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Arts czar Rocco Landesman comes to Madison

by Joe Tarr

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While President Obama is scheduled to appear in Madison on Sept. 28, another Washington bigwig made a much quieter visit here last Thursday.

Rocco Landesman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, met with city staff and got a tour of the proposed Central Park. The NEA just awarded a \$50,000 grant to help pay for public art in the park.

Environmental artist [Lorna Jordan](#) is working on the overall site design for the park's "Great Lawn." According to the city's [website](#), Jordan "creates environmental artworks that blur the boundaries between sculpture, ecology, infrastructure and architecture."

Karin Wolf, the city's arts program administrator, met with Landesman and says he was impressed with Madison's arts efforts. "He pumped us up," she says. "It was a good visit. Now we just need to do the work and make it happen."