

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Visual Arts Master Plan Community Survey





Survey Overview

Distributed through City networks and departments, press releases, social media channels, and word-of-mouth.

Overall goal is to understand the resident aspirations for public art.

435 people participated in the survey. The majority are residents of Cedar Rapids, with less than 5% residing in surrounding communities, such as Marion.

Favorite Places..

Over 600 Responses

Biking & hiking trails & parks
Museum of Art
Public library
Czech Village & NewBo District
Downtown farmers market
Live theaters
Local bookstores
Local coffee shops
Local restaurants
Outdoor concerts
Outside arts venues
River front downtown
Grant Wood Studio

African America Museum
Beaver Park
Bruce more
Cedar Lake
Driving along the River

Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Green Square and park
Huntington Ridge Park
Indian Creek park
Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio
Jackson Park
Jones Park
Kernels Stadium Kingston neighborhood
Kirkwood Trades Program
McGrath Amphitheatre
Morgan Creek Arboretum, My home
My neighborhood
Noelridge Gardens and Greenhouse
Old MacDonald Farm
Orchestra Iowa
Palisades Park
Paramount Theater
Quaker Oats
Seminole Valley Park
Theatre Cedar Rapids
Veteran Memorial Building
Wickiup Nature

What makes Cedar Rapids unique?

*Big City. Small Town.
Resilient.*

248 Responses

As a hub in the Corridor, CR contributes technology, innovation, a business network, and vital Midwest & agricultural resources. It's the best of rural and city!

Ability to bring opportunities that blend art, culture, music, and cuisine from all stretches of those that make up this city is great.

Accepting, progressive, interactive, productive

An attitude of teamwork and connectivity. Post 2008-flood and after the 2020 derecho. People stepped right in to help each other, whether they knew each other or not. CR folks travel far and wide to help others in times of need too.

Community and family oriented. Persevering. I love our mix of being a fairly big city but still being so connected to small town living and Iowa's farming tradition.

A raw combination of grit, creativity and compassion.

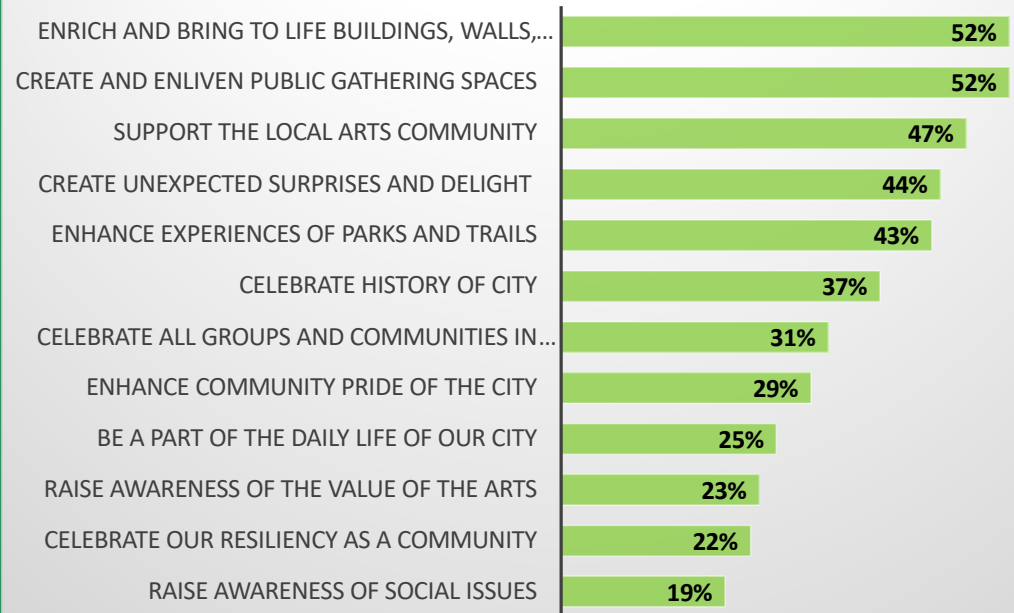
Crunch Berries, the libraries, museums

Cedar Rapids is unique in that it still feels like a small town. There are so many ways to feel part of the community and get connected with neighbors. Plus the arts, whether it's music, painting, sculpture or theater, are amazing compared to cities our size.

