

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**      **ARTISTIC BIKE RACKS IN MAIN STREET CULTURAL DISTRICT**

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2011, staff was approached by the Ames Community Arts Council (ACAC) about the possibility of placing of artistic bike racks in the Main Street Cultural District. Staff worked with ACAC and the Main Street Cultural District to identify potential locations for the bike racks that would benefit bicyclists and fill a need in the Main Street Cultural District for more bike racks. ACAC also presented their plans to the City's Public Art Commission to receive their input on and support for the project.

ACAC has also been working to identify outside funding for these bike racks, and took the initial step of putting out a call for artists for the design of six bike racks (see attached Call for Entries). As part of the fundraising effort, the Public Art Commission has agreed to seek Council's approval to reallocate \$1,600 in unspent funding to this project.

ACAC's contemplated program would entail the City ultimately becoming the owners of the bike racks. Given that fact, and in light of the Public Art Commission's request to allocate City funding to the project, it would be appropriate to contractually confirm this partnership with the Ames Community Art Council.

Representatives of ACAC and City staff will be present at the Council meeting to further describe this proposed collaboration. Should Council approve, the parties' respective roles and responsibilities will be confirmed in an agreement for approval by the City Council. In accordance with established Council policy, the artistic bike rack designs that are ultimately selected will be brought before the Public Art Commission for their recommendation and to the City Council before actually being commissioned.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1.      Authorize staff to develop a contract with the Ames Community Arts Council for implementing a program to place artistic bike racks in the Main Street Cultural District.
2.      Do not authorize development of this agreement.
3.      Direct staff to pursue modifications to the project.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This project will create a public/private partnership that will both add function and beautify the Main Street Cultural District.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing staff to develop a contract with the Ames Community Arts Council for implementing a program to place artistic bike racks in the Main Street Cultural District.