

# Request for Proposal

By Grand Rapids Players

Grand Rapids Players

PO Box 28

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

info@grplayers.com

1. Project Overview: Grand Rapids Players is seeking a writer/team to develop an original play script to tour Itasca County summer 2026.

i. Grand Rapids Players, supported with a grant from Blandin Foundation, is producing a rural placemaking theatre tour in five small Itasca County communities.

ii. Goals of This Project

§ Build partnerships in the towns to inform creative direction and venue choices

§ Entertain, inspire, and enrich residents through access to performing arts

§ Inspire the use of new spaces and/or enrich existing community spaces with strategic choices of venues.

iii. Production Description

1. The chosen script concept will be completed by the submitting writer/team.
2. The finalized script will be produced by Grand Rapids Players utilizing local actors.
3. The production will be brought to five small communities in Itasca County, likely followed by a hometown performance in Grand Rapids.
4. Preference of playwright selection will be given to local residents of Grand Rapids, Greater Itasca County, and/or outlying small communities.

iv. Key Dates

1. RFP Open August 1, 2025.
2. Submissions due September 1, 2025.
3. Selection made by October 1, 2025.
4. First draft due, November 1 (negotiable in the process, subjective to committee comment/feedback)
5. Final draft due, December 1, 2025.

6. Rehearsals beginning around April, 2026.
7. Performances TBD- expected 1-2 weekends withing June, July, August 2026.

## 2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

- a. Grand Rapids Players, founded in 1965 to serve the Grand Rapids, MN, and greater area, is a volunteer-driven community theatre organization.
- b. While most performances happen within the City of Grand Rapids, the talent and audiences include all of Itasca County and beyond. There have been occasional productions brought to other small communities of Itasca County and the Board would like to increase that reach.
- c. A generous grant from the Blandin Foundation was awarded, which will help the organization reach beyond its typical season to serve Greater Itasca County.

## 3. SERVICE/WORK REQUIREMENTS

### a. EXPECTATIONS

- i. The chosen playwright(s) will be notified no later than October 1, 2025, and a first draft is required by November 1, 2025.
- ii. The playwright will be open to reasonable feedback and consider recommended edits from the steering committee from November 1 to December 1, 2025.
- iii. The final run time of the script will be approximately one hour in length.
- iv. The script will have a cast size of 6-9 (doubling of roles is permitted)
- v. The script will require minimal set, production, and technical elements.
- vi. The script will include roughly 3-6 noun elements that can be adapted to customize for each community (e.g. main thoroughfare, popular bar/restaurant, local lake, etc.).

### b. CONDITIONS/COMPENSATION

- i. The chosen playwright will receive reasonable feedback from the steering committee between November 1 and December 1, 2025.
- ii. The playwright will be compensated a flat \$1500 for writing and royalties to the summer 2026 production run.
- iii. The playwright will retain the rights to their written work, beyond the performances and recordings of the summer 2026 production run.

## 4. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- a. Submit one to three samples of your previously written play scripts.
- b. Submit a one to three paragraph description of your play concept- overall vision, plot outline, character descriptions, or any other information that help to sell your prospective narrative to the committee.
- c. Submission materials may be sent digitally to [info@grplayers.com](mailto:info@grplayers.com) or as hard copies to Grand Rapids Players, PO Box 28, Grand Rapids, MN 55744