UNI’S PUBLIC ART INCUBATOR: INVESTING IN ART AND COMMUNITIES

Action requested: Receive the presentation.

Summary: The visual arts and other cultural resources are increasingly recognized as major components of economic development initiatives in communities nationally, and public art is in demand across the United States. The Public Art Incubator at UNI provides technical resources that assist both emerging and professional artists in the development of public art projects. The PAI facilitates the transformation of artists’ concepts into high-quality permanent artworks destined for communities across Iowa and beyond. Students work directly with participating artists and faculty to fabricate artwork utilizing our well-equipped facilities. The PAI also works to promote and preserve the artistic culture of regional communities by helping to maintain and restore artworks in public spaces. More information can be found at https://chas.uni.edu/art/public-art-incubator

Presenters:

Elizabeth Sutton is Professor of Art History and Head of the Department of Art at UNI. She specializes in globalization and power in art and engages in active pedagogical research. She has recently edited Democratic Habits in the Art Classroom: Supporting Students’ Voice, Choice, and Community (Teachers College Press, 2023) and enjoys supporting undergraduate students, faculty and practicing teachers in their creative and professional development.

Dan Perry is the Coordinator of the Public Art Incubator and teaches sculpture in the Department of Art at UNI. He is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist, has exhibited his work in over 60 exhibitions, and completed over a dozen public art commissions across the county. Dan serves on several arts committees throughout the region and works to educate the public on the importance of the arts. Recently, Dan hosted a four-part webinar series for the Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Creative Places: Public Art Fundamentals, that explores strategies for communities to integrate public art in meaningful ways.

Amelia Gotera is a student pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art with an emphasis in sculpture, graduating Spring 2024. She works for the Public Art Incubator as a lead fabricator welding large-scale metal sculptures for professional artists in public spaces across the nation. In 2022, Amelia built her first public art sculpture for display on Main Street in Cedar Falls. Her award-winning multimedia artworks have been selected for exhibition and purchased by UNI.