

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

AGENDA

**5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**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: 694 126 052 #**

- 1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Citizen Forum**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2024 Meeting**
- 4. Old Business**
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Locations – 2024 WDMurals
- 6. Committee Reports**
 - A. Events Committee
 - B. Communications Committee
 - C. Exhibition Committee
- 7. Project Work Group Reports**
 - A. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art
 - B. Commissioned Artwork #5
- 8. Staff Reports**
 - A. Arts, Culture, & Enrichment Supervisor
 - B. Superintendent of Recreation
 - C. Director of Parks and Recreation
- 9. Other Matters**
- 10. Receive, File and/or Refer**
 - A. City Council Communications
- 11. Adjourn**
- 12. Committee Workshops**

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 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Mathrubutham.

Commission	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Chair</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Secretary</i>	Amenda Tate <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ryan Crane	Virginia Barrette
Present	X	X	X	X	X-arrived at 5:38 p.m.
Commission	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
Present	X-arrived at 5:32 p.m.	X			

Staff	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Laura Murphy <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Allison Ullestad <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor</i>	Tina Tate <i>Administrative Assistant Parks & Recreation</i>	Kevin Trevisyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X		X	

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Phillips moved to approve the agenda as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No Report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2023 Meeting

Crane moved to approve the minutes as presented. Tate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 4. Old Business

No Report.

New Business

On Item 5A. Presentation – ICON Waterway Trails

Amy Saylor, Community Investment Specialist with BRAVO Greater Des Moines, and Cole Miller, Regional Coordinator for ICON Water Trails, presented ideas for public art pieces that will complement the *Hello, River* installation in downtown Des Moines. In 2019, BRAVO launched public art grants to fund projects specifically designed for government partners to support comprehensive art plans. This included a partnership with ICON Water Trails and Group Creative that would provide public art on water trail access points resulting in the *Hello, River* project. The grant program was expanded to a third year to allow for the preparation of the access sites. Saylor explained that the City of West Des Moines can apply for this grant and install an art piece unique to that area. The other option would be to select a piece from the *Hello, River* menu designed by the artist Plus/And. These include pieces like a large/small listener, light beacon, bench, swing, library, or a plaque. They would connect to the larger waterway story through structural design and the iridescent finish. The application for the ICON grant opens on March 4, 2024, with a deadline of April 5. Crane suggested that Raccoon River Park would be a potential location for this artwork due to the geographic and natural connection. Saylor stated that the artist will allow these options to be available for years to come.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of Allocation – Des Moines Art Week 2024

Group Creative requested a \$7,000 sponsorship for Art Week Des Moines that would come from the Unexpected Opportunities line item in the FY 23-24 Public Art Fund budget. From this total, \$5,000 would be the artist/fellow stipend. The remaining \$2,000 would be allocated for administrative fees. Rachel Buse, Group Creative, and Diane Kunzler, Kunzler Studio, proposed their Pottery Olympics concept for Des Moines Art Week 2024. This event would consist of different competitions that showcase basic and advanced ceramic skills. There would be a variety of participants including scheduled artists, requested guests, and the general public.

Mathrubutham addressed the previous years working with Group Creative and recognized that they are an artist-centric group that is involved in the community. The concern lies with the group organizers not using a Call for Artists for the artist selection process. The goal of the Public Art Advisory Commission is to identify the artist through standard policies and procedures and provide funding for the project directly to the artist. The Commission would like to support Art Week Des Moines if the project follows the guidelines stated in the Public Art Master Plan. Buse stated that if the Commission would like to submit a project to Art Week Des Moines, it would need to be entered by May 1. Due to the limited timeline, Tate mentioned that the Youth Handmade Market could be a way to be involved because it is scheduled during the same week.

Penning stated that the Commission provides more than just the permanent art collection such as WDMurals and Art on the Campus. Art Week Des Moines could be another opportunity if proper procedures were followed. This involves the Commission receiving ideas and having them vetted through the process. Tate commented that workgroups are critical to identifying the artist and project. Kunzler suggested the verbiage in the Call for Artists should be focused on project and community instead of directed towards established artists. Mathrubutham mentioned that when structuring the call, the workgroup reviews the project and tailors the criteria to fit.

Kitner moved to approve the allocation of funds for Des Moines Art Week 2024 as presented. Crane seconded. 1 yay, 6 nays. Motion was not approved.

