



*All sessions will be held in the Atrium Room at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel unless otherwise noted.
As of 8/27/2026 | Subject to change.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Welcome Reception

Grab a beverage and your badge to save time tomorrow morning!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

8 – 9 a.m.

Registration & Continental Breakfast

9 - 9:15 a.m.

Welcome Remarks & Introductions

Gwen Basaria

Vice President, Member Experience and AAAE Foundation
AAAE

Tory Richardson, A.A.E.

President & Chief Executive Officer
Gerald R. Ford International Airport

9:15 - 10:45 a.m.

Slide Slam Part I

The workshop opens with a showcase featuring all participating airports and companies. Hear straight from your peers about what's new and exciting with their arts programs as everyone presents stories, images, and experiences from the last year. The presentations are brief, with a three-slide/five-minute limit.

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Slide Slam Part II

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Sponsored by National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association

1:30 p.m.

Art Beyond the Workshop: Gerald R. Ford International Airport Tour

The bus will depart from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel at 1:30 p.m. The tour will feature artists [Isaac Dell](#), [George Eberhardt, III](#), and [Jason Quigno](#), who will share insights into their work and creative process as we explore GRR's art collection. The bus will return to the hotel at 4 p.m.

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Host Airport Event at the Grand Rapids Art Museum

Sponsored by Gerald R. Ford International Airport

Join our host, Gerald R. Ford International Airport, at an exclusive Arts in the Airport Reception at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Enjoy an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a private viewing of The Blank Space Gallery, designed to spark visitors' imagination and encourage play through engaging exhibitions and participatory activities that reflect the local community's creativity. The museum is a short five-minute walk from the hotel and is located at 101 Monroe Center Street, NW. Please enter via the side entrance off Monroe Center Street.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

8 – 9 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Sponsored by Case[werks]

9 – 9:45 a.m.

From Vision to Gate: PSP Art and Culture Plan

Using the 2026 Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) Art & Culture Plan as a case study, this session explores how a formal arts and culture plan can transform individual projects into a cohesive, sustainable airport arts program. Learn how strategic planning can guide funding, governance, art selection, capital integration, conservation, cultural programming, and marketing—while strengthening an airport's sense of place and enhancing the passenger experience.

Teva Dawson
Founder and Director
Group Creative Services

Alex Braidwood
Director of Graduate Education
Iowa State University - College of Design

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

DREAM: Art Everywhere! In 5 Years or Less

With public inspiration, GRR stood up a volunteer Art Committee with community members and staff. How to move quickly from Foundation generosity to art on display. Who can be involved, how airport leadership can support, and what framework is required by art leaders? Hear the foundation perspective as well!

Tripp Frey
Board Chair
Frey Foundation

Bryana Hopkins
Program Officer
Frey Foundation

Henry Matthews
Distinguished University Associate, Galleries and Collections
Grand Valley State University

Casey Ries, P.E., C.M
Chief Asset Development Officer
Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority

Joel Zwart
Curator of Collections & Exhibitions
Muskegon Museum of Art

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11 – 11:45 a.m.

More than Décor: How Community Engagement Shapes Airport Art and Belonging

How can airport arts programs move beyond presenting art to creating meaningful connections with the people and communities they serve? Using two very different Arts@MSP projects as case studies, this session explores how intentional engagement can build belonging, inform artistic practice, strengthen sense of place, and deepen the impact of art in airport environments.

Ben Owen
Director, Arts@MSP
Airport Foundation MSP
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport

Amy Sonbuchner, AIA, LEED AP
Principal Aviation Architect
C&S Companies

Kipp Kobayashi
Artist

11:45 – 12:30 p.m.

PLAN: Bridging the Gap, From Dreams to Reality

With a dream in place and active capital improvements at the airport, the stage is set for quick wins to take airport improvements from capital projects to art experiences. Hear from the team bringing this success to GRR, including the artist perspective!

Miranda Krajniak
Senior Director, Library and Museum Public Access Services
Grand Valley State University

Jeffrey Songco
Artist

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Sponsored by Franz Mayer of Munich

1:30 p.m.

Art Beyond the Workshop: Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

The bus will depart from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel at 1:30 p.m. Experience one of Grand Rapids' most celebrated cultural destinations with a visit to Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Explore the park's renowned collection of art and nature during a narrated tram tour, winding comfortably through the pathways with opportunities to hop on and off at four locations throughout the park to explore

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

8 – 9 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9 – 9:45 a.m.

Perspectives in Practice: Lessons from the Airport Arts Journey

What changes as an airport arts program—and the person leading it—evolves? Hear from arts professionals at different stages of their airport careers as they reflect on what they've learned, what they wish they had known, and how their perspectives have shifted along the way. This candid, moderated conversation will explore building credibility, navigating challenges, growing a program, and the advice they would give to those just getting started—or looking to reimagine what comes next.

Helen Cahng
Collections & Exhibitions Curator
Philadelphia International Airport

Sarah Cifarelli
Airport Arts Manager
Los Angeles World Airports

Daniel Dennert
Curator & Arts Program Manager
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY: Art Engagement Beyond the Airport – A Culture

What do you know about Grand Rapids? Grand Rapids hosts the annual ArtPrize competition, the planet's most attended public art event. It's home to Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the world's 100 most visited art museums. USA Today named it 1 of the 10 Best American Cities to See Amazing Art, noting "This city is one of crafters, designers, innovators, and artists. Grand Rapids exudes a creative energy that extends from the art and flower beds at the Meijer Gardens to downtown parks and from industrial design to breweries." Hear from our leaders and see what you can apply to your community!

Kate Lieto
Vice President of Marketing
Experience Grand Rapids

Kimberly Van Driel
Director of Public Space Management
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

Tyler Loftis
Executive Director
ArtPrize

Suzanne Ramljak
Director of Curatorial Affairs
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

10:45 – 11 a.m.

Break

11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTE: Integrating Art with Airport Improvements

With a framework in place, how does a committee of airport and community volunteers define opportunity, engage with artists, and link artists with installers? As supporters and owners of art, airports need to help bridge the gap between artists and installers - to unlock new mediums for artists and new challenges for designers. Learn from both perspectives!

Katie Moore
Principal, Moore Art Consulting &
Project Manager, GFIA Art Program

Scott Bragagnini
President/Owner
Central Tile & Terrazzo Co., Inc.

Michael Pflieghaar
Artist

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Sponsored by Ignition Arts

1 – 1:45 p.m.

The GRReat Artport Showdown

Let's kick off our final day with a fun and friendly trivia palette cleanser! Put your knowledge to the test with questions covering airports, art, aviation, and a few surprises along the way. From masterpieces to master plans, it's all fair game—and we think you'll Louvre every minute of it.

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Last but Not Least: Hot Topics & Open Exchange

We're bringing it all back together for the conversation you came for. This interactive closing session is your opportunity to tackle hot topics, ask lingering questions, exchange ideas and solutions, and hear what's working at other airports. Consider it your last chance to compare notes, follow up with colleagues, and leave Grand Rapids with new ideas and new connections to take home.

2:30 p.m.

Workshop Concludes

THANK YOU TO OUR HOST!

