

**CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

AGENDA

**5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 9, 2022**

**City Hall Council Chambers
4200 Mills Civic Parkway**

**Members of the public wishing to participate telephonically, may do so by calling:
515-207-8241, Enter Conference ID: 907 289 852#**

- 1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Citizen Forum**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2022 Meeting**
- 4. Old Business**
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Presentation – “Confluence”
 - B. Motion – Approval of 2023 WDMurals Call for Artists
 - C. Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Locations – 2023 Art on the Campus
 - D. Motion – Approval of Request for Artist Qualifications – Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project
- 6. Committee Reports**
 - A. Events Committee
 - B. Communications Committee
 - C. Exhibition Committee
- 7. Project Work Group Reports**
 - A. Railroad Park Public Art
 - B. DART Art Shelter
 - C. Raccoon River Park Public Art
- 8. Staff Reports**
 - A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor
 - B. Director of Parks and Recreation
- 9. Other Matters**
- 10. Receive, File and/or Refer**
 - A. City Council Communications

The City of West Des Moines is pleased to provide accommodations to disabled individuals or groups and encourages their participation in city government. Should special accommodations be required please contact the City Clerk's office at least 48 hours in advance, at 222-3600 to have accommodations provided.

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, October 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Brenda Sedlacek.

Commission	Brenda Sedlacek <i>Chair</i>	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Secretary</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ryan Crane	Rita Luther
Present	X	X arrived at 5:35 pm	X		X
Commission	Diane Boyd	Amenda Tate			
Present	X via phone	X via phone			

Staff	Sally Ortgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Ryan Penning <i>Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Allison Ullestad <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor</i>	Tina Tate <i>Secretary Parks & Recreation</i>	Marnie Strate <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X	X	X		

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Phillips moved to approve the agenda as presented. Luther seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2022 Meeting

Phillips moved to approve the minutes as presented. Boyd seconded. Motion carried, 6 ayes.

On Item 4. Old Business

No report.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Public Art Master Plan (2023-2027)

Mathrubutham moved to approve the Public Art Master Plan as presented. Luther seconded. Motion carried, 6 ayes.

Boyd recommended including Lynette Pohlman’s title, “Director and Chief Curator of Iowa State Museums”.

Boyd moved to amend the Public Art Master Plan to include the title change. Phillips seconded. Motion carried, 6 ayes. Boyd thanked the Commission for their efforts in developing the Master Plan.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Recommendation to City Council – FY 23-24 Public Art Fund Budget

Ortgies provided an overview of the FY Public Art Budget. The Executive Committee agreed to adjust the maintenance fund to follow the city code by increasing it to 10% of the permanent collection which is currently valued at over \$1 million. Phillips suggested that the value of an art

piece should be determined just on the cost of fabrication and not include the community engagement expense.

It was recommended to remove expenses towards Art on the Campus Opening and reduce the amount for Unexpected Opportunities to \$10,000. The Exhibition Committee agreed to add two more mural locations to the WDMural exhibit. After factoring in the two additions and the cost of painting and pressure washing, there would be an increase of \$6,000 this year. Ortgies stated that when planning for the next large, commissioned art piece, the \$100,000 would be split between two fiscal years and the budget for consulting would remain in place if needed. Ullestad stated that temporary art expenses have increased to approximately 40% of the annual budget. The Commission will need to consider whether the limited funds are better spent on temporary or permanent commissioned art pieces.

Ortgies discussed a couple of upcoming revenue opportunities. The BRAVO Public Art Grant, estimated at \$25,000, could potentially be applied to the Raccoon River Park sensory wall project. Another revenue opportunity would be to request an additional \$30,000 from Council increasing the Hotel/Motel Tax funding to \$150,000. This has not changed in 11 years. Sedlacek agreed to present the proposal to Council during the same meeting as the Public Art Master Plan and Annual Written Report.

Phillips moved to approve the recommendation to City Council – FY 23-24 Public Art Fund Budget as presented. Mathrubutham seconded. Motion carried, 6 ayes.

On Item 5C. Motion – Approval of 2023 Art on the Campus Selection Committee

Ullestad stated that there were a few changes to the Selection Committee. It will now include Mahesh Mathrubutham (Commissioner, Year 1), Brenda Sedlacek (Commissioner, Year 2), Suzanne Allen (Citizen, Year 1), Shirley Houghtaling (Citizen, Year 2), and David Basler (Citizen, Year 2).

Boyd moved to approve the 2023 Art on the Campus Selection Committee as presented. Luther seconded. Motion carried, 6 ayes.

On Item 5D. Motion – Establish November/December Meeting Date – November 9, 2022

Sedlacek stated that there will be a motion to approve Art on the Campus Artists and the WDMurals Call for Artists at that meeting.

Phillips moved to approve the November/December Meeting Date – November 9, 2022. Mathrubutham seconded. Motion carried, 6 ayes.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

No Report.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report. Ullestad thanked the Committee for their work on the DEI statement included in the Public Art Master Plan.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

Luther stated that two mural locations will be added next year due to the public survey results. The budget for the WDMurals will increase by \$6,000 as mentioned earlier. The Exhibition Committee discussed the Hello, River project and reviewed a list of questions that need to be addressed before a decision can be made by the Commission.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art

Ortgies stated that the work group has not been able to meet. Ullestad mentioned that enough surveys have been completed to give the work group a place to start forming ideas.

On Item 7B. DART Bus Shelter Public Art

Ullestad stated that the work group hasn't met.

On Item 7C. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

Mathrubutham and Ullestad explained that the work group is formulating a concept that meets the needs of both sensory-seeking and sensory-avoidant individuals. Kevin Conn, Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect, gave a presentation on the plans for the playground. The next meeting will be establishing an artist statement and RFQ/Call to Artist. The artist will need to have an awareness of how art and functionality of the piece come together.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad mentioned that *Confluence* has been installed in front of City Hall and a plaque will be added soon. Ullestad created a booklet showcasing the permanent public art collection which will also be located on the website as a digital book. Sedlacek suggested bringing the booklets to Council when proposing the increased funding.

On Item 8B. Director of Parks and Recreation

Ortgies announced her retirement on March 31st after 34 years with the Parks and Recreation Department.

On Item 9. Other Matters

None.

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Tate
Secretary

ATTEST:

Mahesh Mathrubutham
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary

**CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DATE: November 9, 2022

ITEM: Motion – Approval of 2023 WDMurals Call for Artists

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$18,300 (\$2,000/artist x 9; \$300 Best in Show Award)

SYNOPSIS: Department staff and members of the Exhibition Committee have developed and recommend the attached 2023 WDMurals Call for Artists.

2023 WDMurals Exhibit Highlights/Changes:

- 2022 Best in Show winning mural, “Escape”, will stay in place at Jordan Creek Parkway underpass for one additional year.
- Two new mural locations will be added to the exhibit on underpass walls at 50th Street and EP True Parkway
- 9 original artist mural proposals will be selected
- “Our Community” is the theme of the 2023 exhibit

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): none

RECOMMENDATION: Staff and the Exhibition Committee recommend approval of the 2023 WDMurals Call for Artists

Lead Staff Member: Allison Ullestad, Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor

STAFF REVIEWS

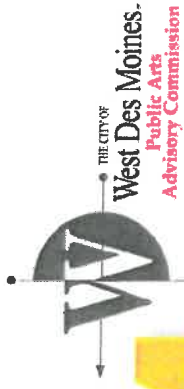
Department Director	Sally Ortgies, Director of Parks and Recreation
Agenda Acceptance	Sally Ortgies, Director of Parks and Recreation

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	Exhibition Committee		
Date Reviewed	10/20/22		
Recommendation	YES	NO	SPLIT



WDMURALS

CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

CALL FOR ARTISTS: 2023 WDMurals

**AN ANNUAL, TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT
ALONG WEST DES MOINES TRAILS**

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

**SUBMIT YOUR MURAL PROPOSAL ONLINE AT
WWW.WDM.IOWA.GOV/CALLFORARTISTS
BY FEBRUARY 24, 2023, AT 5 PM CT**

WDMurals Overview

The West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission and Parks and Recreation Department invite **Iowa artists** to submit a Mural Proposal to participate in the 3rd annual WDMurals public art exhibit. WDMurals is a temporary, outdoor exhibit that includes murals painted on the entrance and exit walls of underpasses along trails in West Des Moines.