Public Art Impact

Top priorities for a public art program are to enhance the city's built environment, parks and trails, to create and enliven public spaces, to support the local arts community, and to create surprise and delight.

Thinking about the impact public art may have in Cedar Rapids, what is most important to you? (Choose Top 5).



How do you want public art to make a difference in Cedar Rapids?

209 Responses

To recognize all individuals are valued and all individuals belong. To celebrate our growing diversity

A sculpture park that is a destination would be great. Art that provides a unique experience and can withstand changing fads. Variety is ultimately the ideal in populating the city's public art spaces.

Any art should have the effect of beautification and community pride

Art competitions among many age groups add to the understanding of the worthiness of art in our lives. It says something about a community that 'risks' art in its surroundings.

Art should not be about today's social issues. Choose pieces that show our great history and resiliency.

Our interactive public art should explore new ideas and concepts that are Cedar Rapids firsts.

Artwork can show appreciation a city has for the people who call it home but for visitors as well. Artwork can drive tourism and tourism funds the economy and a good economy helps the community.

Beautify, add fun and visual interest, make Cedar Rapids stand out.

I think art should enhance the space. Be beautiful, vibrant, multi-cultural! And ART. I do not appreciate controversial art, abstract art, or political art.

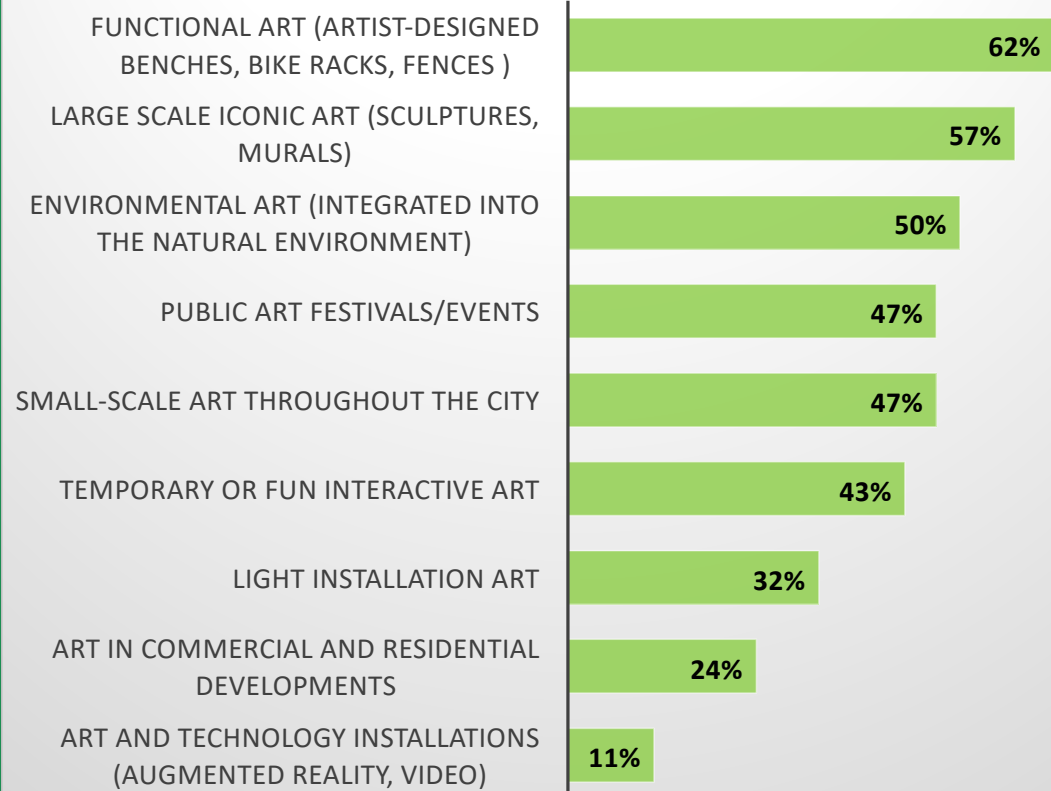
I would like to see public art designed by local artists highlighting our community, its ups and downs, wonders and challenges.

