

**GRAND
RAPIDS
CHAMBER**

July 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Chamber, I write to express our support for the Grand Rapids Art Museum's (GRAM) Legislative Directed funding request.

The business community recognizes that arts and culture institutions are essential economic drivers that fuel growth, retain talent, and enhance education throughout Grand Rapids and Michigan.

The numbers speak for themselves. A 2024 study by the Arts and Culture Collective of Grand Rapids analyzed 33 arts and culture organizations, including the GRAM. Together, these institutions generate over \$300 million in annual economic impact, attract 1.3 million out-of-town visitors each year, and employ 2,500 individuals. GRAM alone contributes \$15.21 million of that total economic impact.

Investment in GRAM is an investment in Grand Rapids' economic future. GRAM is a proven economic engine that delivers measurable benefits through visitor spending, job creation, and enhanced quality of life.

The Chamber thanks you for your consideration and asks the legislature to approve GRAM's funding request. This investment will preserve an institution that serves as both a cultural treasure and an economic catalyst.

Sincerely,



Rick Baker
President & CEO