



## CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

**Agenda Item H**  
**January 22, 2018**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Resolution authorizing transfer of archives from the Estate of David Barr to the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University with the final form of a Deed of Gift to be reviewed and approved by the City Manager and City Attorney.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:** 

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) is currently in possession of approximately 30 boxes of archives from the Estate of David Barr. The items document the life and work of David Barr and were collected by Barr throughout the years, and gathered together by the Barr family upon his passing. The archive items include photos, newspaper and magazine articles, slides, CDs, manuscripts, maquettes, drawings, notes, papers and more.

The Estate of David Barr's had an initial agreement in place with the Smithsonian Institution Archives for cataloging and storage of these items. Unfortunately, due to changes in organizational goals and staffing, the Smithsonian was unable to follow through with the archiving. Upon the final closing of the Estate of David Barr, the archives became City of Novi property.

The Friends of Villa Barr group which includes representatives from the Novi Parks Foundation, Novi City Council, Michigan Legacy Art Park (MLAP), close friends and family of David Barr, and Novi Parks staff discussed the archiving issue at a meeting in June 2017. Alternative destinations for the archives were identified. Wayne State University was contacted and expressed interest in the materials and in the Walter Reuther Library becoming the home to David Barr's collection. Barr earned a Master's of Fine Arts from Wayne State University and was an associate professor of sculpture at Macomb Community College in Warren for 37 years.

Staff are recommending approval of the request to acknowledge the assistance being provided to the City of Novi by Wayne State in preserving the vision, works, and memory of David and Beth Barr.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of Resolution authorizing transfer of archives from the Estate of David Barr to the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University with the final form of the Deed of Gift to be reviewed and approved by the City Manager and City Attorney.

CITY OF NOVI

COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION REGARDING TRANSFER OF DAVID BARR ARCHIVES**

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_ o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEREAS**, as part of its acquisition of Villa Barr, the residence and workshop of artist David Barr, together with many of Mr. Barr's sculptures and other artwork, the City came into possession of other materials from his archives, including photos, newspaper and magazine articles, slides, CDs, manuscripts, maquettes, drawings, notes, papers (his "archives"); and

**WHEREAS**, while Mr. Barr's estate had an initial agreement in place with the Smithsonian Institution Archives for cataloging and storage of these items, that arrangement could not be finalized, and the City has sought to find an appropriate alternate curator of such materials, which the City does not have the resources or professional experience to undertake itself; and

**WHEREAS**, the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, at Wayne State University, where Mr. Barr studied has agreed to take possession of and retain Mr. Barr's archives, subject to an appropriate Deed of Gift by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, The Friends of Villa Barr group, which includes representatives from the Novi Parks Foundation, the City Council, and the Michigan Legacy Art Park (MLAP), have agreed that the Reuther Library is an appropriate repository for Mr. Barr's archives.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Novi hereby approves execution by the City Manager of the attached Deed of Gift of Mr. David Barr's archives to the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, at Wayne State University, upon the terms and conditions set forth therein.

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk  
City of Novi