Exhibit Details

- Each selected artist/artist group will be paid **\$2,000 per mural** to cover all artist costs.
- A selection panel will blind-score mural proposals to choose **9 original artist/artist group mural proposals**.
- A **Best in Show** mural will be selected and publicized. The selected mural will remain in place for one year after the end of the current year's exhibit. The Best in Show artist/artist group will receive a **\$300 award**.
- The WDMurals exhibit will be promoted on-site and in the local media*. Marketing efforts will include but not be limited to:
 1. An identification plaque listing the artist name(s), mural title, and mural description will be placed at each mural site
 2. An article in WDM Magazine (direct mailed to all WDM households and businesses)
 3. News and information on the City of WDM website (www.wdm.iowa.gov)
 4. WDM Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook and Instagram accounts
- The WDMurals exhibit is a listed feature on the **Otocast app**, a mobile audio guide. Selected artists are required to work with Otocast staff to record a short narrative about their mural.

*The City of West Des Moines reserves the right to photograph and reproduce images of the murals on exhibit for promotional and educational purposes.

Installation of Artwork

Artists are responsible for all supplies, equipment, and labor necessary for the installation of their mural. Care must be taken to ensure the safety of trail users during installation.



Approximate single wall size: 10' (H) x 30'(L)
Please use the dimensions in the mock-up on page 4 when submitting your mural proposals.
Further wall measurement will be allowed upon proposal acceptance.

Mural Criteria

All proposed murals must be the original work of the artist in concept, composition, and execution. Artists' proposals will be selected by a selection panel* comprised of WDM Public Arts Advisory Commission members and local citizens, artists, and/or business representatives. The following criteria will be used in the selection process:

- Mural proposals that speak to the theme of "Our Community"
 - Artists are asked to include an artist statement describing their artistic interpretation of the theme in the mural proposals
- Mural proposals that are suitable for public viewing
- Mural proposals that create a sense of discovery, surprise, imagination, and emotional connection
- Mural proposals that are aesthetically and photographically pleasing
- Murals must be created using only spray, acrylic based, and/or exterior paint

*Decisions by the selection panel are final and not open to negotiation. To support an authentic, rich, and diverse arts culture for all, the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission commits to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that empower a vibrantly diverse, inclusive, equitable community.

Submission Details

- Please complete one application per mural proposal submitted.
- There is no limit to the number of mural proposals submitted by an artist.
- 1-4 full-color sketches or design concepts **using the relative dimensions at the bottom of page 4** are required per mural proposal submitted. (5 MB max; .gif, .jpg, .png, .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .rtf, .pdf, .txt)

Proposals must be submitted online at www.wdm.iowa.gov/CallforArtists by 5 pm on February 24, 2023.

WDMural Exhibit Timeline

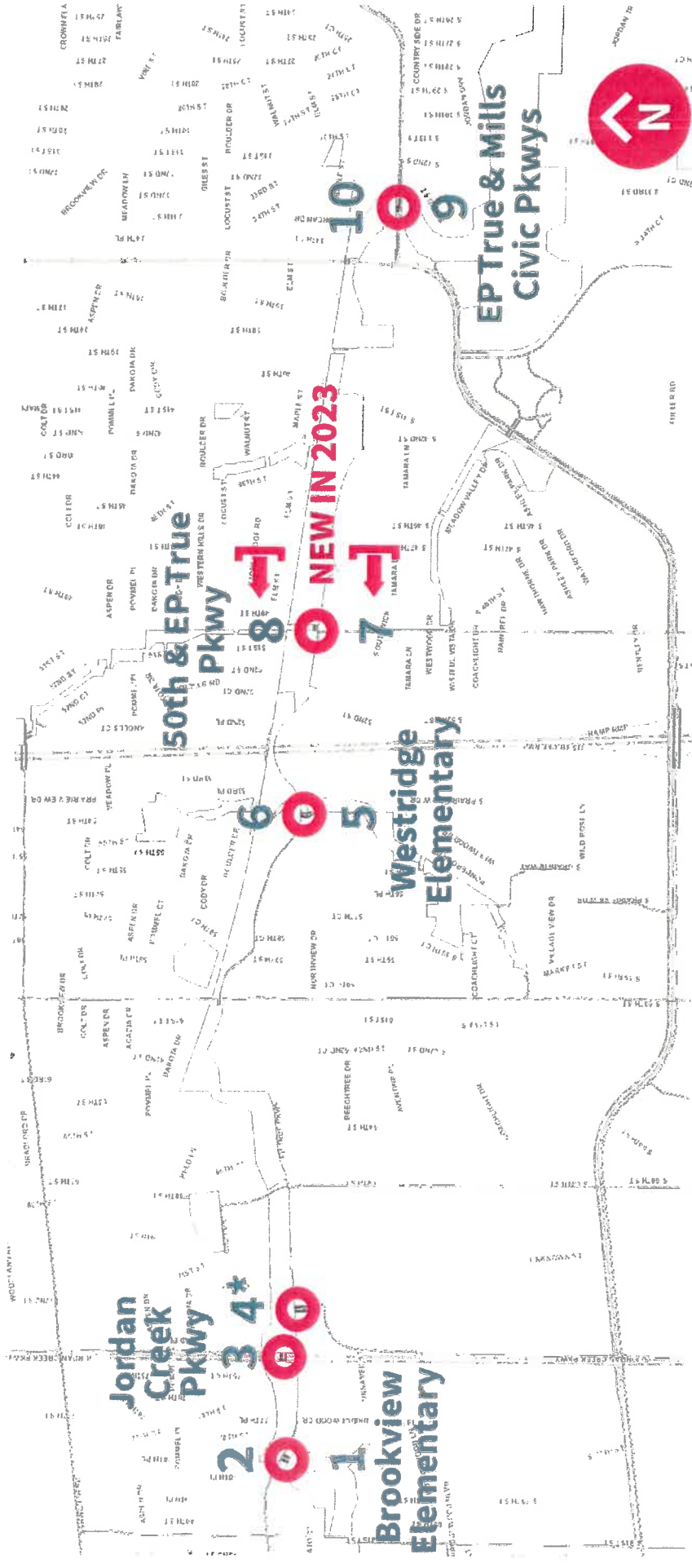
Call for Artists issued	January 3, 2023
Mural Proposals due	February 24, 2023
Selection panel meets	March 1-16, 2023
Notification of selection to artists	By April 10, 2023
Artists create murals	May 1-15, 2023
WDMurals exhibit viewable	May 15, 2023-March 31, 2024
Murals painted over	April 2024

*The City of West Des Moines reserves the right to change the project timeline.

Questions?

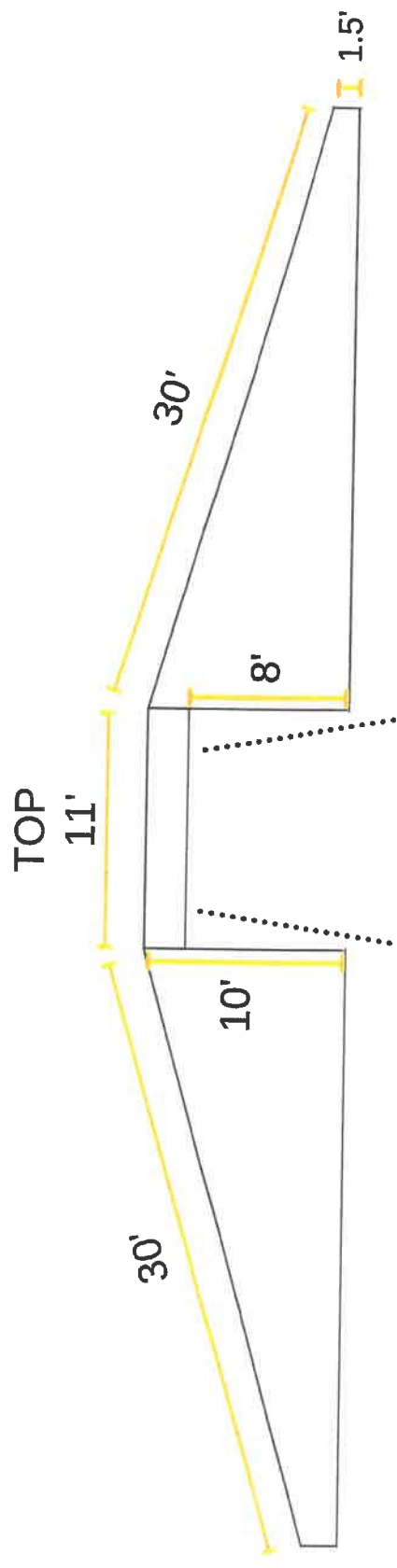
Contact Allison Ullestad
(Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor)
at 515-222-3455 or
allison.ullestad@wdm.iowa.gov

Exhibit Locations



*2022 Best in Show Award Winner, "Escape", to stay in place

The City of West Des Moines reserves the right to choose the specific location where each accepted proposal will be exhibited.



**CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DATE: November 9, 2022

ITEM: Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Locations – 2023 Art on the Campus

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Expense of \$24,000 for the artist stipends (\$2,000 per work of art) and \$500 for the People's Choice Award for a total of \$24,500. This amount is included in the FY 22-23 budget.

SYNOPSIS: The Commission is sponsoring the 11th temporary "Art on the Campus" exhibit from April 15, 2023, to November 15, 2023. An "Art on the Campus" selection committee meeting was held on Thursday, November 3, to review and score 26 proposals that were submitted by 13 artists from Iowa (6), Illinois (3), Nebraska (2), and Missouri (2). Of the 13 artists, three were new and ten were returning artists

The selection committee members included: Brenda Sedlacek (Commission member), Mahesh Mathrubutham (Commission member), David Basler (Citizen), Shirley Houghtaling (Citizen), and Suzanne Allen (Citizen).

Twelve entries were selected to be temporarily installed around the pond on the city campus. The committee's recommendations include:

<u>Entry Name</u>	<u>Artist Name</u>	<u>Entry Name</u>	<u>Artist Name</u>
1 SkEYeward	Tim Adams	7 Orange Pop	Nathan Pierce
2 Time Passes	David Zahn	8 Heart of Iowa	Anna Modeland*
3 Song Cycle	V. Skip Willits	9 Tilt Shift	Dallas Guffey*
4 Fishing Girl	Albert Rhea	10 Boro	V. Skip Willits
5 Earthman	Daniel Casteneda*	11 River Siren	Kristin Garnant
6 Flambeaux	Tim Adams	12 Continuum	Nathan Pierce

*new AOC artist

The twelve proposals are attached for your information. A map of the proposed locations is also included and is part of the recommendation. With the Commission's approval of the artists and locations, staff will prepare the City's standard artist agreement for review by each of the artists and the City's Legal Department. The final artist agreements will be included on a future City Council meeting agenda (date to be determined).

BACKGROUND: None

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission approve the recommendation of the 2022 Art on the Campus selection committee.

Lead Staff Member: Allison Ullestad, Arts, Culture and Enrichment Supervisor

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Sally Ortgies, Director of Parks and Recreation
Agenda Acceptance	Sally Ortgies, Director of Parks and Recreation

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

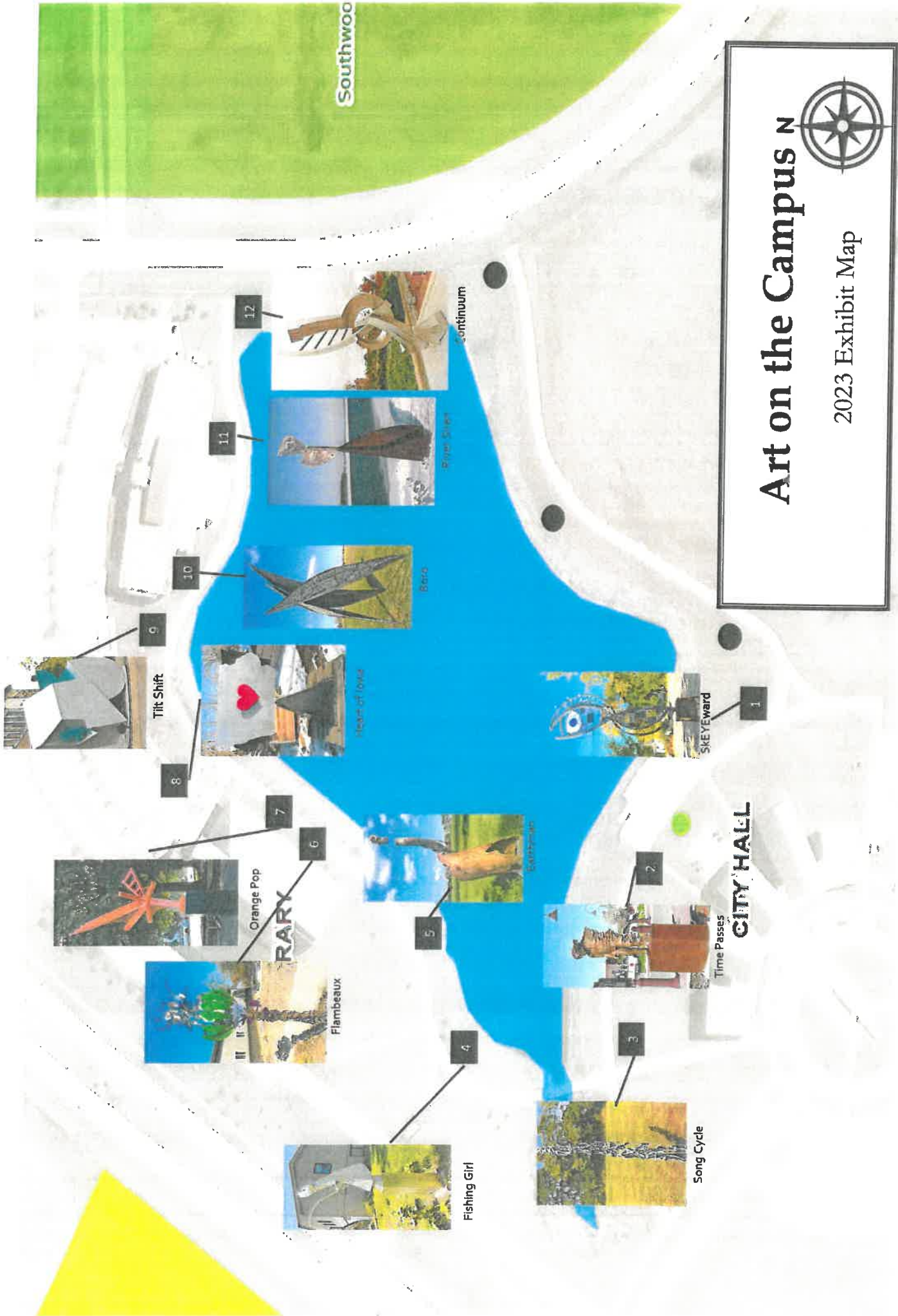
SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	Art on the Campus Selection Committee		
Date Reviewed	11/4/22		
Recommendation	YES	NO	SPLIT

Art on the Campus N



2023 Exhibit Map



Fishing Girl



Song Cycle



Time Passes

CITY HALL



Santitas



Flambeaux



Orange Pop

RARY



Hearts of Love



SKEYEWARD



Baro



Eyes on the River



Continuum

Southwood

1 SKEYEWARD

TIM ADAMS
WEBSTER CITY, IA

2022

\$7,000

Weathered steel, painted steel, stainless steel, lexan 12' x 5' x 5'

In life we “see” things through our patchwork of filters—past experiences, the culture we live in, and attitudes and beliefs we have patched together. It is hard to objectively “see” situations in life. It is also difficult to understand another’s perspective. SkEYeward speaks to the need to clear our vision and see the world from an elevated or skyward point of view—go beyond and above our limited views. Looking up and looking forward changes our perception of the world and we can “see” more clearly what is often right in front of us.



2 TIME PASSES

DAVID ZAHN
MOLINE, IL

2016

\$17,500

Bronze & steel
90" x 30" x 14"

The sculpted figure is a 54" tall bronze, on a 36" corten steel base. The figure is shown in a state of deconstruction. I see it as a commentary on the changing nature of our time on this earth. It is about transitioning. The figure is shown accepting change, not fighting the forces of time that are acting on him. That being said, there is room for many kinds of interpretations on this moving image.



