

ITEM #:	12
DATE:	07-14-26
DEPT:	ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: REQUESTS FROM OCTAGON ARTS CENTER FOR OCTAGON ART
FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

BACKGROUND:

The Octagon Center for the Arts plans to host the Octagon Art Festival in downtown Ames on Sunday, September 27, 2026. The event is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Booths selling art works, crafts, and food items will be in operation that day. The inaugural Ames Documentary Film Festival at the Ames Public Library will be held in conjunction with the Octagon Art Festival this year.

To facilitate the Octagon Art Festival, the following items are requested:

1. Closure of the following streets, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.:
 - a. Main Street, east of Clark (not blocking Wells Fargo Driveway) to just west of Duff Avenue (allowing traffic to access parking lot behind businesses)
 - b. Douglas Avenue, 5th Street to Main Street
 - c. Kellogg Avenue, south of the alley to Main Street
 - d. Burnett Avenue, south of the alley to Main Street
2. Waiver of costs for electricity during the event (estimated at \$10)
3. Approval of a Blanket Temporary Obstruction Permit for the Central Business District
4. Approval of a Blanket Vending License for the duration of the event
5. Waiver of fee for Blanket Vending License (\$50)

Insurance coverage for the event has been provided by The Octagon Center for the Arts. Notification signs will be placed on parking meters on Saturday evening after 6:00 p.m. **Since the event occurs on a Sunday, there is no potential loss of parking meter revenue. Public Works will provide the necessary barricades for the street closures. A noise permit will be obtained through the Police Department.**

Ames Main Street has been informed of the Art Festival and is in support of it. Additionally, Octagon staff will contact affected businesses by going door to door and posting signs throughout the area.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the requests from the Octagon Center for the Arts for the Octagon Art Festival on September 28, 2025, including closure of various streets from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,

blanket Vending License and waiver of fee for Vending Licenses, Blanket Temporary Obstruction Permit for sidewalks adjacent to closed street, and waiver of costs for electricity during the event.

2. Approve the requests but require payment for the Blanket Vending License and reimbursement for electricity use.
3. Deny the requests.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is the 55th year that the Octagon has held the Octagon Art Festival. There will be more than 100 artists on hand with unique, hand-crafted artwork for sale, live entertainment, and local food vendors. No admission is charged, and festival organizers expect 10,000 people to attend. Ames Main Street has expressed its full support of the event. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ames Main St. Letter of Support - Octagon Art Festival.pdf](#)
[Application - Octagon Art Festival - for CAF_Redacted.pdf](#)
[Map - Octagon Art Festival.pdf](#)