

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: September 8, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Noah Schumerth, Director of Economic and Community Development

Topic: Public Art Installation – Homewood Wishing Tree at 18136 Dixie Highway

PURPOSE

The applicant, the Homewood Creative Alliance, has proposed a public art installation at 18136 Dixie Highway. The installation, called “Homewood Wishing Tree,” is proposed as a pop-up art installation to transform the existing monument structure on the property into a “wishing tree” installation. The wishing tree installation would be interactive and allow residents and visitors to tie notes, fabric, or tokens to strings (“branches”) of the tree to “share hopes, peace, or personal desires.” This type of installation is originally credited to artist Yoko Ono and has spread to numerous other cities and towns globally.

Proposed site:

Structure is 10ft tall, with the inner diameter 5ft.
Area covered by roof is 19ft wide



Planning sketch:



This type of installation would be temporary and would reflect examples of such installations from other communities. The installation would be paired with a public gathering to allow community members to participate in the creation of the installation.

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



The installation would be installed temporarily on an existing structure which formerly served as a monument anchoring Independence Park, a park honoring Homewood veterans. The property was sold to Joaquin Anguiano in 2025 as part of an ongoing Village redevelopment project, and the monument was decommissioned. The applicant has received permission from the property owner at 18136 Dixie Highway to install the temporary art installation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

The Homewood Creative Alliance is a local nonprofit organization designed to promote art installations and opportunities to engage with art around the Homewood-Flossmoor area. The organization was recently established in late 2025. The group has previously created or supported other creative installations throughout the community, including:

- A community weaving installation at Homewood Public Library
- A set of pop-up installations during the 2025 Witches' Night Out
- A community art swap
- Pop-up family portraits station at the 2025 Holiday Lights festival
- Art auction in partnership with the Spotlight Performance Academy

PROCESS

The Village codified a process in August 2025 to review and approve public art installations. Public art installations are considered an accessory use requiring review by the Appearance Commission and the Village Board. This process was designed to create a formal process for the Village to allow opportunity for Village residents and officials to provide feedback on proposed public art installations and ensure public artwork is installed in a manner which preserves public safety, health, and provides a positive contribution to the Village.

In this new process, the Appearance Commission provides an initial review for public art proposals to ensure conformance with approved standards for such installations. These standards are found in Section 44-07-16 of the Village Zoning Ordinance. The approved standards are written to ensure suitable location, placement, design, and protection of public art installations where they are needed. The standards are written to avoid regulation of content, messaging, or intent of public artwork. The Appearance Commission may recommend approval, approval with conditions, or denial by the Village Board.

The Village Board provides a final approval of a public art installation by motion, by simple majority.

On June 4, 2026, the Appearance Commission recommended approval of the Homewood Wishing Tree installation, finding that the installation meets the standards in Section 44-07-16 of the Village Zoning Ordinance regulating public art installation approvals. The Commission

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



provided feedback on materials, regulating access to the installation to avoid damage to the installation or the wishing tree materials, and methods for preventing vandalism of the installation. The Commission found the installation is proposed to be placed and designed in a manner which does not impact public safety, health or welfare, and meets the standards for such installations found in the Village Zoning Ordinance.

The Homewood Wishing Tree represents the first project to be considered through the Village's recently adopted public art installation review and approval process.

OUTCOME

Approval by the Village Board of Trustees will allow the applicant, the Homewood Creative Alliance, to install the proposed temporary art installation on private property at 18136 Dixie Highway. This art installation will provide an opportunity for residents to participate in an interactive art activity in a central location in the Village's Downtown, which may promote positive interactions with other Village events and programming.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass a motion approving a public art installation at 18136 Dixie Highway for the creation of the Homewood Wishing Tree by the Homewood Creative Alliance.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Artwork Information
- Artist Information