3 SONG CYCLE

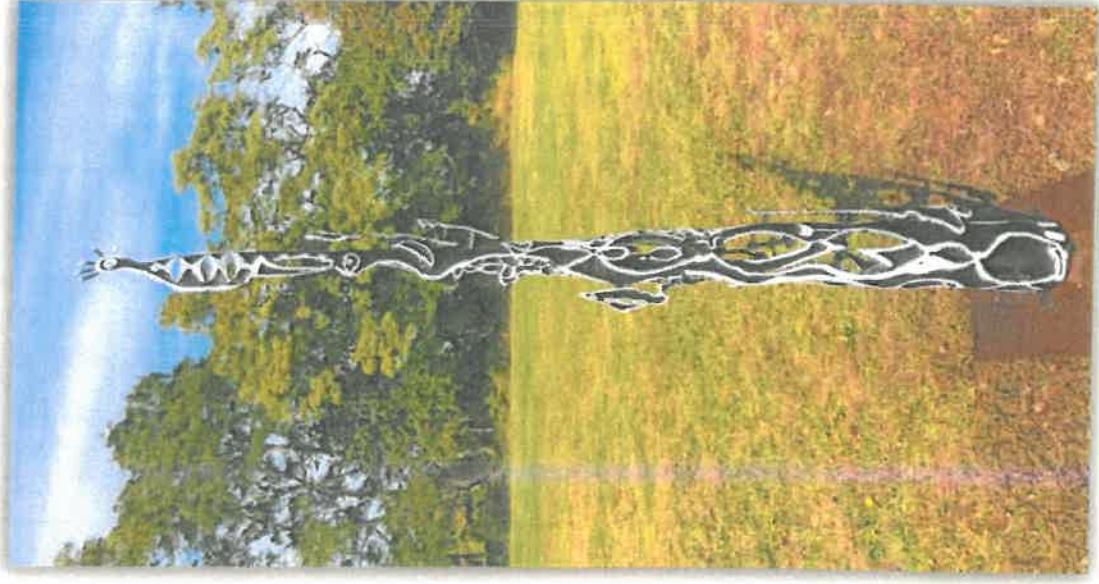
V. SKIP WILLITS
CAMANCHE, IA

2022

\$4,000

Recycled steel

100" x 25" x 25"



4 FISHING GIRL

ALBERT RHEA
PAPILLION, NE

2022
\$9,500
Stainless Steel
90" x 16" x 36"



5 EARTHMAN

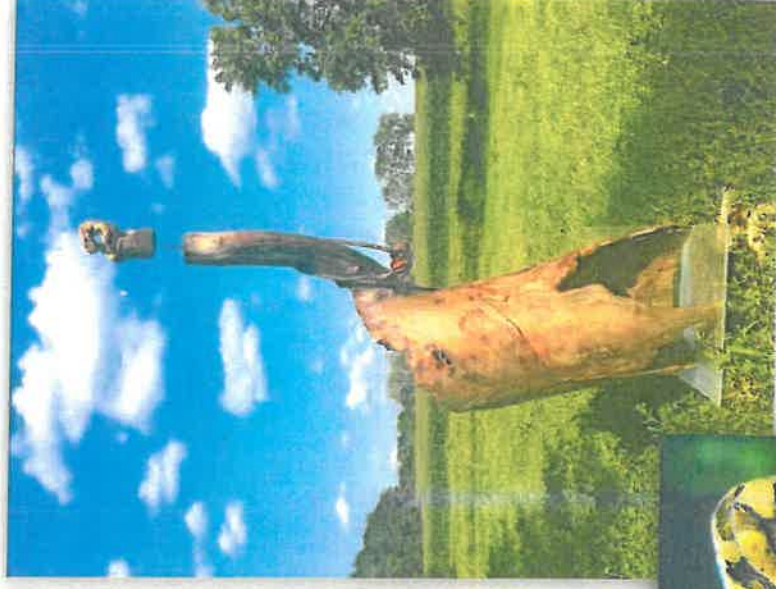
DANIEL CASTENEDA
TEKAMAH, NE

2021

\$8,000

Wood, oxidized iron on
acrylic base
6' x 4' x 4'

Hombre de la tierra, is a sculpture naturally carved by nature and by hand, which represents the rebirth from the depths of the earth with the fist raised as a sign of victory, since it has an iron link in the arm that represents freedom and a bullet in the heart that tries to hurt it without effect because in the end nature will always reign over the earth and this sculpture is a teaching of conscience for human beings about respect for our mother earth and the beings that surround us.



6 FLAMBEAUX

TIM ADAMS
WEBSTER CITY, IA

2022

\$7,000

Weathered steel, painted steel, stainless steel, lexan 12' x 3' x 3'

Flambeaux are flaming torches and the name comes from the French word flambe, meaning "flame". Flambeaux were used in the early Mardi Gras Carnival celebration so people could view the parades at night. They have evolved from staffs lit with pine-tar rags to oil-burning lanterns to current LED lighting and are considered an art form. Even though modern lighting can provide the needed lighting for today's parades, the tradition of flambeaux continues. Like so many traditions, which are handed down from one generation to another they provide a sense of stability and comfort. This piece attempts to capture the flow and movement of flames and the color and vibrancy of Mardi Gras. Do our traditions "light" our way or do they keep us stagnant?



7 ORANGE POP

NATHAN PIERCE
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

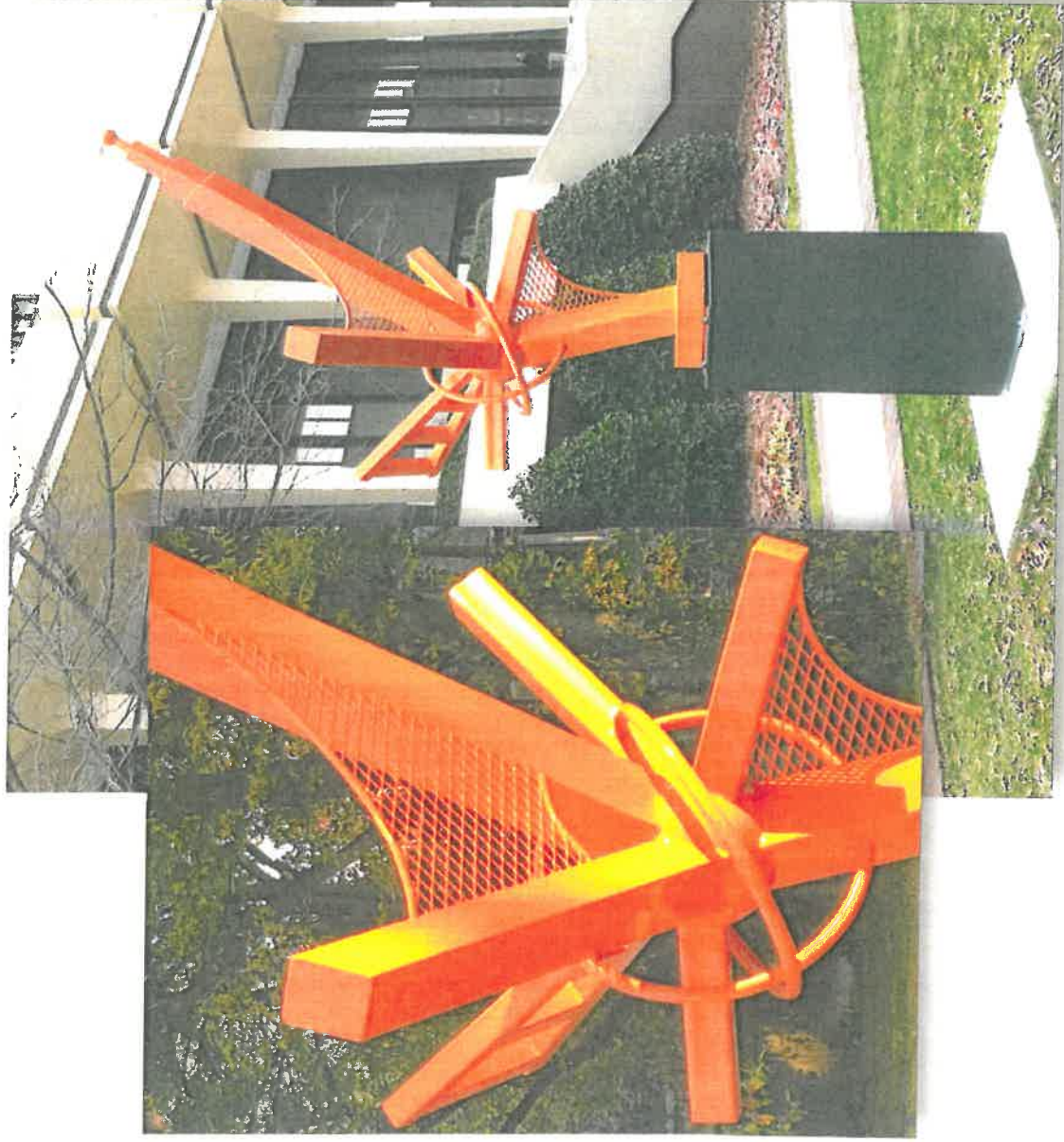
2017

\$10,000

Powder coated steel,
acrylic

10' x 5' x 3'

The surprise that we get from seeing out of the ordinary things in ordinary places activates our imagination and helps us to see the world differently. In today's social landscape we continually find ourselves in the midst of growth and change, and this momentum towards a better world is sometimes frustrating and exciting. As an artist, my intention is to help bring awareness to our surroundings and create an opportunity to reimagine our sense of place



8 HEART OF IOWA

ANNA MODELAND
SOMERS, IA

2020

\$3,500

Steel

5' x 4' x 4'

"Heart of Iowa" is a three sided sculpture cut out in the shape of Iowa. I used a projector so that each Iowa was perfectly dimensional to what the state is. The back side, underneath and four sided pedestal base are painted black while one Iowa is painted metallic chrome, one is metallic copper, and the other is metallic gold. The hearts on each side of the sculpture are painted red and are extended out about three inches to pop against the colors of the Iowas and would have "West Des Moines" written in the center of each heart in whimsical cursive. The entire top half is attached to a pipe that sits down over a narrower pipe on the pedestal; this way the community and onlookers may interact with the piece by spinning it around if they choose.



