



City of Salem SALEM PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, April 10, 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 NE, 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.

The commission has one vacancy for a member experienced in landscape architecture, real estate development or community foundations, and one vacancy for a member experienced in museum curation, art restoration, or art appraisal.

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 Commission on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda – Agenda for April 10, 2024, meeting; Minutes of March 13, 2024, meeting.
4. Discussion Items
 - a. Updates
 1. Review and approve SPAC Draft Strategic Plan – All
 2. Councilor Nishioka's Motion for Temporary Art – All
 3. West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board Commissioned Art Discussion
 4. Downtown Utility Box Wraps Update
 5. Library Art Kiosk Update
 - b. Subcommittee Reports
 1. Art Collection Maintenance

- a. Repair of *Drummer & Rooster*
 - b. *Black Discs*
2. Social Media Plan Report – Commissioner Lauer

5. New Business

6. Action Items

7. Commissioners Comments

8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 8, 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

Salem Public Art Commission

March 13, 2024

HYBRID IN-PERSON AND ONLINE MEETING

Commissioners Present

Zach Hull, Chair
Susan Napack, Vice-Chair
Krista Lauer, Commissioner
Spencer Emerick, Commissioner

Guests

Lynn Takata, Artist with Salem Peace Mosaic
Brian Hart, Salem Resident
Carlee Wright, Salem Resident
Rosa Leonardi, Salem Resident
John Christensen, Salem Resident

Staff

Keith Bondaug-Winn, Public Works Staff Liaison
David Muller, Salem IT Department
Tory Banford, Salem Urban Development

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

2. **Public Comment**

- a. **Front Street Potential Art – Rosa Leonardi:** Rosa Leonardi expressed their urge to write to the city council. They mentioned turning onto Front Street from Market every morning and noticing the buildings there. One building recently painted sparked their thinking about murals, prompting them to write to the city council about it. They also mentioned receiving the Salem Reporter newsletter, which informed them about the Northgate Neighborhood's mural project. The Northgate Neighborhood received a grant for the mural, and they involved neighbors and children. The speaker noted the abundance of empty space along Front Street and the buildings, prompting their letter to the council.

Vice-Chair Napack thanked the speaker for their action, and there was a discussion about the Northgate Neighborhood grant and the mural already painted on the fence at the park. It was clarified that while part of the mural has been painted, more input is

**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

needed from the community regarding what else to paint on the remaining fence. There was discussion about the process for painting murals without commission approval, with a focus on making it easier for people to apply for murals in Salem.

Keith addressed the discussion around the fence being considered a mural, noting that it could be reviewed under Councilor Nishioka's motion to review the code for temporary art. Currently, fence painting falls under the Sign Code, but there is a need to define it further to distinguish it from other types of art. The nuances of the situation, including ownership and agreements between property owners and artists, were discussed.

It was confirmed that the buildings mentioned by the speaker are privately owned. Chair Hull suggested to reach out to property owners to encourage them to consider participating in the mural program, which has been made more accessible. The speaker was thanked for their passion.

- b. Tagging in Bush Park – Brian Hart:** Keith initiated a discussion about tagging in Bush Park, leading Brian Hart to address the issue. Brian, representing himself as a concerned citizen rather than a SCAN Neighborhood Association member, highlighted the escalation of graffiti incidents in Bush Park and surrounding areas. He emphasized the potential of murals to deter graffiti but also raised the question of alternative strategies if murals were not feasible. Brian suggested options such as striping or painting surfaces to make them less appealing for tagging.

Chair Hull inquired about specific locations affected by tagging, to which Brian confirmed the prevalence of tagging on the bathroom complex and its expansion to other park features. Keith suggested exploring the possibility of incorporating art into parks through grants like SPIF. Chair Hull supported this idea, acknowledging recent incidents and advocating for proactive measures to address the issue. Vice-Chair Napack suggested considering community art initiatives outside the traditional mural program. John Christensen, representing SCAN Parks Historic Preservation Committee, emphasized the importance of color choices in historic parks like Bush Park. The conversation concluded with plans to explore SPIF grants and coordinate with Linda Nishioka regarding community art initiatives.

- c. Save the Salem Peace Mosaic – Lynn** began by discussing the Peace Mosaic project, which involved around 600 people, including children, and engaged various community groups over the years. She emphasized the collaborative nature of the project, highlighting the involvement of professional artists and community members from diverse backgrounds. Lynn mentioned that the mosaic, spanning approximately 60 feet, wrapped around a corner and was initiated through an extensive two-year outreach process starting in 2010.

Lynn elaborated on the project's history, including the engagement of students from North Salem High School and the challenges in finding a suitable location for the mosaic. She explained that while efforts were made to relocate the mosaic to different potential sites such as the entrance to the Library and the Statesman Journal building, logistical and funding constraints posed challenges. Additionally, Lynn discussed the possibility of

integrating the mosaic into the Peace Plaza redesign, as suggested by Councilor Linda Nishioka during discussions with the Civic Center pre-design committee.

