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Kat Zagaria Buckley
Phoebe Cole
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Lindsay Hancock, Creative Portland
Kelly Hrenko, City Manager appointee
Jessica Lauren Lipton
Stephanie Motter
John Whipple

Management & Administration

Sean King
Urban Designer, Planning & Urban Development
Department

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 15, 2024
4:00 PM Remote Meeting via Zoom

1. Zoom Meeting Information

Due to the existence of an emergency or urgent issue the Portland Public Art Committee will conduct this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the City Council's Remote Participation Policy.

Allow your computer to install the free zoom app to get the best meeting experience.

For more information on how to use Zoom, please go to:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/remotePUD> Public comment will be taken; written comments may be submitted to publicart@portlandmaine.gov

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/81634418875> Or One tap mobile : US: +19292056099,,81634418875# or +13017158592,,81634418875#

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2. Call to Order

- Roll call
- April 17, 2024 meeting minutes

3. Staff Updates

- Report of decisions at the meeting held on April 17, 2024
 - Request conservation estimate for *Acrobatic Dogs* from Tuckerbrook, LLC.
- Public art fund balance
 - Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC repair treatment of *Playing Bears* \$1,015

4. Project Reports

A. Congress Square Park (Cole, Hancock, Whipple)

- Contract amendment #3 & MOU under review by Sarah Sze Studio.
- Subcommittee updates and coordination with the Friends Capital Campaign Committee

B. Conservation Projects - ACTIVE (Berke, Cole)

- Jewel Box glass replacement - Staff in coordination with Jerry Alves of Port City Glass to replace two glass panels.
- Playing Bears - Repair treatment completed and report by Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC.
- Pullen Fountain, "Czar Reed", Miller statue, The Hiker, Kitson statue - Staff request purchase order for Taggart Objects Conservation to proceed with a contract for a tentative June repair.
- Loring Memorial - Maine Stone Scapes under contract and will begin the project in June based on etching company delays. Todd Richardson, landscape architect has quote \$500 to perform a site visit to relocate sentinel granite post replacement and boulders.
- Tital Moon - Staff coordinating with Corporate Counsel/Legal office for insurance claim updates. Jesse Salisbury to perform repair in mid June.
- Passing the Torch - Staff to share updates on the spot light replacements.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Governance/Board Development Subcommittee (Berke, Dennehy)

- City Clerk's office to host Boards/Committee Nomination meeting May 24, 2024

Acquisitions (Formerly "Gifts") Subcommittee (Cole, Zagaria, Hrenko)

- Subcommittee members to share updates

Communications Subcommittee (Mottet, Berke, Gibbs)

- Subcommittee members to share updates

Collection Management (Formerly "Site Selection") Subcommittee (Berke, Cook, Dennehy, Hancock, Lipton, Zagaria)

- Subcommittee members to share updates
- Obelisk at the Cleeves memorial did not receive Maine state historic CLG grant for the fence rehabilitation
- Relocation of Glimpse sculptures at Portland Jetport to require procedures to de-install, transport, store and re-install into the bid document set.

6. Other Business

Temporary Art

- Staff hosted a temporary art review panel April 30th for Belonging, anticipated to located at Congress Square Park summer 2024. Committee member Hancock participated in the review panel to provide updates.
- TempoArts summer installation Dancing for Joy by the MythMakers to begin June 10, programming event held June 13th (5pm) at Back Cove site location

Public Art Grant Application - staff awaiting a response for the Maine Arts Commission organizational grant application.

7. Public Comment

8. Meeting Adjourns

Next Meeting - June 19, 2024 at 4:00 pm

TUCKERBROOK CONSERVATION LLC
2498 Belfast Road
Lincolntonville, Maine 04849
(207) 446-2390
rsharvey@tidewater.net

Condition Treatment Report

Client: Sean King, PLA
Urban Designer
389 Congress Street, 4th Floor
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 874-8901
sking@portlandmaine.gov

Object: Two Bears (Playing Bears)
Artist: Bernard Langlais
Material: Carved and worked wood and paint
Culture: USA
Date of fabrication: 1976-77
Dimensions: 79" (H)

Date of review: December 2023
Date of Treatment: 15-16 April 2024

Description: The pair of facing, larger than life size bears are in a sitting position, upper arms outreaching, and legs splayed and forward. The bears are painted a reddish brown with white teeth and claws.

Condition: The overall condition of the sculpted wood Bears are good, however the sculptures are in a very public area of the Portland Airport. Many people pass the bear sculptures daily. The bears are sitting on a raised platform that protects them from floor cleaning devices, however the bears are easily accessible to the public.