Type of Public Art

Residents want to see functional art, large-scale sculptures and murals, environmental art, and small-scale art throughout city.

Residents are also interested in public art festivals and events.

What type of public art would you most enjoy? (Choose Top 5)



Type of Public
Art:

Select
Comments

A sculpture park (like Des Moines)

Anything celebrating how we came together as a community and helped each other post the Derecho.

Art in the water

Art on the sides of buildings

Art that does not promote an agenda

Art that will encourage increased use of neighborhood parks

Botanical gardens, landscape art, reclaim buildings for art spaces,

Collaborative art pieces that include communities & local artists

Cultural art that reflects its Czech-American heritage

Emphasis on nature & animals

Kid and differently-abled interactive

Quirky fun art

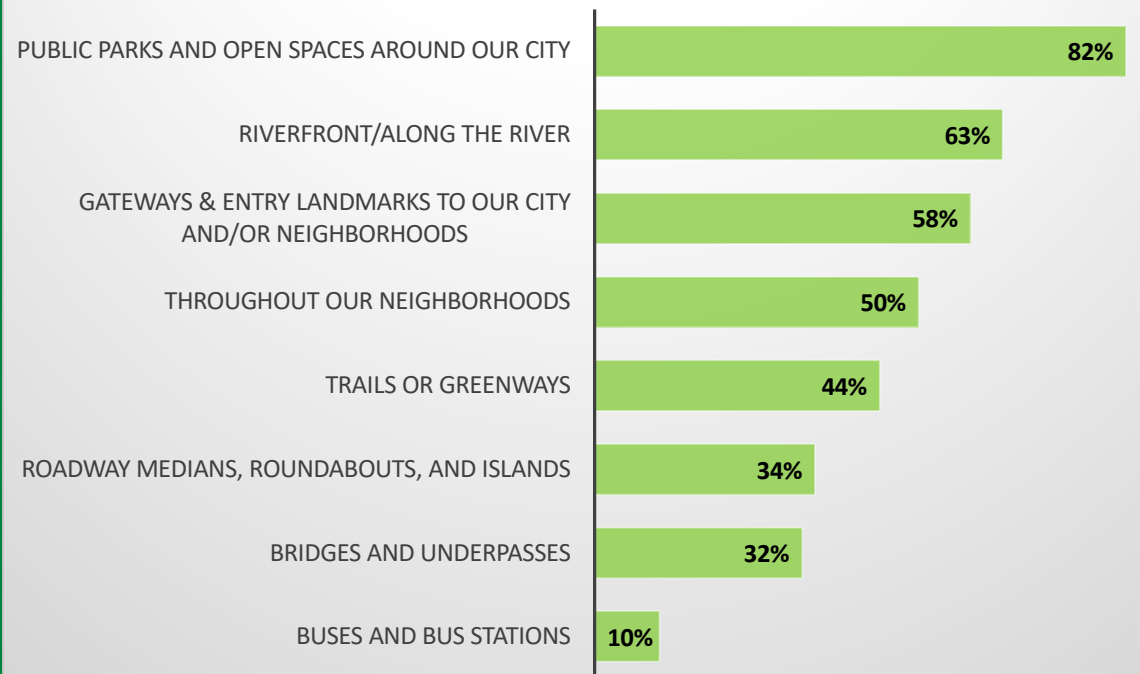
Something large and iconic with a historical emphasis

Themed art that makes Cedar Rapids a destination place

Places

Priorities for placement are parks and open spaces, along the riverfront, gateways, and throughout the neighborhoods.

In your opinion, where are the best places in Cedar Rapids for public art? (Choose Top 5).



Places for Public Art: Select Comments

Along railroad tracks

City buildings & businesses

Continue large murals & add surprising sculptures like in Prague

Depends on what you pick! Don't put controversial art as gateways to community!

Something in the river ... possibly depicting flood levels

I'd like to see the trails as untouched as possible but also celebrated in the urban areas.

