CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Motion – Approval of Application for Bravo Cultural Enrichment Grant

DATE: May 4, 2015

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This grant, if approved by Bravo Greater Des Moines, would provide $3,500 of the $7,000 needed to conduct the Jeff Boshart special art project to be held this fall. The remaining $3,500 would come out of the Public Art Fund.

SYNOPISIS: The West Des Moines Public Art Advisory Commission has an interest in supporting unique and interesting projects and events related to the education, promotion and implementation of Art. We are seeking approval to apply for a $3,500 Bravo grant to help support a special art project this fall.

BACKGROUND: In 2011 the City Council of West Des Moines established the West Des Moines Public Arts Commission. The Commission is charged with the oversight, guidance and implementation of the public arts program for the City of West Des Moines. The Commission is supported and guided by West Des Moines Parks and Recreation staff.

One of the goals the WDM Public Arts Commission is to involve the community directly through participation in the public art processes and through community engagement. Several Commission Members and Staff attended the Iowa Public Art Network Conference in Dubuque last year. The conference was well received and one idea or challenge taken away from the conference was how we involve the youth when incorporating art into our community. Mr. Jeff Boshart was a presenter at the conference and after listening to his presentation and visiting with him, staff contacted him for some ideas and a proposal.

On January 22, 2015, The Public Arts Advisory Commission approved a unique project or workshop to support this goal. The workshop involves Mr. Jeff Boshart and approximately twenty five junior high students for a period of three to seven days.

Day one starts off with a brief lecture about the process so the students can be introduced to the aesthetics and the planning process. This is followed by the designing and the creation of a model made out of balsa wood sticks which is very unique. The students get hands on experience on designing the piece of art. Mr. Boshart carefully coordinates this process to ensure proper procedures and protocols are followed to ensure safety and reach the desired outcome. The next few days are spent creating welded steel sub-units and perhaps some preliminary assembly. The final days are spend on finishing the assembly and the installation of the sculpture plus securing it to the site. If color is warranted, that adds another two days to prime and paint the sculpture. The scope is entirely dependent on our goals and resources.

The Public Art Advisory Commission and the Parks and Recreation Staff will need to determine the location for this project in the very near future. The project is expected to take place in September or October. The piece is temporary and will be removed at a later date.

The first three pages of the Bravo application, budget summary and artist statement are attached.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES: None

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to approve the application for a Bravo Grant.

Lead Staff Member: Greg Hansen, Superintendent of Recreation

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	RTG

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee			
Date Reviewed			
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

Bravo Greater Des Moines
FY16 Cultural Enrichment Grant (CEG) Application Questions

Prior to completing this application, please see the FY2016 Cultural Enrichment Grant Guidelines available at: http://www.bravogreaterdesmoines.org/grants/cultural-enrichment-grant/

NOTE: All applications must be submitted online through SurveyMonkey. This copy of the application questions is intended as a resource to help applicants prepare answers before beginning work in the survey tool, but applications should not be submitted in this format.

We strongly encourage all applicants to complete the application responses here before beginning the online application, then copy/paste your responses into the online format. This will be the only way to guarantee that you have a copy of your answers before the application is submitted. You will be unable to print a copy of your completed application after you have submitted it and if there are technical difficulties during submission, Bravo will have no way of recovering partially completed applications.

We recognize that not every organization will be able to accurately and accountably provide the level of detail requested in the application. Please only report information for which you have a high degree of confidence and ability to support. You are encouraged to use the narrative sections to help fully explain your organization's impact.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant Information

Is organization a new or returning applicant? *(Applicants are considered new if they did not receive a Bravo CEG award in FY15.)*	X	New		Returning

Please list the city/area where the organization's main administrative offices are located (*New Applicants Only*):
West Des Moines, IA

Please describe the geographic area where the majority of the organization's programming occurs (*New Applicants Only*):
West Des Moines, IA (programs and facilities are open to non-residents)

The majority of organization's programming offered *(select only one)*: (New Applicants Only)					
x	Year-round		Seasonally		As part of an Annual Event

