

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) announced that the City of Rochester has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to continue the development of ARTWalk, Rochester's unique outdoor museum that runs along University Avenue between the Memorial Art Gallery and the George Eastman House.

The quarter million dollar investment announced today will direct funding to projects at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, Memorial Art Gallery, Village Gate, and Visual Studies Workshop. The grant is part of the Mayors' Institute on City Design's 25 Anniversary Initiative undertaken by the National Endowment for the Arts.

"ARTWalk has been tremendously successful and has turned our streets and sidewalks into a community's canvas while providing proof that targeted federal investment can increase property values and encouraged further development from retail and commercial interests," said Slaughter, who's been a strong supporter of ARTWalk and a national leader securing funds for the National Endowment for the Arts which sponsored the grant. "I'm delighted to see this grant coming to support further development of ARTWalk."

In 2005, Slaughter secured \$1.6 million that has helped extend ARTWalk north and south of University Avenue on Goodman Street to connect to the Village Gate arts complex and to the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The City of Rochester also received \$3.8 million from the Recovery Act to fund ARTWalk.

*Research has showed that for every \$1 dollar the federal government invests in the arts, communities receive a \$9 return on investment.*

"I want to thank the National Endowment for the Arts for this generous grant, which will advance our goal of building on the proven success of ARTWalk by creating a regional destination of culture and beauty in Southeast Rochester's Neighborhood of the Arts," said Rochester Mayor Robert J. Duffy. "It is a testament to the quality of the project that Rochester has been awarded one of only 21 grants under this program, and we were awarded the maximum amount. Everyone involved in the ARTWalk Extension project is to be commended for their outstanding work. And I would also once again like to thank Congresswoman Louise Slaughter for her role in helping us launch this project by securing crucial transportation funding in its initial stage,

which enabled us to take ARTWalk Extension from vision to reality," Mayor Duffy added. "From its inception, ARTWalk has been a true community collaboration, and Congresswoman Slaughter's advocacy for it in Washington has always been an important component of its success."

"The NEA grant underscores the significance of the ARTWalk project for this entire community," says Memorial Art Gallery director Grant Holcomb. "In partnership with the City of Rochester and various community organizations, the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester looks forward to playing a key role in the revitalization of this area. Specifically, the development of the Gallery's Centennial Sculpture Park will transform University Avenue and, in so doing, help create a significant 'cultural destination' in Rochester."

Work funded by this grant is expected to begin this fall and conclude in the fall of next year.

For more information on ARTWalk, visit: [www.rochesterartwalk.org](http://www.rochesterartwalk.org)