



City of Salem

SALEM PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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, Barbara Sellers-Young, Krista Lauer.

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

Staff

Keith Bondaug-Winn, Public Works Staff Liaison

AGENDA

1. Welcome and call to order.
2. Public Comment – Appearance of persons wishing to address the Board on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda – Agenda for September 13, 2023; Minutes of August 9, 2023.
4. Discussion Items
 - a. **Updates**
 1. New Public Works Operations Building – Keith/Allen Dannen
 2. SPAC Vacancy – Keith
 3. PGE and Gilbert House Children’s Museum – Keith
 4. Social Media Plan Feedback – Commissioner Lauer
 5. Submission of Mural Application at 1380 Madison St NE – Commissioner Diaz-Salazar
 6. Review Current Mural Application – All
 - b. **Subcommittee Reports**
 1. Art Collection Maintenance
 - a. Repair of *Drummer & Rooster* – Keith
 - b. *Good Cents* sign placement – Keith
 - c. *Black Discs* review two contractor estimates – Keith

5. New Business
 - a. **New Street Paintings**
6. Action Items
7. Commissioners Comments
8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 11, 2023; 2:30 P.M – 4:30 P.M.

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

Salem Public Art Commission

August 9, 2023

ONLINE

Commissioners Present

Zach Hull, Chair

Susan Napack, Vice-Chair

Krista Lauer, Commissioner

Spencer Emerick, Commissioner

Barbara Sellers-Young, Commissioner

Guests

Carol Snyder, Salem Parks Foundation

Staff

Keith Bondaug-Winn, Public Works Staff Liaison

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1. **Call to Order** – With a quorum present, Chair Hull called the meeting to order around 2:30 p.m.
 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 August 9, 2023; Minutes of July 12, 2023.

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.

4. **Discussion Items**
 1. **Updates:**
 - 1) **SPAC Vacancy:** SPAC’s current vacancy is for a member experienced in landscape architecture, real estate development, or community foundations.

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

- 2) **Update on Communication with Deacon Development:** Chair Hull reached out to Deacon Development, and they wrote back stating that they are in the infancy of this process. Chair Hull suggested providing them with information on the mural process. They seem excited but it appears to be too early to engage at this time.
- 3) **Public Mural Application at 1380 Madison St NE:** Commissioner Diaz-Salazar inquired about where to drop off the hard copy mural application and Keith provided him that information. Commissioner Diaz-Salazar is working with the property owner to get it completed by the end of the week. This half-completed mural is in a public alleyway that the city maintains.
- 4) **Brochure Distribution:** Keith mailed packets of brochures, QR code stickers, and buttons to all commissioners in hopes that they will distribute to their constituents and organizations. Keith reported that he delivered brochures for distribution at Willamette Heritage Center, Salem Public Library, and Travel Salem. Keith still needs to deliver them to Center 50+. Commissioner Napack suggested updating the brochure with a new one once the new Public Works building is completed.

2. Subcommittee Reports

1. Subcommittee on Value Statement:

- Chair Hull was unable to work on the Value Statement and Commissioner Sellers-Young offered to send Chair Hull a paper she had written on the subject.
- Vice-Chair Napack sought clarification on the meaning of a "value statement." Chair Hull explained that the effort to create a value statement had been put on hold ("parking lotted") after a meeting with representatives from Eugene's art community. The objective was to articulate the value of public art in Salem, using other public art plans as a reference to develop the city's own public art plan.
- Vice-Chair Napack expressed a desire for concrete action in implementing a public art plan rather than merely crafting a statement. She believed that the City Council did not require persuasion. Commissioner Sellers-Young proposed an alternative approach, suggesting that it be communicated that public art in Salem has already demonstrated its value through initiatives like the growing street painting program and support from the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Grant.
- The commissioners discussed the challenge of promoting public art during a time of financial scarcity in the city, likely referring to budget constraints or resource limitations.
- Chair Hull proposed a meeting with Deputy City Manager Scott Archer to gather his perspective on public art and inquire about available resources during this challenging period.
- Vice-Chair Napack inquired about the procedures SPAC should follow to make recommendations to the city. Keith explained that there are multiple ways for commissioners to convey their message to the City Council.
- Susan Napack offered to take the lead in drafting a letter to the City Council.
- Chair Hull suggested changing the focus from creating a value statement to engaging with City staff to recommend a public art plan and seek input from them on how SPAC can contribute. This would require a commitment from the City.

2. Art Collection Maintenance:

- **Repair of *Drummer & Rooster*:** Keith did not yet receive an update from Lee Imonen who went on vacation. Keith will follow up with Lee and report back to the commission.
- ***Good Cents* cleaning and sign placement:** Keith shared with the group a detailed description of the cleaning of the sculpture. Keith also showed the commission where the signage for the piece interferes with the bottle image created by the negative space between the legs. Keith received a \$200 quote from Facilities staff to move the sign.
- ***Black Discs*:** Keith shared with the group photos of the discs in its current condition and historical photos and articles about its maintenance history. There were no documents talking about its maintenance requirements, so Keith wanted to know what approach SPAC would like to take. Vice-Chair Napack suggested consulting with a conservator before doing any work on it. Keith asked for an action from the commission:

Motion: Vice Chair Napack proposed contacting both ARG, LLC. And Art Solutions Lab, Inc. for estimates on restoring the Black Disc piece. Chair Hull seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.

Keith will contact the consultants for repair estimates.

