



Anna Berke, Chair Sharon Dennehy, Vice-Chair
Kat Zagaria Buckley
Phoebe Cole
Alison Gibbs
Ronnie Wilson, Creative Portland appointee
Kelly Hrenko, City Manager appointee
Stephanie Motter
Saa Rosenblatt
John Whipple
Sarah Michniewicz, City Councilor appointee

Management & Administration

Sean King, Urban Designer with Planning & Urban
Development Department

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
4:00 PM on-line via Zoom link

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://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/18148b5d-f26e-472f-8d2c-245db97e5c27?cache=1800>

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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Webinar ID: 816 3441 8875

International numbers available: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/u/keytm2arCM>

2. Call to Order

- Roll call (King)
- February 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes

3. Communication

City Council passage of PPAC FY24 Annual Plan & FY25 Budget. No public comment will be taken.

4. Governance/Board Development (Berke, Dennehy)

A. Committee and chair updates

5. Staff Updates (King)

A. Report of decisions at the meeting held on February 26, 2025

1. Berke - Proposed motion to vote on the community artwork proposal Astragal. Dennehy seconds. Vote by roll call (0 votes to accept; 7 votes to reject) - Michniewicz, Motter, Rosenblatt, Wilson absent.
2. Dennehy - Proposed motion to appropriate public art funds not to exceed \$1,000 towards labor cost to replacement fixtures at rustle Diptych II. Gibbs seconds. Vote by roll call (7 votes to approve, 0 votes to reject)

B. Public Art Fund Balance - No updates

6. Subcommittee Reports

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

1. Subcommittee members to share updates.
2. Public comment by the Italian Heritage Center, a request to address the public art committee was submitted to Staff in advance of the meeting.

B. Communications Subcommittee (Motter, Berke, Gibbs)

1. Subcommittee members to share updates.
2. Video project by USM Media Studies updates.

C. Collection Management (Formerly "Site Selection") Subcommittee (Dennehy, Gibbs, Berke, Zagaria)

1. Subcommittee members to share updates.
2. Conservation assessment proposal for FY25 - staff and subcommittee members to distribute RFP to potential conservator to review proposals received at a later date.

7. Project Reports

A. Conservation Projects

1. Jewell Box (Dennehy) - Committee members and/or staff to provide updates and coordination with service providers about possible alterations to remediate issues with vandalism.
2. Passing the Torch (Zagaria) - Committee member to provide updates for light fixture replacement within sculpture.
3. Rustle Diptych II - Staff to provide updates to inground light fixture replacement.
4. Langlais Birdhouse Heads - No updates from Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC.
5. Portland Bricks (Dennehy, Gibbs) - No updates from artist Ayumi Horie.

8. Other Business

9. Public Comment

10. Meeting Adjourns

Next Meeting - April 16, 2025



Anna Berke, Chair
Sharon Dennehy, Vice-Chair
Kat Zagaria Buckley
Phoebe Cole
Alison Gibbs
Kelly Hrenko, City Manager appointee
Sarah Michniewicz, City Councilor
Stephanie Motter
Saa Rosenblatt
John Whipple
Ronnie Wilson, Creative Portland appointee

Management & Administration

Sean King, Urban Designer with Planning & Urban Development Department

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

February 26, 2025 – **Meeting Minutes**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom link

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.

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Public comment will be taken; written comments may be submitted to publicart@portlandmaine.gov

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-
1. **Call to Order (Berke)**
 - + Roll call (King) - **Committee quorum (Motter, Rosenblatt, Wilson absent)**
 - + January 15, 2025 meeting minutes - **Motion to approve (Zagaria), Second (Dennehy), Approved by show of hands**
 2. **Governance/Board Development (Berke, Dennehy)**
 - A. Committee chairs updates. – **No updates**
 3. **Staff Updates (King)**
 - A. Report of decisions at the meeting held on January 15, 2025 – **No tems**
 - B. Public art fund balance – **No updates**
 - C. **City Council acceptance of the FY24 Annual Plan & FY25 Budget on 2/3/2025, Council recommendation to remove temporary art projects from future annual reports and clarify rules of funding for temporary art projects that do not utilize public art fund.**
 4. **Project Reports**

