

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: SUMMER 2016 “ART IN THE PARKS” PROGRAM SCULPTURE
SELECTION FOR TOM EVANS PLAZA**

BACKGROUND:

As a part of the City Council’s approved budget for the Public Art Commission (PAC), carry-over funding was included for the Commission’s proposed Art in the Park sculpture placement during the summer of 2016. The Art in the Parks Program is carried out in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff, and supports the Commission’s larger mission to create an environment that incorporates art into the lives of all Ames citizens. This program is a larger initiative, typically utilizing budgeted funds from multiple years’ budgets. Including the most recent carry-overs, the City Council has authorized a total of \$30,206 for this project.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed to seek public art proposals for the Summer 2016 Art in the Parks Program. The proposed art will be placed in Tom Evans Plaza south of Main Street in the downtown area. Stated goals for this project included the following:

- The art should celebrate the continuing enlivening of the Ames downtown that is engaging, innovative, and place making.
- The art should be compelling and draw individuals and families downtown by word of mouth.
- The art should spark an even greater appreciation for the aesthetic value of the city’s historic Main Street area and help Ames residents re-imagine their local green spaces.

The RFP was issued to 72 artists and listed at publicartist.org and Art Deadlines websites. Responses were received from twenty-four artists. The evaluation committee was comprised of members from the Public Art Commission, City staff and representation from the Main Street Cultural District.

Each proposal was evaluated based on a combination of the following factors:

- Innovation
- Community engagement
- Distinctiveness
- Aesthetic enjoyment
- Park user safety
- Maintenance requirements of the artwork and the space around it
- Overall space requirements of the work and the feasibility and durability of the proposed art.

After review of the proposals, a short list of artists was established and is listed below:

Artist	Title	Interactivity	Rank
Tim Adams, Stoney Creek Landscapes, Webster City , IA	Resonance	Chimes, Strings	1
Ryan "ARCY" Christenson, Wallingford, CT	ARCY Live!	Live Painting	2
John Bannon, Chicago, IL	Breathe	Dual Perspective	3
Karl Unnasch, Chatfield, MN	Not titled	Not Interactive	4

A visual summary of all proposals submitted are included in a separate attachment.

Preference was given to art that was interactive and would engage the public. The installation called "Resonance" by Tim Adams offered both passive and active interaction. "Resonance" is made of two large scale sculptures. One has chimes that can be played actively by a user, and the other has tunable strings. Either installation can be interactive for a user to make their own music, or engaging for a passive listener when someone is manipulating the chimes or strings. The proposal includes the cost of installation along with the necessary footings to support the structure.

It is anticipated that these two pieces will remain in Tom Evans Park until the implementation of the next Art in the Park project, currently anticipated for FY19. At that point they will be relocated or decommissioned. The PAC will return to the Council with recommendation for action at that time.

Risk assessment for this artwork was completed by the City's Risk Manager, along with a review of the impact on the plaza from the Parks & Recreation Department, which maintains this space. Through that review it was determined that the chimes would be fixed, rather than free-hanging, and can be struck with a mallet to make sounds. The strings will be tightly strung and made of a material that will not degrade in the elements.

The precise location of this artwork within Tom Evans Plaza is yet to be determined, and will balance such needs as accessibility, viewsapes and underground utilities.

On April 6th the Public Art Commission accepted the evaluation committee's recommendation, and now recommends that the City Council approve acquisition of the "Resonance" chimes and strings artwork by Tim Adams at a cost of \$20,282.30.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize a contract with Stoney Creek Landscapes, Webster City, IA to acquire the "Resonance" chimes and strings artwork to be installed in Tom Evans Plaza at a total cost of \$20,282.30.

2. Approve an Art in the Parks contract with one of the other artists.
3. Re-solicit proposals for the Art in the Parks program.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

