

DEACCESSION PROPOSAL

Submitted To: Deborah Durham, Director, Iowa Economic Development Authority

Submitted By: Arts Staff

Date: August 4, 2026

Subject: Proposed Deaccession and Transfer of *Ode to Orange County* by Warrington Colescott to the Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa.

Proposal Summary

Arts Staff recommends the deaccession of the artwork *Ode to Orange County* by Iowa artist Warrington Colescott and its transfer to the Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa (“Stanley Museum”).

Staff’s recommendation is based on the determination that long-term stewardship, preservation, scholarly interpretation, and public exhibition of fine art are more appropriately aligned with the mission, professional expertise, and facilities of the Stanley Museum than with the Iowa Economic Development Authority’s (“IEDA”) administrative functions.

Description of the Artwork

The Artwork is an intaglio print titled *Ode to Orange County*, created by Warrington Colescott (1921-2018) in 1969. The dimensions are approximately 23 ¾ inches by 35 ½ inches.

The artwork is currently owned by the IEDA through its Arts division and is maintained as part of its inventory of artwork.

Warrington Colescott was a nationally recognized printmaker and longtime faculty member at the University of Iowa. His work is represented in major museum collections throughout the United States, and he has been regarded as one of Iowa's most significant visual artists.

Ownership and Restrictions

Staff is not aware of any competing ownership claims relating to the artwork.

Staff has not identified any donor restrictions, gift conditions, reversionary interests, or contractual limitations that would prohibit deaccession and transfer of the artwork.

Reasons for Deaccession

A. Outside the Scope of Agency Mission

The IEDA, through its Arts division, promotes and supports the arts throughout Iowa through grant programs, partnerships, and public engagement. The IEDA is not organized or resourced to serve as a collecting museum responsible for the permanent preservation, research and exhibition of fine art.

B. Advancement of Public Benefit

The Stanley Museum’s institutional mission, facilities, and professional capabilities are specifically oriented toward the collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of works of art. As a result, the Stanley Museum is better positioned to provide long-term stewardship of the artwork and maximize its public value.

The artist’s longstanding association with the University of Iowa makes the Stanley Museum a particularly appropriate institutional home for the artwork.

C. Efficient Use of State Resources

The artwork is currently being stored by the State Historical Society of Iowa at the State Historical Museum of Iowa. The State Historical Society has advised Staff that it can no longer continue storing the artwork due to space limitations. Transfer to the Stanley Museum will eliminate the need for alternative storage arrangements while ensuring continued stewardship by a qualified public institution.

Recommended Method of Disposal

Staff recommends disposal through transfer of ownership to the Stanley Museum. The transfer will be accomplished through a written transfer agreement containing, at a minimum, the following material terms:

- Transfer of ownership of the artwork to the University of Iowa through the Stanley Museum.
- Transfer without monetary consideration.
- Assumption by the Stanley Museum of responsibility for storage, maintenance, preservation, exhibition, and insurance.
- Acknowledgement of the IEDA's transfer of the artwork in exhibition or attribution materials where reasonably practicable.

Assessment of Public, Historical and Cultural Impact

The proposed transfer is expected to have a positive public, historical, and cultural impact.

The artwork will remain in Iowa and be held by a public institution dedicated to preserving and interpreting works of artistic and cultural significance. Placement within the Stanley Museum will provide substantially greater opportunities for public exhibition, educational use, scholarly research, and long-term preservation than are currently available through the IEDA's stewardship.

Because Warrington Colescott was a significant Iowa artist and longtime University of Iowa faculty member, transfer to the Stanley Museum will further support preservation and interpretation of Iowa's artistic heritage.

Staff anticipates no adverse public, historical, or cultural impacts from the proposed transfer.

Recommendation

For the reasons stated above, Arts staff recommends that the Director approve the deaccession of *Ode to Orange County* by Warrington Colescott and authorize its transfer to the Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa.

Director Determination

Based upon the foregoing, I approve the deaccession of *Ode to Orange County* by Warrington Colescott and authorize its transfer to the Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa.


Deborah Durham (Aug 5, 2026 10:01:13 CDT)
Deborah Durham, Director
Iowa Economic Development Authority

Date: 08/05/2026