



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Amy Baker, City of Ankeny  
515-965-6414, [abaker@ankenyiowa.gov](mailto:abaker@ankenyiowa.gov)

## **New Public Art Unveiled in Ankeny**

ANKENY, IA (May 11, 2023) – The City of Ankeny is pleased to announce the installation of “Growing in all directions”, a new public artwork in a Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) bus shelter located on West First Street in Ankeny. The artwork, created by New York-based artist Beatrice Coron, is part of the DART art shelter program, which aims to integrate public art into bus shelters throughout the DART service area.

“Growing in all directions” features diverse visual elements that appeal to a large audience and entice curiosity and wonder. It highlights the rapid growth of the city and its many possibilities. The silhouettes of trees can be seen from further away while details can be observed when close by. Many elements are easily recognizable and will appeal to adults and children alike, including the Ankeny Market & Pavilion, farmer’s market, marching band, pollinators, musical swing, coal mining, library, water tower, art studio, yoga, food truck and many outdoor activities.

The integration of public art into DART shelters is made possible by the collaboration of local project partners, the generous regional investment of Bravo Greater Des Moines, and support from the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

"We are thrilled to have Beatrice Coron's artwork in Ankeny," said Economic Development Director Derek Lord. "It brings a sense of wonder and inspiration to our city and enhances the daily commute for commuters, as well those who use the nearby High Trestle Trail. We are grateful to DART and Bravo Greater Des Moines for their investment in public art."

The City of Ankeny was approached by DART for art on this particular shelter, given its visibility and location along the High Trestle Trail. The Ankeny Cultural Arts Board selected a short list of artists who were interested in doing art on bus shelters and asked them to create something specific to Ankeny that represented Ankeny's values. Coron's piece was selected by the Board as the best design for our community, and the Ankeny City Council approved their recommendation.

The project is part of the DART art shelter program, which has identified over 70 existing bus stops throughout its service area as potential locations for art shelters. 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.

Beatrice Coron is a renowned artist who has exhibited her work in museums and galleries around the world. Her intricate paper-cut artworks are known for their ability to tell complex stories in a visually captivating way. The new artwork in Ankeny is a testament to her unique style and ability to create art that appeals to a wide audience.

“Growing in all directions” is now on display in the DART bus shelter and can be viewed by anyone passing by. To learn more about the DART art shelter program, visit <https://www.ridedart.com/about-dart/dart-public-art>.

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