



For Immediate Release:

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## **ENHANCING A SENSE OF PLACE AT THE NEW POLICE & FIRE BUILDING**

In a city still on the mend from last summer's tragic tornado, Marshalltown is coming together once again, this time with a public art installation that will highlight the completed Police & Fire Building, at the 909 South 2nd Street. Following a 7-0 vote by the city council, \$55,000 was budgeted for a piece of art to visually elevate the new building.

A week ago, a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released for a national call to artist/artist team to respond with their qualifications for the future piece. The RFQ deadline is Friday, June 14, 2019. The project is being led by the Marshalltown Public Art Committee (MPAC), a program of the Arts & Cultural Alliance created to be a resource for the city of Marshalltown.

Anticipating the completion of the building, David Rierson, Marshalltown Fire Chief, discussed the project. "Much like the project at Marshalltown High School, placing art at the new Police & Fire Building will enhance the overall beauty of the site and state-of-the-art facility."

And according to City Councilman and Selection Committee Member, Bill Martin, "An art installation at the Marshalltown Police & Fire Building will celebrate community purpose and pride. It will reflect the support and dedication of our public safety employees." Mirroring his thoughts, Police Chief Mike Tupper added, "Public art is a community asset which plays an important role in the history and culture of any community. This project provides public safety with the opportunity to engage the community in a meaningful way, which I hope will allow us to turn this public safety space into something exciting and approachable."

The expected timeline for the installation includes notifying the finalists on July 1, 2019, selecting the artist/artist team on October 1, 2019 and completing the art work by June 1, 2020, approximately one year after the Police & Fire Building's completion.

The Call to Artists RFQ can be found at this link:

<https://www.marshalltown-ia.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3257/M-PAC-2019-Call-to-Artists-Public-Safety-Building-Final?bidId=32>

Amber Danielson, Executive Director of the Arts & Cultural Alliance noted, "We are excited to continue our partnership with the City by being a resource for public art projects. To see the support of City Council and the Police and Fire Departments to include public art is fantastic. We are thrilled to help lead the process."

The Marshall County Arts & Culture Alliance, a non-profit organization, was created in 2004 to cultivate a community of arts and culture by supporting, promoting and enriching existing opportunities and by seeking new possibilities. Located in Marshalltown, the Alliance also sponsors the annual Marshalltown Art Festival.

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