



City of Salem SALEM PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING

Zoom Meeting Info Available Upon Request

In-person at Public Works Operations Building

1457 23rd Street SE, Salem, OR 97301

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-540-2371

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members

Zach Hull, Chair; Susan Napack, Vice-Chair; Spencer Emerick; Eduardo Diaz-Salazar, Krista Lauer, Brian Hart.

The commission has one vacancy for a member experienced in landscape architecture, real estate development or community foundations.

Staff

Keith Bondaug-Winn, City Staff Liaison

AGENDA

1. Welcome and call to order.
2. Public Comment – Appearance of persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda – Agenda for June 12, 2024, meeting; Minutes of May 8, 2024, meeting.
4. Discussion Items
 - a. Relocation of *The Drummer and Rooster*
 - b. Review SPAC Draft Strategic Plan
 - c. Review Public Art Matrix for Legal
 - d. Subcommittee Reports
 1. Social Media Plan Report – Commissioner Lauer
 2. Art Collection Maintenance
 - a. *Eco Earth Globe*
 - b. *Black Discs*
 - c. *Art Wraps for Utility Boxes*
5. New Business

- a. Library Art Collection Meeting
6. Action Items
 - a. Approve SPAC Draft Strategic Plan
 - b. Approve Public Art Matrix for Submission to Legal
7. Commissioners Comments
8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. In-person and Zoom hybrid meeting.

This meeting is being conducted virtually, with remote attendance by the governing body. No in-person attendance is possible. Interested persons may view the meeting online on [YouTube](#). Please submit written comments on agenda items, or pre-register to provide Public Comment on items not on the agenda, by 5 p.m. or earlier one day prior to the day of the meeting at kbondaug@cityofsalem.net

Special accommodations are available, upon request, for persons with disabilities or those needing sign language interpretation, or languages other than English. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-540-2371 (711 for Relay) at least two business days in advance.

It is the City of Salem's policy to assure that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, source of income and housing status, as provided by Salem Revised Code 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and related statutes and regulations, in all programs and activities.



Public Works Department

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

City of Salem

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2024

3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

HYBRID IN-PERSON AND ONLINE MEETING

In-person at Public Works Operations Building

1457 23rd Street SE, Salem, OR 97302

Commissioners Present: Zach Hull (Chair), Susan Napack (Vice-Chair), Spencer Emerick, Kirsta Lauer, Eduardo Diaz-Salazar.

Guest Present: Brian Hart (Community Member), Carly Wright (Community Member), Cody Jones.

Staff Present: Keith Bondaug-Winn, Public Works Liaison.

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Hull called the meeting to order around 3:30 PM.

2. **Public Comment**

- a. **Cody Jones:** Cody Jones, a guest, introduced his company, Fusion Drinking, which integrates public art into drinking fountains. He showcased designs developed with the City of Eugene and proposed expanding this concept to include various public artworks in collaboration with local artists. The idea involves providing digital templates to artists, who then create artwork to be laser-cut and installed on fountains or sculptures.

The committee discussed the potential inclusion of drinking fountains as art surfaces within SPAC's scope, comparing it to utility box wraps. While there was interest in the concept, it was noted that it might fall under the purview of Public Works or Parks rather than SPAC. The idea of incorporating such functional art pieces in smaller city projects or as part of the Percent for Art program was also considered.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the Consent Agenda – Agenda for May 8, 2024; Minutes of April 10, 2024, meeting.

**Transportation and Utility
Operations**

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

Parks Operations

1460 20th 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

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

1. **Discussion Items**

a. **Updates**

1. Art Wrap for Utility Boxes – Historic Landmarks, Downtown Revitalization, Public Art

Urban Development installed one utility box art wrap in front of their offices. Due to wet weather, the additional 11 boxes were not yet wrapped. Hopefully more boxes will be installed during the upcoming dry weather.

2. Legal's Perspective on Community Art: In the meeting, it was emphasized that SPAC (Salem Public Art Commission) is the sole authority on artistic merit for the Salem public art collection, a role that cannot be delegated to other governing bodies or administrators as per city code and policies. This ensures community representation, accountability, and transparency through a panel of community members. Legal advisors stressed the importance of adhering to these regulations to maintain the integrity of SPAC's decisions. The street painting program, managed by the Public Works department, presents challenges as legal advisors recommend against a single individual determining artistic merit. Although street paintings are not part of the public art collection due to the lack of maintenance requirements, their acceptance should ideally involve SPAC to ensure consistency. Furthermore, for any temporary art installations, SPAC must be the sole arbiter in determining their duration and artistic quality to uphold community oversight and legal standards.

