

ITEM #: 20  
DATE: 03-24-26  
DEPT: P&H

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC ART EASEMENT AT AMES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL CENTER,  
920 CARROLL AVENUE**

### **BACKGROUND:**

A Public Art Easement is being requested by the Public Art Commission (PAC) for placement of public art on private property at Ames Community Preschool Center, 920 Carroll Avenue. The easement will be located adjacent to the childcare facility and playground.

The art installation planned in relation to this easement is a part of the Neighborhood Sculpture Program, which is a PAC initiative that focuses on creating a visual and aesthetic environment that incorporates art into the lives of all Ames residents. ACPC applied to participate in this program, requesting placement of the sculptural work titled "Tipsee" by Craig Snyder.

**On January 6, 2026, the Public Art Commission reviewed and recommended pursuing the placement of artwork on the properties. Subsequently, on January 27, 2026, the City Council approved acquisition of "TipSee" into the City's Permanent Art Inventory. Now, approval of the easement to facilitate the placement of "TipSee" is being requested.**

An art installation can be approved with an exception to setback standards when approved by the City Council as Public Art within a Public Art Easement. The intent of this exception is to promote the location of publicly visible art installations on private property, as a coordinated effort between the City of Ames Public Art Commission and local businesses. Public Art is defined in 29.201(163a) as:

"Any works of craft or art in any medium that the City of Ames Public Art Commission (PAC) has reviewed and which has been approved, and formally accepted by the City Council (or under the authority of the City Council as designated to the PAC) for temporary or permanent installation in public locations, in or on publicly owned buildings, on publicly owned land, or in or on other locations leased or provided to the City through donation, easement or other means."

The Easement documents have been finalized by City legal staff and have been agreed upon by the applicant. They are attached for reference. In addition to the Public Art Commission and City Council review, Planning staff coordinated with the Public Works and Electric Departments to ensure the easement locations did not interfere with visibility at adjacent intersections or impact utilities. It is noteworthy that all parts of the artwork are required to be behind the vertical edge of the adjacent public sidewalk and no overhang is allowed.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Accept the Public Art Easement located at Ames Community Preschool Center, 920 Carroll Avenue.
2. Do not accept the Public Art Easement and direct PAC to develop alternative plans for this project.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**The proposed Neighborhood Art installation will be on a publicly visible portion of the property owned by ACPC. In order to allow for the installation to proceed, an easement with the property owner is required.**

**The City will be responsible for the maintenance of the art once it is installed. Approval of the Public Art Easement will further the coordinated effort between the Public Art Commission and neighborhoods to promote the location of publicly visible art installations on private property.** Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative 1.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[920 Carroll Ave Public Art Easement.pdf](#)