



**Public Works Department**

555 Liberty Street SE / Room 325 • Salem OR 97301-3513 • Phone 503-588-6211 • Fax 503-588-6025

**Salem Public Art Commission**

**January 10, 2024**

**ONLINE**

**Commissioners Present**

Susan Napack, Vice-Chair  
Spencer Emerick, Commissioner  
Eduardo Diaz-Salazar, Commissioner  
Krista Lauer, Commissioner

**Guests**

Lynn Takata, NEN Neighborhood Chair  
Chris D’Arcy, Oregon Artist Series Foundation

**Staff**

Keith Bondaug-Winn, Public Works Staff Liaison

1. **Call to Order** – Vice-Chair Napack called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM. Shortly thereafter, Commissioner Diaz-Salazar appeared, and quorum was reached.
2. **Public Comment**  
No written comment received. No in-person public comment received.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval of the Consent Agenda – Agenda for January 10, 2024; Minutes of December 13, 2023, meeting.

**Motion: Vice-Chair Napack proposed approving the consent agenda and minutes. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously. The consent agenda and minutes have been approved.**

4. **Discussion Items**
  - a. **Updates**
    1. **Downtown Utility Box Wraps Update:** During the meeting, updates were provided regarding the downtown utility box art wrapping project. The city photographer had taken photographs of one of the art pieces, and a pilot test run was underway with

**Transportation and Utility Operations**

1410 20<sup>th</sup> Street SE / Building 2  
Salem OR 97302-1209  
Phone 503-588-6063  
Fax 503-588-6480

**Parks Operations**

1460 20<sup>th</sup> Street SE / Building 14  
Salem OR 97302-1209  
Phone 503-588-6336  
Fax 503-588-6305

**Willow Lake Water Pollution Control Facility**

5915 Windsor Island Road N  
Keizer OR 97303-6179  
Phone 503-588-6380  
Fax 503-588-6387

the contractors to print and place these photos on one of the utility boxes to assess the process's effectiveness. Further updates on this initiative are anticipated in the coming month.

- 2. Length of Mural Easement Requirement:** During the meeting, the commission engaged in a thorough discussion concerning the duration of mural easement requirements, with particular attention directed towards the current seven-year timeframe outlined in the city code. Concerns were raised regarding the practicality and necessity of this requirement, prompting the commission to seek clarification from the Legal department regarding the legal reasoning behind the seven-year minimum. Recognizing the varying practices among municipalities, wherein different durations are utilized to ensure the rotation of artwork, the commission expressed interest in potentially amending the duration requirement through a code change, drawing parallels to previous actions taken for murals on curvilinear building walls. To facilitate informed decision-making, plans were set in motion to gather comprehensive information from the Legal department regarding the rationale behind the existing requirement and to explore alternative approaches adopted by other municipalities.

During the discourse, various considerations were deliberated upon regarding potential criteria for determining mural easement durations. Factors such as the complexity of the mural, community engagement, and the involvement of businesses were taken into account. The commission stressed the importance of flexibility in determining the duration, tailoring it to suit the unique nature of each mural project. Furthermore, there were suggestions to involve businesses in the decision-making process, particularly those hosting murals on their premises. Emphasizing the need for continued collaboration, the commission underscored the importance of working closely with the Legal department to address any concerns and explore potential adjustments to the mural easement requirement.

- 3. Library Art Kiosk:** During the meeting, updates were provided regarding the Library Art Kiosk project. David Muller, an employee of the city who works with Library technology, applied for a Sprinkles Grant of approximately \$2,000 to fund the project. The grant aims to install a touchscreen kiosk in the library displaying the art collection. Although there were no recent updates, the plan is to lock down the kiosk technologically to restrict access to anything other than the art collection. Once completed, all images from the art collection, including past exhibitions and community art, will be uploaded to the kiosk.

