



Grandville Avenue  
Arts & Humanities

# Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities

Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities (GAAH) was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in 1999. The mission of GAAH is to transform lives in the Grandville Avenue neighborhood through reading and the arts and celebrating the community's cultural richness.

GAAH administers the programs of two central city facilities located just south of downtown Grand Rapids: the Cook Library Center at 1100 Grandville Avenue SW, and the Cook Arts Center at 644 Grandville Avenue SW.

The Library focuses on the intellectual development of the child. Primary programs include homework help, computer use, mind-expanding games such as chess and Scrabble, monthly storytelling events, summertime reading programs, and monthly presentations by people in various professions to encourage the children to think about college. Adults use our library as well, primarily for English as Second Language classes, job searches, and resume writing. Once a week we offer one-on-one computer classes for adults led by bilingual volunteers.

The Arts Center provides high-quality art, pottery, music, dance, and theatre programs for underserved children and adults that give them an opportunity to learn about different art mediums and genres, develop a deeper appreciation of the arts, celebrate their own culture and the cultures of others, enrich their lives, develop life skills, build relationships, enhance their self-esteem, and build community. In addition to a wide array of after-school classes, the Arts Center offers drop-in art activities in its lobby, a two-week summer arts camp in August, and a variety of mini-camps and drop-in activities during winter and spring breaks and summer vacation.

The Grandville Avenue neighborhood is bordered by Wealthy Street to the north, Burton Street to the south, Century Avenue to the east, and Godfrey/Clyde Park avenues to the west. According to the 2000 census, the documented population in this area was 73% Hispanic and 11% African-American. There are two public schools located in the Grandville Avenue neighborhood—Southwest Community Campus and Cesar Chavez Elementary—and 95% of the students at each school qualify for the federal lunch program.