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NEWS

New airport terminal to display 5 public art installations

by: [Teodora Mitov](#)

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DES MOINES, Iowa — The Des Moines International Airport and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation are collaborating to bring five public art installations to the airport's new terminal slated to open in early 2027.

The Executive Director for the airport, Kevin Foley, said the goal of the airport expansion is to keep up with increasing air travel. The terminal will add six new gates, bringing the total to 18. It will also house a new walkway, a couple of new restaurants, and a new coffee shop.

“We’re increasing our capacity by 50%, which is very, very important because during our peak periods, we are literally out of space to park airplanes,” said Foley.

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This increase in capacity will bring more flights to the airport and will help prevent competition between the Des Moines International Airport and others. According to Foley, increased competition may cause ticket prices to rise, so the expansion should help keep ticket prices steady.

The project is expected to cost the airport \$445 million.

The airport partnered with the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation in 2023 to help make the experience in the terminal more enjoyable for the estimated three million travelers who come through the airport every year. They decided to showcase public art within the new terminal.

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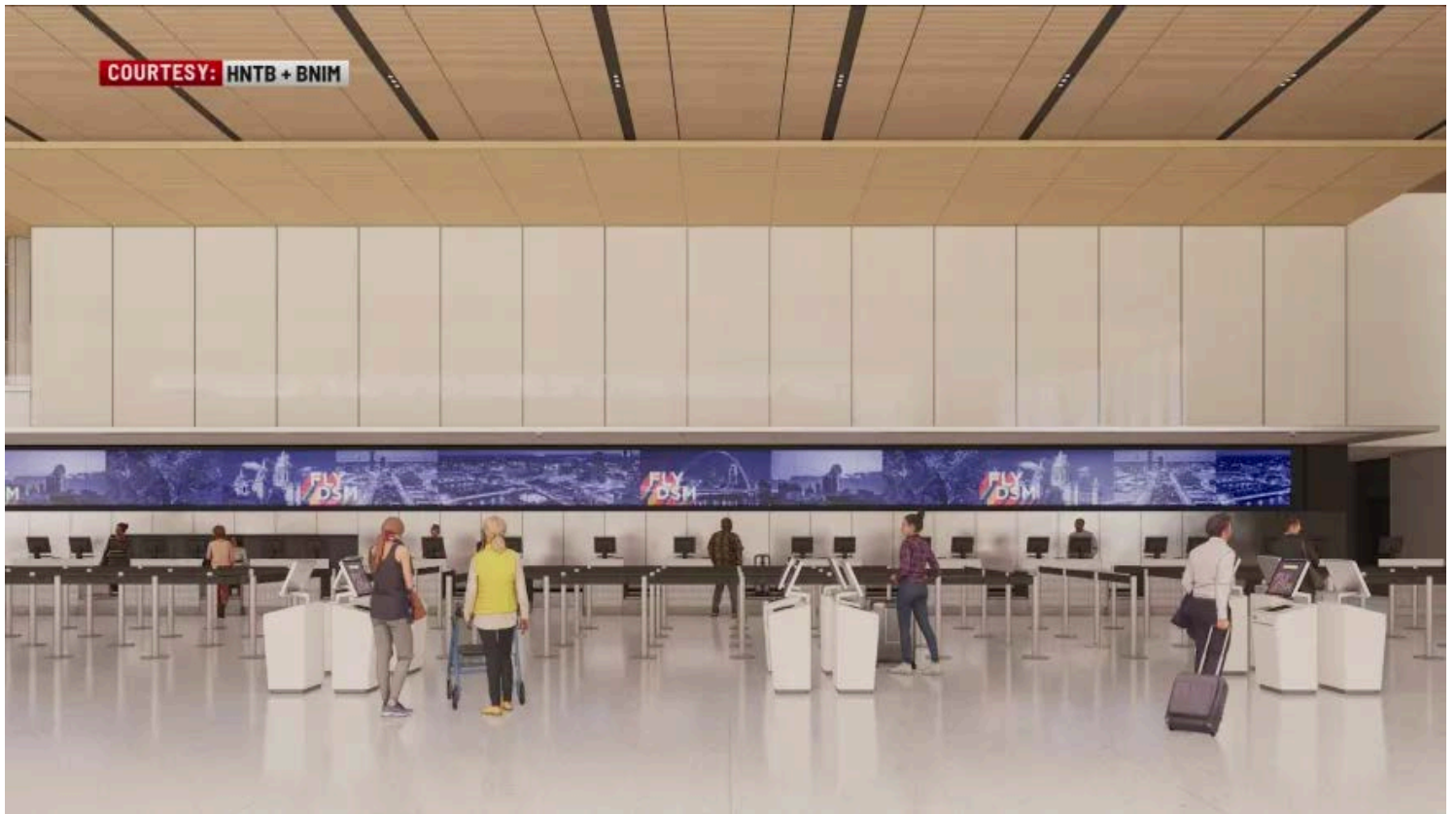
“For that first-time visitor, whether that be international or domestic, coming into the Des Moines Metro area, this gives them the sense that we are modern. We’re much, much more than corn fields and soybean fields,” said Foley.

