Public Arts Advisory Commission
Diane Boyd
Ryan Crane
Gary Hammers
Tamara Kenworthy
TJ Lechtenberg
Rita Luther
Brenda Sedlacek

West Des Moines Mayor and City Council
Steven K. Gaer (Mayor)
Rick Messerschmidt
John Mickelson
Jim Sandager
Kevin Trevillyan
Russ Trimble

About the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission

The City's current vision for public art began at a City Council workshop in the fall of 2005, which led to the preparation of a Public Art Master Plan in 2008. That Plan recommended the establishment of a Public Arts Advisory Commission and a Public Art Fund, which the City Council created in 2011. The newly formed Public Arts Advisory Commission then chose to focus on a temporary exhibit as a way to introduce the citizens of West Des Moines to public art while building up the public art fund reserves for the ultimate installation of more permanent public art throughout the City.

FAQ's

Q: Who is on the Public Arts Advisory Commission (PAAC)?

A: Seven West Des Moines citizens currently serve on the Commission. They are listed above.

Q: How are Public Arts Advisory Commission members selected?

A: Members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council based on a written application. Membership is open to citizen representatives of the community at large who are recognized for their interest or experience in connection with visual arts. Members must reside in the City of West Des Moines and can not hold any other elected or appointed office within West Des Moines city government.

Q: How is the Parks and Recreation Department involved?

A: Parks and Recreation staff serve as a liaison to the Commission. Staff use their best judgment, knowledge, professionalism, and candor in advising the Commission but ultimately work for the West Des Moines City Manager.

Q: How often does the Commission meet?

A: Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month in the West Des Moines City Hall Council Chambers.

Q: Does the Commission have a plan and mission?

A: The mission of the West Des Moines public art program is to create a city with successful public spaces with works of art that offer moments of serendipity and opportunities for reflection. The PAAC recently adopted a Public Art Master Plan that guides their efforts.

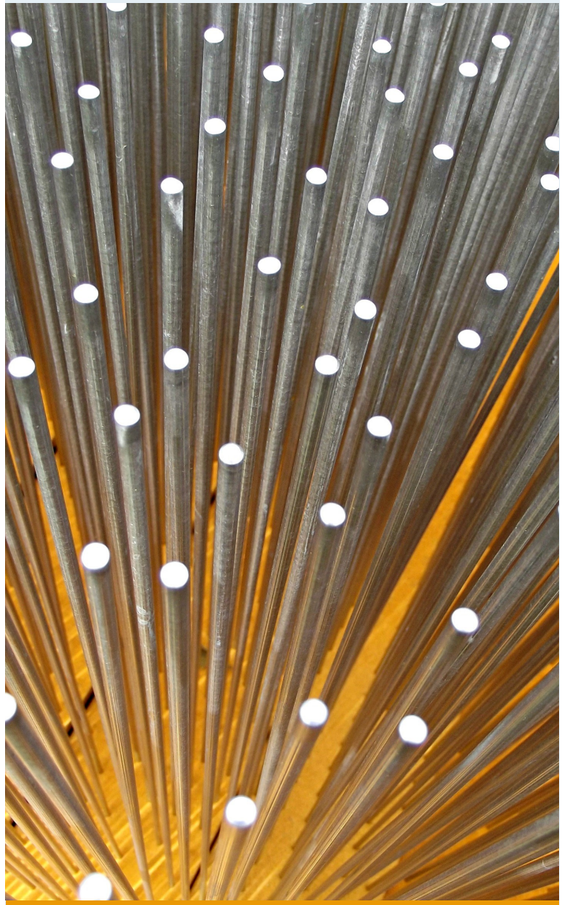
Q: What is the vision for public art in West Des Moines?

A: The vision of the City of West Des Moines' public art program is the creation of a diverse collection of artworks of undisputed quality and excellence, and a program that promotes cultural expression and artistic appreciation.

Art on the Campus

2015 Exhibit

April 20-November 15



Scribe

Stainless steel and painted steel
Bounnak Thammavong;
Iowa City, IA

"Scribe" is an abstract sculpture inspired by ink well and quill.

Library Kids

Cast bronze and stone
Nick Klepinger; Reasnor, IA

The artist was inspired by the innocence of children sitting together and reading a book.

