Art represents the physical beauty of the community, as expressed through homes, parks, streets, and civic and commercial buildings. Art includes the physical works of art within the community such as sculpture, gardens, environmental art, and paintings. It includes the performances of theatre, dance, culinary arts, poetry, and literature within the community and by the residents of the community. Art is more than just the physical beauty of the place but also reflects the soulfulness and sense of spirit of the community and the authenticity of the place. It is also the “artfulness” and elegance by which the community conducts its affairs. Art is a process as much as it is a product. The site has gone through a long evolutionary process from pre-European contact to today’s uses to what is planned for tomorrow. The regenerative life and use of the land is itself art.

The University’s Academic Mission Task Force on Interdisciplinary Opportunities envisioned innumerable pathways for University programming, education and research to link to the community and offer enrichment. If envisioned that the new community would infuse art in its design to celebrate the natural quiet beauty of the place, celebrate the property as art, ensure art in public spaces and provide space for artists and art classes.

Developers of new communities are including public art in order to increase marketability to potential residents and businesses. As cities and towns encourage the development of neighborhood centers and mixed-use developments throughout the Twin Cities and other metropolitan areas, new communities are introducing sculptures, fountains and other improvements to distinguish their product and create a sense of identity. Scottsdale, Arizona, markets its art walk to visiting tourists. In addition, many cities such as Denver and San Francisco are instituting public art requirements stipulating that one or two percent of the development budgets of real estate projects fund public art. The University itself has an institutional commitment to the incorporation of public art on its campuses.

In order to encourage public art and the creation of an improved aesthetic in the new community, the consultant team recommends that the new community at UMore Park dedicate one percent of the total development budget for public art initiatives. These may take the form of sculptures, fountains, or funding for art gardens, plazas, and other infrastructure. The Art and Culture Plan on the following page illustrates the locations planned for significant concentrations of artwork and cultural facilities. The new community should represent an attractive and

Signature pieces of sculpture can enhance streets and serve as focal points in the community.
Art and Culture Plan

Legend
- Single Family Residential (large lot)
- Single Family Residential (small lot)
- Single Family Residential (attached)
- Multi Family Residential
- Mixed-Use
- Commercial/Retail
- Commercial/Office
- Light Industrial/Office
- Civic/Institutional/Education
- Parks and Parkways
- Open Space
- Water
- Wetlands
- Forest

Vermillion Highlands
A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area

The shades of color on the Vermillion Highlands indicate intensity of use, with lowest intensity being lightest use of all kinds to preserve the environmental character of the land and allow for habitat restoration.

Art and Culture Plan

- Destination Centers
  - Urban Center Art Piece
  - Local Centers Art Piece
  - Small Art Pieces as part of an artwalk or at a point of interest.
- Art Walk Route
artful community, and this distinctiveness should increase the appeal of the overall project.

University faculty and students should be engaged in examining all design facets including architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and civil engineering to identify potential opportunities to create and promote works of art. The consultant team recommends that the new community include an “Art Walk,” comprised of organized sculpture gardens throughout the community’s streets and parks. The community should prominently display art from local residents and University of Minnesota faculty and students in its permanent collection. The community could consider implementing a program where a local arts foundation provides additional funding for design services and the selection of nationally and internationally known designers to produce schools, fire stations, and other civic improvements of national and international acclaim that promote public art.

**METRICS FOR ART**

» Dedicate one percent of the development budget to fund public art initiatives.

» Registered architects should design all office, retail, civic and multi-family buildings.

» Registered landscape architects should design all landscapes for office, retail, civic, and multi-family buildings, as well as public parks and right of ways.

» Locate a work of public art within two blocks of every residence, civic facility, place of worship, or place of work.

» An art-of-living director should be employed to organize a range of events and celebrations.

» At least one arts performance per week should be featured in the community performing arts center.

» Public art displays from 12 different artists per year should be featured in the main neighborhood centers.