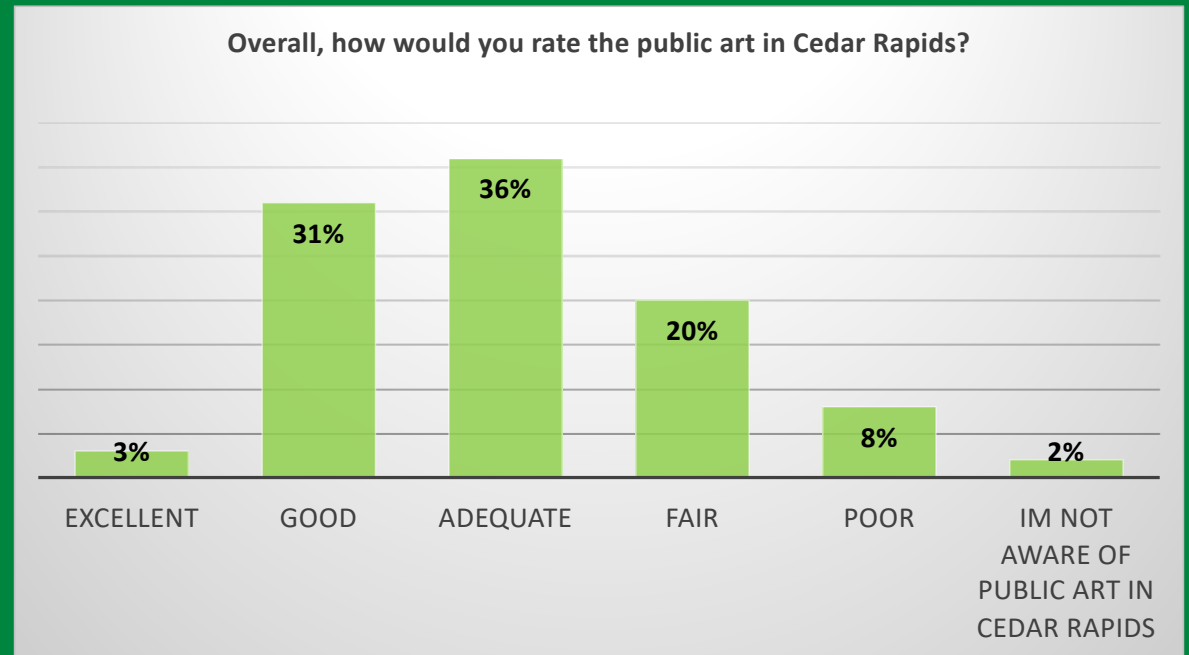
Murals on building walls

Our libraries

We need a sculpture garden

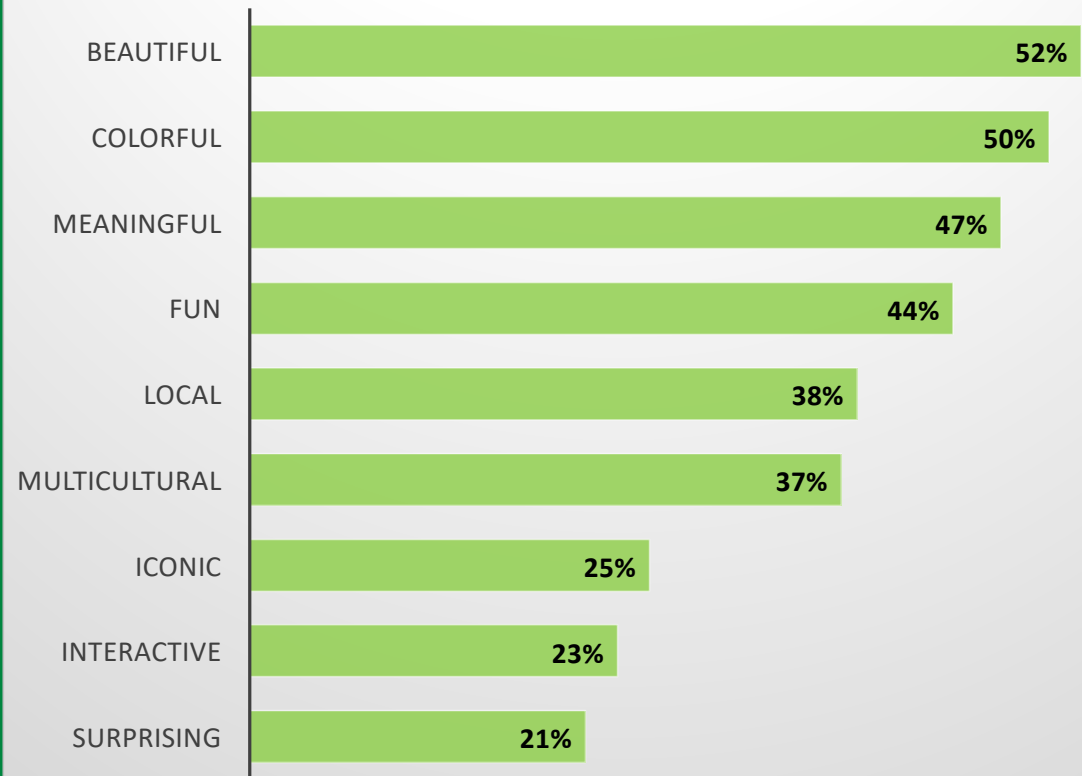
Where most people could enjoy, locals as well as visitors

