

May 21, 2026

TO: Board of City Commissioners

FROM: Brenda Derrig, Assistant City Administrator

RE: Authorize City Staff & the City Attorney's Office to explore collaborating with the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum at the former Mid America Site (92 and 106 NP Avenue North)

Commissioner Strand, Mayor Mahoney and City of Fargo staff have recently been approached by Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum to discuss options to explore the former Mid America site as a potential site for the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum.

The City of Fargo purchased the former Mid America Steel site in 2016. In the summer of 2021, a contract was issued to remove all buildings on the site, down to the at-grade floor slabs and concrete foundation walls.

In 2025, the Engineering Department along with Planning and Environmental Health selected SRF Consulting (SRF) with a proposed scope of services to start the process of cleaning up the site due to the overgrowth of vegetation and not being able to maintain it due to remaining slabs and foundation walls.

The Scope of Services was structured in sequential steps, allowing the consultant to perform limited work at each stage before proceeding to the next. This phased approach allows for scope adjustments as new information becomes available in each step. Funding for the work completed to date has come from Riverfront TIF.

- Step 1 – Due Diligence, Coordination, and Planning - **Completed**
- Step 2 – EPA Assessment Grant Application and ESA Phase 2
- Step 3 – Site Closure, Re-Development Plan, EPA Cleanup Grant Application
- Step 4 – Re-Development Construction / Environmental Remediation Plans and Construction Administration Services

Looking forward, the City of Fargo, would like to explore potential options on working with the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum, along with evaluating the site needs.

Recommended Motion:

I move to authorize City staff and the City Attorney's Office to initiate and engage in discussions with the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum on the potential siting of the Science Museum on the MidAmerica Steel Site at 92 and 106 NP Avenue North.

May 19, 2026

City of Fargo
Attn: Mayor and City Commission
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102

Subject: Letter of Interest: Partnership Opportunity for Development of Mid-America Steel Land

Dear City Leaders:

On behalf of the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum, I am writing to express our interest in exploring a partnership with the City of Fargo to develop the city-owned property located at 92 Northern Pacific Avenue North in Fargo, North Dakota, commonly known as the Mid-America Steel site.

The Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum (FMSM) is a community-led effort to design and build a destination science museum for our region. Through interactive exhibits and programs, FMSM will reward curiosity, showcase local science and innovation, and create pathways to careers in science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine (STEMM). The museum will serve as an accessible community gathering space for all ages and abilities and contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of our community.

We believe this site represents an exceptional opportunity to advance several key priorities outlined in the City of Fargo's 2030 Plan, particularly those focused on enhancing quality of life, fostering innovation, creating a destination for families, and strengthening Fargo as a regional hub for economic and community development.

Our vision for a state-of-the-art science museum would feature:

- Hands-on STEMM exhibits and interactive galleries
- Educational programming for students, families, and workforce development
- Community gathering spaces and event venues
- Partnerships with local schools, universities, and industry leaders

This project would serve as a catalyst for community engagement and tourism, contributing to a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking city. It would also support Fargo's goals of attracting and retaining talent by creating a dynamic destination centered on education, innovation, and discovery.

The Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum is prepared to work closely with the City and community stakeholders to ensure the project reflects shared priorities and delivers lasting value. We are committed to a transparent planning process and to developing a financially sustainable and impactful institution that will serve as a regional landmark for generations to come.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss this vision further and explore how we can align our efforts with the City's strategic goals.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Reid Mattson
Board Chair
Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum
1529 University Dr S, Fargo, ND 58103
directors@fmsm.org