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. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

Penning stated that Ullestad is communicating with the artist, Hilde De Bruyne about completing the installation in April which is also National Autism Acceptance Month. The Event Committee will be discussing the details of the unveiling in their next meeting.

On Item 7B. Commissioned Artwork #5

No Report.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

No Report.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy updated the Commission on the Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coordinator position. Lauren Rush has accepted the position and will start on March 25. A few of the spheres in *Progression* are sinking. The repairs will be addressed with warmer weather. The WDMurals Call for Artists deadline is Friday, February 23. Ullestad is currently working on Art on the Campus for City Council approval. Registration opens for our Spring/Summer Program Guide on March 5 for West Des Moines residents and March 12 for non-residents.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning will share the Parks and Recreation Annual Report with the Commission. This report celebrates some of the successes from the previous year. Penning will present at the Budget Workshop on Saturday, February 24 reflecting on last year as well as highlighting goals for next year. Penning mentioned that the Department has been creative with alternative funding for large projects through public/private partnerships. The City has shown support with staff recommending the approval of funding for all submitted supplemental requests and 18 Capital Improvement Program projects.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

Tate moved to adjourn the meeting. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Tate
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

Jeff Phillips
Public Arts Advisory Commission Secretary

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

DATE: March 21, 2024

ITEM: Motion – Approval of Artists and Artwork Locations – 2024 WDMurals

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Expense of \$22,500 for the artist stipends (\$2,500 per new mural) and \$500 for the Best in Show award for a total of \$23,000.

SYNOPSIS: The Commission is sponsoring the fourth, temporary WDMurals exhibit from May 2024 through March 2025. The WDMurals Selection Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, March 6, to review and score 34 proposals that were submitted by 24 artists/artist groups from Iowa. For comparison, 24 proposals by 20 artists/artist groups were submitted for the 2023 WDMurals exhibit.

The selection committee members included: Mahesh Mathrubutham (Commission member), Virginia Barret (Commission member), Joe Moose (WDM Engineering Department), Laura Murphy (Parks & Recreation Department), and MJ Hoag (Citizen).

Nine entries were selected to be installed on trail underpass entrance/exit walls. *The mural “Murmuration” won the 2023 Best in Show Award and will remain in place for the duration of the 2024 WDMurals exhibit. Therefore, five trail underpasses will be the location of 10 (9 new, 1 old) total murals. The committee’s recommendations include:

Artwork Title	Artist Name	Residency	New Artist	Location
Harmony of the Heartland	Amanda Stout	Iowa City	X	1
Own Your Dream	Sadagat Aliyeva	Des Moines	X	2
Murmuration*	Ebisu	Cedar Rapids		3
The Beauty in our Backyard	Tevka Lackmann	Norwalk	X	4
Venture On	Maggie Douglas	Des Moines	X	5
Starry Night Over West Des Moines	Courtney Moller	West Des Moines	X	6
Our Stories in Food	Dani Austen/Cat Rocketship	Des Moines		7
Community! for you and me!	Craig Miller	Des Moines	X	8
C'mon Let's Go	Erykah Danner	Iowa City	X	9
Sewn Together	Ebisu	Cedar Rapids		10

The nine 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. Approval of the artist agreements will be included on a future City Council meeting agenda. The artists will paint their murals May 1-15, 2024.

BACKGROUND: None

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION: The Commission approves the recommendation of the 2024 WDMurals selection committee.

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

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Ryan Penning, Director of Parks and Recreation
Agenda Acceptance	Ryan Penning, Director of Parks and Recreation

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

Committee	WDMurals Selection Committee		
Date Reviewed	3/6/24		
Recommendation	YES	NO	SPLIT



