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## **First art shelters in central Iowa being added along University Avenue**

Two new DART bus shelters feature designs commissioned by Drake University

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is installing two new bus shelters along University Avenue that feature artwork commissioned by Drake University. Installation is starting today and should be complete within a few days.

As part of the city of Des Moines' infrastructure and streetscape project on University Avenue spanning 25<sup>th</sup> Street to 31<sup>st</sup> Street, DART collaborated with Drake, who engaged Liz Lidgett Gallery & Design, to plan public artwork on two bus shelters on the campus side of the street.

The artwork by artists and Iowa natives Mollie Wallace and Dana Harrison feature campus and neighborhood inspired designs made possible by the University through the generosity of Wells Fargo. The art project is another example of the recent investments made in the area surrounding campus by the city, developers, local businesses, non-profits, and Drake.

"This project is one of the many ways Drake University is connecting with the community as an anchor institution," said Drake University President Marty Martin. "The artwork contributes to the vitality of the neighborhood and reflects its diversity and character."

The Drake shelters are part of a pilot project by DART that will eventually be expanded to include additional art shelters throughout the regional transit agency's service area.

"We're excited to complement the transformation taking place throughout the Drake neighborhood," said Matthew Harris, DART business and community partnerships manager. "Bus shelters are our most requested service enhancement and represent a creative canvas for community expression that can expand access to public art and mobility alike."

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

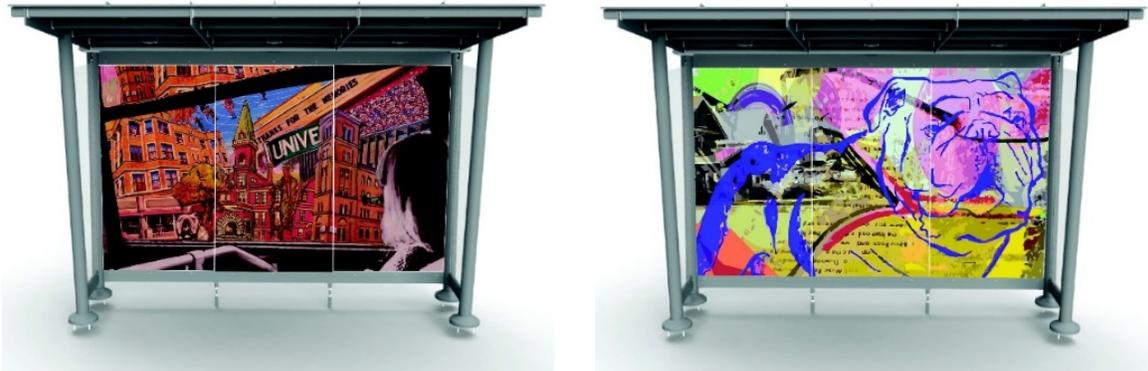
## ABOUT DART ART SHELTERS

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 DRAKE UNIVERSITY

Drake University is a midsize, private university in Des Moines, Iowa, enrolling nearly 3,000 undergraduate and more than 1,800 graduate students. Students choose from over 70 majors, minors, and concentrations and 20 graduate degrees offered through seven colleges and schools. Drake students, faculty, and staff take advantage of the wealth of cultural, recreational, and business opportunities found in Iowa's capital city. In return, Drake enriches the city through its own cultural offerings, considerable economic impact, and many service-learning endeavors, which channel the talent and energy of Drake students toward meeting the needs of the community.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND ARTWORK



***Thanks for the Memories*** (Left) - Mollie Wallace

Wallace created a collage that represents the Drake neighborhood. Viewers will be able to spot iconic locations, and noteworthy details that create a snapshot of what you are able to see when riding a DART bus through the area.

**Mollie Wallace** was born and raised in Des Moines and graduated from King-Perkins Elementary, Callanan Junior High, and Roosevelt High School. After earning her art degree from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., she spent 15 years in New Orleans where her art can be seen in signs, murals, and banners throughout the city. Wallace has served as the artist in residence at the Erin Rose, an iconic French Quarter bar that has been featured in Bon Appetit and many other publications, for the past decade. She has designed everything from Mardi Gras tuxedos to guitars to food trucks. She was the festival artist for the internationally renowned Internationale de Lousiane in Lafayette, La., in 2018. Her painting became the festival poster. Wallace and her family returned to Des Moines last year.

***Liminal*** (Right)- Dana Harrison

Harrison's piece is reminiscent of his street art style. Images like mature trees and the architecture that is special to the Drake neighborhood can be seen throughout the artwork. Viewers will be able to spot representations of many places and things special to all those residents who have called the neighborhood home.

**Dana Harrison** (Limone) a Jefferson, Iowa, resident, started writing graffiti in 1996 in his hometown of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and studied under the late Sazko from Hamburg, Germany. With almost 25 years of mural experience, you can find some of his recent work at the Edna Griffin building, 10th Street bridge, Platinum Kutz, and much more.