9 TILT SHIFT

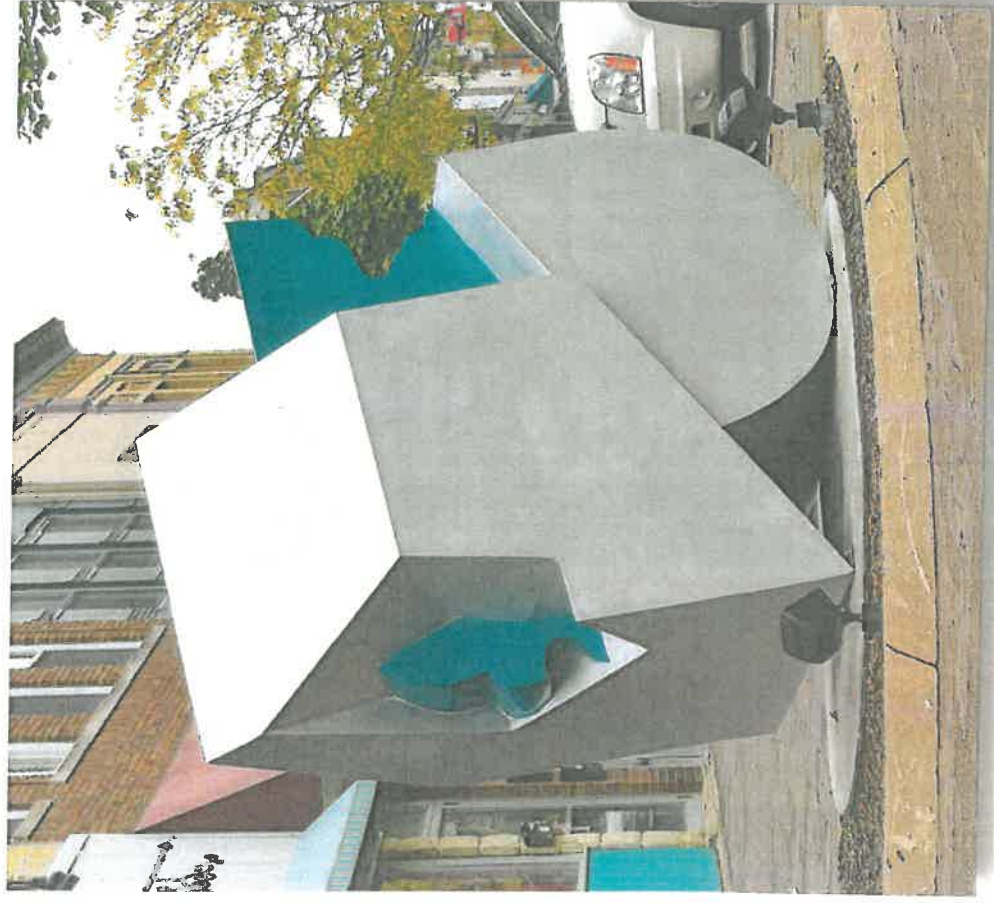
DALLAS GUFFEY
LIBERTYVILLE, IA

2017

\$6,500

Aluminum, enamel paint
82" x 64" x 42"

Tilt Shift is an abstraction of a house. This house appears to have been sliced and shifted revealing a corbel. A house is simply a box. The items, people, and memories that live inside the house make it a home. I represent this idea by suggesting both interior and exterior forms. The interior "home" is a blue enamel painted corbel, and the exterior "house" is unpainted aluminum. This creates a push and pull that questions what has happened to the house, did the interior cause the destruction, or is it the only thing holding the piece together?



10 BORO

V. SKIP WILLITS
CAMANCHE, IA

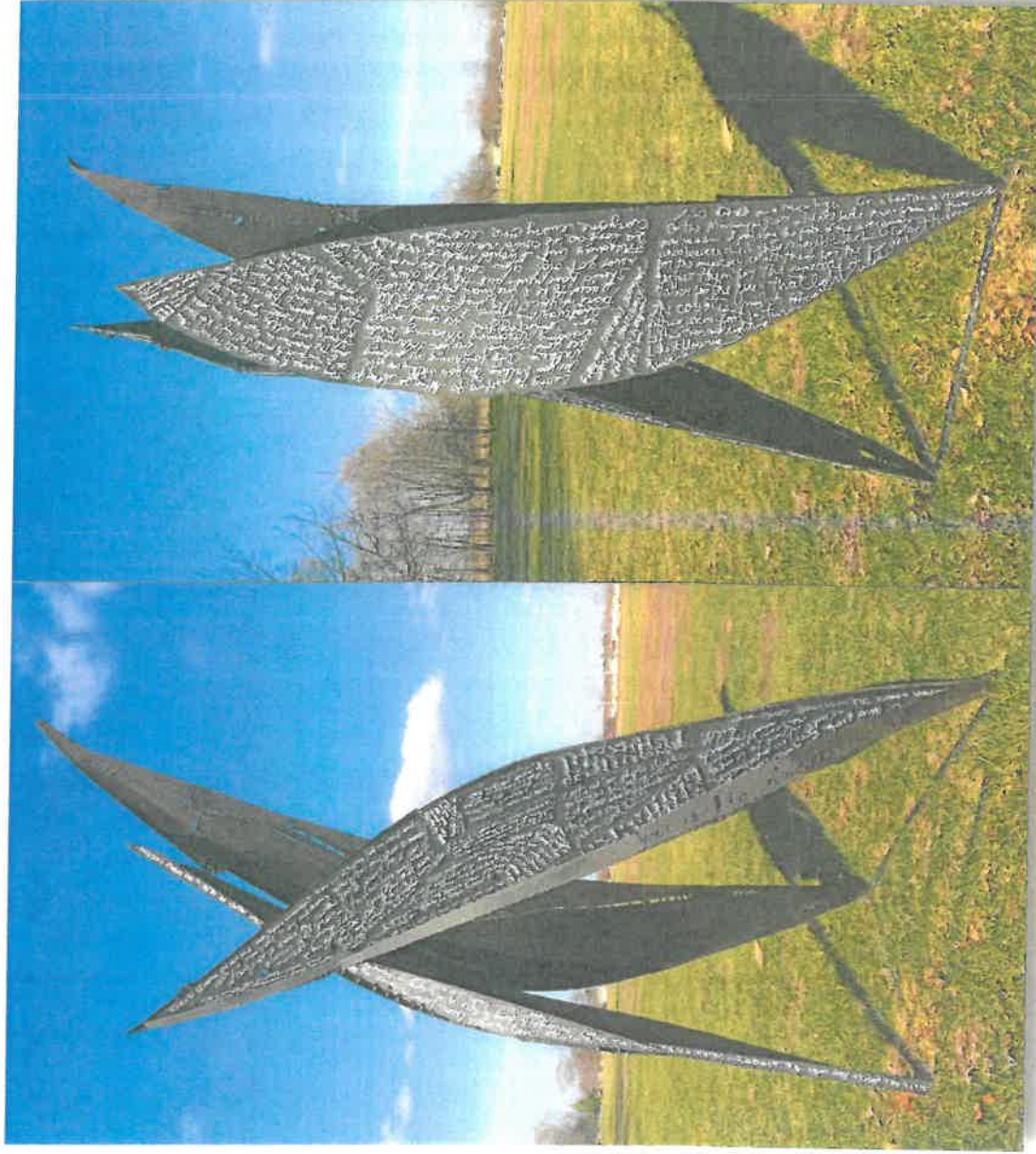
2020

\$4,000

Steel

95" x 42" x 36"

A stitching (welding) together of recycled pieces of sheet steel to form a single sculpture on. No commands, nothing profane, just songlines And ideas that we're rolling around in my head at the time of construction.