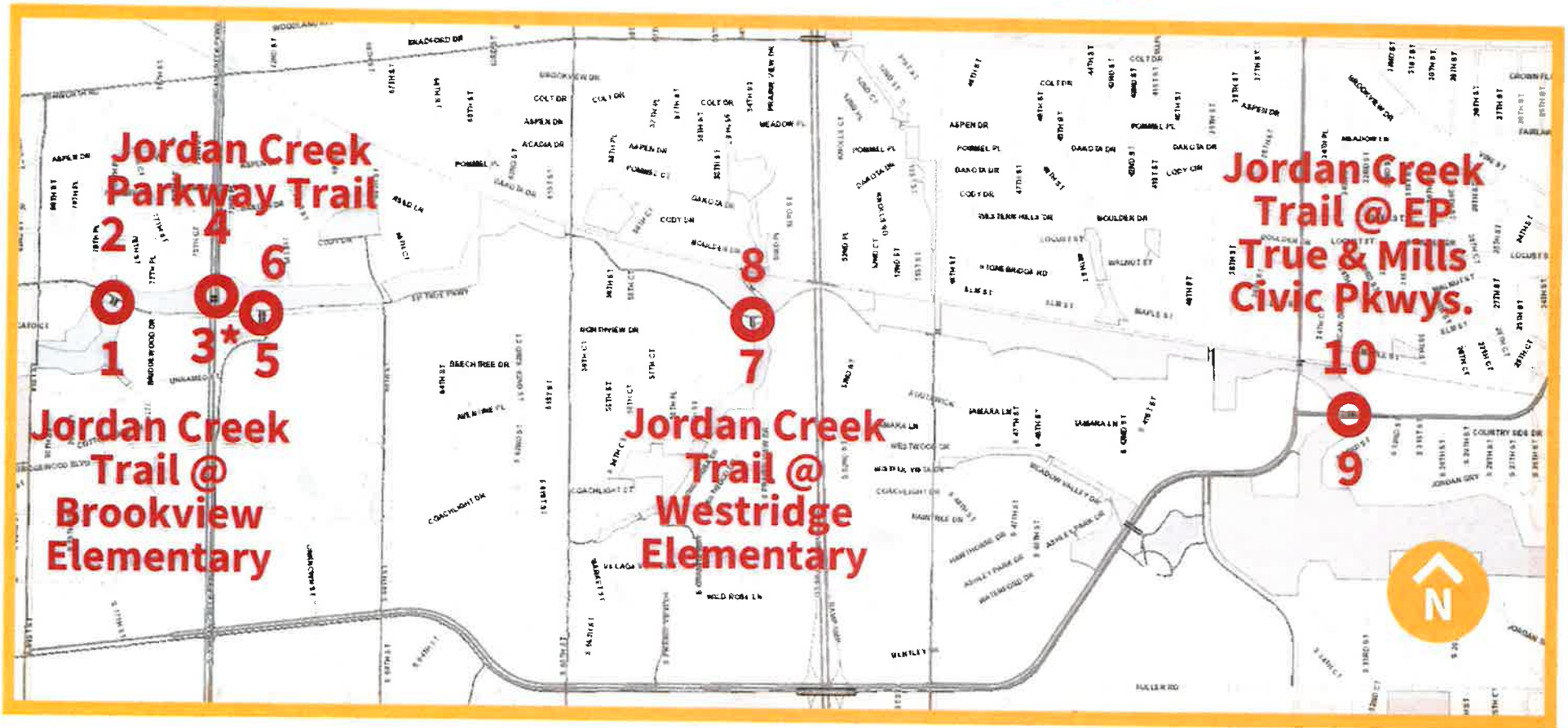
THE CITY OF
West Des Moines
Public Arts
Advisory Commission

W D M M U R A L S



2024 SELECTIONS

2024 Exhibit Locations



*2023 Best in Show Award Winner

- 1 Harmony of the Heartland
- 2 Own Your Dream
- 3 Murmuration*
- 4 The Beauty in our Backyard
- 5 Venture On

- 6 Starry Night Over West Des Moines
- 7 Our Stories in Food
- 8 community! for you and me!
- 9 C'mon Let's Go
- 10 Sewn Together

1 Harmony of the Heartland

Amanda Stout
Iowa City



This artwork features landscapes of Iowa, farming aspects, and farm animals to portray the story of the rural areas of Iowa. Our cities and rural areas feel so distance and almost as 2 different worlds, so I'd like farming to be featured in the city to accentuate "Urban Flourish, Rural Charm".

Artist Bio: I have been creating art for over 10 years. I studied art at the University of Iowa where I focused on printmaking and ceramics, but have been focusing more on painting and illustration now. I have been actively engaged in public art for the past 3 years and love creating art in the communities I love to be a part of (I used to live in West Des Moines and loved this community). I like to draw inspiration from the intricate patterns of the natural world. I transform canvases into portals where viewers are transported into dreamlike landscapes inhabited by enigmatic creatures. My artistry explores the symbiotic relationship between humanity and nature. By infusing elements of surrealism into depictions of wildlife and nature, I prompt introspection of humanity's place within the larger ecological tapestry. I invite viewers to think about their connection to the environment. My art transcends conventional boundaries, offering a glimpse into a realm where the natural and the surreal coexist harmoniously.