Contact Information

Contact Person Name:	**Greg Hansen**
Organization Legal Name:	**City of West Des Moines, Parks and Recreation Department**
Organization Mailing Address:	**4200 Mills Civic Parkway, P.O. Box 65320**
City	**West Des Moines**
State	**Iowa**
Zip	**50265-0320**
Contact Person E-Mail:	**greg.hansen@wdm.iowa.gov**
Contact Person Phone:	**(515)222-3448**
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	**42-6005359**

Grant Request

Grant Amount Requested for FY16 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016):	$ 3,500.00
NOTE: Although there is no limit on the amount of funding an organization can request, grant award amounts are typically 5 percent or less of the recipient organization's operating expenses, based on the current fiscal year.	

Organization Information

The organization's primary purpose must be arts, culture, and/or heritage in nature, providing for the enlightenment and entertainment of the public through the production, presentation, exhibition, advancement, or preservation of one or more of the disciplines listed below *(select up to 2)*:

	Architecture	x	Art		Botany		Cultural Heritage
	Dance		Music		Natural History		Opera
	Regional History		Science		Theatre		Zoology
x	Other *(please describe)*: leisure, recreation, open space management, land and water stewardship						

Organization Status

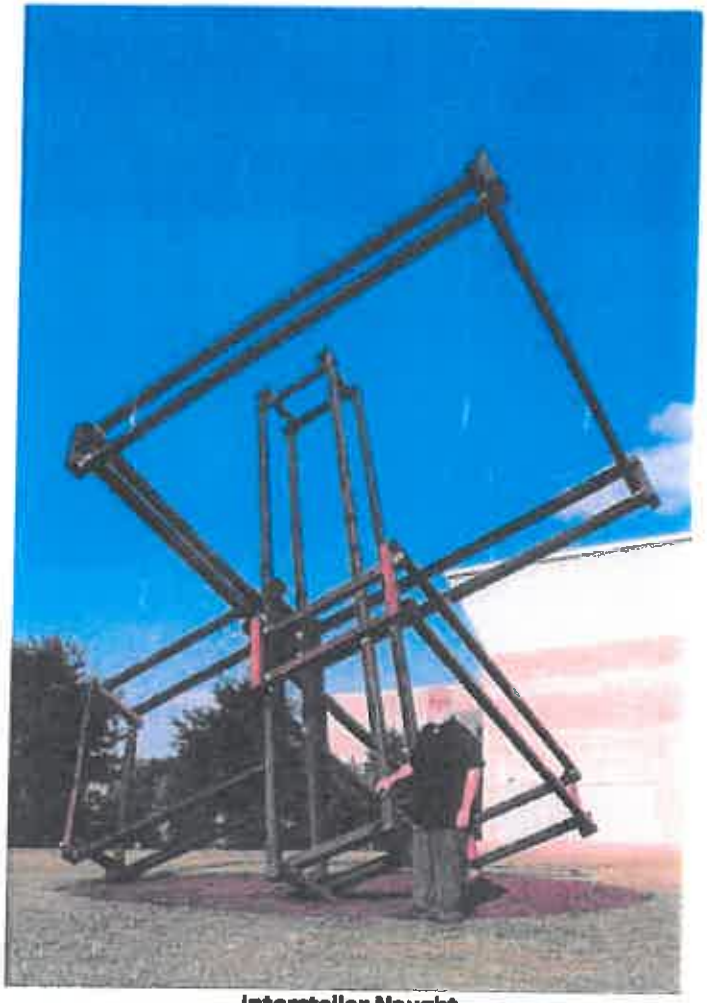
Is organization a 501(c)(3) non-profit?		Yes	x	No
If yes, provide effective date *(day, month and year)* of exemption:				
Is organization an agency of local government?	x	Yes		No
If yes, provide name of local government:	**City of West Des Moines**			
Is organization sponsored by a fiscal agent?		Yes	x	No
If yes, provide name of fiscal sponsor and length of sponsorship				

Does the organization have a mission statement?	x	Yes		No
If yes, please provide:				
We provide our community everyday enjoyment through people, parks and programs.				

