



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 22, 2023

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Activating Art in Waukeee

City of Waukeee Adopts Public Art Master Plan & Releases Call for Artists

Waukeee, Iowa— Art can be a powerful community builder in addition to adding interest and beauty to enjoy. The Waukeee City Council adopted the first [Public Art Master Plan](#) for the City of Waukeee. The plan will serve as a guidebook to foster a distinctive identity for Waukeee through arts and culture. As the plan is implemented, residents and visitors will have opportunities to enjoy diverse artworks as they shop, work and play.

“For many people, murals and statues are the first things they think of when they hear 'public art,' but it really incorporates a much richer and more diverse range of possibilities,” said Nick Osborne, Assistant City Administrator. “The master planning process really expanded our understanding of what public art could be and the many benefits it can have for our community.”

In addition to adding visual interest to a community, public art can be a part of creative solutions to challenges, such as colorful lighting that improves safety in a fun way. Public art has economic impact, from adding highly recognizable elements that draw visitors to showcasing community character that draws businesses to locate in a city.

“Artists can help highlight the different perspectives on culture and community character,” said Mayor Courtney Clarke. “We want to harness that to encourage community connection and help Waukeee stand out.”

The plan, which was crafted in collaboration with Waukeee's Public Art Advisory Committee, includes guiding principles and a vision for art and culture initiatives in Waukeee, recommendations for specific initiatives and policies to advance community goals as well as a framework to define a public art program.

A few of the opportunities noted in the plan include:

- Create interactive and unique experiences on Waukeee Trails
- Add color and interest to Waukeee's major corridors—Hickman Road, University Avenue, Alice's Road/Grand Prairie Parkway or Douglas Parkway
- Bring art to stormwater facilities, such as detention ponds
- Engage teens in art and create welcoming hangout spaces

Call for Artists

The City is preparing for the first art project in line with the new plan. It issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for artists to design a unique water-based artwork on Tallgrass Pond along Grand Prairie Parkway.

Artists across the U.S., including those based locally, are invited to apply by December 3. The City will select three artists from the initial call to develop and present a design proposal.

“The first project will be one of many artworks that can spark conversations and connections for both residents and visitors,” said Mayor Clarke. “We hope the master plan will also inspire other organizations and businesses around Waukee to join the City in leveraging art to enrich our community.”

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The City of Waukee is recognized as the fastest growing (large) city in Iowa and is located in Dallas County—one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. Waukee is home to 29,167 residents and offers a welcoming atmosphere, high quality schools, excellent municipal services and robust public amenities. The City is also dedicated to economic development and expanding business opportunities, including the creation of the mixed-use development, [Kettlestone](#). For more information, visit [Waukee.org](#).