

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

AGENDA

**5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**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: 289 699 923 77#**

- 1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Citizen Forum**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2023**
- 4. Old Business**
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Location – 2023 WDMurals
- 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 Playground Public Art Sensory Wall
- 8. Staff Reports**
 - A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor
 - B. Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
 - C. Director of Parks and Recreation
- 9. Other Matters**
 - A. Recognition of Out-Going Members
- 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, February 23, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 23, 2023, 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	X	X	X arrived at 5:34pm
Commission	Diane Boyd	Amenda Tate			
Present	X	X arrived at 5:36pm			

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 Trevislyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X	X	X	X	

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

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

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2022 Meeting

Mathrubutham moved to approve the minutes as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

On Item 4. Old Business

No report.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Allocation – Des Moines Art Week 2023

Ryan Hanser, Group Creative, and Susan Watts, Olsen-Larson Galleries, presented their fellowship concept for Des Moines Art Week 2023. Watts explained that once the artist/artist group (fellow) was identified for each designated neighborhood, that fellow would be the beacon for coordinating their vision for a community-focused piece. Group Creative is requesting that the Commission invests \$5,000 towards a fellowship stipend to include Valley Junction as the fifth Art Week neighborhood location which would be highlighted during the Valley Junction Farmers Market on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Rachel Buse, Des Moines Artist, discussed the success of the Big Head Parade held during Des Moines Art Week 2022. Buse stated that 300 people participated in the workshops leading up to the parade, including children from a West Des Moines summer camp. Funding also went towards paying 15 artists directly for the larger pieces. The structure this year will allow the artist freedom to determine what type of community engagement they will have. Ullestad clarified that this is considered temporary, participatory art and that the agreement would be with Group Creative, not directly with the artist.

Steve Frevert, Director of Valley Junction Foundation, stated while the Foundation did not contribute to this project last year, funding for future Des Moines Art Week will be requested. Frevert recognizes that there is a built-in audience during the Valley Junction Farmers Market that allows for great community engagement.

InvestDSM has committed to funding four Des Moines neighborhoods and artists that have already been selected and announced by Group Creative. Tate expressed concern about the selection process and how to make it accessible to all artists. It was recommended that a call for artists should be implemented for future selections.

Boyd moved to approve the allocation for Des Moines Art Week 2023 as presented. Phillips seconded. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Artist – Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project

Mathrubutham discussed the selection process conducted by the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Work Group. Hilde DeBruyne was selected because she provided detailed responses to the questionnaire that allowed the Work Group to see her vision for the piece.

Ullestad explained that CODAworx was used for the national RFQ because there were specific qualifications that the selected artist needed to display. The \$500 investment allowed for the call to be boosted twice. Mathrubutham mentioned that the search resulted in potentially identifying artists for future projects as well. Boyd recommended that the Exhibition Committee discuss adding another eligibility criteria in the RFQ or on the scoring rubric stating limits based on how recently a large, commissioned piece has been purchased. Penning stated that the Work Group's top choice of Hilde DeBruyne was unanimous.

Mathrubutham moved to approve the artist for the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project as presented. Boyd seconded. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

No Report.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

No Report.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art

Ortgies stated that the Railroad Park Restroom Public Art Work Group has been established. Because there was no response from the Valley Junction Residents Association, it has been decided to move forward with the current members.

On Item 7B. DART Bus Shelter Public Art

No Report. Ullestad stated that the timeline will need to be confirmed with DART about bus shelter installations.

On Item 7C. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

Ullestad mentioned that the BRAVO Public Art Grant will open on March 6th and a grant will be submitted for \$25,000 for this project by April 7th.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

Ullestad stated that Art on the Campus will go to Council on March 6th for approval. Applications for WDMurals are due February 24th at 5:00 pm. BRAVO started a public art community group and has requested that Marnie and Allison speak about artist selection and community engagement at the next meeting on March 2nd. Ullestad announced that the Free Little Art Mart (FLAM) will be installed this spring at Peony Park by Public Services. The Master Plan was approved by Council and the Annual Report presentation was well received. Tim Stiles, Finance Director, requested copies of the PAAC Look Book to give to auditors and the finance department.

