

Staff Report

NEIGHBORHOOD ART ACQUISITIONS

May 13, 2014

Included in the amended 2013/14 Public Art budget allocation is \$17,800 for the acquisition of sculptures under the Neighborhood Art program. This program provides for sculptures from the previous year's Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition (AAOSE) program to be purchased and placed in neighborhoods around the City. Believing that the art pieces will be valuable additions to the neighborhoods, the Public Art Commission is recommending that Council authorize the purchase of four sculptures for the Neighborhood Art Program.

During the 2013/14 exhibition year, "Bunny" by Jeff Brewer was displayed at the northeast corner of Tom Evans Park. It is proposed that this sculpture be purchased for \$2,500 and be placed near the entrance to Daley Park. This application was submitted by Emily Poss, a resident in the Hillside/College Creek area.

"Horse" by John D. Howard of Hinesville, Georgia has been displayed across from City Hall on the east side Clark Avenue. The sculptor listed the value of "Horse" at \$1,000. The artist is willing to give us this sculpture, and it will be placed off of Harrison Road in the Bloomington Townhomes area. C. Ian MacGillivray, President of the Association, submitted this application.

Chris Wubbena's sculpture "Immaterial" has been displayed on the northwest side of the intersection of Main Street and Douglas Avenue. It will be placed in the green area at the intersection of Northwestern and Johnson. The cost for this sculpture is \$3,500. The application for placement of this sculpture came from Judy Brooks, a resident of the area.

"Prayer Torso" by V. Skip Willits of Camanche, Iowa has been displayed at the southeast corner of Clark Avenue and Main Street. The cost for this piece will be \$6,000. The priority site for this sculpture is at 20th Street and Grand Avenue in a location proposed by an application from Catherine Burns, who lives nearby. If Alliant Energy does not give its permission for this location, this sculpture will be placed east of the intersection of Top O'Hollow Road and Dawes Drive, fulfilling an application by Roxanne Thompson, who lives in the area.

With the donation of "Horse," the total cost to purchase these four sculptures will be \$12,000. A portion of the approved funding will also be needed for installation of the sculptures.

This year the Neighborhood Sculpture Committee received ten applications, which is more than the usual number. Decisions on where to place the sculptures were influenced by whether art had previously been placed in the requested neighborhood or a nearby one, and if the art would be located in an area accessible for viewing by all of Ames' residents. As always, safety was the most important consideration.

Photographs of the four sculptures recommended for purchase are shown below.



Bunny
Jeff Brewer
Nacogdoches, TX



Immaterial
Chris Wubbena
Jackson, MO



Prayer Torso
V. Skip Willits
Camanche, IA



Horse
John Howard
Hinesville, GA