Discussion ensued regarding the logistics and implications of the project. Concerns were raised about the ownership of artwork displayed on the kiosk, especially if pieces are sold and end up in private collections. There were also questions about the management of content and the kiosk's location in the library. Clarification was sought on the functionality of the kiosk, as it was initially thought to be a rotating image bank of the city's collection, but it may also include exhibitions from the Oregon Artist Series Foundation (OASF).

The commission expressed a desire for more information on the project's technical aspects and invited David Muller to provide an update at the next meeting. Additionally, discussions on content management, ownership rights, and user engagement strategies are planned for future meetings to ensure the success and effectiveness of the kiosk project.

4. **Northgate Neighborhood Hoodview Park Fence Painting:** During the meeting, the commission discussed the Northgate Neighborhood Hoodview Park fence painting project, which had been completed on private property but not officially classified as a mural. Keith provided an update, explaining that while the fence was technically considered a sign due to lacking commission approval, enforcement had been withheld by the sign code department in absence of complaints. Keith proposed allowing painting of park fences, although discussions with the sign code department had yet to occur. The commission explored options for approving the fence painting project and potentially expanding it to include other fences. They considered modifying the street painting program to accommodate fence painting and ensuring community support for such initiatives. Keith suggested incorporating elements of the street painting program, such as neighbor approval requirements, into the fence painting initiative. Next steps involved further discussions with the sign code department to address concerns about classification as signs, with recognition that if deemed public art, projects would be exempt from sign code regulations. The commission expressed support for the project and agreed to explore ways to move forward with community engagement and regulatory compliance.

The discussion touched upon a recent incident where an alleyway painting downtown was considered a sign by the city and subsequently removed. Questions were raised about the decision-making process between classifying artwork as a sign or a mural, and at what point the commission becomes involved. It was revealed that the alley painting had not undergone the commission's approval process, despite the perception that obtaining approval might be difficult. The barriers to applying for approval included concerns about altering initial artistic plans to meet public approval and the perceived complexity of the application process. Additionally, historical preservation policies and regulations posed challenges, particularly for artwork in downtown alleys. The commission expressed interest in revising the application process to make it more accessible and less daunting for artists, aiming to address misconceptions and facilitate downtown artwork initiatives more effectively.

b. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Art Collection Maintenance:**

- a. **Repair of the *Drummer & Rooster* and the *Black Discs*:** During the subcommittee reports, Keith stated that contractor, Lee Immonen, provided no updates on the maintenance of the *Drummer and Rooster* sculptures, except mentioning that he assessed the *Black Discs* sculpture last month and would provide a repair quote soon. Keith reminded the group that the commission discussed receiving repair quotes from two conservator contractors, ranging from \$2,000 to nearly \$10,000 for evaluation of the sculptures. To streamline costs, they decided to combine mobilization expenses and requested a quote from Lee for the repair work on the

*Black Discs* sculpture. However, there was no indication of when Lee would provide the quotation.

2. **Social Media Plan Report:** Commissioner Krista Lauer provided an update on the social media plan, highlighting the recent focus on legacy tributes to artists who made significant impacts on the Salem and Pacific Northwest communities. The year began with a call for vacancies on the commission, aiming to recruit two new members. While there haven't been any applications yet, efforts were made to spread the word through Keith's outreach to other organizations. Moving forward, the social media content will highlight community-based projects made possible by volunteer or community support, such as the Eco Globe restoration fundraising project. The commission discussed adding a tagline to acknowledge that the posts are brought by the Salem Public Art Commission, aiming to raise awareness of the commission's work. Commissioner Lauer manages the content and collaborates with Trevor Smith, Public Information Officer, for posting. Additionally, they discussed improving photo quality for posts, with Krista offering to take photos when needed. Overall, the commission expressed satisfaction with the progress of the social media efforts.

c. **Develop Draft Strategic Plan**

The discussion began with a suggestion to enhance outreach efforts by incorporating images from the public art collection into a presentation to the neighborhood associations. The idea was to present these visuals to neighborhood associations, leveraging the appeal of visual content to engage community members and potentially secure spots on association agendas for future presentations.

Moving on, the focus shifted to reviewing the current strategic plan, which outlined five overarching goals.