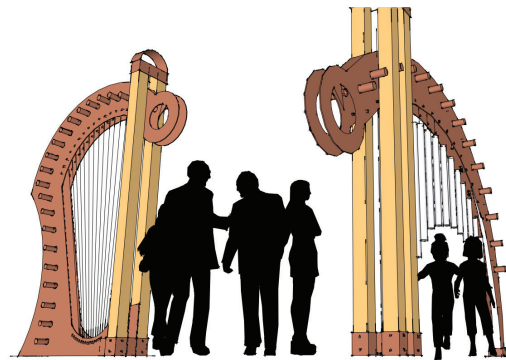
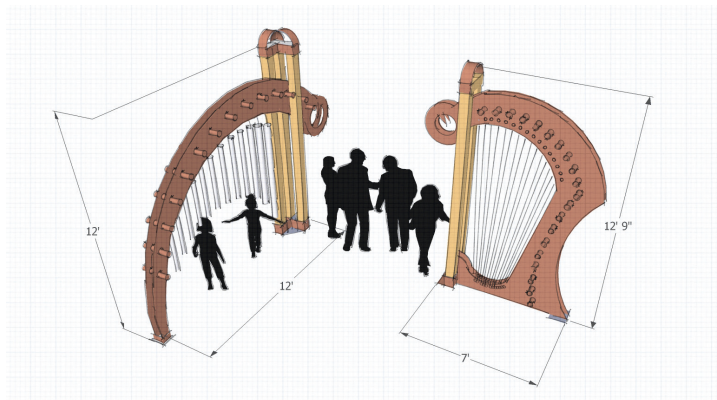
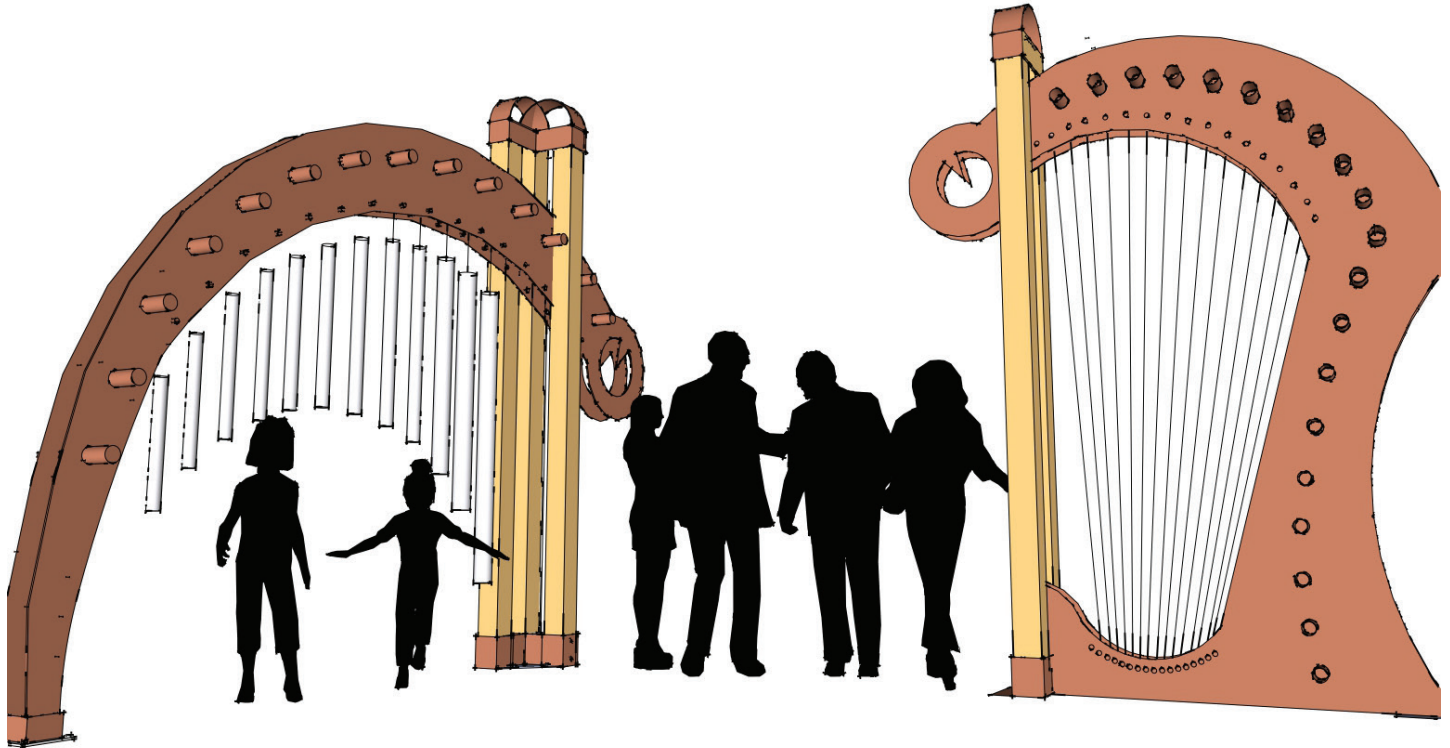
The Public Art Commission believes that the selected proposal best meets the Art in the Parks call for artists by providing an interactive and engaging installation that will help Ames residents re-imagine their local green spaces through public art.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the contract with Stoney Creek Landscapes, Webster City, IA for the “Resonance” chimes and strings art work to be installed in Tom Evans Plaza in the amount of \$20,282.30.