11 RIVER SIREN

KRISTIN GARNANT
CAMANCHE, IA

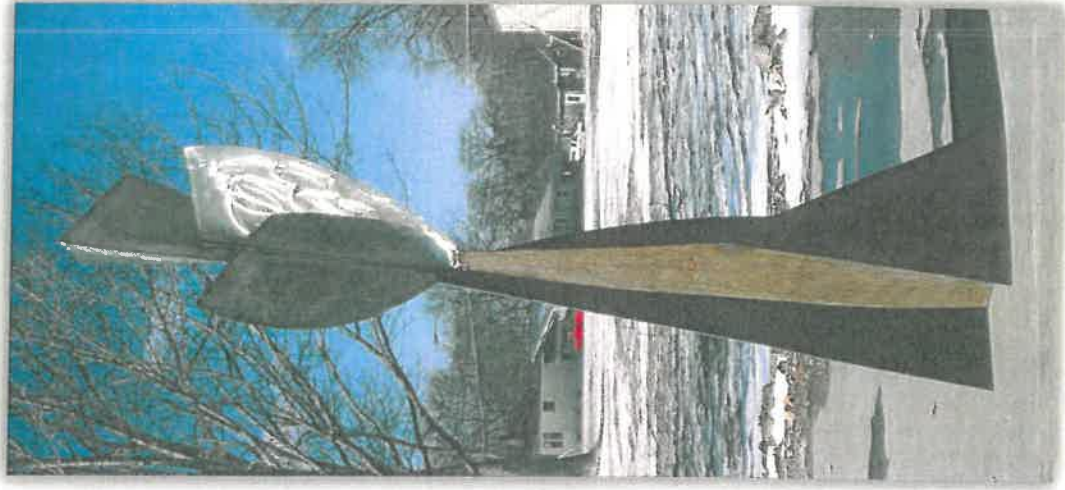
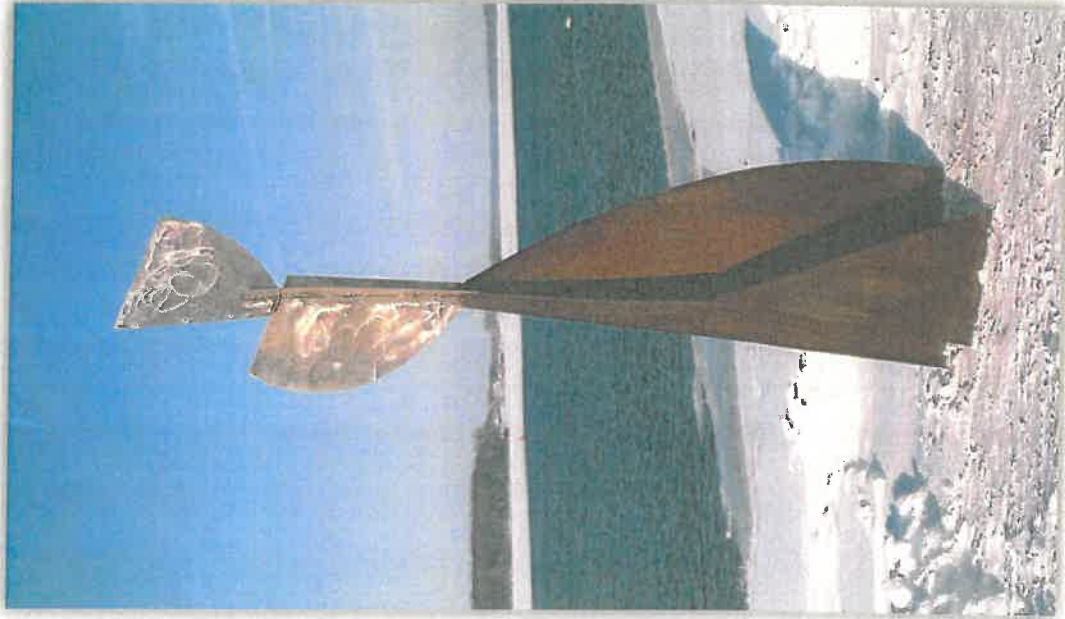
2011

\$7,800

Steel and stainless steel

82" x 28" 28"

This piece mixes the rich texture of corten steel with shimmering, ground stainless. An abstract feminine form that stands sentry, beckoning to the river's constant motion.



12 CONTINUUM

NATHAN PIERCE
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

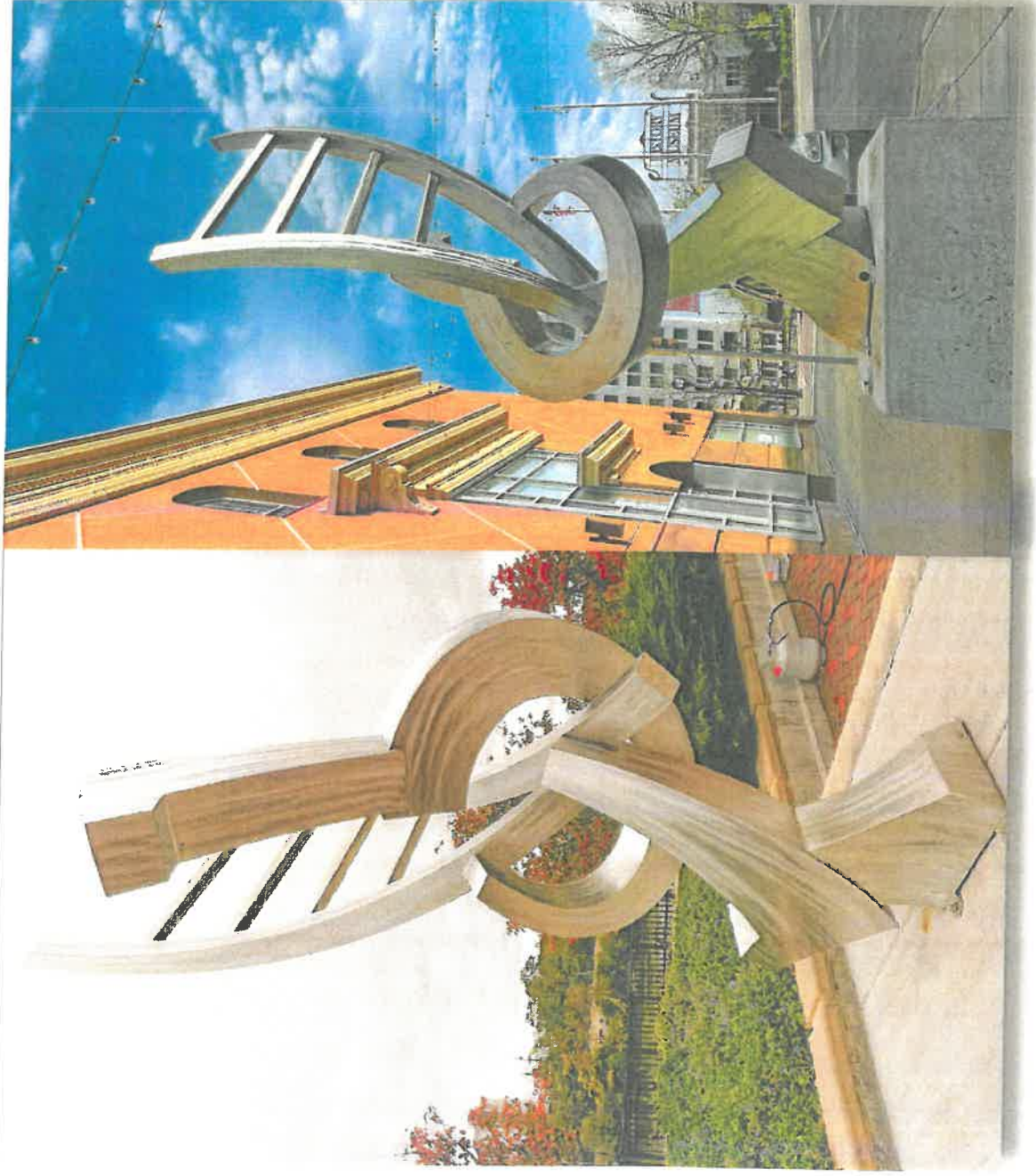
2018

\$50,000

Stainless steel

12' x 4' x 6'

Abstract contemporary work creating motion and balance through organic geometry. As the viewer moves around the piece the opposing forms create an everchanging relationship with each other.