On Item 8B. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning updated the Commission on staffing changes. Melanie Perry, Naturalist, will retire at the end of February and the new Naturalist is scheduled to start in May. The Superintendent of Recreation will onboard in early April. Penning mentioned that spring/summer registration opens for West Des Moines residents on March 7th.

Ortgies explained that with the term ending in March for Diane Boyd, Rita Luther, and Brenda Sedlacek, there is a new process passed by the Park Board for selecting new members of the Commission. There were 8 applications received and 6 interviews scheduled. Once the interviews are held, recommendations will be made to Mayor Russ Trimble for the final selection.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Ullestad invited the Commission to attend the retirement party for Sally Ortgies which will be held on March 30th from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Nature Lodge.

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

February 6, 2023 Resolution – Approval of Public Art Master Plan

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 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: March 23, 2023

ITEM: Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Locations – 2023 WDMurals

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Expense of \$14,000 for the artist stipends (\$2,000 per new mural) and \$300 for the Best in Show award for a total of \$14,300. This amount is included in the FY 21-22 public art fund.

SYNOPSIS: The Commission is sponsoring the third, temporary WDMurals exhibit from May 2023 through March 2024. The WDMurals Selection Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, to review and score 24 proposals that were submitted by 20 artists/artist groups from Iowa. For comparison, 37 proposals by 21 artists/artist groups were submitted for the 2022 WDMurals exhibit.

The selection committee members included: Diane Boyd (Commission member), Ryan Crane (Commission member), Missy Berg (Bicycle Advisory Commission member), Joe Moose (WDM Engineering Department), and Tricia Kubicek (Citizen, Artist).

Nine entries were selected to be installed on trail underpass entrance/exit walls. *The mural "Escape" won the 2022 Best in Show Award and will remain in place for the duration of the 2023 WDMurals exhibit. Therefore, five trail underpasses will be the location of 10 (9 new, 1 old) total murals. The committee's recommendations include:

Entry Name	Artist Name	Mural Location
Connection	Lauren Pesta	1
We Are the Fire	Damen LaPalm	2
Murmuration	Ebisu	3
Escape*	Brandon Hopper	4
Winds of Community	Lindsay Drew	5
I'll Be There for You	Ally Frame	6
Communal Space	Emily Lawson/Ally Frame	7
Our Community	Dani Austen/Cat Rocketship	8
The Power to Change an Inner World	Kathleen Roling	9
Patchwork	Brandon Hopper	10

The seven 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 each artist. The final artist agreements will be included on the City Council meeting agenda for April 17, 2023. The artists will paint their murals May 1-15, 2023.

BACKGROUND: None

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION: The Commission approves the recommendation of the 2023 WDMurals 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

