

January 30, 2012

Mayor Ann Campbell  
Members of the City Council  
City of Ames  
515 Clark Avenue  
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mayor Campbell & Council Members,

The City of Ames & the Ames Public Art Commission (PAC) have experienced another exciting year in 2011-2012. In the coming year we will see a continuation of our highly successful programs along with some new partnerships and expanded ambitious efforts on behalf of the City. Together we can continue the success of the Ames Public Art Commission.

### **The Year in Review: 2011-2012**

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Over the last year the working committees of the Ames PAC accomplished a wide array of achievements.

The **Art Around the Corner** committee, the longest running program for the PAC, continued its 15th annual downtown exhibition in 2011. Four sculptures, *Peace Like a River* by V. Skip Willits, from Camanche, IA, *Just Between Thieves* by Jaak Kindberg, from Greenwood, AR, *Wild Flower* by Michael Sneller, from Cedar Rapids, IA, and *Dire Enticement* by Beth Nybeck, from Kansas City, Mo, were selected and are now on display around the downtown area. The "Best in Show" prize was awarded to Jaak Kindberg for his work *Just Between Thieves*.

The **Neighborhood Sculpture** Committee collaborates with Ames neighborhoods interested in acquiring a sculpture from the *Art Around the Corner* exhibit. This year the Neighborhood Sculpture Committee decided to pool its resources and purchase a single sculpture with a higher value than sculptures selected in the past. The higher cost of this sculpture prohibited the purchase of multiple pieces, but this conscious decision was made considering the artistic value of this piece. This piece will be installed at Christofferson Park, on Oakwood Road, this coming Spring. This program, along with Art Around the Corner, provides a continuous stream of new art throughout Ames and continues to be a valuable and highly visible way of incorporating public art across the City.

This year the **Art in the Parks** Committee, the PAC, and the City of Ames Parks & Rec. Dept. had to make a difficult decision and decommission the beloved *Restless by Nature* sculpture, constructed in 2008, by Patrick Dougherty at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. As intended, the sculpture naturally decomposed over the last three years and arrived at a point in its decay that was considered no longer safe for the public to experience and appreciate. Since this decay and eventual decommissioning was anticipated, the PAC commissioned Matthew Coronas, a local professional artist and photographer, to photo-document the sculpture over the first two years of its lifespan resulting in a brilliant collection of both panorama and traditional images of the sculpture. These photos are now part of the Ames permanent Public Art Archive and will eventually serve as the basis of an online virtual exhibit of Patrick Dougherty's work, *Restless by Nature*. Please stay posted for notification of this exciting exhibit documenting one of the

most successful public art initiatives Ames has experienced. Posters of this iconic sculpture are also available for purchase through the PAC website.

Following the success of *Restless by Nature*, the Art in The Parks committee organized the visit of Inuit artist and international cultural activist and ambassador, Peter Irniq, and his creation of three inuksuit located throughout Ames this past summer.

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 traditional stone landmarks called inuksuit.

An inuksuk (singular of inuksuit) is a stone monument constructed for the purpose of navigation by the Inuit people of northern Canada and is a powerful symbol of survival and adaptation. Inuksuit designate good hunting areas or fishing spots, mark trails, and serve as points 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 for an exploratory visit and determined his artwork would be a great addition to the Ames public art collection. The City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission approved this initiative and Peter Irniq proceeded with the installation of three inuksuit sculptures in three separate parks throughout Ames this past September. Emma McCarthy Lee Park, Ada Hayden Heritage Park, and Brookside Park are now the homes of some of the latest work by this world renowned artist and cultural icon.

The PAC is very grateful to the City Council for the support you have shown this project over the past two years. The PAC is also very grateful for the effort, support, and donations from Jim Mason, with Country Landscapes, and the staff of Martin Marietta Materials. The City of Ames is a better place because of the collaboration of such generous and great people.

The **Education & Information** committee continues to distribute the widely popular Art Maps initiated four years ago that show the locations of the majority of the public art archive in Ames. The committee has plans to digitize the map this year for ease of revising, reproduction, distribution and display on websites and mobile devices.