The bears are missing three claws and a section of the proper right lower foot. The bear with its back facing the glass window has one claw missing and one recovered claw as well as wood loss to the proper right foot. The bear with its back facing the interior wall is missing a claw on its proper left upper paw. The client has one of the detached claws.

Treatment

The sculpture was treated in its current location, a public space in the Portland International Airport, Portland Maine.

A visual examination, written condition report and photographic documentation (digital photography) of the current condition of the sculpture was completed.

The recovered claw fit the existing hole adjacent to the area of lost carved wood on the proper

right rear paw of the bear with its back facing West, towards the glass windows in the public space between the luggage retrieval and the flight gates.

The recovered claw was placed into the hole, its orientation was determined by the flat surface on the claw and the proper fit into the drilled hole. A small hole was drilled into the lower section of the claw to accommodate a wood screw. The claw was removed from the hole. The lower (unpainted) surface of the claw and the remaining section of the hole were given a liberal application of High Tack Fish Glue. Then the claw was placed into the hole, adjusted for fit and lower part of the claw was secured in place with a GRK 2" long Fin/trim screw. A galvanized dry wall screw was screwed into place in the gap between the underside of the claw and the bottom of the hole.

The loss noted on the proper right rear paw was built up to support the claw and mimic the wood surface using a two-part epoxy modeling compound (Apoxie® Sculpt). The surface was built up to blend with the surrounding carved wood and the surface of the modeling compound was textured using the rough-cut end of a small piece of pine block. After curing the fill was toned to blend with the surrounding wood using Sherwin-Williams Resilience exterior latex paint (flat) tinted (Two Bears brown).

The proper right paw required a new claw, next in from the recovered claw (above). The pine wood claw was made by the conservator and painted prior to the on-site conservation of the Two Bears. The base of the new claw needed slight alterations to properly fit into the existing drilled hole in the paw. The blunt end of the claw was whittled down until the claw fit snugly in the hole. The base (unpainted section) of the claw and the interior of the hole received a generous coating of High Tack Fish Glue, and the claw was aligned and worked into the hole, finally tapping the claw into place using a wood carvers' mallet. Any excess adhesive was removed using dry paper towel followed by moist paper towel until the adhesive not visible.

The third claw was installed in the proper left rear paw of the East facing bear. The missing claw was the inner claw on the proper left rear paw. The claw was modified to fit into the existing hole, the extra wood at the base was whittled down. The glue was applied to both the unpainted end of the claw and into the sides of the drilled hole, the claw was inserted, aligned, and lightly tapped into place with the wood mallet. Any excess glue was removed as outlined above.

Several of the claws on the upper paws of the West bear exhibited losses at the tip and they were repaired using the two-part epoxy modeling compound, applied and worked with a wood tool to smooth and form the appropriate shapes at the tip of the claws. Any claw that had gaps between the claw and the body of the bears were gap filled with the two part epoxy putty.

The following day the repaired tips of the claws were painted (two coats, brush applied) of Sherwin-Williams Duration Interior Acrylic Latex, Satin Ibis White. The repaired claws were touched up at the base, center forms or tips with the Ibis White as needed. Any filled gaps at the base of the claws were toned with the white or brown paint. Any small losses in the body of the Bears were touched up with the Two Bears brown acrylic paint.

Post treatment photos were taken to document the current condition of the Two Bears after conservation intervention. A written treatment report with photographic documentation was completed.

Materials:

Apoxie® Sculpt: Aves® Studio LLC, PO Box 344, River Falls, WI 54022 USA

High Tack Fish Glue: Norland Products, Inc. 2540 Route 130, Bldg 100, Cranberry, NJ USA

Sherwin-Williams Duration and Resilience acrylic paints: The Sherwin-Williams Company, Cleveland, OH 44115 USA

Maintenance

The Two Bears should be dusted but no cleaning chemicals or solutions should be used on the sculptures. A static brush to capture dust is appropriate for occasional dusting. Any damage or loss (claws, etc) should be reported.

The above Treatment Report is submitted by:

Ronald Harvey

21 April 2024

Pre Treatment Documentation





Missing claws.





Losses of wood and paint on tips of claw.



Both claws set and the loss has been filled and reconstructed using a two part epoxy.



Third claw in place on the East Bear. Will get paint touch-up after glue sets up overnight.

POST Treatment Documentation



Detail of proper right rear paw with new claw in place and epoxy fill toned.









