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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Planning,
Zoning,
Building Safety,
Construction Inspection Services,
Public Health,
Housing Inspections,
Code Enforcement**

Date: July 25, 2016
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dave Gobin, Community Development Director
Cc: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator
Re: Request to Authorize a Sidewalk Poetry Program

INTRODUCTION: Beginning this year, your walk around Muscatine could be inspired by more than green grass and trees. In combination with its public works sidewalk projects and budget, and individuals and organizations that love Muscatine or appreciate public art in general, the Muscatine County Arts Council has now developed a Sidewalk Poetry Program.

BACKGROUND: While sidewalks and roadway projects are publicly funded, an inaugural grant award from the Community Foundation has funded the art and poetry component privately. Through a 2016 Sidewalk Poetry Competition, a group of select individuals, including a few Laureates, have selected a few to be used. The winners' work has been converted into stamps to be impressed into fresh concrete.

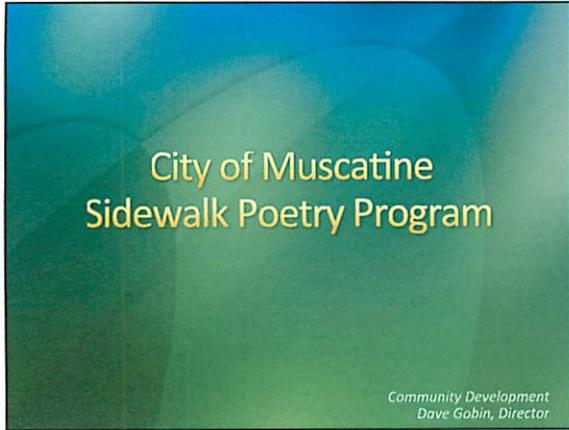
The cost of the program includes the poetry stamps (paid for by the Arts Council) and a few moments of a Public Works employee's time to place the stamp in the wet concrete of the sidewalk. Discretion as to where these sidewalk stamps are to be used is up to the Department of Public Works (DPW).

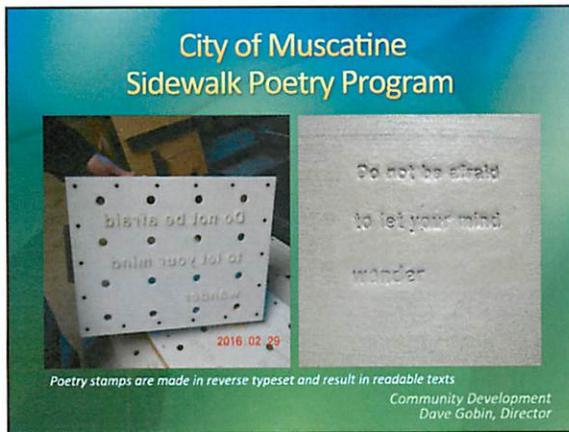
This Program has been reviewed and approved by the DPW and would serve a dual purpose for marketing the City and its tourism efforts: engaging pedestrians -- including visitors -- by inspiring locals to submit their original work. Furthermore, the poetry approved comes with permission to display it permanently from the artist and as public art will have a lasting impression since the sidewalks could exist for decades.

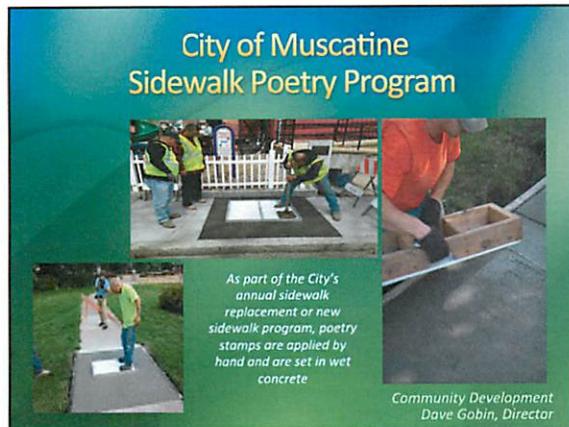
RECOMMENDATION: Staff is requesting approval of the Muscatine County Arts Council's program to install stamped poetry in new or replacement sidewalks under the direction of the City's DPW as part of its annual sidewalk construction projects throughout the community.

Further reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bj5s65-tC0g&feature=youtu.be>

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**







City of Muscatine Sidewalk Poetry Program



Sidewalk poetry can be mapped to show where they are on the City's website

*Community Development
Dave Gabin, Director*

City of Muscatine Sidewalk Poetry Program



With our best foot forward the City can leave a lasting impression

*Community Development
Dave Gabin, Director*