2 Own Your Dream

Sadagat Aliyeva
Des Moines



Life is magical. We often forgot that. Realness of everyday life takes so much of our attention that almost blinds our minds. We forget that everything is a dream first; we forget that each of us is an individual, unique, and original. Every human on earth plays very important role in expansion of the universe. Every human has their own unique dream and therefore their own story. But unfortunately a lot of us ignore that dream and try to repeat whatever is already created before us. The purpose of this whimsical mural is to remind the viewers of those hidden, ignored dreams and inspire them to create their own life stories.

Artist Bio: Sadagat Aliyeva was born and raised in Baku, Azerbaijan. In 2004, at the age of 38, Aliyeva moved to the States with her family. Faced with adjusting to a new country and language, she jumped into her love of drawing and refined her skills in the Des Moines Area Community College graphic design program. In the beginning of 2021 following her calling, Sadagat quit her full-time job to focus on art. Since the end of 2021, Aliyeva has been exhibiting her work at different venues in Des Moines and surroundings. Sadagat loves sharing her authentic experiences through poetry, fairytale-like stories and whimsical illustrations. Her creations are inspired by quotes of wisdom, nature, and beauty in human existence.

4 The Beauty in our Backyard

Tevka Lackmann
Norwalk



When given the prompt "Our Stories", I thought about how growing up in Iowa has shaped who I am today. I have been an avid bike trail user my whole life - from picking berries out of a burley bicycle stroller at age three to riding centuries with my family. I grew up catching bugs, swimming in the lake, and running barefoot through the grass. My respect and reverence for the world around me have only grown since. I hope the viewer feels the same sense of joy and curiosity about their surroundings from this piece. I included imagery I associate with Iowa: iconic downtown views, native flora and fauna, and a good deal of outdoor recreation. I wanted there to be something everyone could relate to or at least appreciate. This piece aims to convey the sense of surprise and wonder that the natural world gives me. I hope it inspires the viewer to get out there and keep exploring!

Artist Bio: Tevka Lackmann is a multimedia artist, whose work ranges from small canvases to large murals. She is versed in a breadth of mediums, though specializes in paint: from watercolor, to acrylic, to oil. Her work is focused primarily on conveying the beauty of the natural world around us, as well as advocating for those on it. She is known for her use of bold brushstrokes and unconventional use of color. She is a self-proclaimed "Whimsical Realist" - she uses her art as a means to convey a sense of wonder and bring vibrancy to the everyday.

5 Venture On

Maggie Douglas
Des Moines



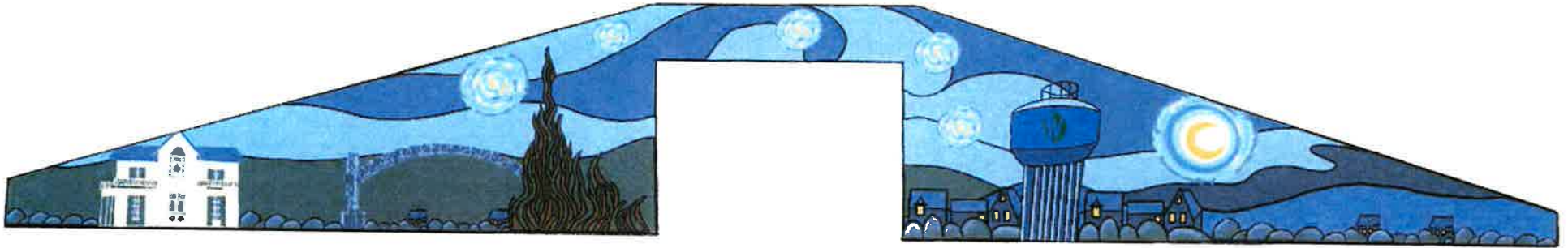
My mural design is inspired by the stories of everyone who uses the trails. The one thing everyone there has in common is the desire to experience nature, whether that be a group of bikers, friends enjoying a walk, young parents exploring with their kids, someone clearing their head with a jog. Being surrounded by nature offers so much to explore, admire or just take a deep breath of fresh air, especially in a world so focused on staring at screens for the majority of the day. These trails offer the chance to learn something new right in our own neighborhoods.

