

Written Comments – Finance Committee-Budget

General Fund 0001, Unit 1900, Strategic Program Area 6: Charles Allis/Villa Terrace (CAVT) Museums

2022 Budget Request: \$225,108.

Presenters:

Michael A. West, CAVT Board Chair
Neil Albrecht, CAVT Interim Executive Director

Remarks:

Please refer to the Strategic Overview which follows our budget request. In addition we offer the following comments.

This budget request is the same as for 2020 and 2021, and represents approximately one quarter of the CAVT Operating Budget. We note that because the County's contribution is one quarter of our budget, it has four times the effect for the citizens of Milwaukee County and Southeast Wisconsin.

Our museums, which are gifts from the Allis and Smith families, provide access to architecturally significant landmark buildings, collections, special exhibits and event rentals. Of special note is an upcoming exhibit featuring Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Washington Park, Riverside Park and Lake Park. The occasion is the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2022. These three parks are important assets of our community. The exhibit is being planned to feature objects and graphic material as well as lectures and panel discussions. The Olmsted Exhibit will explore the past, present and *future* of these three parks.

Our museums are working diligently to provide interesting sights and sounds for all of Milwaukee County. We are just beginning a major project to 'Reimagine' the Charles Allis Art Museum. This will involve rehanging the permanent collection and providing rotating exhibits of contemporary interest.

CAVT will continue to serve as a collaborator and a catalyst in Milwaukee County's arts and cultural life. As one example, for the last several years CAVT and our curators have worked with MPS through Mr. Thomas Haslett, a teacher (formally, an art specialist and administrator) at Rufus King High School and a member of the CAVT Board. Last year the program was on hold due to Covid, but Mr. Haslett is enthusiastically looking forward to resuming this year and expanding the program to other school. If you haven't already, I hope you can watch the video that Thomas and his students have prepared.

In conclusion, Milwaukee County's support for CAVT Museums is vital to our continued efforts in serving the citizens of Milwaukee County, and I hope that each of you and your colleagues on the Board will accept my personal invitation to tour our museums.

Prepared by,

Michael A. West, Chair
Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Board of Directors
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