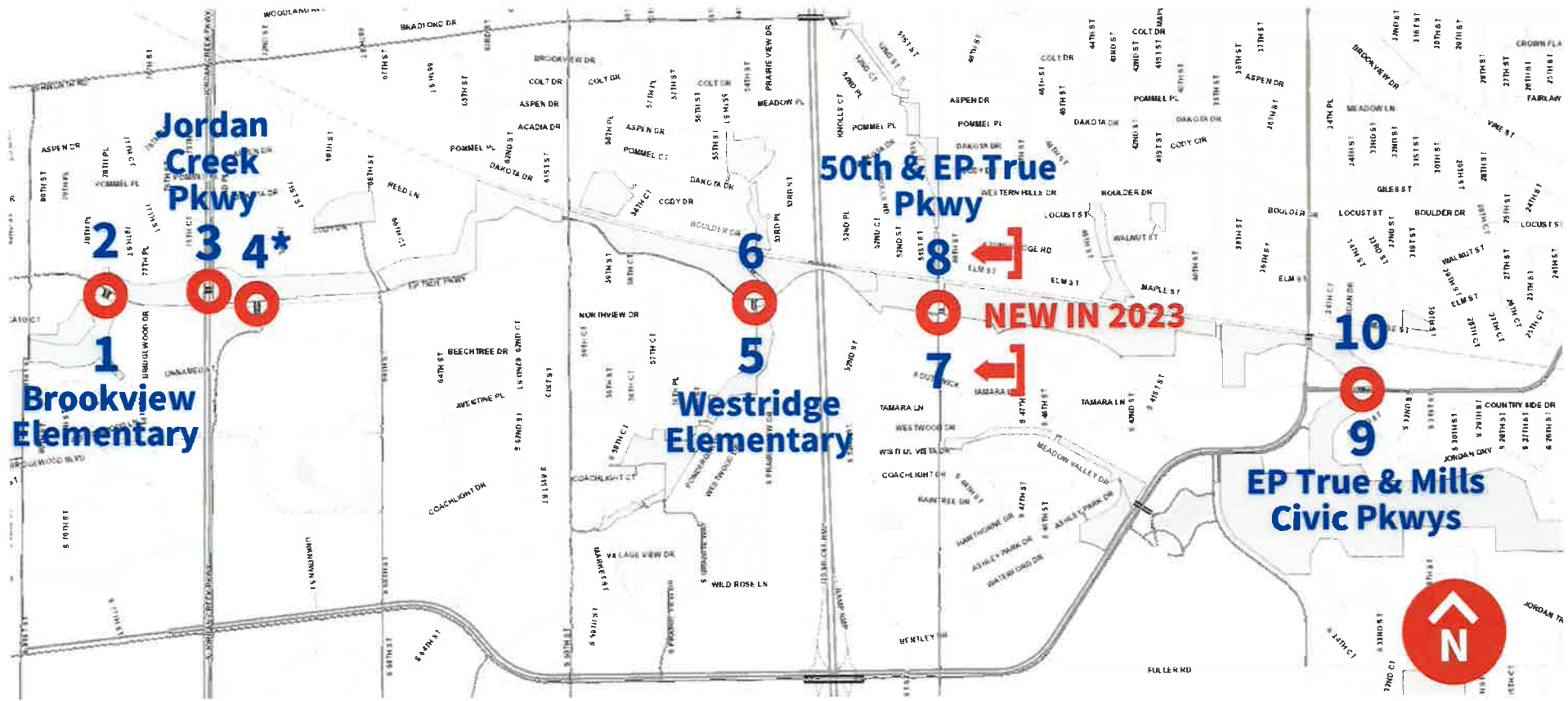
PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	WDMurals Selection Committee		
Date Reviewed	3/7/23		
Recommendation	YES	NO	SPLIT

Exhibit Locations



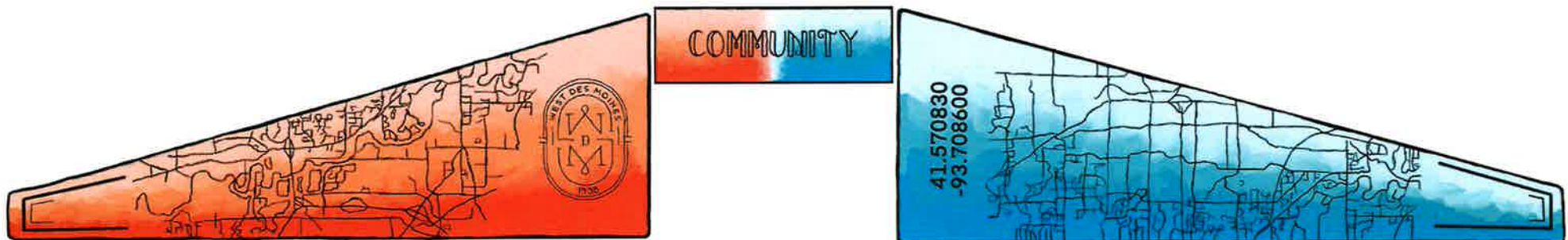
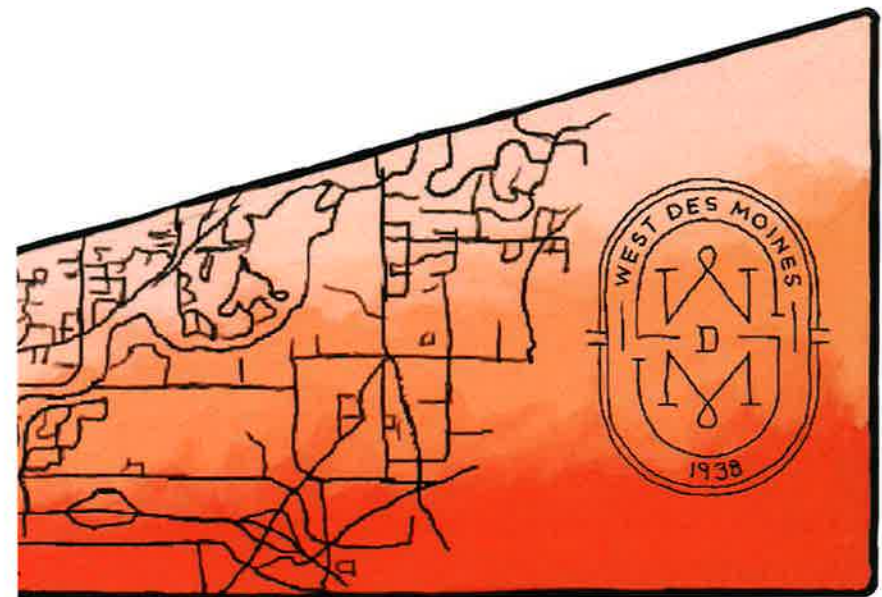
*2022 Best in Show Award Winner, "Escape", to stay in place