The Education and Information committee also organized the first *Ames Art After Hours (AHHH)* event. *AHHH* is a program that connects the PAC and local artists with teachers and students of the Ames Community School District providing students opportunities to meet and learn from practicing artists. The first event was held last year and approximately 20 middle school students listened to a lecture by the artist, viewed work by the artist, and participated in a workshop where the students created their own art inspired by the artist's work, process and techniques. Then next *AAAH* event is scheduled for late February which will be the first of two scheduled for this spring semester.

The **Archive & Maintenance** committee is charged with documentation and preservation of public works of art owned by the City. Their 2008-9 inaugural project to oversee repair of some of the two-dimensional pieces within the City Hall permanent collection was very successful and has prolonged the life of several pieces in City Hall. The Archive & Maintenance committee continues their task of repairing two-dimensional pieces in the public art archive allowing future generations of Ames citizens to enjoy the work for years to come. This committee is also in the process of putting together a long term maintenance plan including the entire Ames Public Art

Archive. This plan will be finished this semester and unveiled to the city staff and leadership soon after.

The Archive & Maintenance committee is also planning the documentation and posting of the entire Ames Public Art Archive, via high quality digital photography, on the city PAC website. This initiative continues the efforts of the PAC to make public art more accessible while accommodating future additions to the archive.

The **Public Relations** committee (PAC PR), a relatively new committee on the PAC, has been critical to the promotional efforts of the PAC as a whole. It has also proven invaluable in communicating with the public on initiatives and events the PAC participates in throughout the community. This year we will be increasing our efforts with public relations to further inform the community about the efforts of the PAC.

The other relatively new committee, the **Fundraising** committee, was created two years ago with the intention of raising private & public funds to supplement our annual budget and ultimately use the additional funding to bolster the public art archive with larger installations throughout the city. While we still have the goal of raising funds beyond our annual budget, the Fundraising Committee will no longer operate in its current capacity. We are analyzing our methods of fundraising and have decided to incorporate our fundraising efforts into the Public Relations initiatives. Fundraising and Public Relations will be working together to raise funds while promoting the efforts of the PAC.

The PAC also spent a significant amount of time and effort promoting public art at various community festivals and events in 2011. The PAC dedicated the latest Neighborhood Sculpture at the Main Street Cultural District's Annual Art Walk last summer, and set up an information and promotion booth at the Reiman Garden's Art Fair and the Octagon Arts Festival. All of the above listed festivals & events provided a large audience for the promotion of specific PAC initiatives and were instrumental in promoting public art for a large contingent of Ames citizens.

The 2011-12 Budget approved by the City Council last year is summarized in the following chart.

(The majority of the remaining dollar amounts listed with each committee is slated to be spent by the end of the 2011-12 Fiscal Year - i.e. honoraria for Art Around the Corner, sculpture purchase for Neighborhood Sculpture, promotions for upcoming festivals by the PR Committee & some remaining expenses for the Art in the Parks event with Peter Irniq last fall.)

Committee	11/12 Budget (as of 12-31-11)	Spent or encumbered (as of 12-31-11)	Balance (as of 12-31-11)	Pre-Approved Carry-Over
Art Around the Corner	\$5,500.00	\$101.15	\$5,398.85	
Art In the Parks	\$5,000.00	\$11,299.95	\$3,055.26	\$8,877.00
Neighborhood Sculpture	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00
Archive Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$486.09	\$1,013.91	
Education & Information	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
Operations	\$1,000.00	\$198.00	\$802.00	
Public Relations	\$2,500.00	\$0	\$2,500.00	
Fund Raising	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$2,000.00	
Total	\$30,000.00	\$20,085.19	\$26,791.81	\$16,877.00

As you can see, we had a full and exciting year in 2011. None of this could have happened without the hard work, support and dedication of the city staff members, Bob Kindred, Cathy

Gersema, Erin Thompson, John Forth, Derek Crisler, and Susan Gwiasda, among others, and the labor & devotion of the members of the PAC itself.

### **In Store for 2012-13**

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As expressed in our mission statement “The Ames Public Art Commission is committed to creating a visual and aesthetic environment that incorporates art into the lives of all Ames citizens.” The PAC has a great deal of exciting ideas and initiatives ‘on the boards’ for 2012-13 that will do just that.

The PAC is planning to continue in many of the same festivals & events this year that we participated in the past taking advantage of the large crowds and the high potential to raise awareness of the activities of the PAC.

