

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: June 4, 2026

To: Appearance Commission

From: Noah Schumerth, Interim Director of Economic and Community Development

Topic: Case 26-43: Public Art Installation Review for “Homewood Wishing Tree” at 18136 Dixie Highway

DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

Title	Pages	Prepared by	Date
Application	2	Jessica Matushek, Applicant	04/15/2026
Homewood Creative Alliance Info Sheet	1	Homewood Creative Alliance	Undated
Art Installation Narrative and Drawings	1	Homewood Creative Alliance	Undated
Art Installation Examples	1	Homewood Creative Alliance	Undated
Staff Exhibits	1	Noah Schumerth, Interim Dir. ECD	05/29/2026

BACKGROUND

The applicant, Jessica Matushek of 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 an existing structure on the property into a “wishing tree” installation. 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 a broad group of community members to participate in the creation of the installation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST/APPLICANT

The Homewood Creative Alliance is a local non-profit 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



ART INSTALLATION REVIEW

The Appearance Commission shall review proposals for public art installations to ensure their conformance with approved standards for such installations. Such standards are designed to ensure suitable location, placement and design of proposed public art installations – *in protection of First Amendment rights, no review may specifically regulate the content, messaging, or intent of a public artwork.*

No single standard is considered to be binding. Not all standards will be relevant to every application. The Appearance Commission shall reference these standards in the final recommendation to the Village Board.

(1) Will the proposed artwork cause injury or harm to specific individuals, groups of individuals, or organizations within the village that may threaten public peace or well-being?

(2) Is the location and design of the proposed artwork in alignment with the comprehensive plan and other adopted plans of the village?

(3) Is the proposed artwork located and designed in alignment with the design guidelines of the village appearance plan?

(4) Is the proposed artwork so designed and located to protect public health, safety, and welfare?

(5) Is the mural or art installation located in a manner architecturally appropriate for the size, scale, and orientation of the proposed artwork?

(6) Will the proposed artwork be publicly visible and accessible in a manner that does not impede the safety, health, or welfare of the viewer?

(7) Does the proposed artwork provide positive cultural contributions to the community, including highlighting historical, archeological, cultural, natural, or scenic resources located within the village?

(8) Is the artwork proposed in such a manner that the building on which the mural or artwork is affixed will not be damaged or suffer long-term deterioration due to the placement of the mural?

(9) Are the materials proposed for use in the artwork appropriate for the location of the artwork, including the material of the facade on which the artwork is to be affixed?

STAFF COMMENTS

This application is the Village's first application processed through the public art installation review procedure set forth in Section 44-07-16 of the Village Zoning Ordinance.

Upon completion of this review, the Appearance Commission shall recommend approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the permit for installation to the Village Board. The Appearance Commission, along with any members of the public present for the public meeting, may provide feedback to the artist as a form of public engagement for the project.

RECOMMENDED APPEARANCE COMMISSION ACTION

The Appearance Commission may wish to consider the following motion:

Recommend approval for Case 26-43, Public Art Installation for the Homewood Wishing Tree, an art installation proposed to be installed on property located at 18136 Dixie Highway.