The theme for this mural is discovery. It's a reflection of what there is to see and learn about while on the trail. In my sketch, I've included images of local wildflowers, leaves of local trees, a compass, bicycle spokes, and a sunrise. The phrase "Venture On" is included, to encourage passersby to make their own story on the trail. The color scheme is bright and energetic, but based on colors found in the nature around the trail.

Artist Bio: Maggie Douglas is an artist based in Des Moines. She graduated from Loras College in Dubuque with a BA in Art and Digital Design. She has worked as a graphic designer while alongside her art practice. Her body of work ranges from abstract, mixed media pieces on canvas to large-scale murals. In the studio, Maggie draws from inspiration found in nature and the forces that shape it, then employs processes like erosion, evaporation and gravity to allow the paint to create details that cannot be replicated by the human hand. She then adds her own mark making into the work to compliment and emphasize the results of these natural forces. Her process is an ebb and flow between who she is as a natural being and how she is influenced by the world around her. Maggie combines her love for art with her love for design through her mural work, creating large-scale artwork that highlights the brand or the client's personal aesthetic.

6 Starry Night Over West Des Moines

Courtney Moller
West Des Moines



"Starry Night Over West Des Moines" is a mural that celebrates the rich tapestry of stories woven into the fabric of our city. Inspired by Vincent van Gogh's iconic masterpiece, this mural offers a modern interpretation of the classic scene, seamlessly blending the charm of West Des Moines with the timeless allure of a starry night sky. Incorporating iconic West Des Moines landmarks such as the Jordan House, the Valley Junction arch, and the West Des Moines Water Tower, the mural serves as a visual homage to the rich history and unique character of our city.

Through this mural, I hope to ignite a sense of pride and belonging among residents and visitors alike, fostering a deeper appreciation for the stories that shape our collective identity. As day turns to night and stars fill the sky, let us come together to celebrate the beauty of our city and the infinite possibilities that await beneath the canopy of stars.

Artist Bio: My love for art first started at a young age at a kitchen table with my grandma in northwest Iowa. Once I got to high school it blossomed and still continues to grow. Based out of my home in West Des Moines, IA, my work is inspired by nature, faith and flowers. Painting brings me happiness and peace so my desire is to help others see the peace, grace and beauty of the world we live in. My chosen mediums are predominantly acrylics on canvas or wood, but occasional dabbles into watercolor. I like to add textures and pencil, using the stippling technique to add depth. Newer at creating murals but I love transforming spaces into captivating works of art that tell unique stories.

7 Our Stories in Food

Dani Austen &
Cat Rocketship
Des Moines



Artist Bios: Dani and Cat have created work in Des Moines since 2004. Dani is a graphic designer and jeweler who explores the aesthetics of magic and folk Catholicism in her work, and Cat is an illustrator who explores connections between humans and the other-than-human beings that live in Iowa.

As you approach the mural, you're greeted by a kaleidoscope of colors and aromas that beckon you closer, inviting you to embark on a culinary journey. You're greeted by the warm embrace of a steaming bowl of bún, its grilled pork and noodles swirling with fresh flavors. As you continue your journey, you're transported to the bustling streets of Addis Abada, where the rich spices of doro wat come alive, offering a taste of North African hospitality. Nearby, the fiery hues of colorful tacos and tamales invite you to join in the festivities. Nearby, the intoxicating aroma of spices fills the air, as a hearty cup of chai pays homage to the rich culinary traditions of South Asia now alive in West Des Moines. In one corner, the savory aroma of cevapi wafts through the air, evoking memories of lazy summer afternoons spent grilling in the backyard. As you take in the rich tapestry of flavors and stories depicted on the mural, you're reminded that food is more than just sustenance; it's a bridge that connects us to our roots, to each other, and to the world at large. We share our stories over food, and our food itself becomes the story. In West Des Moines, where cultures collide and traditions converge, the mural stands as a testament to the power of food to unite, inspire, and nourish both body and soul.

8 community! for you and me!