3. Social Media Plan:

Commissioner Lauer finished a proposal for a social media plan for the next year. She discovered that our collection of artists are not as diverse as she had hoped it would be. She came up with 12 different monthly themes with weekly posts with selected artwork, which would expose people to new artwork, artists, and mediums. Keith suggested that Commissioner Lauer emails the proposed plan to him, and he will distribute to the group and share with the City's communications group. Commissioner Lauer's proposal for a social media plan for the next year appears to aim at promoting diversity within the collection of artists and introducing a wider audience to various forms of artwork. Here's a summary of the key points from this part of the discussion:

Commissioner Lauer completed a proposal for a social media plan to be implemented over the next year. She noticed that the collection of artists is not as diverse as desired. This suggests a commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity in the art community.

The proposal includes 12 different monthly themes, each with weekly posts featuring selected artwork. This approach is designed to expose people to new artwork, artists, and different artistic mediums.

Keith suggested that Commissioner Lauer email the proposed plan to him. He offered to distribute it to the group and share it with the City's communications group.

4. **PGE and Gilbert house Children's Museum:**

Keith sent an email to follow-up with Alicia Bay, Director of the Gilbert House Children's Museum, to pursue contact with PGE about using the walls of the substation for artwork but have not yet heard back. Keith shared images of the PGE substation and explained that he was seeking information on how permission was granted from PGE to Gilbert House to put up the artwork. Chair Hull reiterated the two possible outcomes with this: 1) it could become part of the Bloomberg Grant, or 2) if we understand the mechanism for how the Gilbert House got access to those walls, perhaps that could become another canvas space for the community. In this update, it appears that Keith reached out to Alicia Bay, the Director of the Gilbert House Children's Museum, to pursue contact with PGE (Portland General Electric) regarding the use of walls on a substation for artwork. Here are the key points from this update:

Keith sent an email to Alicia Bay to initiate contact with PGE regarding the possibility of using the walls of a PGE substation for artwork. As of the update, there had been no response from Alicia Bay or PGE regarding the inquiry. Keith shared images of the PGE substation in question as part of the communication. Keith explained that the goal of this outreach was to understand how permission was granted from PGE to the Gilbert House for putting up artwork on the substation walls. Chair Hull reiterated two potential outcomes of this effort:

- 1) The project could potentially become part of the Bloomberg Grant.
- 2) If the mechanism for how the Gilbert House gained access to the walls is understood, it could potentially open up another canvas space for community artwork.

5. **New Business**

1. **Exploring alternatives to Salem's current mural program:** Keith began the conversation by acknowledging that the city had invested significant effort in developing its current mural code. He clarified that while the SPAC could explore changes to the mural program, making changes to the city code would necessitate the involvement of more city stakeholders.

Vice-Chair Napack expressed concerns about the part of the mural program that requires murals to become part of the City's collection. She found this process cumbersome and impractical for many individuals interested in creating murals in the city. She mentioned that other mural programs in the country do not have such requirements and expressed a desire to move forward with changes.

Keith shared his perspective, stating that Portland's original mural program was more cumbersome for applicants, lacking a City review process and relying solely on neighborhood approval. He suggested focusing on specific elements of the program, such as simplifying the application process.

Chair Hull categorized public murals into three groups:

- 1) Businesses seeking to enhance their owned or leased properties with murals.
- 2) Individuals interested in placing murals on non-business structures, possibly approved through the Neighborhood Association. This could also include public spaces with designated blank canvases for artists to apply and potentially receive grant funding.
- 3) Cities commissioning murals themselves as part of a public art plan, potentially involving high-profile artists.

Commissioner Sellers-Young mentioned the Vale Mural Society in eastern Oregon and reminded the group about SPAC's desire to engage with Neighborhood Associations. She emphasized the various avenues that SPAC could explore and its role in fostering community conversations about public art in Salem.

Vice-Chair Napack asked Commissioner Diaz-Salazar about obstacles faced by people applying for murals, and he mentioned easements and maintenance requirements.

Chair Hull proposed addressing the problems faced by applicants to make the process smoother. This could involve reducing the complexity of applications or easing easement requirements. The ultimate goal is to encourage more murals in the city.

Various ideas for encouraging more murals were discussed, including:

- Streamlining the mural application process.
- Identifying more locations for murals.
- Commissioning murals for the city.
- Implementing a canvas identification and pre-approval program.
- Allocating a portion of the budget for Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for murals.
- Considering pilot projects where SPAC identifies suitable mural canvases and issues RFPs to artists.

Keith discussed a sign code violation at a business called "The Shack," where the owner chose to paint over the violation instead of pursuing a mural consideration process. The commission discussed the possibility of separating signs on businesses to address sign code variances rather than involving SPAC in mural considerations.

Keith updated the group on his communications with Pacific Coast Producers regarding the Maraschino Cherry mural. He informed them of the change in code and stated that they are free to apply for another mural to paint the silos.

6. **Action Items**

1. Keith requested that the commissioners review the current mural application and provide suggestions for changes to make it easier. Keith will compile comments for the commissions to review before forwarding on to Legal for consideration.

7. **Commissioner and Staff Comments**

1. Keith showed the commission the SPAC website and walked them through the current SRC Chapter 15 – Public Art language to differentiate between the mural program, the

street painting program, and SPAC. Keith also showed the commission the street painting program administrative rules.

8. **Adjournment:** Chair Hull adjourned the meeting around 4:19 p.m.
9. **Next Meeting:** September 13, 2023; 2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. via Zoom.

DRAFT