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Restoration of Public Museum's Roaring 20's Coinola Ensures that a Quarter Still Buys a Bit of History

Grand Rapids, MI (July 10, 2008) – With the drop of a quarter into its slot the Public Museum's Coinola comes to life – filling *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids* exhibit with the music of up to 11 different instruments including snare drums, Indian blocks, and a xylophone. In its past life, the Coinola entertained guests in dinners and cafés with ragtime and early style jazz. Recently refurbished and back in its place of honor in the Powers Opera House lobby of the *Streets* exhibit, the 1920's coin-operated music machine is once again delighting guests with old time favorites.

The Public Museum's Coinola was built in 1914 by the Operator's Piano Company in Chicago and donated to the Museum 40 years later by Grant Community Craft Club. It was recently removed and restored by Andy Struble of G. M. Buck Pipe Organs, Inc. as part of the Museum's ongoing mission of preservation and stewardship of history.

The restoration of the Coinola and its return to the spotlight allows guests to learn something about their history through the music from that time period. "Museums are a great reminder of where people have come from and how technology has developed," says Mr. Struble. "I love *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids* and how they're set up—they tell a story you just can't get from a textbook."

The Public Museum is a collections-based educational organization that explores and celebrates the world and our place in it. Proceeds collected from the Coinola help support Museum programs. Hours are Monday – Saturday 9-5, and Sunday Noon-5. General admission is Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children \$3. Members are free.