Rating of Current Cedar Rapids Public Art



Future Public Art

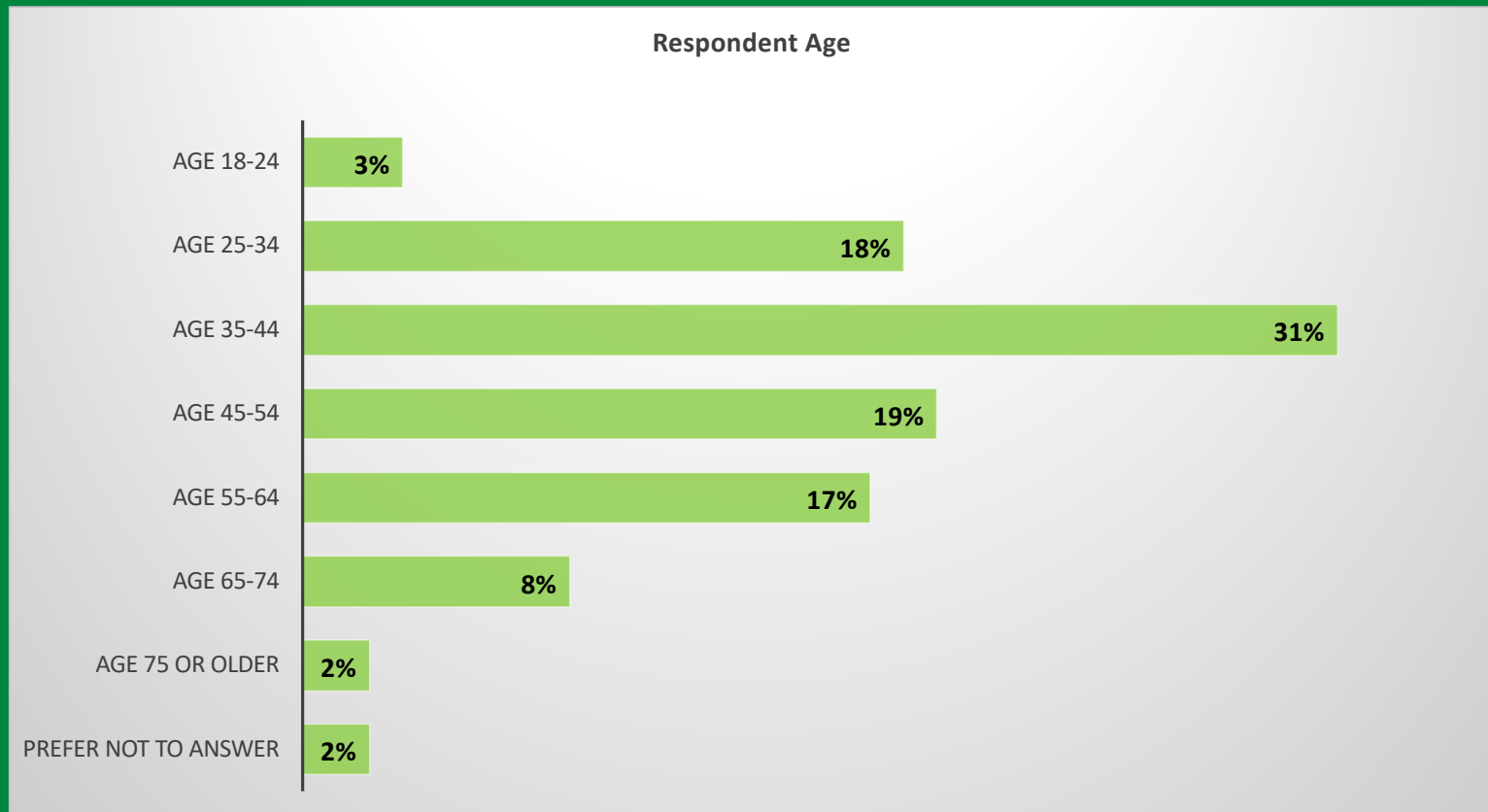
Which words best describe the public artworks you want to see around the City of Cedar Rapids?



