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## **DART plans more bus shelters with public art**

Partnership with Bravo Greater Des Moines creates opportunities for artists

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is expanding its network of bus shelters and incorporating public art into their design with the help of a funding partnership with Bravo Greater Des Moines and a statewide call for artists issued by the Iowa Arts Council.

DART has identified more than 70 existing bus stops throughout its service area as potential locations for art shelters, including high ridership stops that service key routes as well as locations where public art can complement local streetscape improvement projects. A \$250,000 regional investment from Bravo Greater Des Moines will help support costs to incorporate public art into DART's standard shelter design and create opportunities for artists to participate in the process.

"The Bravo Board of Directors is excited to invest in increased access to every day, everywhere art through our partnership with DART," said Sally Dix, Executive Director of Bravo Greater Des Moines. "This is an opportunity to build on central Iowa's public art success while supporting the positive community outcomes expanded mobility can bring about for our region."

Planning for art shelters has been underway since 2018 and aligns with a variety of regional efforts that address expanded mobility, neighborhood and corridor improvement, age-friendly livability as well as increased access to public art. The initiative builds on several art shelter pilot projects in progress along University Avenue and the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor in Des Moines. The support from Bravo, as well as other local, regional, and federal funding sources, has been key to moving forward with plans to bring art shelters to more communities served by DART.

"DART is committed to investing in the needs of riders and the infrastructure that supports access to convenient and affordable mobility options," said Matthew Harris, DART Business & Community Partnerships Manager. "Shelters are DART's most requested service amenity and we're excited to collaborate with our community partners to unite creativity and accessibility in this unique way."

DART is collaborating with its member communities and local public art stakeholders to recruit qualified artists to participate in upcoming art shelter projects. Artists interested in participating in DART's art shelter program can learn more about this opportunity and submit their qualifications to the Iowa Arts Council at [iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com](http://iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com).

More information on public art at DART is available at [ridedart.com/publicart](http://ridedart.com/publicart). For information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit [ridedart.com](http://ridedart.com) or call 515-283-8100.

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**ABOUT DART**

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is Iowa's only regional and largest transit agency and operates a family of transportation services that enriches lives, connects communities, and expands opportunities, providing more than 15,000 weekday rides and nearly 4.5 million rides annually to jobs, healthcare, education, and a variety of essential destinations throughout 12 member communities in and around Polk County.

**ABOUT DART ART SHELTERS**

From the site-integrated artwork at DART Central Station, to on-board collaborations with local musicians and artist-designed bus wraps, the role art plays in connecting communities is not new to DART. The art shelter program is made possible by the support of the DART Board of Commissioners as well as key partners and investors including the Federal Transit Administration, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City of Des Moines, in coordination with DART member communities and neighborhood stakeholders. The integration of public art into future DART shelters is made possible by the collaboration and support of local project partners and the generous regional investment of Bravo Greater Des Moines.

**ABOUT BRAVO GREATER DES MOINES**

Bravo Greater Des Moines was formed in 2004 by a collaboration of nine central Iowa local governments to provide reliable funding and leadership to the arts, culture, and heritage community. Since that time, a total of 17 partner communities have committed a portion of their hotel-motel tax revenue to Bravo Greater Des Moines to administer a competitive and accountable grantmaking program which includes operating and capital support for arts, culture, and heritage non-profits in the region. In addition to investments in the arts, Bravo works to provide leadership to the community in arts and cultural planning initiatives and leveraging impact for the enhancement and elevation of quality of life for residents and visitors.