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City Manager's Office

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TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bob Kindred, Assistant City Manager

DATE: April 9, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Art Around the Corner Sculpture

There is a unique situation involving one of the artwork pieces recommended by the Public Art Commission for this year's Art Around the Corner (AATC) exhibition.

The City's Risk Manager has identified concerns regarding the "Fact and Fantasy" sculpture by Victoria Ann Reed, which is a large sculpture of a horse approximately seven feet high and nine feet in length. Specifically, it appears to have the potential for causing injury to children or others who physically touch the artwork. The sculpture's many edges and small openings create a possibility for sharp edges that could cause cuts or other injuries.

After consulting with the AATC Committee, our liability insurance carrier and other City staff, a hopeful compromise has been identified that will minimize this danger. Plans call for the sculpture to be installed on the seven foot square concrete pad at the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Clark Avenue where "Untitled Flower" is now displayed. That is the largest mounting pad available downtown, and is in a location where adequate night lighting exists. The horse will be mounted diagonally across the pad. A decorative chain will be hung around the entire pad and a sign warning the public will be displayed to discourage physical touching of the sculpture.

Further, "Fact and Fantasy" will be physically inspected before acceptance to confirm that there are no edges so sharp that they could easily cut someone who touches the sculpture. Finally, an overall risk assessment will be made once the sculpture is installed to make certain that the overall installation is acceptable from a safety standpoint.

If "Fact and Fantasy" is found to be unsafe prior to installation, the AATC committee will then select an alternate sculpture. However, in the event that this sculpture is accepted, installed, and then later found to be unsafe, the sculptor would be required to remove the sculpture from public display and the 2010-11 AATC exhibition would be reduced to three sculptures.

"Fact and Fantasy" was a consensus favorite of the selection jury, and the AATC committee is very hopeful that it can be included in the exhibition. Staff is supportive of this selection as long as the safeguards outlined above are all followed.

AMES PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

14th Annual Art Around the Corner Exhibit

The 2010-11 Art Around the Corner (AAtC) Exhibition received 52 entries from 23 sculptors, a significant increase in interest compared to previous competitions. The entries were evaluated by a jury of three Ames residents. Our jurors were Letitia Kenemer (ISU Memorial Union, Arts Program Coordinator), Susan Norris (Ames Community School District art teacher), and Michael Stanley (Art and Design, ISU). The jury previewed entry materials prior to meeting on February 17, 2010. Four additional selections were made as alternates if availability or other considerations prevent installation of one or more of the top selections.

Listed below are the four selections made for the 2010-11 Art Around the Corner sculpture exhibit. Photographs showing these sculptures will be presented at the April 13 City Council meeting.

Rotation and installation of the exhibit will take place during late April and early May, after consultation with businesses and organizations near the likely sites and further analysis by City staff. The installation process will be coordinated through the City Manager's Office. The Best-in-Show award will be made to a winner to be determined by the public at a Fall citywide arts event.

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| 1. <i>Fact and Fantasy</i>
Victoria Ann Reed
Cedar Falls, IA | aluminum, 7' x 9' x 3.5' |
| 2. <i>Swans on the Marsh</i>
V. Skip Willits
Camanche, IA | weathered steel, 8.3' x 32" x 25 " |
| 3. <i>Chaos</i>
Eric Ober
Houston, TX | steel, 6.5' x 3.5' x 2' |
| 4. <i>Unending Sky</i>
Kristin Garnant
Camanche, IA | steel, 68" x 55" x 11" |

Alternates:

- Polywoggle and Strands***, Bounnak Thammavong (Iowa City, IA)
6'x 4'x 2' (two parts), stainless steel, steel, paint
- Rooster***, Don Esser (Waunakee, WI)
46" x 48" x 22" , steel
- Infinite***, Beth Nybeck (Cedar Falls, IA)
6'x 5'x 5', aluminum
- Red Ball***, Tom Newport (Cedar Rapids, IA)
7' x 3' x 2' , stainless steel

Available Art Around the Corner funds	\$4408.00	
Honoraria to be paid to Artists	\$4000.00	(four pieces @ \$1000.00 each)
Best-in-Show award	\$500.00	(FY11 budget, choice in September)

AAtC Committee: Steven Kawaler, Patti Cotter, Jo Ellen Nyquist Zmolek, and Mike Miller