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Connection - Lauren Pesta | 6 I'll Be There for You - Ally Frame |
| 2 We Are the Fire - Damen LaPalm | 7 Communal Space - Emily Lawson/Ally Frame |
| 3 Murmuration - Ebisu | 8 Our Community - Dani Austen/Cat Rocketship |
| 4 Escape - Brandon Hopper* | 9 The Power to Change an Inner World - Kathleen Roling |
| 5 Winds of Community - Lindsay Drew | 10 Patchwork - Brandon Hopper |

1 CONNECTION

Lauren Pesta
DES MOINES, IA

"The energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued." Connection, by Brene Brown. Her quote is exactly the feeling behind my mural and a big part of all of my work. A Community is about being connected with each other! Not just geographically but through growth over time through, HISTORY! I chose to use different hues of blues and oranges to represent the water in West Des Moines like Blue Heron Lake and Raccoon River. I used different values of oranges to highlight the beautiful sunsets and sunrises. When researching the history of West Des Moines I found the logo for the historical society I decided to add the date 1938 on the lower section to honor the year the new name of West Des Moines was given. And the latitude and longitude are for the location of 137 5th Street, where the first city hall was constructed in 1905 when it was the city of Valley Junction. The map is of the current geography. I wanted to give a historical reference with the numbers but also show the current roads and waterways to show the connection through the community!