Respondent Profile

Demographics of Sample

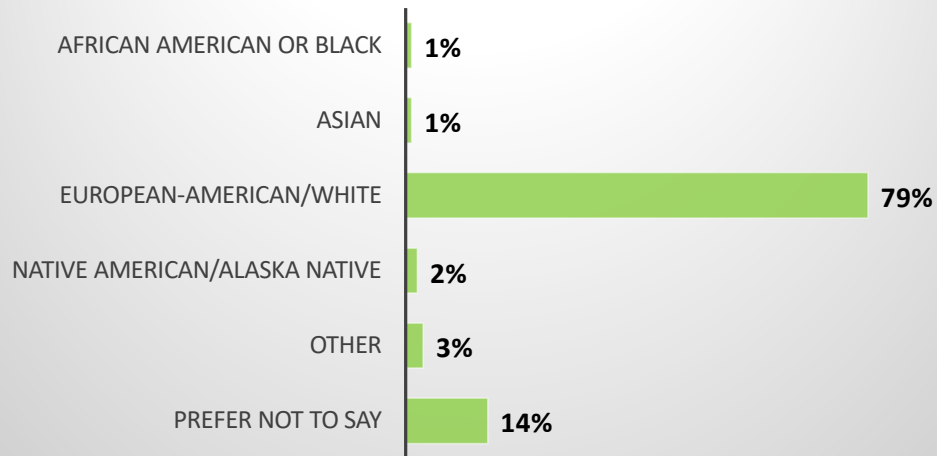
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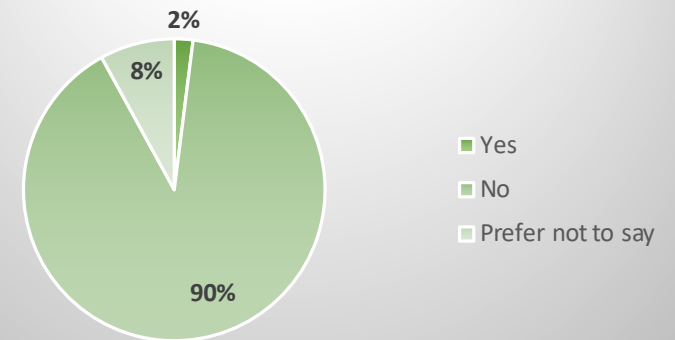
Demographics of Sample

(unweighted)

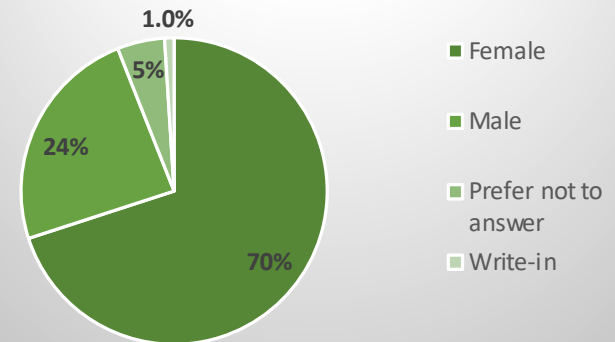
Respondent Background



Hispanic or Latino ?



