

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** DEACCESSION OF “MONOLITH” FROM PUBLIC ART INVENTORY

**BACKGROUND:**

The City’s Public Art Commission (PAC) manages the inventory of public art throughout the Ames community. In 2020, the City purchased the Timothy Jorgensen sculpture “Monolith” from the Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition. The sculpture is 7.5 feet in height and made of stainless steel. Monolith was acquired at a cost of \$4,000. It was placed at the Airport Road/Oakwood Road/University Boulevard roundabout.



On July 15, 2022, Monolith was struck by a driver who was subsequently arrested for operating while intoxicated. The sculpture was dislodged from its concrete pad and suffered structural damage to the load-bearing lower section. Staff placed Monolith in storage and contacted the artist to discuss whether repairs could be made.



The artist has provided a quote to repair the damage based on the visible damage observed in the photos. The cost for mileage, materials, and labor are estimated by the artist at \$4,337.51, which exceeds the original purchase price of the sculpture (and could be higher if further internal damage is found).

**At its August 3 meeting, PAC recommended that the sculpture be deaccessioned, once the process to seek restitution from the driver (or the driver's insurance) has been completed.** The necessary documentation has been provided to the City's Risk Manager and Legal staff to seek payment for the damage to the sculpture and other damages to City property related to this incident. According to PAC policy, a sculpture sustaining damage to this extent will be scrapped upon deaccession.

If deaccession is approved, PAC has expressed interest in exploring the placement of another sculpture in this highly visible location.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the recommendation of the Public Art Commission to deaccession "Monolith" by Timothy Jorgensen, to take place once the restitution process is complete.
2. Do not deaccession this work, and direct PAC to arrange for the piece to be repaired.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Monolith has been a valued addition to the City's public art collection in the short time it has been in the community. It appears that the damage experienced by the sculpture would require repairs costing more than the purchase price of the piece. It is the recommendation of the Public Art Commission to deaccession the sculpture.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.