

September 08, 2010

Mayor & City Council Members
515 Clark Ave. PO Box 811
Ames, IA 50010

Re: Selection of artist for next Art in the Parks project - 2011 / 2012 fiscal year

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

On behalf of the Public Art Commission, I am writing to request approval to proceed with the selection of Peter Irniq to be our next artist for the PAC's Art in the Parks program. As you know, the *Restless by Nature* installation at Ada Hayden Heritage Park by Patrick Dougherty was a huge success, with much participation and excitement from many citizens of Ames. The PAC would like to build upon that excitement by inviting our next artist to Ames from September 18 through October 01, 2011.

Peter Irniq is an artist and cultural teacher as well as the former commissioner of Nunavut, Canada, a northern arctic territory near Greenland. His passion and expertise about the Inuit culture is expressed through the making of stone landmarks called inuksuk.



An inuksuk (pl. inuksuit) is a stone monument constructed for the purpose of navigation by the Inuit people of northern Canada. Inuksuit would designate good hunting areas or fishing spots, they would mark trails, and they would serve as a point of reference for travelers. According to Peter Irniq, "inuksuit are essential to the survival of the Inuit people."

The Public Art Commission invited Mr. Irniq to Ames in May, 2010, and determined that his artwork would be a great addition to the Ames public art collection. The Parks and Recreation Commission has approved the installation of three inuksuit sculptures in three separate parks. The PAC has worked with Kevin Shawgo to identify the following locations:

1. Emma McCarthy Lee Park



2. Ada Hayden Heritage Park



3. Brookside Park



In addition to constructing three inuksuit, the artist has agreed to give a public lecture about his work and culture, and he will conduct a weekend public workshop to teach citizens how to make their own inuksuit.

Attached you will find a preliminary cost estimate for the proposed project. With your approval, funding would come from PAC requested 2009 / 2010 rollover funds, current 2010 / 2011 appropriated funds, and future 2011 / 2012 funds.

If you would like to view some of Peter's work, please visit the following websites:

Websites about Peter Irniq:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKQ97rOwBH0>

<http://www.uhaul.com/SuperGraphics/182/6/Venture-Across-America-and-Canada-Modern/Nunavut/Interview-With-Peter-Irniq--Inuit-Cultural-Leader>

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dartlife/archives/17-2/inuksuk.html>

I hope that you find Mr. Irniq's work to be unique and impressive. The Public Art Commission looks forward to receiving approval to move ahead with this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chad J. West

Public Art Commission
Chair of the Art in the Parks Committee

enclosure

Public Art Commission

Artist: Peter Irniq

Outline of Probable Costs:

	<u>Expenses</u>
Artist Fees	\$4,000
<i>2 weeks x \$2,000 per week</i>	
Travel Expenses	\$850
<i>Airfare, etc.</i>	
Lodging & Food	\$1,890
<i>14 days x \$135 per day</i>	
Rental Car + Fuel	\$490
<i>14 days x \$35 per day</i>	
Excavations & Footings for 3 Inuksuit	\$1,800
Materials	\$600
Tools & Equipment	\$500
Space Rental for Public Lectures	\$250
Photography	\$600
Reception / Dedication	\$350
Weekend Workshop Expenses	\$750
Cost of Assistant (to help artist)	\$800
Printing Costs / Promotions	\$500
Bronze Plaques (3)	\$750
Octagon Arts Festival (booth related expenses)	\$200
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$250
Project Contingency	\$500
	<u>\$15,080</u>

	<u>Available Funds</u>
Roll over FY10 Art in the Parks fund balance into FY11	\$2,600
<i>Roll over to be Requested by PAC</i>	
Roll over FY10 funds from Education category into FY11 A/P category	\$2,500
<i>Roll over to be Requested by PAC</i>	
Art in the Parks budget for FY11	\$5,000
<i>Appropriated, but may not be spent by July 1, 2011</i>	
Art in the Parks budget for FY12	\$5,000
<i>Not yet Appropriated, to be requested in December budget request</i>	
	<u>\$15,100</u>