2 WE ARE THE FIRE

Damen LaPalm
DES MOINES, IA

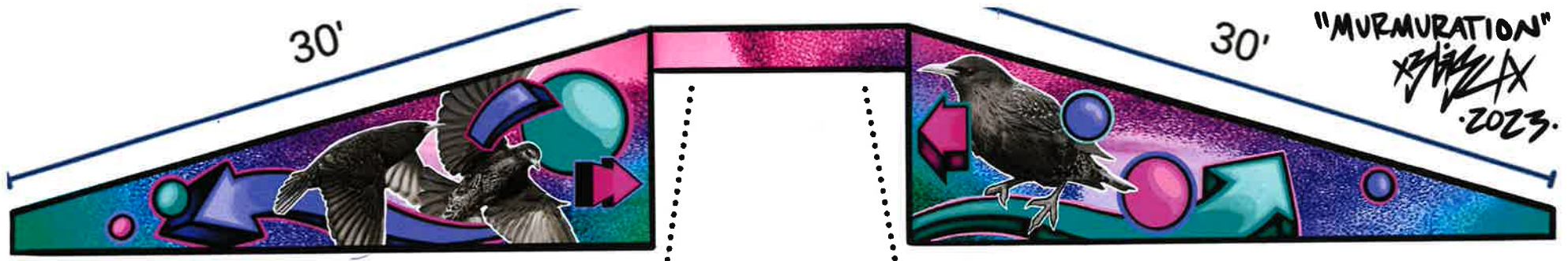
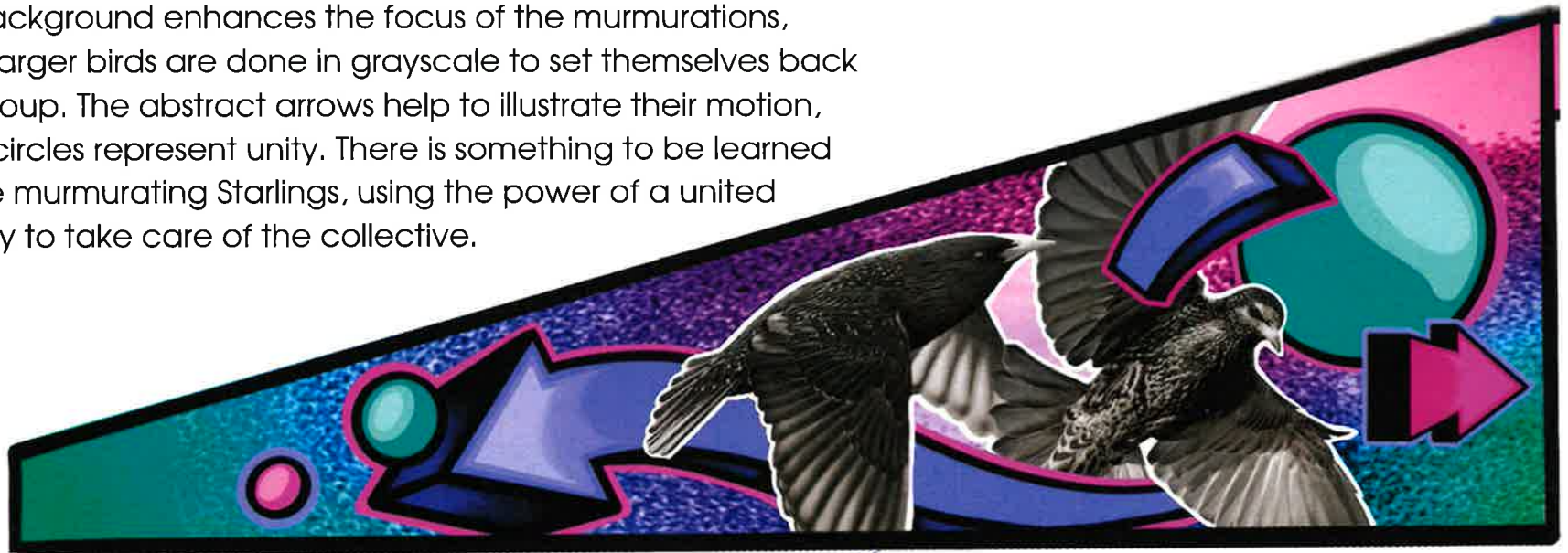
What is acceptance? When do we look inward? Who are the ones who make a community? It's you, it's me, it's everyone. We are the builders, the creators, the poets. We are the voice and the breath. We are the sound and the action. We are the path and the guidance. We are all colors and all identities. We are the Fire. And as equals we burn bright; like the stars in the sky with our feet on the ground.



3 MURMURATION

Ebisu
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

"Murmuration" - the behavior observed in Starlings of flocking in dense numbers and creating formations in the sky by dancing around one another. Starlings use this technique to fend off larger predators, and keep warm in the evenings. The use of a bright, colorful background enhances the focus of the murmurations, while the larger birds are done in grayscale to set themselves back into the group. The abstract arrows help to illustrate their motion, while the circles represent unity. There is something to be learned from these murmuring Starlings, using the power of a united community to take care of the collective.



5 WINDS OF COMMUNITY

Lindsay Drew
WEST DES MOINES, IA

"Winds of Community" looks at community through symbolism of nature. Our community is vast and offers so many unique experiences. One thing we all share in our great city is what nature gives us. The beauty of the sky, human form, life the trees bring and the wind that touches us each day.



6 I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

Ally Frame
DES MOINES, IA

My mural turns the bike path into a larger than life comic strip that illustrates one example of how our community supports each other in a fun way that both kids and adults can engage with. It features a dog enjoying his day when disaster strikes and his home is destroyed. His neighbors and community rally together to rebuild his home and build lasting friendships too.



