



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman - District 3

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Milwaukee County Moves Forward with Transition of Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Museums

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee County Parks and Culture Committee, chaired by Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman, has recommended a [proposal](#) to transition the Charles Allis Art Museum and the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum to nonprofit management, a move aimed at preserving these cultural landmarks while reducing the County's financial obligations.

Under the proposed agreements, the Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Museums, Inc. (CAVT) will assume ownership and management of the Charles Allis Art Museum, while the Friends of Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Ltd. (FOVT) will take on similar responsibilities for the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum. Both nonprofits will ensure continued public access to the museums, which have long been integral to Milwaukee's cultural fabric.

"This is a win-win for Milwaukee County and the community," said Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman. "We're securing the long-term sustainability of the Villa Terrace and Charles Allis museums while easing the financial burden on taxpayers. This isn't just about finances—it's about preserving Milwaukee's cultural legacy for future generations."

The proposed transition includes phased timelines:

- Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum will enter into a three-year lease at \$1 per year. After three years, FOVT will have the option to purchase the property and collection for \$1.
- Charles Allis Art Museum will have a one-year lease at \$1 per year, after which CAVT will assume ownership of the property and collection.

During the transition period, Milwaukee County will provide operational and capital funding to address critical maintenance needs. The County could invest up to \$2.32 million in total for both museums.

If approved by the full County Board on December 19, 2024, this transition is expected to save Milwaukee County over \$22 million in maintenance and operational costs over the next 18 years, while positioning both institutions for long-term success.

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