


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-227	Meeting:	June 29, 2026
	Agenda Item:	40	Roll Call:	26-0757
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving agreement between City of Des Moines, Iowa, Ally Frame and the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Foundation for Design, Implementation, and Maintenance of Cheatom Park Court Murals.

SYNOPSIS:

The Cheatom Park Court Mural Project will provide a new public amenity in the park that responds directly to community input, complements the upcoming park improvements, and enhances engagement, ownership, and aesthetics by creating a unique, highly memorable destination in the City of Des Moines.

The proposed murals will be installed with acrylic sport court textured surfacing on the existing basketball court and reconstructed futsal court. The murals will complement Cheatom Park improvements, including the newly completed playground area, accessible concrete walkways, site grading, stormwater improvements, court resurfacing and repairs, seating areas, and site restoration.

Approval of agreement between the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Foundation (d/b/a Friends of Des Moines Parks) (Friends), and Ally Frame for design finalization, implementation coordination, licensing, project documentation, promotion, and optional repair and touch-up maintenance consultation for the Cheatom Park Court Mural Project. Private funding from Musco Lighting, received by the Friends, will support the project's design and costs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: No City Funding – Grants and Private Funding in the Amount of \$9,500 for artist agreement

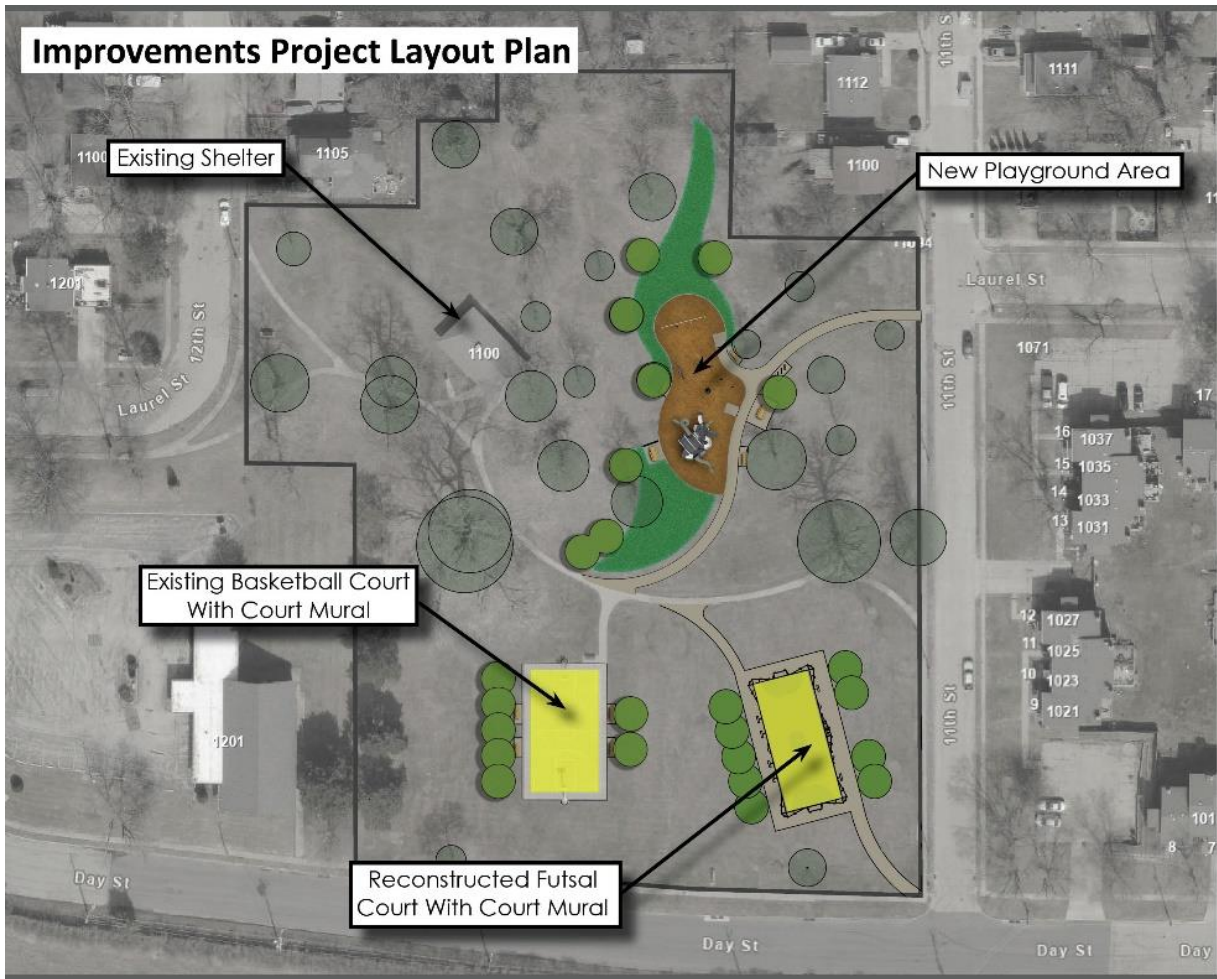
Funding Source: FY2026, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 75, PK137, Park Improvements, Being: \$50,000 from Bravo Greater Des Moines Public Art Grant Award, Private Donation of \$30,000 from the Friends of Des Moines Parks, and Private Donation of \$16,000 provided by Musco Lighting, also provided to the Friends of Des Moines Parks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