7 COMMUNAL SPACE

Emily Lawson/
Ally Frame
DES MOINES, IA

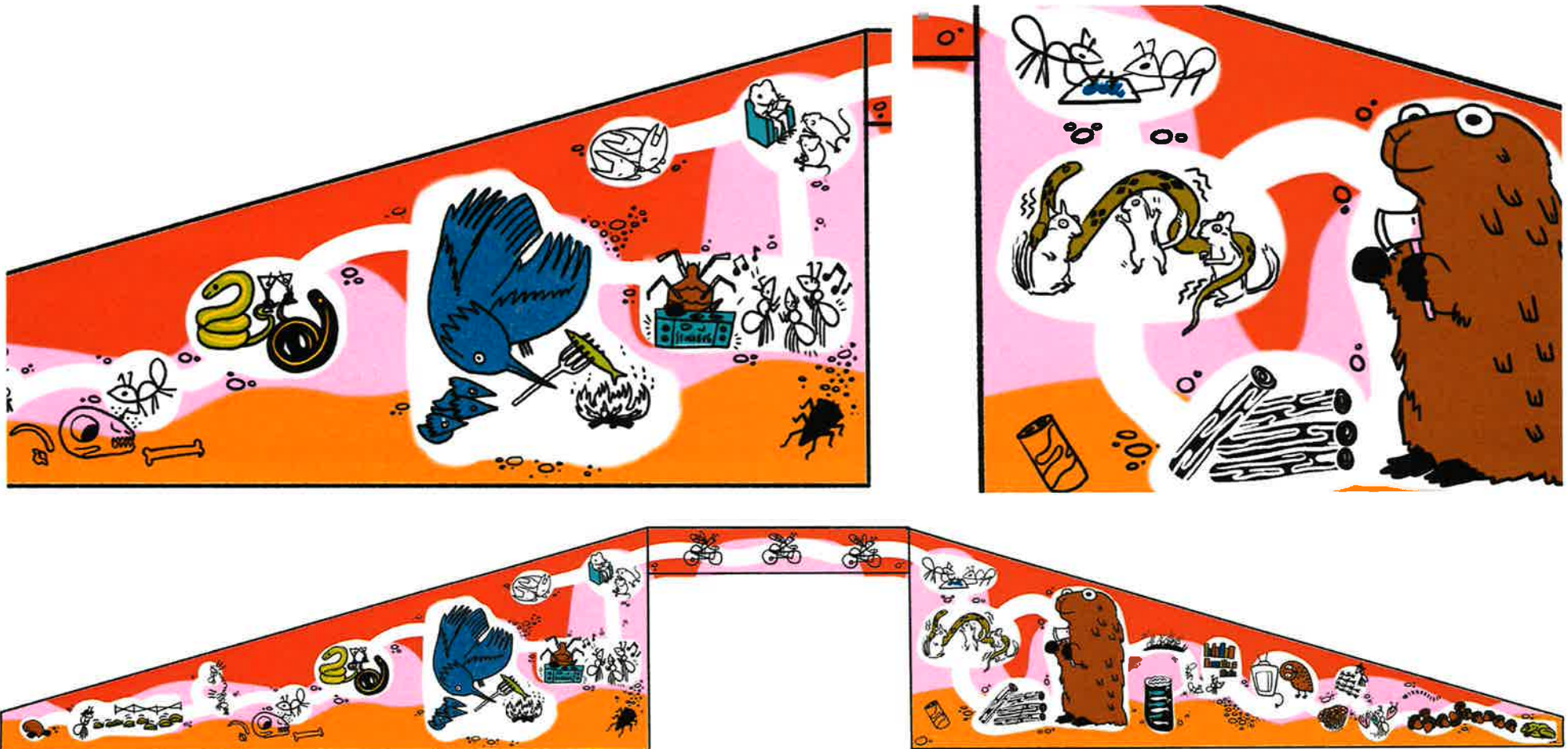
Our inspiration behind this mural is celebrating the idea that in this vast, ever expanding universe, we have the privilege of finding ourselves together in this community; and that ultimately finding community could give our viewers a touchstone for hope, meaning, and purpose. We are not alone, we are in this together. It also serves as a reminder that while we have our little community here we are also part of a larger community - the world. We're all in this together and need to work together to make positive changes around the globe. Using bright colors, illustrative elements, and a cut-and-paste aesthetic we aim to keep the overall feeling of the mural lighthearted and joyful, while the deeper message of "I'm here" "and so are you" on the Earth could be a really meaningful reminder of c