This initiative was led by Alexa McCarthy, the Executive Director of the Public Art Foundation, since she joined the foundation in September 2023. Her team created an international pool of artists and choose whose work will be displayed.

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Site One

Site One is the interior expanse from check-in to baggage claim. New York-based artist and Iowa City native, Anne Lindberg, will display her installation there.

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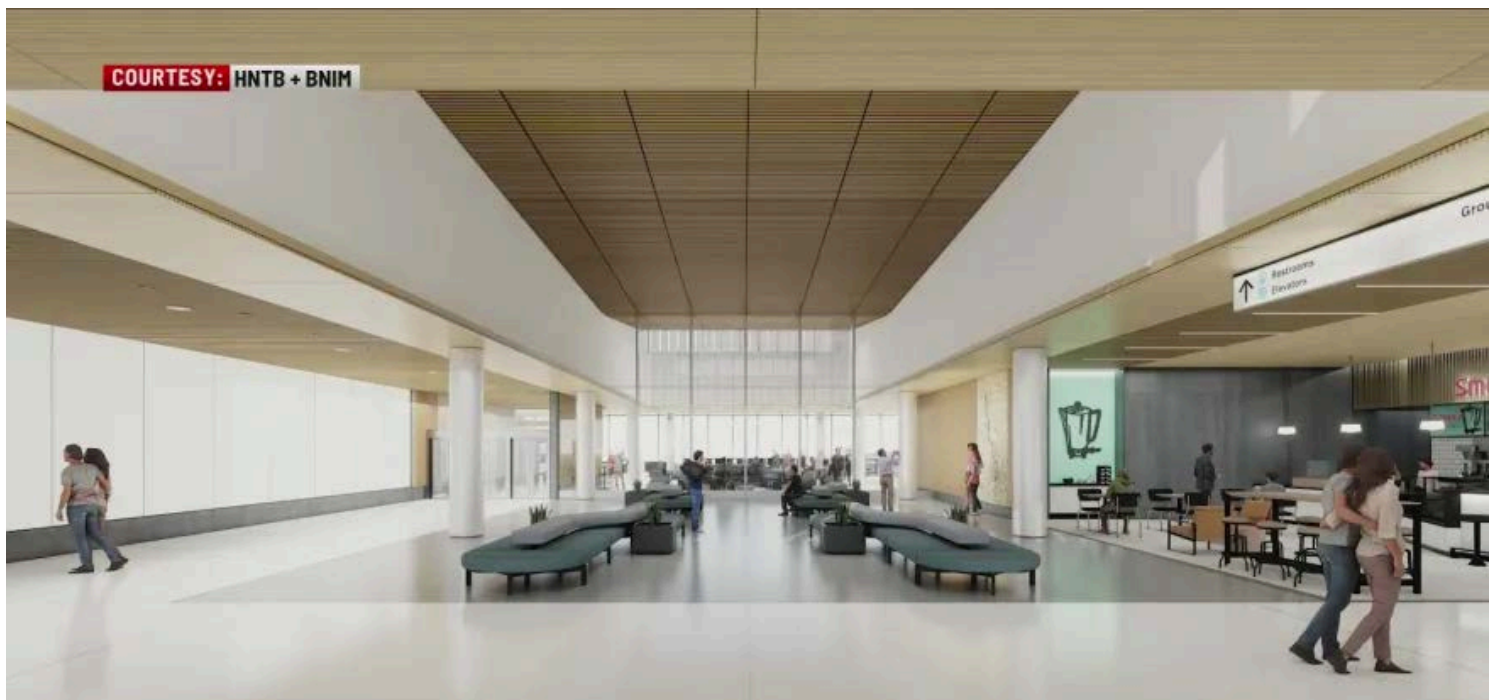
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Site Two

Site Two is the east and west panels of the glass elevator. New York-based artist Adam Frank will work on this area.



