



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

02-447

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

AGENDA:

AUGUST 19, 2002

SUBJECT:

PUBLIC ARTS
COMMISSION AND
ARTS PROGRAM
STATUS REPORT

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

SUBMITTED BY:

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

SYNOPSIS -

The Des Moines Public Arts Program Status Report submitted by John W. Firman and Associates, coordinator of the Des Moines Public Arts Program, presents the long range plan identifying the steps necessary for partnering on public art projects. The priority projects listed in the report for FY 2002-03 include as partnering with the Western Gateway Park project; upcoming Capitol Gateway East projects; a collaboration with Downtown Community Alliance in identifying 15 vacant storefronts in the West/East Gateway corridor along Locust and Grand Avenues for displays designed by artists; and an I-235 Art in Transit Pilot Project. The report recommends that the \$250,000 currently available in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) be allocated to projects as follows: up to \$175,000 to the Western Gateway Park and East Gateway project; up to \$50,000 for "Changing Faces: A Storefront Public Art Project"; and up to \$25,000 for the I-235 Art in Transit Pilot Project.

FISCAL IMPACT -

\$250,000 available in the Capital Improvement Budget for public art in the current fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION -

Receive, file and approve.

BACKGROUND -

On March 15, 1999, by Roll Call No. 99-734, the City Council authorized the Mayor to establish a Des Moines Public Art/Design Task Force. Since then, the Task Force has been working toward developing a Public Arts Program for the City of Des Moines. This has involved research on Public Arts Programs in other cities and interviews with individuals associated with the programs. The Task

Force also worked with Design Iowa, an initiative of the Iowa Arts Council and their advisors, Bruce Williams, Coordinator of Artists and Public Art Programs for the Iowa Arts Council and Jack Becker, Project Manager for Forecast Public Artworks in St. Paul, Minnesota.

On December 18, 2000, by Roll Call No 00-580, the City Council declared its intent to establish a Public Arts Commission and referred the matter to the City Manager for a recommendation on staffing and budget and to the Legal Department for the preparation of the necessary amendments to the Des Moines Municipal Code.

On October 22, 2001, By Roll Call No. 01-3210, the City Council passed an ordinance adding and enacting Article IX to Chapter 82 establishing a Public Arts Program and a Public Arts Commission.

On March 18, 2002, by Roll Call No. 02-769, the City Council approved the first 15 appointments to the Commission. The Commission has been meeting regularly and has developed a long-range plan and has identified its priority projects for FY 2002-03.
