



City of Ketchum

KETCHUM ARTS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA MEMO

Meeting Date: April 17, 2025 Staff Member/Dept: KAC Staff Liaison, Daniel Hansen

Agenda Item: Opportunity to purchase “Ascension” by Bob Wiederrick

Recommended Motion:  
None

Reasons for Recommendation:

Policy Analysis and Background (non-consent items only):

Bob Wiederrick’s work “Ascension” was selected by the Arts Commission in spring 2024 to be installed at the intersection of Sun Valley Road and Spruce Avenue through summer 2025. Below is a photo of the work and an artist statement.



**Artist’s name:** Robert (Bob) Wiederrick  
**Title of work:** Ascension  
**Medium:** Steel with rust patina  
**Dimensions:** 132” high x 56” wide x 33” deep  
**Insurance value:** \$29,000

**Please note:** this is a new sculpture; the patina was applied to the top portion on 5-13-2024 and will naturally blend to the darker color of the bottom.

I have a passion for working with metal. I first discovered this passion back in elementary school when I had an art class project that involved forming copper foil. Metal is a very forgiving medium, but you must have patience to work with it, as it does not yield quickly to the will of the artist. My vision for creating “Ascension” is to make it appear as if the metal is being pulled or drawn toward the heavens from earth. This sculpture features a removable panel to access the interior, potentially functioning as a time capsule, columbarium, or machinery/utility housing

**Opportunity to purchase the piece**

- The artist contacted city staff regarding his desire to work with the Arts Commission to sell the work to the City of Ketchum.
- The work was new when the Arts Commission selected it to be installed at Sun Valley Road and Spruce Avenue in 2024.
- It is valued at \$29,000.
- The artist would be willing to discount the price to \$25,000 for the city.
- The artist would also be willing to sell the sculpture to the city in installments: \$5,000 a year for 5 years.

**Staff direction needed from the Arts Commission**

- Would the Commission like to pursue the purchase of this piece? (If so, staff would prepare it for a vote at the next Arts Commission meeting.)

**Sustainability Impact:**

None OR state impact here:

**Financial Impact:**

None OR Adequate funds exist in account:

The Commission has adequate funds in its account (\$10,000 budget annually + \$24,149.07 in reserves). They could pursue either a one-time purchase of the piece for \$25,000 or 5 annual installment payments of \$5,000 for 5 years.

**Attachments:**

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