A. Community artwork - Peace Action Maine & artist Stephen Oliver (Cole, Whipple)

1. Committee members to review and provide recommendation. See Attachment C for complete application materials. - **Proposed motion to vote on the community artwork proposal Astragal. Dennehy-seconds. Vote by roll call (0 votes to accept; 7 votes to reject) – Michniewicz, Motter, Rosenblatt, Wilson absent**

B. Sarah Sze artwork in Congress Square Park (Cole, Whipple):

1. Congress Square Redesign Phase B – Staff preparing construction bid posting by end of February for Park infrastructure project. Committee member to share updates from the Friends of Congress Square Park Capital Campaign Committee private fundraising. – **Staff sent correspondence to Sarah Sze Studio, has yet to receive updates on contract amendments. Committee member states there no updates on private fundraising from Friends of Congress Park Capital Campaign Committee. Staff recommends removal from project updates until more information is made available.**

C. Conservation Projects – ACTIVE

1. Jewell Box (Dennehy) – Committee member and/or Staff to provide updates and coordination with service providers about possible alternations to remediate issues with vandalism. **Committee member researching polish glass and vendors**
2. Passing the Torch (Zagaria) – Committee member to provide updates for light fixture replacement within sculpture. **Committee member communicated action items and conservation performed to artist Mark Pettegrow. Staff and committee members to coordinate with electrician for repair to fixture inset within sculpture.**
3. Rustle Diptych II – Staff to provide updates to inground light fixture replacement. **Committee member communicated that (2) donated in-ground light fixtures were delivered, Staff to coordinate the work order by electrician.**
4. Langlais Birdhouse Heads – Staff has not received updates from Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC. **No updates**
5. Portland Bricks (Dennehy, Gibbs) – Committee members and/or Staff to provide updates from artist Ayumi Horie. **No updates**
6. East Bayside mural (Dennehy) – Committee member to provide updates based on Parks department support to remove mural in Spring 2025. **Committee member in coordination with Staff and artists to schedule mural removal and enhancement independent of public art committee. Staff recommends this item be removed from agendas as mural was deassessed and not part of the public art collection.**

5. Subcommittee Reports

+ Acquisitions (Formerly “Gifts”) Subcommittee (Cole, Zagaria, Hrenko)

1. Subcommittee members to share updates.
2. Gift Inquiry form from Libbytown Neighborhood Association. **Committee member received a revised inquiry document from the Libbytown Neighborhood Association for a potential public art gift at Thomas Park. Committee members and staff to prepare as an agenda item for a future public art committee meeting.**

3. Gift inquiry form about India Street monument. Committee member introduced an inquiry for public art gift received by a representative of the Italian Heritage Association in Portland and will coordinate for an upcoming agenda item.
4. Gift inquiry by Alice Spencer. Committee member communication that no artwork designs have been provided and no updates from donor.

+ Communications Subcommittee (Motter, Berke, Gibbs)

1. Subcommittee members to share updates. No updates
2. Video project by USM Media Studies, request to utilize PPAC logo and graphics. Committee members in communication with USM student Patrick Bernard about video project to produce two promotional videos.

+ Collection Management (Formerly "Site Selection") Subcommittee (Dennehy, Gibbs, Berke, Zagaria)

1. Subcommittee members to share updates. No updates
2. Conservation assessment proposal for FY25 – Staff and subcommittee members to distribute RFP to potential conservator to review proposals received at a later date. Committee members discussed additions to the public art collection spreadsheet to include recent conservation projects in anticipation to a request for proposals by conservators.

6. Other Business – None

7. Public comment

PC1 – George R. (West Bayside) – Request for City website to include previous meeting recordings. Has the Public Art Committee had any coordination with the city's neighborhood prosecutor's mural efforts like at the Kiwanis Poolhouse. Does the Public Art Committee to address the extent of its funding (which is much less than what is advertised on its website).

PC2 - Stephen Oliver (artist in Maine) – Question the PPAC about ways in which the committee interacts with artist applying for community art work.

8. Meeting adjourns – 5:37pm

Staff Memo To:
Portland Public Art Committee
Anna Berke, Chair

MEETING DATE

March 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM

City Council Order Accepting the PPAC 2024 Annual Report & 2025 Budget Plan

OVERVIEW

On February 24, 2025, the City Council unanimously voted (8-0, Mayor Dion absent) the passage of the Portland Public Art Committee's (PPAC) 2024 Annual Report & 2025 Budget Plan (Order 129-24/25, Attachment A). The vote followed a public hearing on February 3, 2025, where the item was tabled due to questions raised regarding financial transparency and policy alignment.

