

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-351  
AUGUST 19, 1996 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
NAMING THE DES MOINES RIVERFRONT AMPHITHEATER THE <i>SIMON ESTES AMPHITHEATER</i>	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DON TRIPP PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

Recommendation to name the Riverfront Amphitheater the *Simon Estes Amphitheater*.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Signage will run approximately \$1,500.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

To name the Amphitheater the *Simon Estes Amphitheater* and ask for public or private funds to construct appropriate signage.

**BACKGROUND —**

In 1988, David Kruidenier began communicating his vision for a Des Moines Riverfront Amphitheater or *Bandshell*, to take advantage of the beauty of the river and downtown skyline as a backdrop to artistic performers. He raised \$400,000 for the project. On September 25, 1989, the City Council, by Roll Call No. 89-4156, initiated the first action to begin development of a local cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. With the urging of U.S. Congressman Neal Smith, the Corps ultimately agreed to provide half the funds for the newly-completed Des Moines Riverfront Amphitheater.

The Amphitheater is located along the Des Moines River's east bank between Locust and Walnut Streets in downtown Des Moines. It will be used for special events that include music, dance, oration, and other expressive art forms for entertainment and instruction. It will be maintained by the City of Des Moines Park and Recreation Board with revenues being generated to offset all operating expenses. By City Council Roll Call No. 96-2548, on July 15, 1996, Council recommended/referred to the Park and Recreation Board that the Amphitheater be named after Simon Estes.

It is staff understanding that David Kruidenier wants the facility to be named for Simon Estes, an Iowa-born artist (Centerville, Iowa) who has garnered world-wide fame as an operatic singer. Mr. Estes has family living in Des Moines and has been active in providing opportunities for Des Moines' youth.

At the Park and Recreation Board meeting of August 13, 1996, by Resolution No. 11746, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously passed Roll Call No. 96-2548.