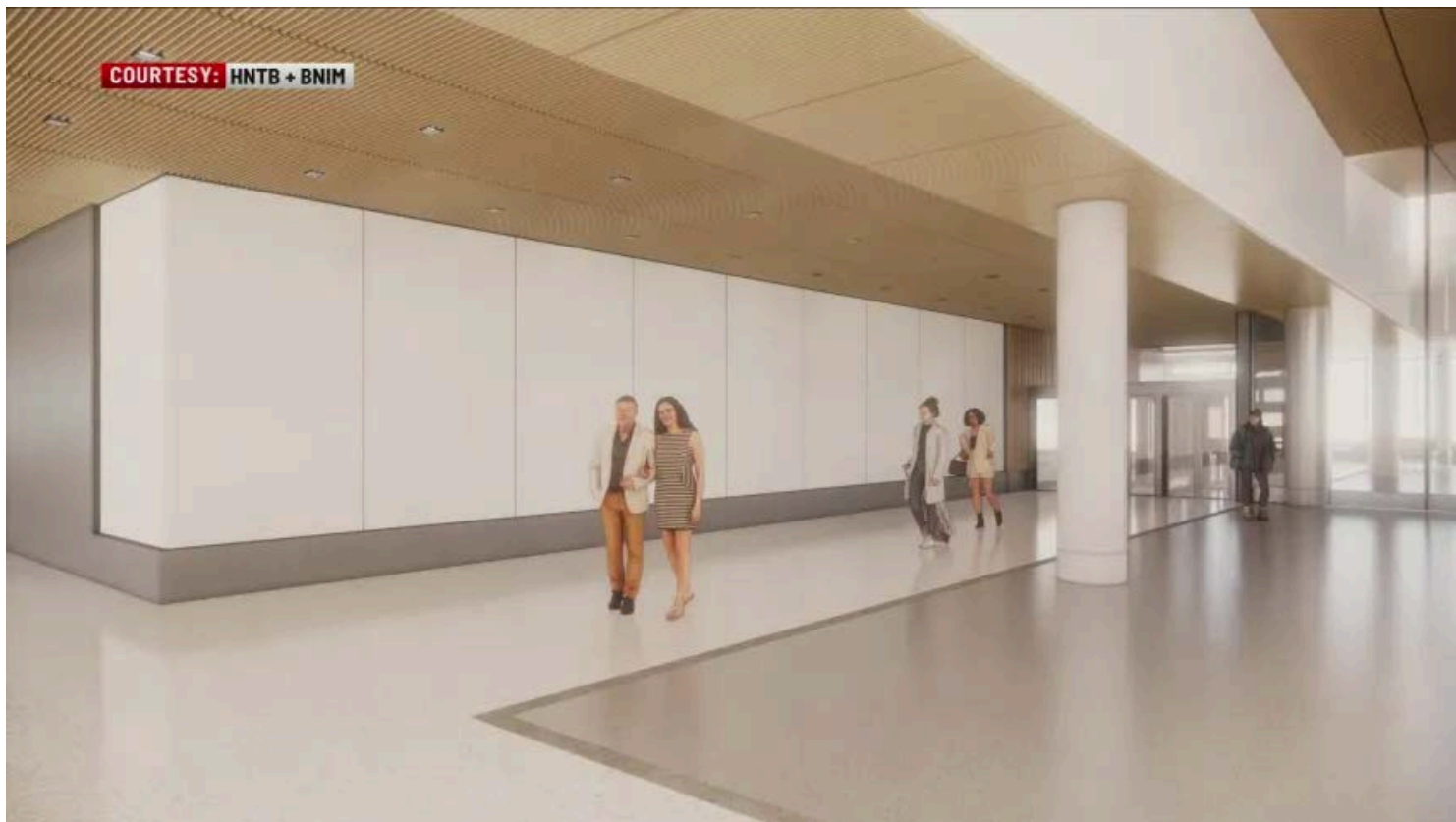
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Site Four

Site Four will feature New York-based Alteronce Gumby. His work will be adjacent to the metter-greeter space on a long wall.



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McCarthy said she is excited to work with the artists and architects on these projects. To support the artist selection and installation process, the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation initiated a \$4 million fundraising effort in late 2023. So far, over 60 donors contributed and helped them raise around 82% of their fundraising goal.

“I hope the project will be meaningful and impactful to the Des Moines Metro at the greater state,” she said.

Fundraising will continue through 2025.

