

FY2019 Public Art Committee Annual Report & FY2020 Budget Plan

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I. OVERVIEW

In April 2000, the City Council established the Portland Public Art Program to preserve, restore, and enhance the City's public art collection. The Portland Public Art Committee (PPAC) is tasked to commission art that engages the surrounding environment to facilitate a sense of place by expressing the spirit, values, and visions of Portland through public art.

The public art collection currently contains fifty-eight permanent pieces installed throughout Portland and one long-term loan. The collection contains works of both historical significance dating from the nineteenth century; and contemporary pieces reflecting Portland's diversity and spirit. The PPAC administers the Portland Public Art Program. The Committee has also overseen the development of projects that can be categorized as Environmental Art Works and Temporary Art Works. The Committee's responsibilities are outlined in Article XI of the City Code (Public Art Program). The Committee utilizes the Guidelines for the Public Art Ordinance (Volume 1, Number 1 – adopted 2008) for direction in administering their responsibilities.

The Portland Public Art Committee is responsible for the following:

- Develop and present an Annual Public Art Plan to the City Council which includes recommendations for the use of allocated CIP funding; program administration; conservation of the collection; and initiation of new projects;
- Provide recommendations to the City Council regarding proposed gifts to the collection; Seek donations to fulfill Committee responsibilities in the case that CIP funding is insufficient;
- Recommend appropriate locations for the installation of public art;
- Promote public awareness and engagement between the public and the collection.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee as of July 2018 is as follows:

Julia Kirby, Chair, Development Director at St. Lawrence Arts

Lin Lisberger, Artist and Professor of Art at USM, retired

Kifah Abdulla, Artist, teacher, and poet

James Cradock, Information Technology consultant at Yellahoose LLC

Jenna Crowder, Artist and Admissions assistant at MECA

Diana Greenwold, Curator, Portland Museum of Art

Alison Hildreth, Artist

Jessica Lauren Lipton, Marketing Director at Casco Bay Artisans and Artist at Pop Killed Culture

Daniel Minter, Creative Portland representative

Corey Templeton, photographer and UNUM employee, City Manager's appointee

Pious Ali, City Council representative

Management & Administration

Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer

ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

Five-Year Goals

In fall 2017 the Committee held several meetings and agreed upon the following goals for the coming five years:

- To increase the prevalence of public art in regions of outer Portland. This may be in the form of Community Art Projects, or temporary art event coordination. This objective aims to work with current and future City projects, pay attention to project and partner opportunities, and identify potential sites in order to be prepared when gift opportunities arise;
- To activate small urban spaces with public art;
- To further public education, interest, and enjoyment of public art by providing public art walks or public art guides in Portland; and to publicize and archive the collection. This includes revising the website to provide additional functions and increase traffic, producing a 30 second commercial to distribute to promotional sites, such as movie festivals, a City Hall video stream, or outdoor screening, create cards, brochures or other saleable items, increase and control social media outreach, meet with City stakeholders to reinforce our mission, and look for an intern to help with assorted clerical and archival jobs;
- To increase donation solicitation for projects supported by the PPAC, particularly for projects that enhance community engagement and identity. To solicit grant and private money for current and upcoming projects;
- To have greater influence on site selection for gifts and commissioned works, and to provide a simple and consistent evaluation for acceptance of gifts;
- To continue to provide forums for public input.

Ultimately, these goals aim to contribute to Portland's identity as a cultural destination. The Committee recognizes that the prevalence and quality of Public Art will greatly contribute to Portland's overall image and increase both national and international recognition.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Governance Subcommittee

New committee members came on board with the fiscal year – Kifah Abdulla, artist, teacher, and a poet; Jessica Lauren Lipton, marketing director and artist.

Gifts Subcommittee

Many of the pieces in the collection are gifts or have been subsidized by donations. The committee agreed that new artwork added to the collection must be supported by financial contribution to assist with the increasing maintenance obligations for the growing collection. Friends of Deering Oaks Park is working on a life-sized (2 feet), bronze replica of a South American Black Hawk that spent the better part of the winter in Deering Oaks Park before succumbing to freezing temperatures. FoDO will be fundraising for the sculpture with the intention of gifting the work to the public art collection. PPAC has asked that a budget for conservation be included in the fundraising goal.