Chair Hull raised questions about the process of wrapping utility boxes and the distinction between evaluating artistic merit and incorporating art into the public collection. He noted the struggle between being a transparent arbiter of artistic merit and managing the mechanical and financial aspects of maintaining art in the collection. He suggested separating these two functions conceptually, especially for temporary art like street paintings, which do not fit well into the permanent collection framework. Keith's response indicated that temporary art, such as street paintings and utility box wraps, should be treated differently and suggested that SPAC should oversee this type of art rather than Public Works. Currently, Public Works manages street paintings based on logistical criteria, but there is a consensus that SPAC should handle the aesthetic approval to maintain consistent standards. This would involve SPAC defining and administering a program for temporary art, ensuring it does not fall under Public Works or other departments.

Keith raised the issue that SPAC cannot delegate its authority to Public Works or any other department, but Public Works and Parks are already approving and installing various art projects, including street painting, wrapping utility boxes, and painting park fences. This creates a challenge for SPAC in policing or aligning these activities. Despite the enthusiasm for public art, it is important to address legal concerns and ensure proper oversight without stifling creativity. A model for handling temporary art, such as the street painting program, could be useful. Keith suggested creating a

spreadsheet to identify different types of temporary art, the relevant codes, and how SPAC could oversee them. This approach would provide a framework for legal to work on and ensure SPAC's involvement in temporary art projects.

There was a discussion about distinguishing between permanent and temporary collections, where temporary art would be under SPAC's authority during its display period but not part of the permanent collection. This distinction would help manage the oversight without confusing the nature of the art collections. Ultimately, there is an opportunity to create a structured process for SPAC to oversee temporary art, ensuring community involvement and adherence to legal standards.

The proposal is to create a utility box art program where local artists develop and place their own art, similar to the street painting program but regulated like murals instead of by Public Works' administrative rules. Other communities have similar programs, so SPAC wouldn't be inventing a new concept but creating a process for overseeing temporary art. There was a discussion about distinguishing between permanent and temporary collections: the permanent collection includes artworks formally acquired by SPAC, while the temporary collection involves artworks displayed for set periods and managed under SPAC's authority during their display. The goal is to avoid confusion between the two types of collections and ensure legal clarity. The group acknowledged that SPAC has an established procedure for community interests and that creating criteria for temporary art could drive public engagement. Keith suggested that SPAC develop criteria for evaluating temporary art, which would complement existing requirements or limitations for different surfaces. This would ensure consistent oversight and align with the community's interests.

In the discussion, it was suggested to include citizen-painted private fences in the temporary art program, as murals have been effective in deterring graffiti. This inclusion would provide a framework for such community efforts. Additionally, it was proposed to expand the surface types considered for temporary art, such as spaces within the Salem Parks and areas identified by the Downtown Development Group, like spaces within the Salem Parkade. **The idea is to create a comprehensive matrix of potential surfaces, evaluate the relevant code implications, and establish criteria for temporary art that could be consistently applied across different surfaces. This approach would ensure that all potential surfaces are considered and that legal and procedural frameworks are in place to support community-driven art initiatives.**

Review and Approve SPAC Draft Strategic Plan: To address the inclusion of various types of temporary art, it was suggested to form a working group or integrate this into the strategic plan. The aim is to expand the current narrow focus on murals to include other public-facing surfaces and locations, such as fences, wraps, and 3D installations. This broader approach might involve developing new criteria and a program specifically for temporary art, potentially extending beyond the existing mural program. **A proposal was made to create a strategic priority focused on temporary art, with a matrix outlining potential surfaces, the related code implications, and necessary criteria. It was agreed that legal guidance is needed to**

determine if code changes are required or if new programmatic approaches can be developed under existing frameworks. A placeholder term like "Temporary Art in Public Spaces" or "Temporary Art on Public Surfaces" was suggested to capture the essence of this initiative in the strategic plan. The commission agreed to work on the strategic plan further and perhaps approve of it at the next meeting.

- 3. Review Online Mural Application:** The commission discussed a new restaurant's proposal involving both signage and a mural, determining that signage approval will fall under sign codes while SPAC will approve the mural's design. They referenced the previous approval of the Cherries mural and stressed the importance of distinguishing between signage and artistic elements. Questions arose about whether an independent artist will be hired and if the artwork will be unique. There was also a discussion on whether the artificial green wall should be considered art or decoration. Keith will guide the applicant through the application process and collaborate with sign code to clarify details. The project, from a family-run restaurant since 2005, is expected to add vibrant color to the building.

b. Subcommittee Reports:

