, Arts, and Human Needs have each been reduced to \$0. Is that funding under a different fund in this budget? If so, I am having difficulty finding it and would like it to be pointed out. If not, I must express my strongest objection to this proposal, and urge the council to reinstate the funding. If I were to prioritize one of the three areas, it would be the Arts. My understanding is that many of our arts organizations, including the Grand Cities Children's Choir, the North Valley Youth Orchestras, and the Greater Grand Forks Symphony, rely on this funding for a significant portion of their annual budget. At just a few dollars per year per Grand Forks resident, surely the return on investment for these and other arts organizations is extraordinarily high and worth keeping in the budget.</p>



# CGF Meeting Feedback Form

**Submitted On:**

Jul 21, 2025, 09:46AM CDT

City of Grand Forks

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	City Council Meeting
<b>Full Name</b>	<b>First Name:</b> Jennifer <b>Last Name:</b> Tarlin
<b>Full Address</b>	<b>Street Address:</b> <b>City:</b> Grand Forks <b>State:</b> ND <b>Zip:</b> 58203
<b>Agenda Item Number / Topic:</b>	2.2 Preliminary presentation of the Mayor's Budget
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>Keep the promise that city leaders have made to maintain the Arts Fund at its current level or greater. Not only do local arts organizations contribute tremendous value to our quality of life but they also attract out-of-town visitors, investment (through grants and foundation support) and significantly improve our local economy. Like sports and athletic event attendees, patrons at art exhibits, concerts, theater, dance and other public events support restaurants, hotels, and retail stores. Their economic impact has been well-documented - particularly in rural areas. As Randy Cohen, Vice-President for Research and Policy at Americans for the Arts noted in 2020:</p> <p>The arts are a larger segment of the nation's economy than most people realize. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the nation's arts and culture sector—nonprofit, commercial, education—is an \$878 billion industry that supports 5.1 million jobs. That is 4.5% of the nation's economy—a larger share of GDP than powerhouse sectors such as agriculture, transportation, and tourism. The arts even boast a \$30 billion international trade surplus.</p> <p>Rural communities are reaping these economic benefits of the arts. In the 18 states in which 30% or more of the population lives in a rural area, the arts added \$72.8 billion to those state economies and employed 636,815 workers</p> <p>For a relatively small investment - a tiny percentage of the City's overall budget - the Arts Fund reaps a huge reward by amplifying the city's contribution. Local arts administrators use the funding to attract many times as much support from volunteers and contributors locally, but also from external sources such as foundation and corporate grants. The funds are largely spent locally to support local artists and musicians as well as venues and production staff. In the end their hard work and dedication make our city more interesting, worth visiting, worth living in, while bringing</p>