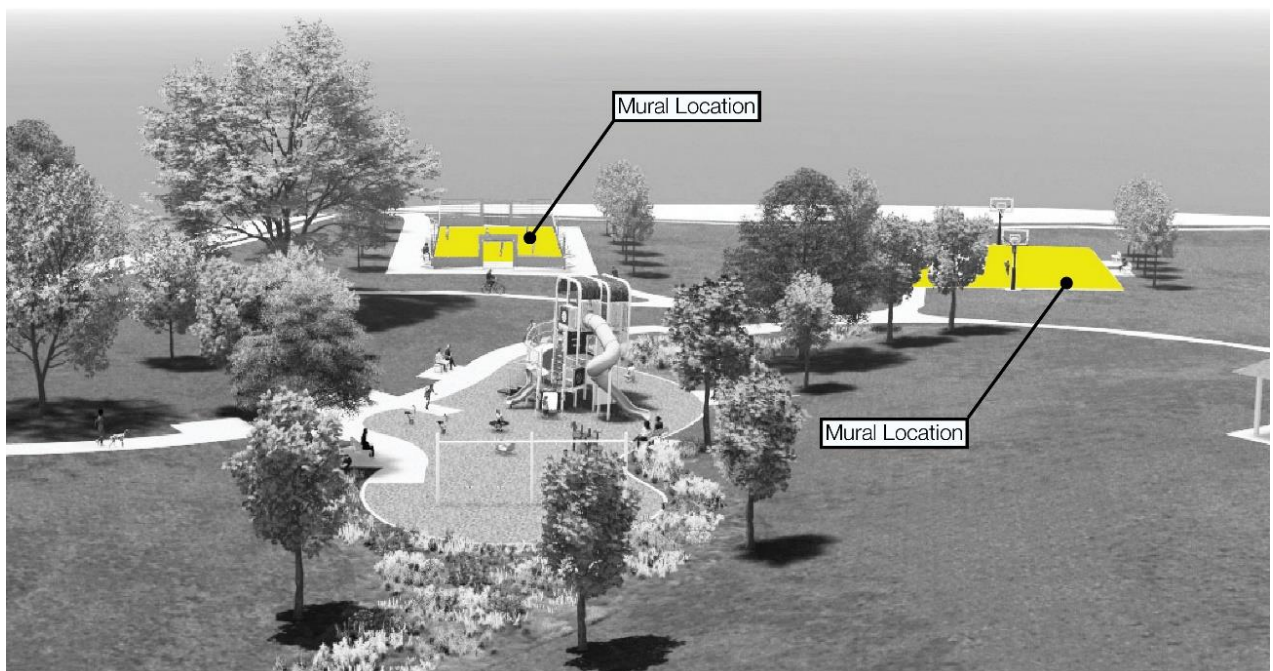
- The City owns real property at 1100 Day Street, commonly referred to as the Cheatom Park, upon which the City intends to install and maintain murals on the existing basketball court and the renovated futsal court at the park through its Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of the City, subject to availability of funds.