8 OUR COMMUNITY

Dani Austen/
Cat Rocketship
DES MOINES, IA

In Our Community, we take a look at a number of fossorial (burrowing or underground dwelling) animals found in Iowa. From the ants making art and attending a dance party to the burrowing owl watching a little TV, the creatures in this mural are participating in many of the activities that our community is invested in. Though the animals are stylized in a fun and friendly way, they are each representative of a species native to this area. The colorful mural will bring humor and joy to trail users.



9 THE POWER TO CHANGE AN INNER WORLD

Kathleen Roling
DES MOINES, IA

I have interpreted the theme "Our Community" with bold symbolism of unity and diversity. The graphic style is aesthetically pleasing with high contrast and saturated colors. The two hands placed on both sides of the tunnel entrance represent different kinds of people who choose to come together to form a whole heart. They are placed in a way that it is the walkway where people travel that unites the two hands as one heart. The community walking through the tunnel complete the artwork, and are part of the art themselves. The hands also represent the embrace of the community members that might be walking through the tunnel. The different colors of hands symbolize the diversity of the different souls that make up the community of West Des Moines in a way that celebrates the uniqueness of individuals. The variety of bold flowers also represent the diversity of the community as a symbol that is more than external quality, but even internal. The uniqueness of every mind and heart is celebrated in this design. The graphic lines emanating from the tunnel represent the power of change each member of the community that walks through the tunnel carries. As they release that power within them, they reach out to the flowers and energize them, helping them grow, representing the power to help every internal world they touch to flourish like a beautiful bloom.



10 PATCHWORK

Brandon Hopper
WEST DES MOINES, IA

Our community is made up of a variety of different parts and pieces. We are made up of people from all different places, each with something unique to contribute. We are woven together like an intricate patchwork telling our story. The pattern is inspired by quilting and is reminiscent of aerial views of Iowa. This piece represents the diversity and community of West Des Moines.



**CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION**

DATE: March 6, 2023

ITEM: Motion – Approval of 2023 Art on the Campus Artist Agreements

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). The Public Arts Advisory Commission approved the selection committee’s recommendation on November 9, 2022.

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.

BACKGROUND: None

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission approve the recommendation of the 2023 Art on the Campus artist contracts.

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

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Sally Ortgies, Director of Parks and Recreation
Appropriations/Finance	Tim Stiles, Finance Director
Legal	Richard Scieszinski, City Attorney
Agenda Acceptance	

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	N/A
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	Public Arts Advisory Commission		
Date Reviewed	12/09/2021		
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

CITY OF WEST DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 6, 2023

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Cost not to exceed \$75,000 to be paid from budgeted funds in the Public Art account (437.400.470.5400.750).

SYNOPSIS: The Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project Work Group met on Wednesday, January 11 to score 18 submissions from national artists/artist groups. After discussion among the group and tabulation of scores, the Work Group chose to invite six artists/artist groups to submit answers to four specific project questions.

The Work Group met again on Friday, January 27 to review and score artists' answers to the questionnaire. They then unanimously approved a recommendation to establish a contract with artist Hilde DeBruyne from Cumming, Iowa. The Public Arts Advisory Commission approved an artist agreement with Hilde DeBruyne at their meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023.


BACKGROUND: The original project RFQ, DeBruyne's RFQ submission, and DeBruyne's questionnaire answers are attached.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve an artist agreement with Hilde DeBruyne Art and Design LLC for the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Sensory Wall Project

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

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Sally Ortgies, Director of Parks and Recreation 
Appropriations/Finance	Tim Stiles, Finance Director
Legal	Richard Scieszinski, City Attorney
Agenda Acceptance	

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	N/A
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	Public Arts Advisory Commission		
Date Reviewed	2/27/2023		
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split