For the Committee's awareness, attached is the staff memo to the City Council dated February 7, 2025 (Attachment B), which addresses the questions raised during the February 3 meeting.

Additionally, questions were raised regarding the allocation of the PPAC's .5% of the City's CIP. Section 20.4.2 (*City-funded projects*), specifies that .5% of the City's Capital Improvement (CIP) allocation be appropriated annually to the Portland Public Art Fund. Language around appropriations and required Council actions is addressed within the City Charter. Funding that is tied to annual CIP size is still subject to the overall appropriation rules within the City Charter despite the references on funding within other chapters. Language around sizing of CIP based appropriations is addressed within the City's Debt Management Policy:

It is the City's policy to not issue debt unless there is an imminent funding need. In general, no debt will be issued if proceeds are not expected to be significantly expended within 24 months. For any debt issuance tied to annual CIP size, such calculations will be based on general fund CIP only, based on new general obligation bonds authorized, net of supplemental City Manager allocations and donations, subject to an annual limit of \$50,000 of new funding per year.

ATTCHMENTS

Attachment A – Order 129-24/25

Attachment B – 2025.02.24 – Response to questions memo

Order 129-24/25 Passage: 8-0 on 2/24/2025 (Mayor Dion Absent)

Effective 3/6/2025

MARK DION (MAYOR)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
APRIL D. FOURNIER (A/L)
BENJAMIN GRANT (A/L)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

SARAH MICHNIEWICZ (1)
WESLEY PELLETIER (2)
REGINA L. PHILLIPS (3)
ANNA BULLETT (4)
KATE SYKES (5)

**ORDER ACCEPTING THE PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR
2024 ANNUAL REPORT AND FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET PLAN**

ORDERED, that the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report and Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Plan of the Portland Public Art Committee, attached hereto, is hereby accepted.

Planning and Urban Development

Kevin Kraft, AICP

Director



To: Mayor Mark Dion and Members of the Portland City Council

From: Kevin Kraft, Planning & Urban Development Director

Date: February 7, 2025

RE: Financial Transparency & Policy Alignment in FY24 Public Art Committee Annual Report

Overview

This memo provides additional information to the City Council in response to questions raised during the February 3, 2025, meeting regarding financial transparency and policy alignment outlined in the FY24 and FY25 Public Art Committee Annual Report. Below is a summary of the City's Public Art program budget, along with a description of the temporary art program and its alignment with the Public Art Ordinance.

Temporary Public Art

The City of Portland recognizes the essential role of public art in enhancing the City's identity and character and contributing to the quality of life of residents and visitors. Portland's Comprehensive Plan, [Portland's Plan 2030](#), highlights this commitment by including "Emphasizing Arts and Culture" as Strategy #8 in the Economy Policy Guide, with key objectives including:

- *Leveraging arts and culture as a central element of Portland's distinct identity and sense of place;*
- *Supporting cultural institutions and dedicated spaces for the arts; and*
- *Ensuring access to arts and cultural opportunities for all residents.*

This commitment is further reinforced in the Public Art Program Ordinance Purpose Statement (§20.2) of the Land Use Code, which seeks to:

- §20.2.D – *Enrich the lives of residents, visitors, and employees by incorporating visual arts into public spaces, fostering civic pride, and strengthening the city's identity;*
- §20.2.F – *Expand access to public art for both residents and visitors;*
- §20.2.G – *Strengthen Portland's reputation as a city that celebrates the arts; and*
- §20.2.H – *Recognize and honor Portland's multicultural and diverse communities through place-specific art.*

The City has several initiatives that align with and support the Public Art Program Ordinance, including the Temporary Art Program, which is guided by the [Temporary Art Guidelines](#). This program provides a low-barrier opportunity to enhance the city's quality of life, engage the public with the surrounding environment, and enrich the cultural landscape and public realm at no cost to the City. It also supports

artists, neighborhood groups, and nonprofits throughout Portland. Temporary art differs from permanent installations in the City’s public art collection and is intended for placement on City-owned property for up to two years, with all costs including fabrication, installation, and maintenance being the responsibility of the applicant, with no financial support from the City.

1. Clarification on Funding for Temporary Public Art

Temporary Public Art, is not financially supported by the City or Public Art funds. Applicants for Temporary Public Art installations are responsible for all costs associated with the project, including fabrication, installation, maintenance, and removal.

