

ITEM #: 16
DATE: 08-27-24
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: SCULPTURE PURCHASE FOR UNIVERSITY/AIRPORT/OAKWOOD
ROUNDBOUT**

BACKGROUND:

The Public Art Commission (PAC) manages the inventory of public art places throughout the Ames community. In 2020, the City purchased a sculpture entitled "Monolith" for placement at the roundabout located at University Boulevard and Oakwood/Airport Roads. In 2022, this sculpture was destroyed when it was struck by an intoxicated driver.

Through conversations with Reiman Gardens, PAC has identified a new sculpture it wishes to acquire for installation at this location. The sculpture, entitled "Monarch on Milkweed," was created by Alex Heveri of Tucson, Arizona in 2023. It is constructed of powder-coated steel, with colored slab glass in each of the butterfly wings. The sculpture is currently 12.5 feet in height, although the artist indicated she would add material to raise the height to 13.5 feet. Additionally, the sculpture currently contains two butterflies. The artist originally intended this sculpture to contain a third; she will fabricate and provide the third butterfly as part of the sculpture at no charge.

On August 6, 2024, PAC voted to recommend that the City Council approve a contract in the amount of \$26,000 to purchase and deliver the completed sculpture. Staff has presented the artist with a contract containing the City's typical terms for a sculpture purchase, and signed copies of the contract have been returned to the City. The artwork is warrantied for five years from the date of delivery and the artist will provide maintenance instructions to City staff. The FY 2023/24 PAC budget contains a balance of \$33,208.50 in the Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition account that can be carried over and used for this purchase.

The sculpture will be installed on the existing concrete pad that was placed for the former sculpture, Monolith. Additionally, PAC received a presentation from Reiman Gardens regarding ideas for installation of a pollinator garden to surround the sculpture, which would replace the existing plantings in the roundabout. Reiman Gardens would provide the labor to install the plantings, and the design and materials cost would be approximately \$1,600. This portion of the project can be financed from the City's Stormwater Fund, which contains considerable unallocated funding due to staff vacancies in the past several months.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a contract with Alex Heveri in the amount of \$26,000 for the purchase and delivery of "Monarch on Milkweed" for the University/Airport/Oakwood roundabout.
2. Refer this item back to staff or the Public Art Commission for further information.
3. Do not approve the contract.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed sculpture, along with a pollinator garden to be installed by Reiman Gardens staff, will present an interesting and vibrant aesthetic for this prominent intersection. PAC has funds from savings accumulated over the past several years in the Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition account to make this purchase. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council support Alternative #1 and approve a contract with Alex Heveri in the amount of \$26,000 for the purchase and delivery of "Monarch on Milkweed" for the University/Airport/Oakwood roundabout.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Sculpture.jpg](#)