The **Art in the Parks** committee is in the process of planning the next installation of artwork in a city park and has started their search for the next artist. The committee’s goal is to have a new installation every three years and eventually work with the Park and Recreation Department to develop a sculpture park in Ames. This program often requires utilizing dollars from previous budget cycles, similar to how we funded the Patrick Dougherty project and Peter Irniq project, and we anticipate a similar strategy in the near future.

As mentioned above, the **Education & Information** committee is planning our next AAAH event for February to continue the participation with the Ames School District. We are continually increasing activity with the students and families to raise awareness of public art within the school district. Our goal is to collaborate with highly devoted teachers and schedule four AAAH events each year to promote public art throughout the city for this year and for future generations.

The **Art Around the Corner** committee is currently planning the 16th Annual Art Around the Corner Exhibition. The increased honorarium implemented three years ago has proven very effective in attracting impressive entries from throughout Iowa & the Midwest. The deadline is February 1, after which the judges will select up to four pieces for exhibition in downtown Ames in 2012-13. A long term goal of this committee has been to incorporate this program into the Campus town neighborhood which will contribute to and compliment the efforts of the city in the revitalization effort of Campustown. This year we are proposing to do just that! The PAC has teamed up with Cy-Ride to include a major public art component as part of the intermodal facility currently under construction in Campustown. To ensure that art is available near the opening of the facility this year, we plan to host a special competition, akin to Art Around the Corner, for a sculpture to be installed at the facility for a period of two or three years. To attract artists with the talent and experience deemed necessary for a sculpture of this importance, we are requesting that a one-time honorarium of \$3,000 and an additional \$500 for signage be added to the PAC budget for this coming fiscal year. After the sculpture has been in place for two to three years it will be offered for sale through the Neighborhood Art Program or to the public in general, similar to the other Art Around the Corner sculptures.

Another idea we will be implementing this year for this committee & program is the changing of the name from *Art Around the Corner* to *Ames’ 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*. We believe this change will strengthen our efforts to make this exhibition an attractive endeavor to a

much wider talent base, increasing the level of prestige and value of an already successful program.

Another initiative we are developing that will be associated with campus town and/or downtown is a co-sponsorship of a bike rack sculpture competition. We have teamed up with the Ames Community Arts Council (ACAC) to investigate this initiative, and while it is in the early stages of planning we are really excited about this collaboration. This initiative would increase awareness of sustainable transportation through the design and creation of bike racks that have sculptural qualities fulfilling the need for more bike racks as well as increasing the public art archive.

The PAC has also been involved in several discussions with the Main Street Cultural District in an effort to organize the installation and acquisition of several major pieces of art in the downtown area. Once again, this initiative is in the early stages of development, but we are excited about the potential of this collaborative effort as well. We will keep the Council informed on the progression of this initiative as well as other initiatives under way.

The **Archive & Maintenance** committee will continue to maintain existing pieces as well as assess the entire art archive to maintain the quality of all the pieces for the benefit of future generations of Ames' citizens.

In light of our ongoing and projected activities and needs, we would like to respectfully submit a proposed FY 2012-13 budget for your consideration and approval.

The **proposed FY 2012-13 Budget** request is summarized in the following chart. You will notice some of the individual committee's numbers shift, including the shifting of the former Fundraising committee allocation to Art Around the Corner. You will also notice the additional proposed one-time honorarium of \$3000 and signage allowance of \$500 for the new sculpture slated to be installed near the new intermodal facility in campus town.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>FY 2012/2013 Budget</b>	<b>Increase/Decrease from FY 2011/2012 Budget</b>
Art Around the Corner	\$7,500.00	\$2000.00 (from former Fund Raising committee)
<b>Intermodal Art Honorarium</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>+ \$3000 for honorarium &amp; \$500 for signage allowance</b>
Art In the Parks	\$5,000.00	No Change
Neighborhood Sculpture	\$10,000.00	No Change
Archive Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$500 from Education & Information
Education & Information	\$2,000.00	\$500 to Archive & Maintenance
Public Relations	\$2,500.00	No change
Fund Raising	\$0	Committee to join Public Relations
Operating	\$1,000.00	No Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,500.00</b>	<b>\$3500 additional request</b>

We appreciate your time and consideration of this proposal. Thank you very much for your enthusiastic support for the initiatives of the PAC in the past, and we look forward to your support in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Stagg, Chair  
Ames Public Art Commission

Chad West, Finance Chair  
Ames Public Art Commission