Please describe the general operations or programming of the organization (*1000 characters maximum, including spaces*).
The Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains just over 1,269 acres of parkland consisting of parks special use facilities, a natural area, greenways and 51 miles of multi-purpose trails. The department provides a wide variety of recreational services, community center, softball complex, two outdoor aquatic centers, spray grounds, and a nature lodge. Program areas include adult sports, aquatics, fitness youth, seniors and cultural arts. The department also manages the City's Public Art Program.

Jeff Boshart-Charleston, IL
Temporary Art Project
Fall 2015

	3-day w/o assistant	3-day w/assistant	7-day w/o assistant	7-day w/assistant
Lodging	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ 750.00	$ 750.00
Food	$ 200.00	$ 400.00	$ 300.00	$ 600.00
Balsa Wood	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
Glue	$ 20.00	$ 20.00	$ 20.00	$ 20.00
Paper	$ 20.00	$ 20.00	$ 20.00	$ 20.00
Utility Knives	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00
Steel Tubing	$ 2,200.00	$ 2,200.00	$ 2,200.00	$ 2,200.00
Welding Supplies	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
Site Ancors	$ 90.00	$ 90.00	$ 90.00	$ 90.00
Paint			$ 400.00	$ 400.00
Welding Assistant Stipend		$ 750.00		$ 750.00
Jeff Stipend	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
TOTAL	$ 4,240.00	$ 5,190.00	$ 5,990.00	$ 7,040.00



Interstellar Naught
Art on the River Public Art Display, Dubuque, IA

Artist's Statement

for

Jeff Boshart

I am a sculptor and an educator who teaches sculpture at Eastern Illinois University. My job involves introducing students to the history and contemporary issues in sculpture as well as demonstrating how and why artists create or invent. This, in turn, gets reflected in my own philosophies and artwork.

I also deal with various materials, tools and how to use them appropriately and safely. These classroom projects build a very basic working knowledge of woodworking, metalwork/welding and casting skills. Most recently I have been demonstrating to students that a good basic utilization of the elements of design and principles of organization, along with solid craftsmanship, can make a simple idea work effectively; that honesty and integrity in the process and materials can make simple objects more aesthetically interesting and marketable in a contemporary gallery setting.

Professionally, I enjoy doing large-scale, site specific, temporary, sculpture installations. These typically involve a lot of planning, literally tons of materials and access to acres of land. I don't get the opportunity to do sculptures like this every day so I have had to re-examine my approach to the profession. Most recently I have engaged my students by having them develop models (or maquettes) that physically express the idea of a large sculptures on a smaller scale and then select one for realization outside the sculpture studio for campus consumption.

Bits and pieces have always fascinated me. I delight in finding a small part of something and letting my imagination play, interjecting formal academic aspects of three dimensional design and composition that result in the object being elevated from the ordinary. I often think of myself as a sort of shaman who can extend the useful life of objects, taking them from the utilitarian, work-a-day world and re-establishing them as objects worthy of reverence, at some level. If not a shaman, then perhaps an intermediary with some limited insight.

As I have gotten older, it has become less important that my artwork always fit into a specific niche. As a young artisan I always thought my sculptures had to have a consistent thread running through them, either in the form, content, or intent. Nowadays I tend to go where the mood and materials take me. I am still very much a Constructivist at heart but I work at blending art and craft, distorting the lines of traditional classification. The term "Industrialism" might best describe my current aesthetic exploration but I think the term eclectic might be more honest. The next step in my maturation, I suppose, will be eccentricity and dementia.

I think an artist's body of work should be like what I've described above. Serious. Playful. Introspective. Contemplative. Exaggerated. It should represent a thoughtful blending of the elements of design and principles of organization. The content, or artist's intent, should be communicated clearly but yet not so simply as to take all of the fun out of the individual's personal interpretation. Nor should it be so complicated that the viewer never gets the message. Rather than worry about whether I am successful or not, I figure my obligation is to just keep making the artwork. I'll let some future critic figure out whether I was any good or not. Right now I'm just too busy working on my next project....