It should be noted that, while only one artist’s submission could be selected through the current RFP process for Tom Evans Plaza, Commission members are very excited at the possibility of utilizing other submissions for other

CALL FOR ARTIST ART IN THE PARK 2016

Tim Adams



ARCY Official



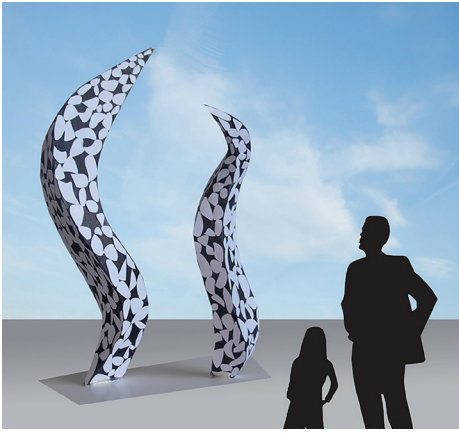
John Bannon



Karl Unnasch



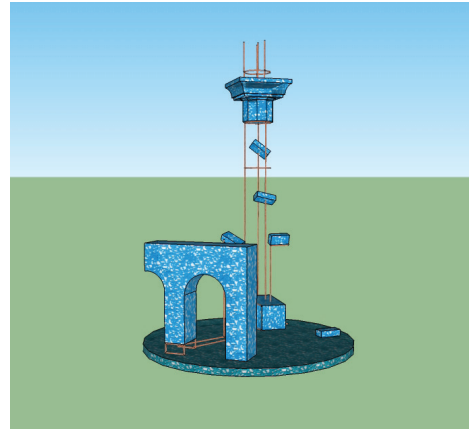
Beth Nybeck



Beth Ravitz



Betsy Alwin



Bill Bywater



Cecilia Lueza



Don Kennell



Edouard Steinhauer



Edward Walsh



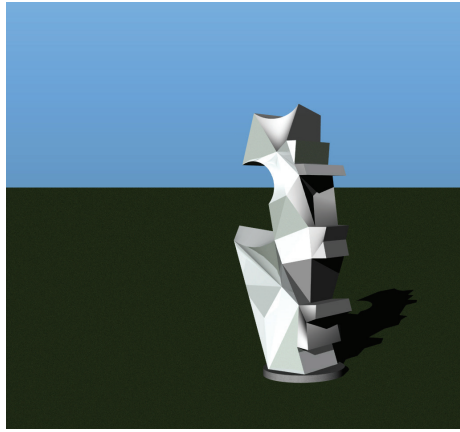
Eileen Gay



Hilde Debruyne



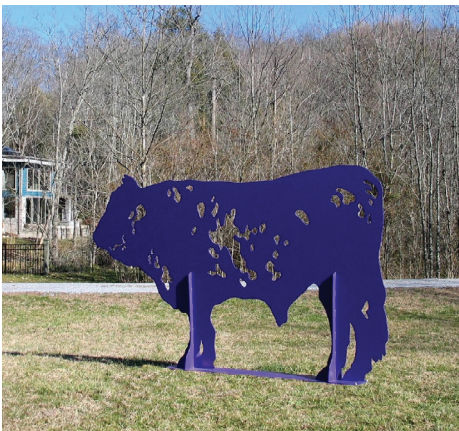
Jacob McGinn



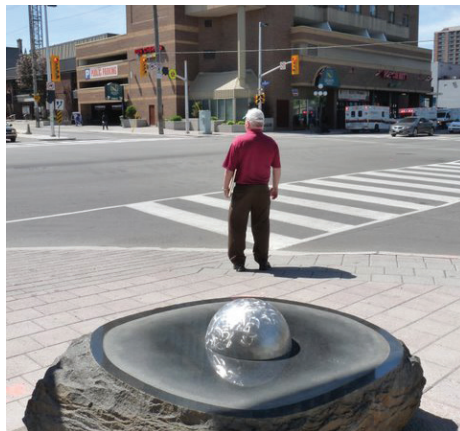
Jennifer Chenoweth



Jim Collins



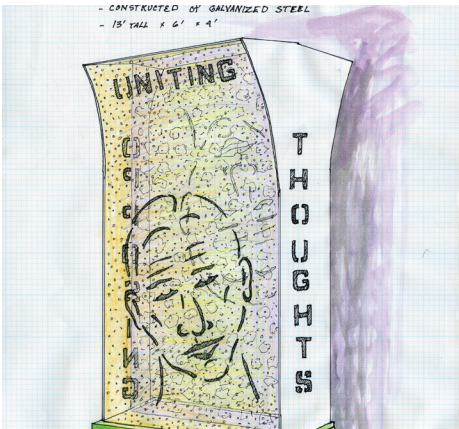
Karl Ciesluk



Kristin Garnant



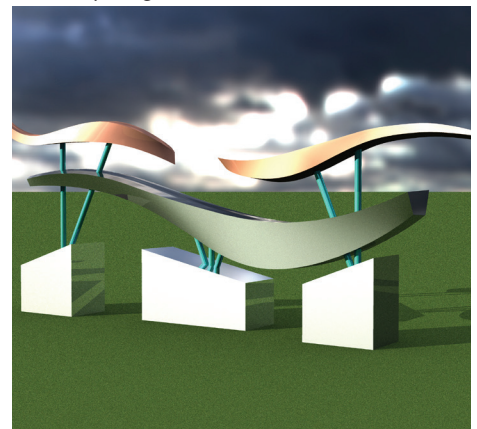
Leslie Bruning



Nathan Pierce



Timothy Jorgensen



Vernon Willits



Zach Bowman

