

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development and Real Estate Services, Department of Administrative Services

Subject: From the Director, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services, providing an informational report on Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens, LTD, 2025 Annual Report

File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

The Department of Administrative Services – Economic Development Division is providing an informational report on Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens, LTD, 2025 Annual Report.

POLICY

N/A

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the County Board-approved term sheet adopted in File No. 24-940, Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens (VTMG), formerly Friends of Villa Terrace, now operates the Villa Terrace property independently from the Charles Allis Art Museum. Milwaukee County retains ownership of the historic building and collection during the lease term, while VTMG is responsible for day-to-day operations, programming, fundraising, and organizational governance in accordance with the lease.

The term sheet requires Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens to submit an annual report to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to document operational performance, public access, fundraising efforts, overall financials, and progress toward long-term financial sustainability. This reporting requirement is intended to ensure transparency and accountability as the County transitions away from direct operational support while continuing to protect the public interest in this historic asset and VTMG prepares to take transfer of the property.

As reflected in prior informational reports to the County Board, Villa Terrace continues to operate as a decorative arts museum with public programming, educational offerings, and community engagement activities, while working toward financial independence consistent with the County's broader cultural strategy. This informational report is provided to acknowledge receipt of Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens' annual report and to summarize the status of the County-nonprofit relationship as established under the approved term sheet.

Related File No's:	23-889, 24-470, 24-767, 24-940, 25-466
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

None

TERMS

None

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Doug W. Rose, VTMG Board President, dwr@rosegrouplaw.com
 Barbara Velez, VTMG, At-Large, barbara.velez@yahoo.com
 Alec Story, VTMG Executive Director, executivedirector@friendsofvillaterrace.org

PREPARED BY:

Erica Goblet, Economic Development Project Manager, Dept. of Admin. Services

APPROVED BY:

Celia Benton, Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

Celia Benton

ATTACHMENTS:

PowerPoint

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive

Liz Sumner, Comptroller
Parks and Culture Committee Members
MaryJo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator
Sandy Saltzstein, County Board Research Analyst