A Totem of Spring

Clay with a metal base and internal framework
Hilde DeBruyne; Cumming, IA

"A Totem of Spring" is a joyful celebration of the amazing growth in nature. Colorful birds, flowers, and leaves are hand built in clay and invite the viewer to appreciate the gorgeous wonders of spring.

Coneflower Duo

Stainless steel, painted steel and electronics
Bounnak Thammavong; Iowa City, IA

"Coneflower Duo" is made of abstract sculptures inspired by cone flowers that also detect and blink to signify detection of cosmic particles via solar powered electronics and LED light.

Thistle Be the One

Steel and stainless steel
John Brommel; Des Moines, IA

"Thistle Be the One" is a larger than life glorification of one of nature's most beautiful plants. Most people would think of thistles as nothing more than a noxious weed. We are challenged not only to be more open minded and resourceful but also to reexamine what is a resource and what is a nuisance."

Nature's Quintet

Stainless steel and painted steel
Stephanie Sailer; Swisher, IA

"Nature's Quintet" is based on the Columbine Flower, native to the Midwest. The enlarged petal forms create a simplistic, other-worldly beauty. Their entangled, arching forms remind us of the petal's movement in the wind. The harmonious relationship between each petal mirrors the delicate movement of dance or music, each part positioned in tandem with others. While dancing on the wind, they sing.

Iowa

Mild steel, gun bluing, and cedar shingles
Zachary Bowman; Ankeny, IA

"I wanted to make a sculpture that represents Iowa without corn, soy beans, and livestock."

Palimpsest

Steel
V. Skip Willits; Camanche, IA

Palimpsest is writing material (as a parchment or tablet, in this case a sculpture) used one or more times after earlier writing has been erased.

Coleoptile

Stainless steel
Kristin Garnant; Camanche, IA

"Coleoptile is the term for the first leaf which provides a protective sheath for the new growth. The work slowly rises from an overlapped fold at the base which is neatly held in place with exposed button welds, then gradually expands to an opening that beckons to the space beyond. It speaks to change, growth, new beginnings."

Mystical Galaxy Chimes

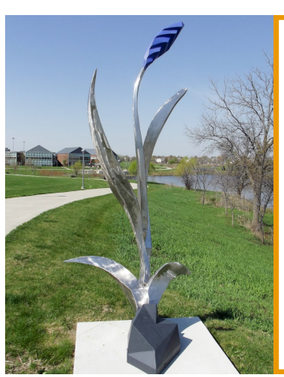
Blackened steel, fused bronze, paint
James Bearden; Des Moines, IA

"Mystical Galaxy Chimes" is a work from Mr. Bearden's Cathedral Series. It's an arrangement of various shapes on vertical rods. When touched by hand or the breeze, an other-worldly orchestra resounds.

Prairie Tamer

Stainless steel, painted steel, and powder coated steel
Daniel Perry; Waterloo, IA

"Prairie Tamer" is an examination of the ever-changing Iowa landscape. It explores the notion of utilizing traditional methods to address modern issues.



Big Bromeliad

Stainless steel, oxidized corten steel, and painted steel
Mike Sneller; Cedar Rapids, IA

Mr. Sneller was inspired by the shapes of bromeliads that he saw while visiting an aquarium. "Bromeliads are a very diverse group of plants with some that grow high up in trees and collect their nutrients from the air."

Progress Plant

Stainless steel and painted steel
Mike Sneller; Cedar Rapids, IA

This piece is about progress and echoes the artist's own progress. "Each time a person tries something they get a little further, and sometimes they try something different and that adds greatly to their growth."

You Are Invited

Join the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission and Parks and Recreation Department as we celebrate the Grand Opening of the 2015 temporary Art on the Campus exhibit

When: Thursday, April 30 at 6:00pm
Where: WDM City Hall
4200 Mills Civic Parkway

We Want Your Opinion

Vote now for the Art on the Campus 2015 People's Choice Award

Scan with your mobile device to vote now at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015ArtontheCampus

A winner will be announced after November 15, 2015

Partial funding for the 2015 Art on the Campus exhibit is provided by the West Des Moines Community Enrichment Foundation

If you would like to find out how you could own one of these sculptures, please call 515-222-3444. A portion of the cost will help fund future exhibits of Art on the Campus.

THE CITY OF West Des Moines.