5D

**CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DATE: November 9, 2022

ITEM: Motion – Approval of Request for Artist Qualifications – Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Expense of \$75,000 from the FY22-23 Public Art Fund – Commissioned Work of Art #4

SYNOPSIS: A Request for Artist Qualifications has been developed by the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project Work Group for a permanent work of art to be sited on public property within the confines of the Raccoon River Park playground site plan. The Request for Artist Qualifications is attached for review, but highlights of the main elements include the following:

Art Statement

Raccoon River Park, located at 2500 Grand Avenue in West Des Moines, Iowa, was established in the late 1990s and has become the city's most visible and highly used park. Park amenities include a 232-acre lake, beach, shelters, boathouse, archery facility, dog park, nature lodge, multi-use trail, fishing pier, softball and soccer complexes, and large playground. Two public artworks, *Even Water* and *Aqua Strata*, can be found in the park and were commissioned by the Public Arts Advisory Commission within the past four years to inform park users of effective water quality practices and their impact on the natural environment. Raccoon River Park is heavily used by thousands of visitors each year. Because of this, the original playground equipment began to show signs of age and wear and came to the end of its useful life when it was removed in the fall of 2022.

A new, inclusive playground is currently being constructed, and plans feature improvements that will welcome children and families of all abilities to learn, play, and grow together. The playground will enable all children to develop physically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally. A **commissioned sensory wall that incorporates public art** will be a focal point of the playground. The sensory wall will encourage visitors of all ages and development levels to feel comfortable, relaxed, and welcome in the park.

The West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission and Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Work Group want every person who experiences the artwork to feel invited and welcomed to the park. It is of the utmost importance that the public art sensory wall is playful and accessible for and to all. The Commission and Work Group want the public art sensory wall to be part of a calming space that provides a respite from other playground activities. In addition, the artwork should complement and relate to the natural elements of the park.

The project will include a permanent commissioned work of sensory art to be sited on public property within the confines of the Raccoon River Park Playground site plan [see attached renderings]. The work of art will be a single piece made up of multiple interactive elements.

Project Budget

The total budget for the project is \$75,000. This not-to-exceed total must cover all design fees, fabrication, installation, site visits, and other related expenses as defined by contract.

Proposed Schedule

Installation October 2023

Artist Eligibility

Lead artist must have completed one commissioned outdoor public works of art of \$25,000 or more; must show an understanding of neurodiverse populations and accessibility design best practices; must demonstrate the ability to work within playground safety standards and guidelines; can reside anywhere in the continental United States; must be able to travel to West Des Moines if selected.

BACKGROUND: Staff has been planning the replacement of the large playground in Raccoon River Park which is over 20 years old. During planning, the incorporation of art into the playground was discussed. The Commission approved commissioning a public art sensory wall to be included in the playground construction on May 26, 2022. Funding for the playground (excluding the public art sensory wall) is budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program, and construction began the week of October 24, 2022.

The Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project Work Group has met two times. Members include Diane Boyd (Commissioner), Mahesh Mathrubutham (Commissioner), Ryan Penning (Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation), Melissa Clarke-Wharff (Co-Founder, Can Play), Kelly Kunzler (Artist in Residence for The Least of These Foundation and Kunzler Studios), Rachel Bussan (WDM Library; neurodivergent), and Kristine Dreckman (parent of a neurodivergent child).

RECOMMENDATION: The Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project Work Group recommends that the Commission approve the attached Request for Artist Qualifications.

Lead Staff Member: Allison Ullestad, Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Sally Orgies, Director of Parks & Recreation
Agenda Acceptance	Sally Orgies, Director of Parks & Recreation

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	RRP Playground Sensory Wall Work Group		
Date Reviewed	11/4/2022		
Recommendation	YES		NO

RACCOON RIVER PARK PLAYGROUND

REQUEST FOR ARTIST
QUALIFICATIONS

PUBLIC ART SENSORY WALL PROJECT



THE CITY OF
West Des Moines.
Public Arts Advisory
Commission

REQUEST FOR ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS

RACCOON RIVER PARK PLAYGROUND PUBLIC ART SENSORY WALL PROJECT

City of West Des Moines, Iowa
Public Art Commission Opportunity

ABOUT WEST DES MOINES

The City of West Des Moines, Iowa, is a rapidly growing community located within the Des Moines/West Des Moines Metropolitan Area. West Des Moines has a wide array of amenities and services and provides residents with broad access to a high quality of life. A recent ETC Institute survey found that 94% of West Des Moines residents are satisfied with the quality of life, and overall satisfaction with City services is 42% above the national average.

Some notable facts about the community include:

- 2020 population was 68,723
- 8th largest city in Iowa
- \$3.6 billion worth of development in the last five years
- More than 1,500 acres of parkland and open space, two aquatic centers, a softball complex, nature lodge, archery range, amphitheater, boathouse, dog park, cemetery, and a multi-use sports and event space facility
- 69-mile trail system that connects to the Central Iowa Trail system

See more at: www.wdm.iowa.gov

West Des Moines aims to be a welcoming community that provides services and opportunities to all residents and visitors regardless of ability. Some notable facts about children with special needs in and around West Des Moines include:

- 39,000 children are affected by a special healthcare need
- 1 in 4 children has been diagnosed with autism
- 1,500 students are enrolled in the West Des Moines Community Schools Special Education program; an additional 2,000 students have 504 Plans

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The vision of the West Moines Public Art Program is the creation of a diverse collection of public works of art of high aesthetic and intellectual quality and excellence along with a program that promotes cultural expression and artistic appreciation. At the heart of the aspiration for public art in West Des Moines is the wish for an authentic, rich, and diverse arts culture that is seen and understood as uniquely arising from the community – an arts culture that benefits and enriches all those who live in, work in, and visit West Des Moines.

The mission of the West Des Moines Public Art Program is to create a city with enriching public spaces incorporating public works of art that offer moments of discovery and opportunities for reflection and growth--a city with public art woven into the fine-grain detail of the public infrastructure. The Public Art Program champions excellence in art, design, architecture, and landscape. The Public Art Program and Collection should be the most visible symbols of West Des Moines' commitment to creativity, diversity of ideas and expression, and socio-cultural multiplicity. A creative city provides inclusive and equitable environments for its residents, business communities, and visitors, extending opportunities for life-long learning and community connection.

The primary goals of the Public Art Program are to develop an aesthetically interesting environment, to integrate public works of art into public spaces, and to promote tourism and the economic vitality of West Des Moines through the enhancement of public spaces.

See more at: www.wdm.iowa.gov/PublicArt

ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project Art Statement

Raccoon River Park, located at 2500 Grand Avenue in West Des Moines, Iowa, was established in the late 1990s and has become the city's most visible and highly used park. Park amenities include a 232-acre lake, beach, shelters, boathouse, archery facility, dog park, nature lodge, multi-use trail, fishing pier, softball and soccer complexes, and large playground. Two public artworks, *Even Water* and *Aqua Strata*, can be found in the park and were commissioned by the Public Arts Advisory Commission within the past four years to inform park users of effective water quality practices and their impact on the natural environment. Raccoon River Park is heavily used by thousands of visitors each year. Because of this, the original playground equipment began to show signs of age and wear and came to the end of its useful life when it was removed in the fall of 2022.

A new, inclusive playground is currently being constructed, and plans feature improvements that will welcome children and families of all abilities to learn, play, and grow together. The playground will enable all children to develop physically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally. A **commissioned sensory wall that incorporates public art** will be a focal point of the playground. The sensory wall will encourage visitors of all ages and development levels to feel comfortable, relaxed, and welcome in the park.

The West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission and Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Work Group want every person who experiences the artwork to feel invited and welcomed to the park. It is of the utmost importance that the public art sensory wall is playful and accessible for and to all. The Commission and Work Group want the public art sensory wall to be part of a calming space that provides a respite from other playground activities. In addition, the artwork should complement and relate to the natural elements of the park.

The project will include a permanent commissioned work of sensory art to be sited on public property within the confines of the Raccoon River Park Playground site plan [see attached renderings]. The work of art will be a single piece made up of multiple interactive elements. **The total budget for the project is \$75,000.** This not-to-exceed total must cover all design fees, fabrication, installation, site visits, and other related expenses as defined by contract.