- 1. Social Media Plan Report:** Commissioner Lauer reported on the social media plan for the month of May. The commission reviewed the social media plan for May, focusing on Mosaic Month. Each Wednesday, a post highlights one of the four mosaic works in the collection, with an introduction to mosaics, followed by posts on specific pieces like the Salem Peace Mosaic and the Eco Earth Globe. The Salem Peace Mosaic post included its history and current status in storage, aiming to engage public interest. Upcoming posts will feature Mary Heintzman's work and an update on the Eco Earth Globe. There was also a discussion on potential collaboration with the Oregon Arts Commission, which has been posting similar content, suggesting the possibility of sharing content calendars to amplify each other's efforts.
- 2. Eco Earth Globe Update:** An update was provided on the Eco Earth Globe project. A meeting with city officials, including Scott Archer, the City Engineer, and Jennifer Keller from Parks, revealed that Scott Archer has been assigned to initiate the project, aiming for an announcement on Earth Day, April 22, 2025. Funding is secured, and the first task is to update the cost quote from 2020. Deterioration issues, particularly related to asbestos abatement, will be addressed by Architectural Resources Group (ARG), the same firm that worked on the *Pioneer Family* sculpture restoration in Bush's Pasture Park. The project is expected to begin by next Earth Day, thanks to the efforts of Carol Snyder with the Salem Parks Foundation and others involved.

During the meeting, it was reported that the Eco Earth Globe was vandalized with graffiti tagging. As the Eco Earth Globe is part of the Salem Public Art Collection, SPAC is responsible for addressing the issue. The tagging needs to be removed sooner rather than waiting for the restoration project scheduled for Earth Day 2025. The committee discussed potential removal methods, including graffiti removal spray and light pressure washing, considering the fragile state of the tiles. Commissioner Diaz-Salazar offered to recommend specific products for the

cleanup. Keith will coordinate with the city's abatement team and parks management to handle the graffiti removal promptly, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the artwork's appearance to prevent further vandalism. The discussion concluded with a plan to move forward with the cleanup. Keith will follow up with City staff.

3. Art Collection Maintenance:

- a. **Repair of Drummer & Rooster:** The commission discussed the placement of repaired artwork from Lee Imonen which included *The Drummer and Rooster* sculptures, which need a permanent location. The Convention Center, which previously housed them temporarily, is not ideal due to the need to move them during events, contributing to their deterioration. Potential locations suggested included the Library, Civic Center, and various city properties, including fire stations. There was also discussion about involving the community through a poll to gather suggestions and possibly rotating the artwork through different wards. The idea of placing the sculptures in locations where children can see and enjoy them, such as libraries, was favored. The committee decided to further explore these options and potentially involve city departments and the community in the decision-making process.

The commission discussed potential storage options for *The Drummer and Rooster* sculptures now that they are completed and ready for installation. Suggestions included the Public Works Operations Building, which already stores other artworks, and the Civic Center's downstairs storage room, previously used as a police evidence locker. The commission agreed to search for a suitable display location within a reasonable timeframe and use storage only as a temporary solution if necessary.

- b. **Black Discs:** The commission decided to delay further action on the *Black Discs* restoration until they could evaluate the completed work on *The Drummer and Rooster* sculptures by Lee Imonen. Since Lee has finished these pieces and is ready for their installation, the committee needs to find a place to store them temporarily, as Lee does not want to keep them in his workshop indefinitely. There was agreement to obtain two more comparative bids for *The Black Discs* restoration, as required for projects over \$5,000, and then proceed with choosing an artist.
- c. **Library Foundation Art Collection:** The commission discussed Kate Van Ummerson's proposal to gift 44 pieces of artwork from the Salem Library Foundation to the city's Public Art Collection, specifically to keep them on display at the Salem Public Library. Chair Hull expressed support for the idea, highlighting the importance of preserving the historical collection and maintaining its connection to the library. The remodeled library serves as a natural showcase for artwork, and the proposal aligns with previous discussions. Kate has offered to meet with Chair Hull and Keith next week to discuss the details. **The next steps include contacting legal counsel to determine the necessary agreements for accepting the gift and ensuring the artworks remain in the library.**

2. **New Business**

None

3. **Action Items**

4. **Commissioner and Staff Comments**

a) **Grant Neighborhood Street Painting:** Vice-Chair Napack reported that the Grant neighborhood has applied for a new street painting, planned for the July 4th weekend. There are concerns about potential upcoming construction at the proposed site, which may affect the street painting. The application process involves coordination with multiple city departments to ensure no conflicts with roadworks. There was also mention that Travel Salem is no longer funding street paintings, leaving the community to find alternative funding sources.

b) **Praise for Commissioner Diaz-Salazar:** Commissioner D. Salazar was praised for his artwork at Catalyst Gym.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned, and attendees were wished a great day and safe travels. Chair Hull adjourned the meeting at 4:57 PM.