2. Assess the level of city resources (staff time, administrative support) being used to facilitate temporary art

The Planning & Urban Development Department manages the Public Art Committee and oversees the Temporary Art Program, with a designated staff member handling initial inquiries, application intake, review panel coordination, public meetings, and permit issuance. Staff dedicate approximately 15 hours annually to the program. Despite minimal staff time, the program has had a significant positive impact on the community, resulting in successful installations at no cost to the City while supporting the Public Art Program’s purpose and aligning with *Portland’s Plan 2030*.



Figure 1: From Left: Crosswalk Painting – Portland Downtown; Crosswalk Painting - Friends of Woodfords Corner; Diamond Street Traffic Calming - Portland Trails; Indigo Arts – Black Is Beautiful mural



Figure 2: From Left: Dancing for Joy - The Myth Makers; Cosmo Carousel - Chris Miller; Every Tree Tells a Story - Pamela Moulton; Mother's Garden – Daniel Minter

3. Examine the role of “Community Art Grants” in the contingency fund and clarify whether they were used for temporary projects

Community Art Works grants have not been used to support Temporary Art projects. Community Art Works Grants (Outlined in Section VI of the Public Art Guidelines), provide grants to applicants partnered

with neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations. The applicants must collaborate with professional visual artists or a group of artists to create public art that complies with the City's Public Art Program Ordinance and the Portland Public Art Committee Guidelines. Grant applicants must contribute in-kind services or financial contributions equal to or greater than the funding requested from the PPAC. Community Art Works are intended to be permanent and are incorporated into the Public Art collection upon acceptance by the City Council. There are currently two Community Art Works projects within the permanent collection and one deaccession:

- *Art Under Foot* (Natasha Mayers, children at the Reiche School, teens in hip-hop group at the Center for Cultural Exchange, members of the Portland Coalition and Amistad Center, staff and clients of Portland West, MECA);
- *Portland Bricks Project* (Ayumi Horie, Pilar Nadal, Elise Pepple and Maine College of Art);
- *The East Bayside Mural Project* (City of Portland, Felicia Fahey – Bates College, Mark Wheeler – Social Worker, Youth from Kennedy Park, Andrew Schoultz – Mural artist). Deaccession by the City Council in 2015.

Community Art Works are currently listed under the FY 25 contingency fund line item, which is intended for unanticipated work, typically emergency repairs, maintenance, and plaque/sign installations that were not planned. Given that Community Art Works Grants rely on applicants, and the committee does not proactively seek or plan for these projects, the funding has been allocated within the contingency fund.

Staff recommend that, starting with the FY25 & FY26 PPAC Annual Report, a dedicated line item for Community Art Works Grants be included in the proposed budget.

Public Art Committee Financial Reporting

§20.4.1 (*Establishment of Public Art Fund*) outlines that the Public Art Fund is intended to support permanent public improvements through the purchase, acquisition, or commission of new public art, restorations, as well as operations and maintenance. Authorized expenditures also include, but are not limited to, site installation costs (e.g. lighting and landscaping), as well as costs for commissioning, engineering, contract administration, unveiling, and dedication activities. Also authorized are expenditures for the preservation, conservation, and repair of existing public art. §20.4.2 (*City-funded Projects*), specifies that .5% of the City's Capital Improvement (CIP) allocation be appropriated annually to the Portland Public Art Fund.

To ensure transparency, the Public Art Committee's monthly meeting agenda packet includes an attachment detailing the budget breakdown, including encumbrances and itemized expenditures for the fiscal year. In response to recent inquiries, the following is a summary and breakdown of FY24 expenditures, along with encumbrances from prior fiscal years.

TOTAL Public Art Fund Balance		
A	Total Balance (includes FY25)	\$366,690.23
B	Total Encumbrances	\$202,172.00 (Sarah Sze and Chris Miller)
C	Remaining Balance	\$164,518.23