ELIGIBILITY

Invited artist or artist team:

- Must have completed one commissioned outdoor public work of art of \$25,000 or more
- Must show an understanding of neurodiverse populations and accessibility design best practices
- Must demonstrate the ability to work within playground safety standards and guidelines
- Can reside anywhere in the continental United States
- Must be able to travel to West Des Moines if selected

SELECTION & PROJECT CRITERIA

Selection of a finalist or finalists will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter of interest
- Quality of work samples
- Ability of artist/team to complete the project based on bio and prior work experience

SELECTION & PROJECT CRITERIA CONT.

Approval of artwork proposed by the selected artist will be based on the following criteria:

- Fulfills the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Statement [see above]
- Must be a single artwork with multiple sensory elements; interactive and engaging with kinetic, tactile, and colorful elements
- Must adhere to current ASTM and CPSC playground safety standards and guidelines
- Must be low maintenance and durable, able to withstand weather conditions
- Must be site-specific; installed on public property within the confines of the Raccoon River Park Playground site plan
- Installed on pre-poured frost [3'6" deep] footing to be provided by City's playground contractor; exact footing location and dimensions to be coordinated with City and contractor prior to final design proposal
- Includes a high level of community engagement that is incorporated into the development of a final proposal and/or the artwork itself

SELECTION PROCESS OVERVIEW

This is an open request for qualifications for artists who meet the eligibility requirements. Artists' materials will be pre-screened to ensure all applicants meet eligibility requirements. The Work Group will review eligible applications and select up to three finalists/finalist teams to participate in an interview. Interviews will be held virtually. Further interview information will be provided to the finalists.

Upon completion of an interview, one artist/artist team will be commissioned to develop, fabricate, and install the permanent artwork. Additional requirements will be outlined in instructions to finalists. Please see the following timeline for further details.

Work Group Members

Kelly Kunzler	Least of These Foundation	Melissa Clarke-Wharff	Co-Founder, Can Play
Rachel Bussan	WDM Library, Neurodivergent	Diane Boyd	PAAC Commissioner
Kristine Dreckman	Parent of Neurodivergent child	Mahesh Mathrubatham	PAAC Commissioner
Ryan Penning	WDM P&R, Assistant Director		

REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS

In digital format only.

Provide the following in a single PDF document:

- 1 Contact information for artist/artist team members
- 2 One to three-page letter describing interest in the project and approach to design; please include statements addressing eligibility criteria, community engagement, and other project criteria
- 3 One-page biographical information or resume for lead artist [include one paragraph for each team member if artist-led team]
- 4 Three references [contact information only] for recently completed projects
- 5 Document listing 2-3 work samples that have been completed within the last 5 years; must include a brief description, budget, and up to 5 images for each work sample

NOTE: Do not submit a visual proposal for sensory wall artwork at this time

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

[Schedule may be subject to change]

November 14, 2022	RFQ announced
January 9, 2023	RFQ submission deadline
January 10-13, 2023	Work Group reviews and selects finalists
Week of January 16, 2023	Finalist interviews [held virtually]
January 26, 2023	Contract with selected artist/team approved by Public Arts Advisory Commission
February 6, 2023	Contract with selected artist/team approved by City Council
February-March 2023	Final design developed by artist/team; approved by Work Group
March 23, 2023	Final design proposal approved by Public Arts Advisory Commission
March-April 2023	Design development commences; once approved, fabrication commences
October 2023	Project installation complete

Please submit all RFQ materials via email to Allison Ullestad, Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor, Allison.Ullestad@wdm.iowa.gov. Include "Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project" in the subject line.

All materials must be received by **4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, January 9, 2023**. No submissions will be accepted after this time.

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

- 1 Playground sensory area; sensory wall left blank for illustrative purposes only
- 2 Sensory area playground equipment
- 3 Overall plan of playground
- 4 View of playground looking northwest
- 5 Raccoon River Park; playground area is circled
- 6 Raccoon River Park; playground area is circled
- 7 Raccoon River Park; playground area is circled
- 8 Softball Complex
- 9 Fishing Pier
- 10 Boathouse
- 11 Nature Lodge
- 12 Multi-use trail
- 13 Archery Facility
- 14 Dog Park
- 15 Even Water public art
- 16 Aqua Strata public art participant paintings
- 17 Overhead photo of Even Water public art
- 18 Aqua Strata public art in Nature Lodge

1



SENSORY ART WALL



COZY DOME



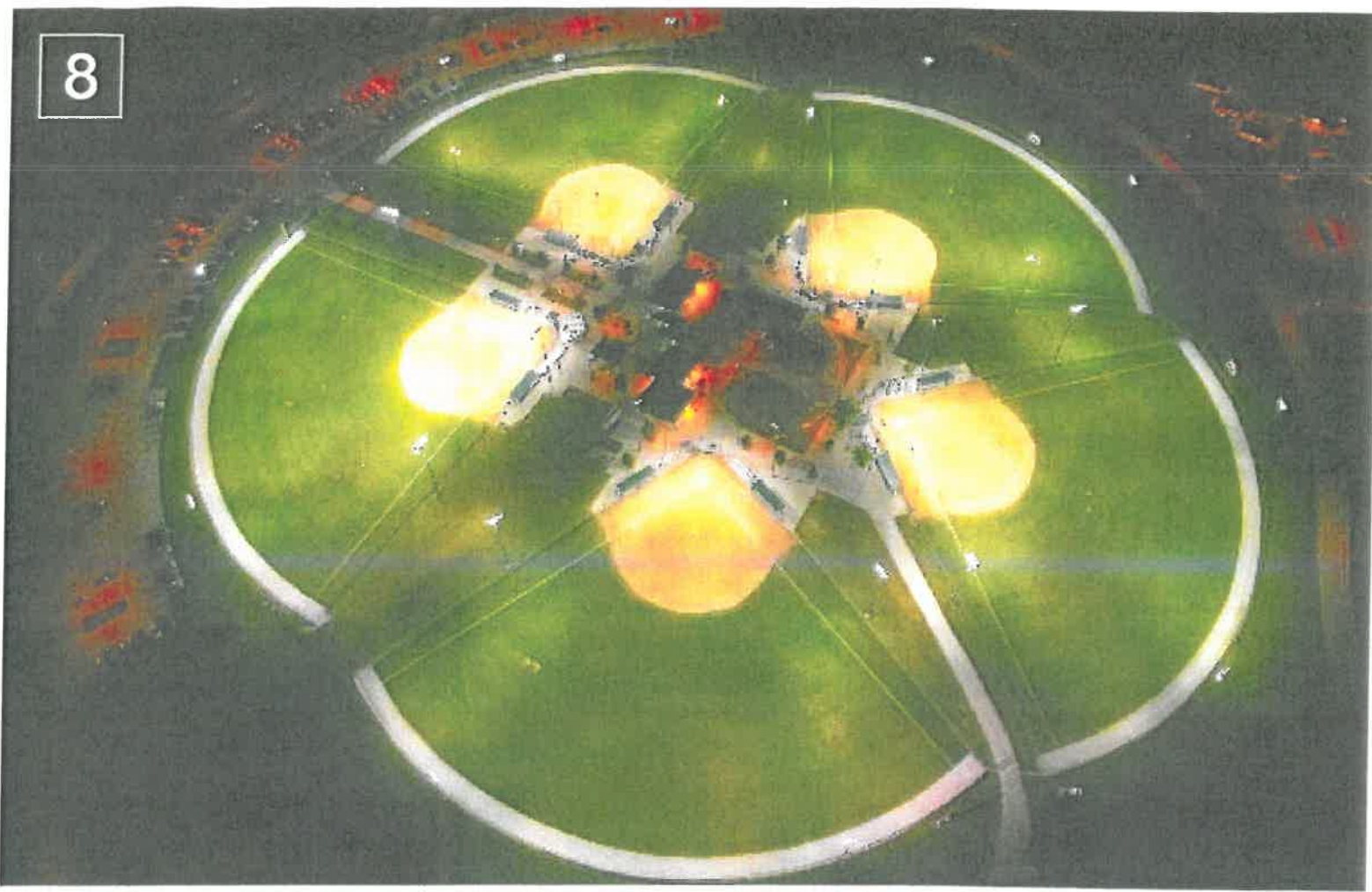
CHILL SPINNER



2



8



10



11

12



13



14



15



16



17



18