- The goals and vision outlined by LiveDSM, PlanDSM, MoveDSM, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation served as a cornerstone of the Mural Project's design and concept.
- The Bravo Greater Des Moines Public Art Grant program provides financial support to its local government partners for public art projects that foster greater artistic and cultural expression in the Greater Des Moines region.
- The City of Des Moines, through the Parks and Recreation Department, applied for a Bravo Public Art Grant to help pay for the costs of developing artwork specific to Cheatom Park Courts.
- The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation reviewed and approved the Cheatom Park Court Mural Concept on May 21, 2026.
- The Mural Project is funded by outside sources, including \$50,000 in Bravo Greater Des Moines Public Art Grant revenue and \$30,000 in Friends of Des Moines Parks donations. Of the Friends donation, \$16,000 was provided by Musco Lighting.
- The artist (Ally Frame) and her design concept for the Cheatom Park Court Mural Project were selected through a two-phase process; Phase one: Request For Qualifications (RFQ) and Phase two: Request for Proposal (RFP), developed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation.
- Throughout the RFQ and RFP process, a selection panel comprised of representatives from City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Bravo of Greater Des Moines, the Friends of Des Moines Parks, Musco Lighting, Kick It Forward, Cheatom Park Neighborhood Association, relatives of Joe Anna Cheatom, Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, MainFrame Studios, and Council Member Barron reviewed all documents and information submitted by artists/teams.
- The first phase of the selection process was the RFQ. During this phase, artists/teams were required to submit contact information, a letter of interest, examples of previous work, a resume, and references.
 - The project team received 23 submissions, and the selection panel selected the seven (7) finalists to proceed to the second phase of the selection process.
- The second phase of the selection process was the RFP, in which the seven (7) selected finalists were tasked to develop design concepts and cost proposals. The design concepts needed to reflect the community input received through the online questionnaire, align with the goals established by the project team, and any research initiated by the artists. The cost proposals needed to include all costs associated with design finalization, project collaboration, licensing fee, project implementation (working alongside mural painting contractor), and project documentation.
 - The selection panel reviewed the finalists' submissions (design concepts and cost proposals) and determined that Ally Frame would be the artist to award the project to.

- Extensive engagement and support for the murals have been received through an online questionnaire, in-person meetings and presentations, the Cheatom Park Neighborhood Association, relatives of Joe Anna Cheatom, project partners and stakeholders, and with the support and approval of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation and Bravo Greater Des Moines. Additional support for the project includes secured private funding and grant funds.
- The City wishes to hire Ally Frame, artist, to finalize the concept design and participate in the application and maintenance of the project and related licensing. The Friends of Des Moines Parks will pay all costs related to the project.
- The murals will be installed using Sport Court acrylic textured surfacing, which includes a product warranty. The murals include the installation of regulation basketball and futsal court lines; these lines are designed to contrast with the underlying murals.
- The project team plans to hire the court mural painting organization Project Backboard to implement the design developed by Ally Frame. This is based on their extensive experience both nationally and internationally, including the successful installation of the court mural at Evelyn K. Davis Park in 2024, which was the first mural installation in the state of Iowa.
- Project Backboard is a 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 2015, whose mission is to renovate public basketball courts and install large-scale works of site-specific art on the surface to strengthen communities, improve park safety, encourage multi-generational play, and inspire people to think more critically and creatively about their environment. The Project Backboard team has collectively and collaboratively installed more than 100 murals throughout the United States, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Russia, and Japan.
- Project Backboard is authorized to install and warrantee the required acrylic sport court surfacing which delivers playing surfacing requirements for sport courts and which also meets the color options and requirements for the approved mural artwork.
- It is anticipated that mural installation will occur September through October 2026 and will be coordinated with the scheduled and planned events at the park.
- The basketball and futsal courts and associated facilities will continue to be maintained and programmed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- As necessary and at the City's request, Ally Frame may provide consultation, maintenance, and repair for the murals as part of the negotiated agreement.
- Following completion and acceptance of the murals, it will remain for a planned duration of two (2) years, with renewal terms of two (2) year increments also available by agreement of both parties.



Cheatom Park Improvements Project Design Concept with Mural Location
(Estimated Completion Fall 2026)



Cheatom Park Improvements Project Concept Rendering with Mural Locations



Cheatom Park Mural Design Concept developed by Ally Frame
(Selected by the panel)



Cheatom Park Mural Design Concept

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 9, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0315](#)

Action: [Ratifying](#) execution of GC26 Public Art Grant Agreement with Bravo Greater Des Moines for \$50,000 of grant funding for the Cheatom Park Court Mural Project ([Council Communication No. 26-088](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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