

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2014/15 NEIGHBORHOOD ART ACQUISITIONS**

**BACKGROUND:**

Included in the 2014/2015 public art budget is an allocation of \$14,826 for the acquisition of sculptures under the Neighborhood Art program. This program provides for sculptures from the previous year's AAOSE program to be purchased and placed in neighborhoods around the City.

During the 2014/15 exhibition year, **Industrial Revolution II** by John Brommel was displayed at the northeast corner of Tom Evans Park. It is proposed that this sculpture be purchased for \$1,500 and be placed in the public park area on Ninth Street, east of the Roosevelt. **Industrial Revolution II** was voted **Best in Show** by attendees at the Octagon Art Festival. This application was submitted by Kathy Svec, a resident of the Hodge Avenue Neighborhood. The decision on the exact location for the sculpture will be made by the Ames Parks & Recreation Department.

James Anthony Bearden's sculpture **Help Another** has been on display at the northwest corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue. It will be placed on the cul-de-sac between Ashmore Drive and Ashmore Court. The cost for this sculpture is \$6,000. The application for placement of this sculpture came from Dean Janssen who applied on behalf of the 47 households in this area. The neighbors plan to install attractive, low maintenance landscaping to highlight the sculpture.

The representatives from Somerset Neighborhood Sculpture requested the sculpture **Life: Portal to the Future** for placement in their area. The final decision about the permanent location of the sculpture in the area will be made by the City with regard to safety. The residents have proposed two sites. First, the median at Stange Road and Northridge Parkway; the second is the crescent lawn on Strange Road. **Life** was created by Zach Bowman of Ankeny, Iowa and it has been displayed at the southeast corner of Clark Avenue and Fifth Street – across the street from City Hall. The price of this sculpture is also \$6,500.

This year the Neighborhood Sculpture Committee received six applications. Decisions on where to place the sculpture were influenced by whether art had 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 the residents of Ames. Safety was the most important consideration. Price was also an important consideration, as was the quality of the workmanship.

The combined cost to purchase these three sculptures is \$14,000. Funding is available from the 2014/2015 Neighborhood Art budget. This budget originally included a \$10,000 allocation, and Council subsequently approved carrying forward an additional \$6,015 from the unspent 2014/15 Neighborhood Art allocation. Some expenses have already been incurred, leaving a balance available for these purchases and installation of \$14,826.

The Public Art Commission feels that these will be great additions to the four neighborhoods and to the City's public art collection.

Below are photographs of the three sculptures to be purchased.



*Industrial Revolution II*  
John Brommel  
Des Moines, IA  
rusted & stainless steel, chrome



*Help Another*  
James Bearden  
Des Moines, IA  
steel fused bronze



*Life: Portal to the Future*  
Zach Bowman  
Ankeny, IA  
stainless steel

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize the purchase of these three sculptures for the Neighborhood Art Program.
2. Do not authorize the purchase of these sculptures.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Public Art Commission recommends that the City Council authorize the purchase of three sculptures for the Neighborhood Art Program. These acquisitions are part of the Public Art Commission's annual budget.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing the purchase of these three sculptures for the Neighborhood Art Program.