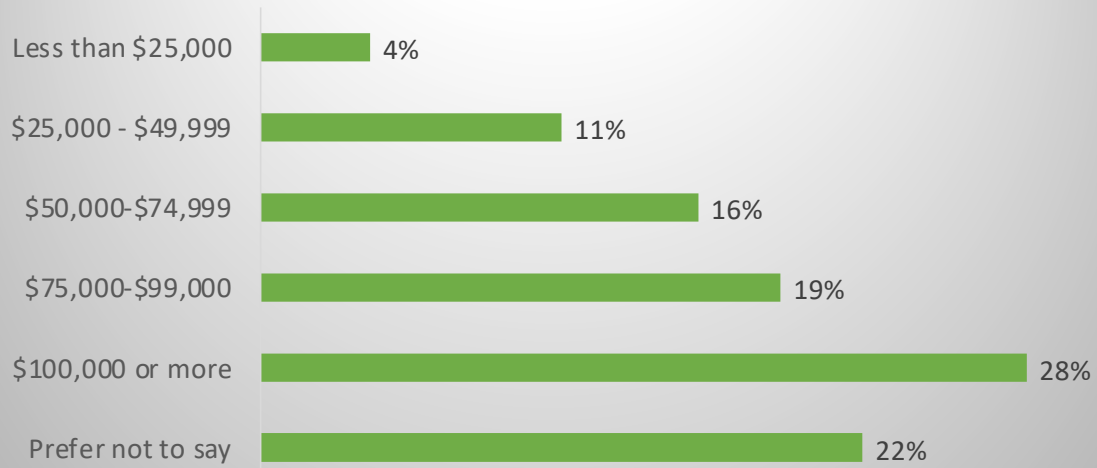
Gender



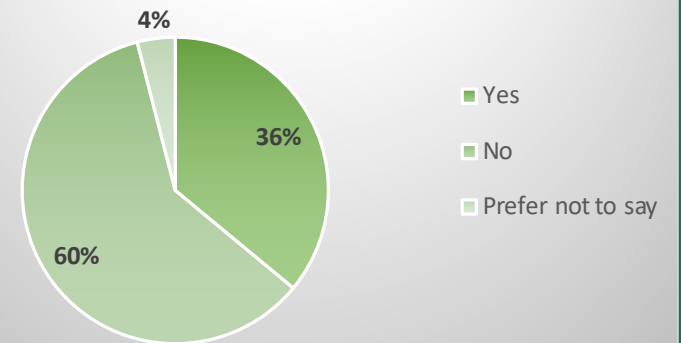
Demographics of Sample

(unweighted)

Household Income



Children in Household?



Select Additional Respondent Commentary

99 Responses

I'd like it to feel like the city has a personality - like public art might reflect aspects of that personality, and one might see art elsewhere and feel like it resonates with that personality.

I think it is important to make our gateways to the city welcoming. The marriage of art and landscaping is most desirable. Our landscaping ordinances should include retrofits for all neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Be sure to include information about how 'regular' people can be involved.

Cedar rapids has been a destination for many immigrant communities, I would like to see that reflected in future art projects. And not just the Czech/Bohemian. I would like to see African, Asian, Indian among other ethnic backgrounds represented.

I want art to be something EVERYONE would like to see. I don't want to see something to promote a social agenda.

Celebrate Cedar Rapids as the great city that it is and has become. Use the art tastefully to appeal to the family friendly majority of the people who live and work here ... nature, history, family.

Make sure art is accessible to those with disabilities and a variety of disabilities (not just mobile disabilities) - universal design and LEED or environmental design.

I'm so excited about this initiative!! Can't wait to see art bloom in our city. I've lived in CR since birth and when I visit other cities where public art is prevalent, I always wish it was like that here.
