

ITEM #:	14
DATE:	12-09-25
DEPT:	ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC ART COMMISSION ACCESSIBLE MAP ENVISIONING
SCULPTURES (A.M.E.S.) PROJECT**

BACKGROUND:

The Public Art Commission (PAC) receives funding from the City Council each year to: 1) manage the public art collection, 2) present the Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, 3) purchase art for the Neighborhood Art Program, and 4) purchase art for the Art in the Parks Program. Unused funding in these four program areas is carried over into subsequent fiscal years.

PAC has accumulated a balance of funding in the Neighborhood Art Program that it wishes to dedicate to a new project, titled Accessible Map-Envisioning Sculptures (A.M.E.S.). This project is intended to enhance wayfinding and create a cohesive visual identity at selected bus shelters located on portions of the CyRide Red Route.

The A.M.E.S. project is designed to assist passengers with disabilities, those with language barriers, and those unfamiliar with Ames by providing distinctive, tactile art elements at each shelter. The sculptures will be freestanding, not attached to bus shelters, and will not obstruct visibility for passengers or drivers. Each sculpture will be placed adjacent to the shelter on its own concrete pad, and PAC will be responsible for all installation, maintenance, and related costs associated with the artwork.

Sculptures will be placed at seven shelters: Mortensen Road/Pinon Drive, Mortensen Road/Coconino Avenue, South Dakota Avenue/Lincoln Swing, Lincoln Way/Beedle Drive, Lincoln Way/Marshall Avenue, Lincoln Way/Lynn Avenue, and Lincoln Way/Elm Avenue. Public art easements have been secured where necessary, except for one shelter location. Staff is optimistic that an easement will be obtained for that site before the sculptures are delivered, and will identify an alternative location if the easement is not able to be obtained.

After consultation with CyRide staff and the Transit Board of Trustees, on June 16, 2025, a Request for Proposal was issued to commission an artist for the project. Responses were due July 16, 2025, and twenty proposals were received. The proposals were evaluated by a team consisting of PAC members, an Ames resident, and a CyRide staff member.

Following evaluation of the proposals received, PAC recommends entering into a contract with Tim Adams of Webster City, Iowa. His design, titled "Perennials", features sculptural forms inspired by natural leaves and plant motifs that will be visually engaging throughout all four seasons and encourage tactile interaction by the public. PAC is recommending his design concept because it provided strong visual flow along the route and complemented the surrounding landscape.

The submitted concept drawings are incorporated into the artist contract, which is attached. The artist will warranty the work for a period of five years from the time of acceptance, which is

standard for the City's sculpture acquisition contracts. The fee to deliver a completed sculpture is \$30,000. Staff estimates the cost for the preparation of the concrete pads and plaques to be approximately \$5,000. The PAC Neighborhood Sculpture Program account has a current balance of \$42,197, which is sufficient to cover the expenses related to this contract.

The Ames Transit Board of Trustees approved the project proposal at its November 20, 2025, meeting. Subsequently, at its meeting on December 2, 2025, PAC recommended that the City Council approve a contract with that artist.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a contract with Tim Adams (dba Stony Creek Landscapes), of Webster City, Iowa, in the amount of \$30,000 for the fabrication, delivery, and purchase of "Perennials" for the bus stop shelters along CyRide's Red Route.
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 sculptures meet the desires of the Public Art Commission to provide unique, interactive, and visually appealing wayfinding efforts. Staff has prepared a contract outlining the terms for the delivery of the completed works. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Contract with Tim Adams - Perennials.pdf](#)