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3 An Action Report Requesting Authorization to Enter Into a New Five-Year Cooperation
4 Agreement Between The Milwaukee County War Memorial, Inc., The Milwaukee Art
5 Museum, Inc., And Milwaukee County, by recommending adoption of the following:
6

7 **A RESOLUTION**

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9 WHEREAS, on June 4, 1945, the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial Center
10 (WMC) confirmed the founding purpose of the WMC to build and manage a permanent
11 War Memorial (the Memorial); and
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13 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) adopted the resolution in
14 File No. 13-594, dated March 17, 1953, which approved and designated lakefront
15 property within Juneau Park for use as a memorial; and
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17 WHEREAS, WMC immediately engaged in fundraising to secure \$5 million in
18 pledges to build the Eero Saarinen Building (the Saarinen Building), and launched its
19 mission statement to “Honor the Dead by Serving the Living;” and
20

21 WHEREAS, the County community envisioned a memorial to honor the dead by
22 serving the living, and a museum to serve the living through art exhibitions and
23 education programs; and
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25 WHEREAS, on January 7, 1954, the County agreed to lease land to WMC for the
26 construction of the Memorial; and
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28 WHEREAS, WMC as prime tenant and manager entered into an agreement,
29 dated July 18, 1955, with the Milwaukee Art Institute (MAI) and the Layton Art Gallery
30 (the Art Gallery), as amended by an Addendum to Agreement, dated September 10,
31 1956, all of which provided a sublease to the MAI of portions of the Saarinen Building,
32 and use of space by the Art Gallery (the 1955 Sublease), and the Milwaukee Art
33 Museum (MAM) succeeded to the interests of the MAI, under the 1955 Sublease; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Saarinen Building, designed by Eero Saarinen, was completed
36 in 1957; and
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38 WHEREAS, MAM and the Art Gallery have entered into a new Agreement (the
39 Agreement), dated April 7, 2013, which incorporates the space rights of the Art Gallery,
40 provided in the 1955 Sublease; and
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42 WHEREAS, as successor to the interests of the MAI, MAM has occupied and
43 improved portions of the Saarinen Building for MAM’s use; and
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45 WHEREAS, in 1975, MAM funded and constructed an addition to the Saarinen
46 Building known as the Kahler Addition (the Kahler Addition), and MAM subsequently
47 donated the Kahler Addition to the County; and
48

49 WHEREAS, simultaneous with the execution of this Agreement, the parties will
50 execute certain agreements that will, together with this Agreement, supersede and
51 replace all prior agreements, amendments, leases, or subleases, to which the County,
52 WMC, and MAM were parties, relating to the respective rights of each party to use and
53 occupy the Saarinen Building, the Kahler Addition, and certain related lands; and
54

55 WHEREAS, MAM and WMC desire to maintain a harmonious relationship in
56 which the use of their respective parcels complement one another, provide for the public
57 use and enjoyment of the citizens of the County, recognize WMC's mission of honoring
58 the memory of service men and women who have served in the defense of our country,
59 and recognize MAM's mission of enriching life by advancing the appreciation and
60 understanding of visual arts through collection, preservation, display, research,
61 education, and interpretation; and
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63 WHEREAS, the parties' willingness to enter into this Agreement is predicated
64 upon the good will and good faith of the parties in abiding by the terms, and promoting
65 the spirit of this Agreement; and
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67 WHEREAS, on October 1, 2013, MAM and WMC entered into a Cooperation
68 Agreement, together with the County, with respect to the use of their respective
69 premises leased from the County at the Saarinen Building and the Kahler Addition; and
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71 WHEREAS, on December 18, 2017, MAM and WMC entered into an
72 Amendment to the Cooperation Agreement, and desire to create a new Cooperation
73 Agreement promoting the spirit of the original Agreement and Amendment; and
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75 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of
76 September 12, 2023, recommended adoption of File No. 23-813 (vote 4-0); and
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78 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of September 14, 2023,
79 recommended adoption of File No. 23-813 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
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81 BE IT RESOLVED, the appropriate Milwaukee County officials are authorized to
82 execute the Cooperation Agreements as soon as practicable.
83

84
85 jmj
86 09/14/23
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