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ArtPrize 2011 Kicks Off in Grand Rapids, Mich.

 By [Marilisa Kinney Sachteleben](#) | Yahoo! Contributor Network – Fri, Sep 23, 2011

[ArtPrize 2011](#) kicked off in downtown [Grand Rapids](#), Mich., Wednesday. What is [ArtPrize](#)? It's a city-wide indoor-outdoor art show. Nearly \$500,000 in prizes are awarded, including a \$250,000 grand prize. Judging is purely by [popular vote](#). For my family, [ArtPrize](#) an annual pilgrimage. Here are some frequently-asked question about the third annual ArtPrize.

* **When is it?**

ArtPrize runs from Sept.21-Oct.9 for 2011.

* **Where is it?**

The 1,528 ArtPrize exhibits are spread out in 164 venues all over the downtown area. For the event, Grand Rapids is divided into six neighborhoods: Center City, Heartside, Hillside, Westside, Monroe North and The Gardens. Artist display their works in their allotted area.

* **Are all the works of art indoors?** No. Large pieces and some smaller works are featured outdoors. Others are displayed in public venues: churches, community centers, museums, libraries and office buildings. There are specially designated [Exhibition centers](#) that act as outposts for ArtPrize, too. Notable large works of art from years past, include Steam Pig (2010- B.O.B parking lot) Nessie (2009- Grand River) and Table and Chair (2009 Foot Bridge).

* **How much does it cost to visit?**

ArtPrize is free. It is difficult to walk to all the exhibits and parking is expensive. One option is to buy an [ArtPrize Metro Rapid bus pass](#). A \$5 pass can be used anytime, anywhere, all day during the 19-day event. If you buy a guidebook and map for \$15, you may purchase four Rapid passes for \$2.50 each. You can buy the Rapid metro pass at most venues downtown, from The Hub (the ArtPrize central meeting spot at 41 Sheldon St.) or from and one of seven Meijer locations. You can park at Meijer and take the Rapid bus downtown.

* **How does voting work?**

Register to vote [online here](#) or at an event registration site. Voters must be 16 years old, have a government-issued ID and an email address. Voting status must be activated in person at ArtPrize between Sept.21, and Oct.5. Once activated, participants may vote from their cellphone or online. Each participating artist may feature one piece. Near the work is a card with a number. During the first week of ArtPrize, voting are cast up or down per piece. During the second wee, voters choose one of the top 10 entries. To cast your vote, simply text the piece number from your cellphone.

* **What ArtPrize exhibits are hot for 2011?**

Art appreciation, like beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Here are [images](#) from years past and these are the [top picks](#) so far by neighborhood. Come check them out. Maybe you will favor totally different exhibits. That's the beauty of ArtPrize; everyone gets one vote. The jury is us.

Marilisa Kinney Sachteleben writes from a lifetime lived in West Michigan.

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