



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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May 24, 2023

Dear Michigan Municipal League,

On behalf of the Edison Neighborhood Association (ENA), I am writing a letter of support regarding their request for funding for the Washington Avenue Art Crawl (WAAC), a new quarterly arts and culture event in Edison.

As Kalamazoo's largest and most diverse neighborhood, the ENA and WAAC will focus on welcoming culturally diverse and historically excluded populations such as black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) and the queer community (LGBTQ). Artists of all backgrounds and skill levels are encouraged to participate.

WAAC is a mile long, walkable, bikeable, pedestrian friendly pathway along Washington Ave, connecting venues in Washington Square to those on Fulford St. Each location will host an artist, performer, participatory art-making project or group activity such as dance or open mic. All venues are accessible via the regular #8 Egleston Metro Transit Bus. Local bike safety group, Modeshift, has partnered to provide traffic calming efforts and free bike rentals for attendees to use during the event. Modeled on the placemaking success of downtown Kalamazoo's ongoing Art Hop events, WAAC will provide a comprehensive schedule and map to guide the attendees along the route.

The Edison Neighborhood is the largest, most diverse, low-income designated neighborhood in the city of Kalamazoo with nearly 10,000 residents. This event is designed to provide creative and artistic experiences through a much-needed free public event in Edison. The mission of the Edison Neighborhood Association is: To maximize the quality of life and sense of community through placemaking efforts involving art, culture, and the environment.

Sincerely,

Laura Lam
Chief Operating Office, ICMA-CM
City of Kalamazoo