Communication Subcommittee

The PPAC continues to update and make improvements to the collection website: publicartportland.org

For additional outreach efforts to promote the public art collection, the committee began a new series title "Sculpture of the Month." The featured artwork is part of the city-wide First Friday Artwalk program

and is listed on Creative Portland's website and printed map. If the featured artwork has an Art in Our Front Yard video, committee members ask CTN to air that particular video during the month to coordinate with the artwalk programming.

III. CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

In 2018, conservation and maintenance work included the following:

CONSERVATION

Jonathan Taggart's two-year contract for conservation of works in the collection included assessment and work on the *Cleeves Memorial* fence and hitching posts, finishing work on *The Little Water Girl*, the *John Ford* statue, the *Pullen Fountain*, assessment of *Glimpse*, and assessment of *The Jewel Box* Bus shelter.

Conservation work was completed on *The Little Water Girl* and the *John Ford Statue*. The conservation plan for *Glimpse* has been discussed in detail with committee members weighing the option to do a more intensive treatment including power washing the works and galvanizing them or a more limited approach to be completed by the artist. At present the committee is considering having the work done in place to reduce the cost for the scope of work but is going ahead with the more intensive treatment. Bird waste was found on *Puffin* at the Casco Bay Marine Terminal. Jonathan Taggart created a plan for conservation work (dry cleaning) that will be done by staff at the terminal. A new MOA was issued for this agreement. The *Jewel Box Bus Shelter* needs more work than the committee budgeted for, but more funds have been allocated to complete the work from the contingency fund.



SIGNAGE

Bronze plaques were installed for *Portland Brick* and the *Longfellow Statue*. An information panel sign designed by Montgomery Designs, was installed for the *Loring Memorial*.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2019

PROJECT UPDATES

Woodfords Corner

The light sculpture, *Luminous Arbor*, by Aaron T Stephan was installed at Woodfords Corner on October 22, and a dedication ceremony was held on November 15 with Councilor Justin Costa and other city and PPAC representatives in attendance.



Congress Square Public Art Commission

The Historic Preservation Board approved the project and artwork on November 7, 2018. The Department of Transportation has put the project on the 2021 work plan for \$2.6 million. Fundraising efforts began over the winter with marketing materials produced by VIA. Sarah Sze has approved all marketing materials. The Portland Museum of Art is planning a publicity/fundraising event that Sarah will attend.



USM Roundabout Art Commission

A subcommittee convened over the winter for this project. The subcommittee is comprised of two members of the Portland Public Art Committee, co-chairs Diana Greenwold, Curator at the Portland Museum of Art, and Daniel Minter, artist, Lydia Swan, USM representative and neighbor, Carol Schiller, neighbor, and Keith Smith, TJD&A Landscape Architects and Planners. The subcommittee drafted a vision statement and criteria for the project and considered the different processes for art selection. After reviewing the work of several artists, 7 artists were asked to submit a one-page letter of inquiry. Of the 5 artists who submitted LOI's, 4 were chosen to submit more comprehensive proposals and will be given a \$500 stipend for their work. A finalist for the project will be chosen on June 24, 2019. Installation is slated for summer of 2020 in coordination with the roundabout construction.



MLK Memorial

The City released an RFQ, seeking qualifications from interested applicants for the creation of a memorial to honor Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Portland. Interested applicants have until June 26 to submit their qualifications. The MLK Recognition Task Force, appointed to consider how best to recognize and acknowledge Dr. King's life and work, determined it was best to site a memorial in an open area on the Bayside Trail located in the West Bayside neighborhood. The City has allocated \$100,000 for the creation of the memorial. A member of the Public Art Committee is a part of the selection process. If the memorial design is artwork, this may eventually be proposed as an addition the public art collection.