Artful buildings and landscape architecture can become signature elements of the community.
Strive to achieve volunteer rates for art initiatives of at least 50 percent for citizens who do not attend art activities in a given year, and 80 percent for citizens who attend at least one arts event in a given year.

At least 50 percent of the residents of the new community should make financial contributions to the arts in a given year.

At least 75 percent of the new community’s residents should attend a live performing arts event in a given year.

At least 80 percent of the new community’s residents should attend community festivals, parades, and associated events in a given year.

At least 70 percent of residents should visit a museum or art gallery in a given year.

Art Facilities

The consultant team recommends that a site of five to ten acres be set aside for a future Community Arts Center. This arts facility might share a space with other public facilities. The Community Arts Center could house an artist-in-residence and University of Minnesota students and faculty. These individuals, as well as various community members, could create artwork for installation in the community. A community sculpture garden, for example, or a community art walk might be created by such artists. Further, public engagement in the form of intergenerational classes should be a priority. University faculty and students could design programs that stimulate the creation and experience of various kinds of art and performance.

Historic Resources

Concrete remnants at the site of the World War II Gopher Ordnance Works are a reminder of the history of the property. Certain structures could be retained as public art forms that recall the legacy of the land while creating unique landscape details. It is important to note that some regard the concrete remnants as a representation of a war economy. Broader public discussion will be required to address their presence as public art.

The consultant team recommends that the development of UMore Park consider the value of preserving the T-walls or smoke stacks of the GOW. However, their upkeep and restoration could cost a great deal and complicate development plans for the new community.

Performance arts can be a regional draw to the community. A unique backdrop, such as a lake, can make for memorable experiences.
The consultant team also suggests that the University’s Rosemount Research and Outreach Center include interpretive displays and oral histories concerning the World War II era in order to preserve this aspect of the area’s history for future generations. Faculty and students at the University could help to create oral histories of the farmers and former workers at the GOW site in order to further preserve the history of the area.

**Archaeology**

The Mdewakanton Dakota had lived in villages along the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers for several hundred years prior to the arrival of the earliest European explorers. The Dakota used the highlands above the rivers chiefly for hunting and as travel corridors. As a result, researchers have discovered little archaeological material on and around the UMore Park property. However, the history of the earliest inhabitants of the area can be captured through interpretive programs, cultural initiatives and other research and education programs that could be developed by the University.

**METRICS FOR HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

» Interpretive exhibits and monumentation in community centers should highlight the history of the region beginning with the earliest inhabitants, the explorers, immigrant settlers and through the federal government’s establishment of the Gopher Ordnance Works facility during World War II. More recent developments including the contributions of new immigrants and local innovation should also be highlighted.

» Engage faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and elsewhere at the University (in history, geography, languages, political science, arts and other disciplines) to enhance the interpretation of the region’s history in the design of community centers, schools, and other public places.

In addition, the earth work generated by the gravel mining operation provides the opportunity to create a major outdoor amphitheater for the region. This new venue would help provide for the arts in the new community and help to attract residents and visitors from throughout the Twin Cities region.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

The Twin Cities has a strong heritage of funding and supporting performing arts facilities and programs. The region ranks as having one of the strongest performing arts scenes outside of New York and notable venues, such as the Guthrie Theater, rank among the world’s best. Roughly three out of every four Twin Cities residents attend some sort of performing arts event in a typical year. Developers of larger mixed-use projects increasingly consider cultural and performing arts centers as possibilities for civic uses in their communities. These uses increase visibility and traffic and often promote additional nearby retail activity. Increasingly, arts centers are being adapted to the suburban environment. The Urban Land Institute indicates that larger suburban developments and communities are creating performing arts centers to generate and focus economic investment in a specific location and to position the community to attract residents and businesses. Research indicates that families increasingly favor arts centers located in park settings and that younger people prefer performance spaces in outdoor settings rather than more sedentary indoor venues.
The consultant team recommends that the village center feature a sizeable performing arts center as the anchor of civic amenities and programming. The performing arts center should represent one of the largest venues in the southern portion of the metropolitan area and should further enhance the marketability of the new community. The University’s experience with internationally acclaimed entertainment and the building and maintenance of facilities including Northup Auditorium, Rarig, Ted Mann and the new University Arts Quarter on the West Bank campus provide the backdrop to successful facilities and programming in the new community. The community should also consider inclusion of an “arts tent” as a venue for art events and musical performances during warmer months.