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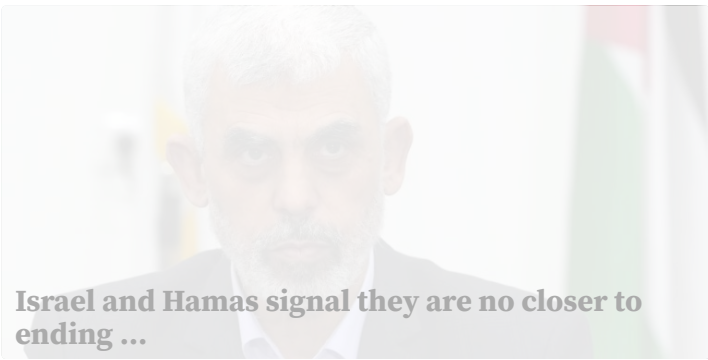
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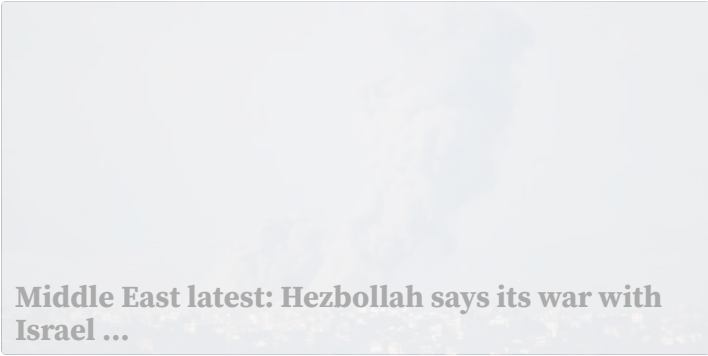
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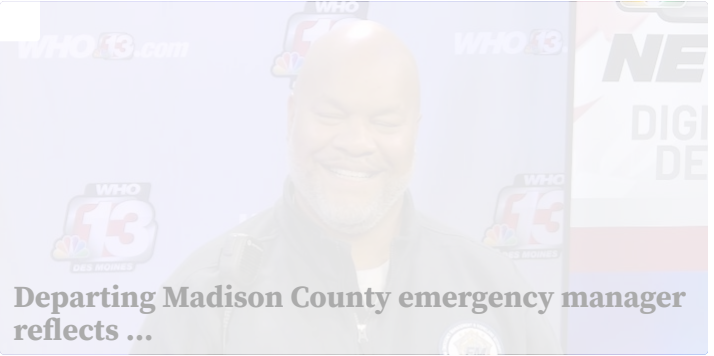
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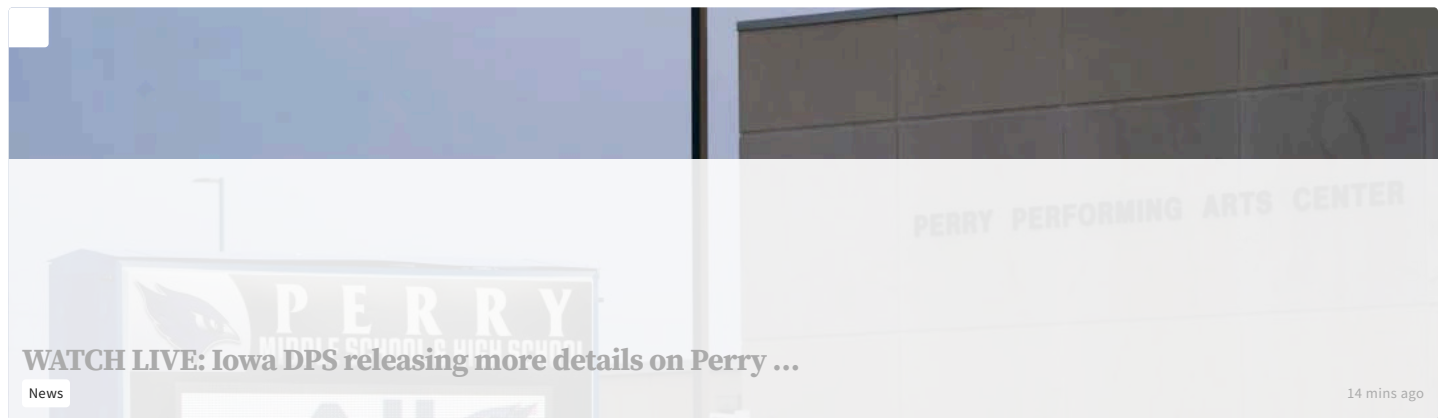
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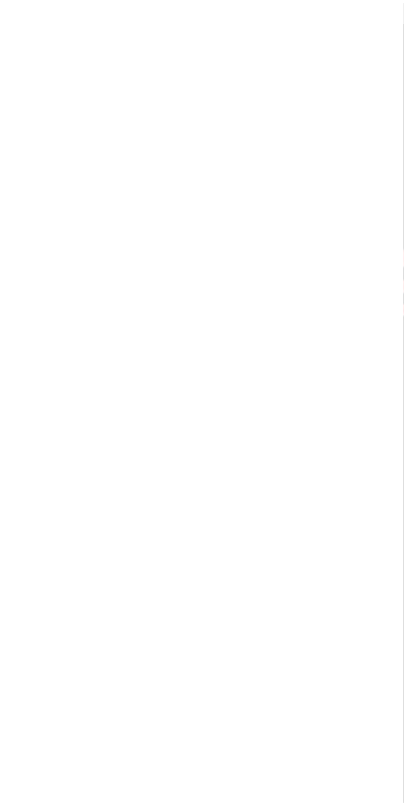
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