

ITEM #:	13
DATE:	12-09-25
DEPT:	ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2026/27 AMES ANNUAL OUTDOOR SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition (AAOSE), the longest running program for the Public Arts Commission (PAC), will celebrate its 30th annual downtown exhibition in 2026. Through this program, artists submit sculptural entries to be displayed in Downtown Ames from May 2026 through April 2027. At the conclusion of the display, sculptures are available for purchase by private individuals or by PAC through the Neighborhood Sculpture Program. This year, **36 AAOSE entries were received from 17 artists**.

The entries were evaluated by a jury which then made recommendations to PAC. At its meeting on December 2, 2025, PAC reviewed the jury's recommendations and voted to recommend nine sculptures and one alternate. The alternate would be pursued in the event one of the nine selected sculptures becomes unavailable prior to the loan agreement being signed.

Attached are photographs of the sculptures recommended for the 2026/27 AAOSE. **Installation of the exhibit will take place in April after further risk analysis by City staff**.

Artists will be paid a \$2,000 honorarium for each selected sculpture, and a Best-in-Show award of \$1,000 will be made to a winner determined by the public, for a total expenditure of \$19,000. All expenses will be paid for through the PAC budget. Funding for the AAOSE exhibition was included in the FY 2025/26 Public Art Budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize PAC to enter into agreements with artists for the exhibition of sculptures and make honorarium payments.
2. Do not approve the agreements.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This annual program allows for works of art to be displayed throughout the City. This program aligns with the City Council's value of a fun, vibrant community that attracts and retains people. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

2026-27 AAOSE Selections.pptx