TEMPORARY ART

Andy Rosen installed *TREAD* in the water near Ocean Gateway terminal – a sculpture depicting two deer on stilts navigating the harbor with the changing tides. The artwork brought a visual attraction to the waterfront for locals and visitors during the cruise ship season.

For TEMPO'S summer 2019 project, **TEMPOart** has commissioned Daniel Minter, a Portland-based artist known for his work in painting and sculpture, and co-founder of the Indigo Arts Alliance, to explore the relationship between public art and culinary diplomacy. Through a series of monumental wood sculptures titled *Mother's Garden*, Minter's project will address the cultural traditions and food of the African Diaspora and recent immigrants to Portland.



Daniel Minter, Mother's Garden (Sketch for installation), 2019

Temporary Student Art Applications

New View 2 a public student art installation by Bronwen O'Wrill that consists of a set of 8 wooden swings suspended high in trees, intentionally placed too high for use as swings near the Back Cove/Woodfords Street. *New View 2* is an expression of the artist's for life and my new sense of death due to a cancer diagnosis, but it is available to everyone. It invites all of us to take a fresh perspective.

Woman + Snake by artist Justin Love installed in Congress Square for the month of May. According to the artist's statement, "Woman + Snake" is "made in honor of the women from Love's life who have found ways to flourish under heavy oppression." The piece was made by Love while studying studio Art and Sculpture in MECA's graduate program.



ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Staff member Caitlin Cameron presented the work of the public art committee at several conferences throughout the year including Build Maine, the American Planning Association National Conference, and the European Forum for Urban Forestry.
- Outgoing committee members Tony Muench and Pandora LaCasse were presented with proclamations honoring their nine years of service to the committee.

V. GOALS FOR FY2020

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

- Art Walking Tours updated and possibly printed for visitors and residents in coordination with Creative Portland
- Continued upgrades to the PPAC website including a new temporary art page
- Promotions with METRO on buses
- Programming with Casco Bay Lines for *Puffin*

CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

- Completion of 2-year Conservation Contract including *Glimpse*, *Cleves Memorial*, *Pullen Fountain*
- Additional conservation on the *Jewel Box Bus Shelter*

COLLECTION

- Congress Square Public Art Commission Design Development
- Congress Square Fundraising
- USM Roundabout Installation
- Sites Subcommittee identification of future sites – on-going
- MLK Memorial development
- Black Hawk gift from Friends of Deering Oaks in coordination with the Parks Division; acceptance in to the public art collection proposed

VI. FY20 PROPOSED BUDGET

The City allocates .05% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the conservation and acquisition of permanent public art. This FY19 Budget Plan includes an estimate of \$60,000 for the .05% allocation from the FY19 CIP budget.

Remaining Encumbrances from approved budget plans

	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Conservation/Maintenance	2-year Conservation contract 2018-2020	\$ 40,600
B	Congress Square Public Art	New commission – Sarah Sze artist	\$ 183,500
C	Amethyst Lot Public Artwork	New acquisition (Phase I)	\$ 48,000
D	Conservation – Additional	Jewelbox Bus Shelter	\$15,000
	Total Encumbered		\$ 287,100

Contingency Funds FY19 (\$7,000 budgeted)

- Puffin assessment – awaiting invoice
- Jewelbox assessment – awaiting invoice
- -Jewelbox additional work - \$3,500
- Plaque - \$308.68
- Portland Brick conservation (website) - \$1,000

FY19 – Proposed Budget (July 2019-June 2020)

	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Conservation and Maintenance	Additional Projects –	\$ 2,000
B	Operations	Web hosting, collection documentation, etc.	\$ 1,000
C	Contingency Fund	To cover repairs, theft, relocation, Community Art grant, etc.	\$ 10,000
D	USM Roundabout Artwork	New artwork (Phase II)	\$ 43,000
E	Bramhall Square Artwork	Functional Artwork as part of urban design	\$ 4,000
	Total FY19 Budget		\$ 60,000