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Milwaukee Arts Board Opens Fifth Cycle of Public Art Conservation Fund *Earlier Project Approaches Completion*

The Milwaukee Arts Board is pleased to announce the opening of the fifth cycle of its fund devoted to the conservation of public art in the City of Milwaukee. The goal of the fund is to preserve that part of the city's cultural and civic heritage embodied in its public art. The fund supports the conservation of works that are of historical, cultural and aesthetic importance to the city.

In this round, \$10,000 will be available to conserve public art in the city. Grants will be made in increments of \$1,000, with no single award greater than \$5,000. Qualifying works must be fully accessible to the public. The guidelines and application are available at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/MAB>. Applications are due no later than July 31, 2013.

In 2009, before the process for funding conservation was formalized, the Milwaukee Arts Board made a pledge toward the restoration of the Tadeusz Kościuszko Monument, a gem in Milwaukee's public art collection and one of our very few equestrian sculptures. We are delighted to announce that after many years of fundraising, the Restore Kosciuszko Monument group was able to send the bronze sculpture to McKay Lodge Conservation Studio in Oberlin, Ohio on February 12, 2013 (Kościuszko's 267th birthday). Work is now underway to rebuild the statue's supporting armature, repair all cracks and other metal degradations, remove years of oxidation, and restore the entire monument to its original glory. In addition to restoring the bronze monument, the existing granite pedestal will be cleaned, tuck-pointed and polished, an American flag will be added near the monument, and permanent donor and information markers will be installed. Lastly, the landscaping, lighting and pavement will be upgraded to create a beautiful setting for the rejuvenated statue of General Kościuszko.

The work will be officially rededicated on November 11, 2013, Veteran's Day in the United States and Independence Day in Poland. Although all the conservation funds have been raised, the group continues to raise money for an endowment that will guarantee that the statue will be properly maintained in the future—a step the Public Art Subcommittee now incorporates in all of its public art grants. You can visit their website (<http://www.rkmmilwaukee.org>) for more information and photos.

If you have questions about the Public Art Conservation Fund application or the process, or would like to alert the Public Art Subcommittee to a piece of public art that requires conservation, contact the Arts Board at artsboard@milwaukee.gov. Please put "Public Art Conservation Fund" in the subject line.

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