



CITY OF APPLETON

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 29, 2025
To: Public Arts Committee
From: Lily Paul, Economic Development Specialist
Subject: Houdini Tower Tiles

GENERAL INFORMATION

Owner: City of Appleton

Address/Parcel Number: Houdini Tower in Houdini Plaza

Request: Parks & Recreation Committee referred this item back to Public Arts Committee for additional information/clarification of the agreements authorizing the display and the selection process used.

PROJECT DETAILS

Background Information: Staff took inventory of the tiles that fit in Houdini Tower. There are 57 tiles total, not including the ones already displayed. The subjects of the tiles fall in the categories of art, culture, life, and photography. At their November 5, 2025 meeting, six members of the Appleton Public Art Committee (APAC) were present and came prepared with their top 12 photos to help determine the next group of 12 tiles to be displayed in the Houdini Tower. Each present member had two of their top photos included. Attached is a compiled document that contains a photo of each tile, and identifies the photos previously selected in November (noted in red text above the selected photos).

The Parks & Recreation Committee met on November 24, 2025 as the committee of jurisdiction, and referred the item back to APAC. There was a request for clarification on the selection process used and clarification on the agreements authorizing to display the photos.

To clarify the selection process: this was not a contest. The photos/tiles available were selected through contests in the past. The purpose of the APAC choosing new photos/tiles was to refresh the Houdini Tower with content already on hand. The photos/tiles chosen were simply favorites of the committee members.

As for the agreements authorizing display, staff consulted with the City Attorney's Office and determined that the following originally selected photos are no longer options due to lack of documentation. These and other photos that lack documentation are now shown with a red 'X' within the attachment.

- Photo 26
- Photo 38

- Photo 41
- Photo 46
- Photo 47
- Photo 54

The rest of the photos selected in November have proper agreements on file.

Appleton Public Arts Committee Action:

Six new photos need to be chosen.

- Each committee member will rank their top 12 photos – excluding those marked with a red 'X' in the attachment. Please use the score sheet attached and have this completed by the start of the meeting. To identify each photo, please simply use the page number that corresponds with the photo in the attached document. Please use the document named: UPDATED Compiled Houdini Tower Tiles With APAC Selections
- Since there are seven committee members and six new photos need to be chosen, the photos will be decided based on two things:
 - o Any photos that are repeated in committee members rankings
 - The higher number of repeats gets top priority
 - o Collaboration and discussion between the members