



Legislation Text

File #: RES 18-2135, **Version:** 2

Authorizing the commissioning of new murals for the Saint Paul City Hall - Ramsey County Courthouse Chambers that reflect the diversity and richness of Saint Paul's history.

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul City Hall - Ramsey County Courthouse (CHCH) property has numerous works of public art dating back to the 1930s, including four large industrial theme murals on display in the Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, these murals predominantly feature Caucasian men with minimal or negative representation of women, people of color, native, and indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, these images reflect the city's historical past and the oppression of people of color, women, native and indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, these images do not reflect the city's current values, nor do they represent present-day narratives and lived experiences of people of color, women, native and indigenous peoples who live in Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, the City Council contends that these murals send a negative and unwelcoming message to many of the people who attend meetings in the Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are co-owners of the CHCH property and are parties to a Management Agreement which establishes Ramsey County as the responsible party for the management and maintenance of the CHCH; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, through partnership with the Ramsey County Historical Society, will commission and exhibit four new art pieces and associated interpretive materials in the Council Chambers while adhering to key preservation principles as outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standard for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, a diverse and representative public art task force, including representatives from Saint Paul's communities of color and indigenous communities, will be commissioned to advise the City and County on the selection of artists; and

WHEREAS, the new public art would be installed in a manner that does not damage the existing artwork and would be placed next to the mural with the same theme to allow viewers to view the contemporary and historical portrayals of the subject; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the City Council directs staff to work with Ramsey County, Ramsey County Historical Society, community members, and other interested parties to commission new art for exhibition in the CHCH Council Chambers that provides a contemporary community vision in dialog with the existing murals; and be it further

RESOLVED, The City Council approves the selection of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 West 5th Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 to assist with the Council Chambers Art Project.