**OTHER CULTURAL FACILITIES**

The neighborhood center should also include space for public art galleries, art classes, and other facilities in order to increase the array of cultural assets in the community. Facilities used for meetings may double as space for cultural organizations and provide additional space for activities. The community should also consider including a community cultural facility to host seminars, conferences, and other events.

*A small park outside the library in the Lowry Park community in Denver, Colorado provides for art, education, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Similarly, the new community at UMore Park can satisfy its many goals by providing for informal educational opportunities, artistic expression, and connections to nature and recreation.*
Art Education

In addition to promoting the installation of public art assets throughout the community, art education in community activities and in local schools is encouraged. The community centers at the new community can offer art classes for residents of all ages and abilities. The University can lend its expertise to enhancing art education programs within the new community.

Art as a Way to Understand Nature

Artists have drawn inspiration from the natural environment over the ages. The consultant team recommends that public art expressions contribute to the celebration of the natural environment and help residents better understand the natural Minnesota environment. Artistic works may also assist in the explanation of natural processes and environmental ethics.

The community should infuse artistic expression in natural areas, such as bridges and trails in open space areas. Vermillion Highlands is a particularly valuable asset to residents of the new community in experiencing nature and inspiring artistic expression. A portion of the public arts budget could be designated specifically to encourage artistic activities and provide for artistic pieces that help integrate nature into the community.

The Caponi Art Park in Eagan, Minnesota is an example of a park that celebrates art and nature. This 60-acre park hosts performing art and educational programs and features land art sculptures throughout the natural setting.
**Relation to Regional Art Resources**

The consultant team recommends that the new community leverage its affiliation with the University to connect the community with the significant cultural resources of the Weisman, Bell Museum, Goldstein Landscape Arboretum and the art, theater, dance, music and literature departments among others. The performing arts center, as well as other cultural facilities in the community, would represent additional venues for artistic exhibits and performances for University groups. The neighborhood center could host traveling exhibits from the University. Primary and secondary school students could have the opportunity to take classes through the University and benefit from University programming within the community.

**New Immigrant/Old Immigrant Cultures**

The University’s Academic Task Force recommended that the new community have an international focus that incorporates the richness of the new and old cultures of Minnesota. Exhibits, art pieces and performances at the new community could draw from the experiences of all populations in Minnesota. Cultural offerings in the community should draw from the experiences of Native Americans and the early European settlers as well as from the experiences of newer groups, including residents from Latin America and Southeast Asia.
The consultant team recommends that the new community provide land for a cemetery, consistent with the history, future and lifecycles stories of the new community that will evolve over time. Currently, few cemeteries are located within five miles of the property, as shown on the Cemetery Location Map. The Concept Master Plan provides space for a cemetery near open space on the edge of the community as shown on the Cemetery Location Plan. This open space area should have an artistic design that speaks to the quality of the community.
Cemetery Location Plan

Legend
- Single Family Residential (large lot)
- Single Family Residential (small lot)
- Single Family Residential (attached)
- Multi Family Residential
- Mixed-Use
- Commercial/Retail
- Commercial/Office
- Light Industrial/Office
- Civic/Institutional/Education
- Parks and Parkways
- Open Space
- Water
- Wetlands
- Forest
- Cemetery

VERMILLION HIGHLANDS
- Highest Intensity Use
- Moderate Intensity Use
- Low Intensity Use

* The shades of color on the Vermillion Highlands indicates intensity of use, with lowest intensity being lightest uses of all kinds to preserve the environmental character of the land and allow for habitat restoration.