

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

00-580

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 18, 2000

The establishment of a Public Arts Commission is the first step in developing a Public Art Program for the City of Des Moines. The Commission will provide a process and procedures to govern both public and private public art projects. The Commission will advise on the following:

SUBJECT:

ESTABLISHMENT
OF DES MOINES
ART COMMISSION

- the process and procedures by which the community is consulted;
- artist's proposals for specific sites;
- project selection; and
- various other matters related to public art and to the Des Moines' Public Art Program.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

FISCAL IMPACT -

None.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDATION -

Approve the establishment of a Des Moines Public Art Commission and refer to the Legal Department for the preparation of the necessary legislation.

BACKGROUND

On March 15, 1999, the City Council authorized the Mayor to establish a Des Moines Public Art/Design Task Force. Since then, the Task Force (facilitated by Bruce Williams, Coordinator of Artists and Public Art Programs for the Iowa Arts Council) has been working toward developing a proposed Public Art Program for the City of Des Moines. The task force was expanded in August 2000 to gain broader

input, and two public forums were held during this year.

On June 5, 2000, the City Council received, filed, and referred the Proposed Public Art Program to the City Manager for further recommendation.

Attachment

Summary: City of Des Moines Public Art Commission

A. Commission Structure. The City of Des Moines Public Art Commission shall be composed of 11 volunteer members appointed by the City Council. The Chair shall be elected by the members of the Commission and shall serve for a two-year term.

B. Appointment.

1. Nomination process. The City shall seek nominations of eligible candidates from the community. In addition, the following organizations shall be invited to nominate a slate of eligible Commission candidates to the City: Art Educators of Iowa, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines Art District, Des Moines Neighbors, Downtown Community Alliance, Drake University and Grand View College Art Departments, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Iowa Chapters of the American Institute of Architect and the American Society of Landscape Architects, Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines.

2. Candidates are reviewed and confirmed by the Council.

C. Commission Qualifications. Commission membership should reflect the cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity within the city. Other Commission qualifications include:

- Broad cultural perspective.
- Commitment to the importance of public art in the public realm.
- Strong interest in and/or knowledge of public art, art, arts education, architecture, community development, design arts, and urban design and planning.
- Experience in collaborative decision making and consensus building.

D. Commission Responsibilities. The Commission shall serve as an advisory body to the Council, City departments, and commissions. All recommendations are subject to the approval of the Council or their designee. The Commission shall:

- be responsible for advising the Public Art Program administrator, City Manager, City departments, commissions and boards, and the Council regarding the Public Art Program.
- resolve disputes involving aesthetic judgment relative to public art.
- serve as a liaison with all City planning committees, task forces, boards, and commissions responsible for developing and implementing master plans, annual plans, studies, and other planning documents and reports for the City.
- develop programs, policies, procedures, guidelines, and criteria to guide the Public Art Program.
- review and advise all parties involved in the acquisition, accession, placement, and de-accession of public art projects performed through the City's Community Improvement Program budget, and other projects submitted to the City from the community and the private sector, and make recommendations to the Council and City departments.
- review all public art matters submitted to the City, or under the jurisdiction of the City or Public Art Program.
- implement elements of the Public Art Program relating to civic and private sector development and other community initiatives submitted to the City.
- study proposed public arts-related projects of artistic and aesthetic concern to the community and City, and prepare recommendations for the Council's consideration.
- identify projects that have the potential of benefiting from artists' involvement.
- recommend artists and project designs to the Council.
- provide oversight for the maintenance of public artwork after the work is in place.
- provide oversight for gifts and donations made to the City.
- develop a public art training program for new Commission members, City Council and staff, and the community.
- develop an annual program plan and budget.