Figure 3: Total Public Art Fund Balance

FY24 Budget Breakdown Expenditures				
Activity	Budget	Vendor	Artwork	Category
Passing the Torch Plaques	\$611.38	Burr Signs	Passing the Torch	Contingency
Passing the Torch sign install	\$250.00	Fieldstone LLC	Passing the Torch	Contingency
Jewell Box Bus Shelter Glass Replacement	\$1,806.29	Port City Glass	Jewell Box Bus Shelter	Contingency
Jewell Box Bus Shelter Glass Replacement	\$2,023.90	Port City Glass	Jewell Box Bus Shelter	Contingency
Playing Bears Repair	\$1,015.00	Ronald S. Harvey	Playing Bears	Contingency
Gathering Stones stone plaque	\$500.00	Fieldstone LLC	Gathering Stones	Contingency
Loring Memorial Granite Replacement	\$9,500.00	Daniel Morales	Loring Memorial	Contingency
Public Art Sculpture and Pullen Fountain Maintenance	\$3,900	Jonathan Taggart	Pullen Fountain	Conservation/Maintenance
FY24 TOTAL Expenditures	\$19,606.57			
FY24 Remaining Balance	\$30,393.43			
FY24 TOTAL Budget	\$50,000.00			

Figure 4: FY24 Itemized Expenditures

Portland Public Art Committee Encumbered Funds						
	Activity	Artist/Title	Location	Total Allocated Funds	Remaining Encumbered Funds	Fiscal Year Allocation
A	New Artwork Commission	Sarah Sze (<i>Shattered Sphere</i>)	Congress Square	\$225,000.00	\$176,000.00	FY15
B	New Artwork Commission	Chris Miller (<i>Keeper of the Picnic</i>)	Bramhall Square	\$26,172.00	\$26,172.00	FY21
				\$251,172.00	\$202,172.00	

Figure 5: Encumbered Funds

Sarah Sze – Shattered Sphere:

Sarah Sze's sculpture, *Shattered Sphere*, is planned for installation in the reconstructed Congress Square Park (District 1). The construction bid for the park is expected to be released in February/March 2025, with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2025. Following construction, *Shattered Sphere* will be installed in a designated location within the park. The Public Art Committee allocated \$225,000 for the sculpture in FY15, with the remaining costs to be covered by private donations. The anticipated project completion is in 2026. Expenditures from the total allocated funds were used for artist stipends, as well as payment to Sarah Sze for completing the Phase I Design phase, which was partially funded by a National Endowment for the Arts Grant. The remaining encumbered Public Art funds will be used at the start of

Phase 2, which includes completion of construction drawings for the sculpture, fabrication, transportation, and installation.

Chris Miller – Keeper of the Picnic

Chris Miller’s interactive artwork, *Keeper of the Picnic*, is planned for installation in the renovated Bramhall Square Park. Design development for the park redesign is complete. The artwork will be installed as part of the overall park construction. The timeline is TBD and contingent upon the availability of funding for the park’s reconstruction.

FY25 - Public Art Fund (July 2024-June 2025)

TOTAL PPAC Balance		
A	Total Balance (includes FY25)	\$ 363,647.23
B	Total Encumbrances	\$ 202,172.00
C	Remaining Balance	\$ 161,475.23

Remaining Encumbrances from approved budget plans			
	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Congress Square Public Art	New Commission - Sarah Sze artist	\$ 176,000.00
B	Bramhall Square Artwork	New Commission - Chris Miller artist	\$ 26,172.00
	Total Encumbered		\$ 202,172.00

FY25 - Proposed Budget Breakdown				
	Activity	Description	Proposed FY25 Budget	Current Budget Balance
A	Conservation and Maintenance	To cover routine maintenance, priority conservation items	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,100.00
B	Contingency Fund	To cover repairs, theft, relocation, Community Art grant, plaque purchase, etc.	\$ 10,000	\$ (4,899.30)
C	New Artwork	New acquisition + install:	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000.00
	Total FY25 Budget		\$ 50,000	\$ 31,200.70

FY25 Expenses	Funding Source	Total (PAID)	Project Notes
Taggart Objects Conservation LLC	Conservation and Maintenance	\$ 3,900.00	Wax protection (Hiker, Czar Reed), Pullen Fountain
Maine Stone Scapes	Contingency	\$ 9,500.00	Loring memorial etched granite post work
Port City Glass	Contingency	\$ 2,023.90	Glass replacement at Jewel Box
Burr Signs	Contingency	\$ 332.40	Acrobatic Dogs sign at Jetport
CBE	Contingency	\$ 3,043.00	Passing the Torch

FY25 Encumbrances	Funding Source	Total (UNPAID)	Action
Delta	Contingency	\$ 2,565.18	Purchase fixtures for upgrades (Quantity 4)