Craig Miller
Des Moines



I believe that the term "stories" includes all of the experiences in life that we choose to share with others, no matter what form they take. Whether through a song we've written, chatting with a neighbor, a piece of artwork that we create, or even a home-cooked meal made for a friend, I think that the things we choose to put into the world say a lot about our unique perspective. What things catch your attention? What hobbies get you excited to wake up every morning? What made you laugh today? The act of sharing all these little bits of life is what builds vibrant communities and neighborhoods that people want to be a part of. No one can tell your stories the same way you can, because no one experiences the world quite like you do. So go tell them!!!

Artist Bio: Craig Miller is an illustrator, designer, and fiber artist making silly little projects in Des Moines.

9 C'mon Let's Go

Erykah Danner
Iowa City

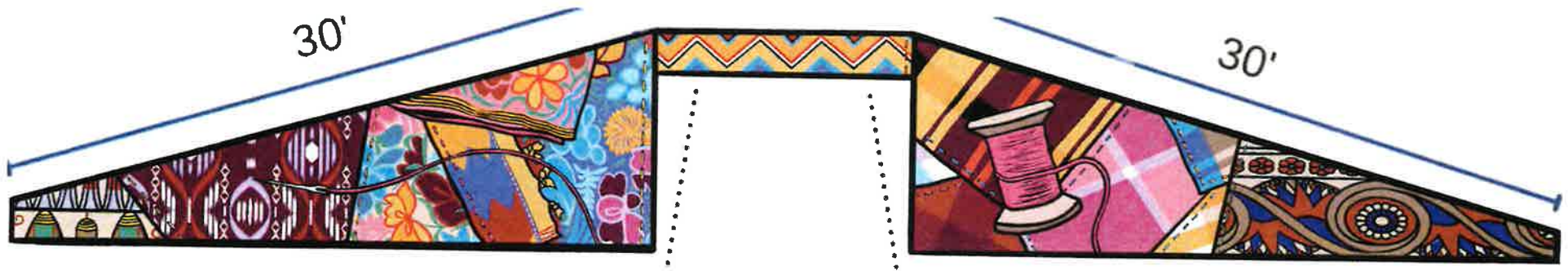


We are all connected, by our stories and by the bike trails throughout the city of Des Moines. The mural serves as a reminder of the joy and excitement that comes with exploring our city's free and accessible community spaces. It ignites a sense of wonder and curiosity, inspiring individuals to venture beyond their familiar routes, rediscover forgotten treasures and create new stories and memories along the way. Just as the trails wind and intersect, weaving through neighborhoods and parks, they symbolize the interconnectedness and unity within our community. Each pathway represents a thread in the fabric of our collective stories and each pathway offers a different opportunity of discovery and adventure.

Artists Bio: Growing up between Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay, I have always been influenced by the ocean, nature and gardens; they are magical to experience, almost on a spiritual level. I studied oil painting and garden design at the University of Iowa where gardens were referred to as "Earthly Paradises." There we also discussed Josef Albers, a color theorist, who said "Colors appear one way when they are around certain colors and appear another way around other colors, just like people do." I am inspired to incorporate the idea of creating earthly paradises into urban spaces, by using mural art, color and urban garden design to redefine the atmosphere and energy of a space. I am captivated by the potential of art to not only change the dynamic of a space, but to change the way a community interacts with a space. Then to watch how those positive changes in environment can impact the dynamic of how people using the space interact with each other. My background as a tattoo artist and floral designer has taught me the transformative power of art for both people and spaces. I like to make murals you can enjoy at a quick glance but also encourage a curiosity that makes you want to stop and interact with the mural.

10 Sewn Together

Ebisu
Cedar Rapids



"Sewn Together" was the name of the first fashion show that I was a part of in 2022. It opened my eyes to a lot of artistic possibility. Since then we have hosted 3 fashion shows, and slowly watched the growth of a local, young, diverse and sustainable fashion scene in Cedar Rapids. This piece represents the community I've found through textiles, featuring Mexican, Egyptian, Irish, and Filipino fabrics as an ode to my best friends.

Artist Bio: "Ebisu" is a 21-year old Filipino American artist from Cedar Rapids, IA. They are a mixed media artist mainly focused on studio art, murals, and clothing design. Their style is a combination of bright colors and abstract flow used to create imaginative spaces. In just 2 years as a professional artist they have painted murals from Oregon to Florida and many places in between.