1. The first goal emphasized outreach and education, aiming to make public art accessible to the community. Specific strategies under this goal included developing and implementing a social media plan, visiting neighborhood associations regularly, and conducting public art walking tours.
2. The second goal centered on serving as an advocate and promoter of art in the Salem region. Strategies here focused on increasing engagement with local art organizations, collaborating with various entities such as libraries, educational institutions, and other city departments to promote art initiatives.
3. The third goal was dedicated to managing the Salem art collection, with objectives to maintain and enhance the existing collection. Strategies included evaluating the condition of artwork, prioritizing maintenance needs, and actively participating in the selection process for public art projects.
4. The fourth goal aimed to increase the number of murals in Salem, with strategies to streamline the mural application process, commission new murals, and create a mural match program to connect building owners, artists, and community members.

5. Lastly, the fifth goal focused on advocating for a Salem public art plan, aiming to foster conditions conducive to its development. Strategies included communicating with city council and leadership, exploring funding sources for a public arts manager, and engaging stakeholders through meetings and activities.

Throughout the discussion, there were suggestions to prioritize goals and tasks, with plans to organize public meetings with neighborhood associations, local art organizations, and businesses to gather input and foster collaboration. It was agreed upon to assign tasks and form committees to work on various initiatives, with plans to provide updates at monthly meetings. **Finally, the decision was made to share the draft strategic plan document via OneDrive for collaborative editing and progress tracking.**

d. **Review Draft Mural Application Process**

The discussion touched on the progress of the mural application in Alchemer, which has incorporated questions from a similar application used in the City of Milwaukee. The focus was on identifying relevant questions and refining the application further. Plans were made to review the application at the next meeting to assess its completeness and suitability.

e. **New Date for February SPAC Meeting**

There was a discussion about the February meeting, with one member (Keith) indicating unavailability. The suggestion was made to either cancel or reschedule the meeting, considering the two-week gap between meetings. A motion was proposed to not have the February meeting and reconvene in March, which was seconded and put to a vote. It was agreed to skip the February meeting, coincidentally falling on Valentine's Day.

5. **New Business**

- a. **City's current database system for storing artwork collection and information:** Vice-Chair Napack initiated a discussion regarding the imperative to enhance the current database system for managing the City's public art collection. She noted Chair Hull's interest in delving deeper into this topic, given his experience with similar systems in his business. However, she underscored the importance of a broader conversation within the commission about their preferences for information sharing. Vice-Chair Napack then turned to Commissioner Lauer, who has extensive experience with the database, including its use for social media posts. Commissioner Lauer provided valuable feedback on the existing system, outlining its shortcomings and the urgent need for enhancements. She highlighted challenges such as tracking updates, image visibility issues, incomplete data, and the lack of condition notes and accurate imagery. Commissioner Lauer stressed the advantages of investing in a collections management system to address these deficiencies, ultimately improving accessibility, professionalism, and tracking capabilities. Additionally, she proposed enriching the database with detailed information about the provenance and historical context of artworks. Commissioner Lauer also explored the possibility of collaborating with universities to address resource constraints through internships. She suggested seeking recommendations for suitable systems and obtaining estimates for implementation and maintenance. Action items arising from the discussion included reviewing the Strategic Plan and investigating potential solutions for the database system.

6. **Action Items**

- a. Keith is to share the draft Strategic Plan with the commissioners via OneDrive for them to review, add their comments, and identify for which tasks they would be interested in working on. The commissioners will then review the draft strategic plan at the March meeting.

8. **Commissioner and Staff Comments**

Vice-Chair Napack shared her positive experience distributing brochures for the Heritage Center during Magic at the Mill event, where she interacted with a large number of attendees who showed interest in the SPAC brochures. She mentioned the need to assess the current stock of brochures and explore opportunities to distribute them at various events. Additionally, she raised a question about updating the brochures.

9. **Adjournment:** Vice-Chair Napack adjourned the meeting around 5:00 PM.

DRAFT