Councilor Linda Nishioka shared updates on discussions with the Civic Center pre-design committee and efforts to secure funding for the Peace Plaza project. Lynn emphasized the need for additional funds for reinforcement and installation once a site is finalized. Vice-Chair Napack suggested considering the use of public art funds from the Civic Center project, while Lynn expressed gratitude for any future assistance.

Chair Hull expressed appreciation for the project's history and looked forward to further updates as potential sites are explored. Lynn thanked the commission for their interest and support in advancing the Peace Mosaic project.

- d. **Parks Foundation Eco Earth Globe Grant Award** – Chair Hull acknowledged Keith's update about the fourth agenda item, which was a last-minute addition involving Carol Snyder, President of the Parks Foundation, who could not attend the meeting. Keith shared positive news regarding Senate Bill 571, which included funding for various historical, cultural, and artistic projects in Oregon, including a \$150,000 grant for the Eco Earth Globe project. He mentioned that the Parks Foundation needed to raise approximately \$55,000 more to reach their fundraising goal of \$350,000, with the City committing \$112,000 from the Transportation Occupancy Tax. Keith suggested that SPAC could utilize its social media platforms to amplify the Parks Foundation's fundraising efforts, offering support and integration between the two groups.

Chair Hull expressed interest in integrating the Parks Foundation's fundraising efforts into SPAC's social media strategy. Commissioner Krista Lauer suggested focusing on both the Peace Mosaic project and the Eco Earth Globe project during "Mosaic Month" in May, instead of traditional mural-focused content. She emphasized the community-driven nature of both projects and their reliance on volunteerism and community support. Krista proposed creating focused social media posts to raise awareness and support for both initiatives throughout the month.

Chair Hull appreciated the suggestion, noting the continuity of alliteration with "Mosaic Month." Krista expressed eagerness to gather more information from Carol Snyder at the next meeting to ensure accurate and comprehensive updates for social media content. She also suggested coordinating with Lynn Takata to gather updates on the Peace Mosaic project. Lynn expressed gratitude for the support and collaboration.

Keith concluded the public comment section, stating that there were no additional comments received online.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the Consent Agenda – Agenda for April 10, 2024; Minutes of March 13, 2024, meeting.

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

a. Updates

1. **Downtown Utility Box Wraps Update:** Keith provided an update on the downtown utility box wraps. He began by explaining that while the initial timeline for wrapping the boxes had been disrupted by inclement weather conditions, the installation was now set to take place in mid-March. Keith then delved into the specifics of the wrap design, noting that each box would prominently feature a QR code linked to the Salem Public Art Commission's website. This QR code was intended to provide visitors with easy access to more information about the commission, artwork, and artists behind it.

However, several concerns were raised during the discussion. Commissioner Napack expressed apprehension about the legibility of text on the wraps, particularly regarding the identification of the Salem Public Art Commission collection and the location of the original artworks. Commissioner Lauer echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the QR code directed users to high-quality images of the original artwork. She also highlighted the need for clarity regarding which images were selected for the wraps and suggested obtaining a comprehensive list from the contractor.

Commissioner Spencer Emerick raised the question of whether it would be feasible to incorporate donation links on the website to support public art projects. However, there were uncertainties about the legality of this approach, prompting a discussion about the need for further legal clarification.

In response to these concerns, Keith proposed several action items. He committed to following up with the contractor to obtain high-quality images of the wrapped boxes and to assess the feasibility of incorporating a map-based feature on the website to facilitate navigation. Additionally, he suggested creating a separate webpage dedicated to showcasing the utility box wraps, which would provide visitors with comprehensive information about each artwork. This webpage could also serve as a hub for promoting other public art initiatives in the community.

The commissioners expressed consensus in support of these proposed actions and agreed to continue exploring opportunities to promote public art in Salem. Chair Hull commended the collaborative efforts of the commission and expressed optimism about the potential impact of the utility box wraps on raising awareness of public art in the community.

2. **Library Art Kiosk:** David Muller proposed the installation of a kiosk at the Salem Public Library to showcase the city's public art collection, aiming to make it accessible to all visitors, including those with mobility challenges. The kiosk would feature a touchscreen interface allowing users to browse artworks by artist, view information about the pieces, and locate their physical installations across the city. Despite facing delays in implementation due to other IT priorities, Dave assured the commission that the kiosk's website would be completed by August, with ongoing updates to reflect new additions to the collection.

During the discussion, concerns arose regarding the inclusion of artworks from temporary exhibitions, particularly those organized by the Oregon Artist Series Foundation (OASF), and the status of sold artworks in the database. Commission members deliberated on strategies to manage the database effectively, including obtaining legal guidance, drafting contracts with artists, and acquiring professional photography of artworks.

The commission also explored placement options for the kiosk within the library, considering its potential impact on ongoing exhibitions. Despite uncertainties, members expressed enthusiasm for the project and agreed to further refine details regarding artwork management, signage placement, and photography acquisition. Dave Muller committed to liaising with stakeholders to address concerns and finalize the kiosk installation plans, anticipating its contribution to promoting public art accessibility in Salem.

b. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Art Collection Maintenance:**

- a. **Repair of the *Drummer & Rooster* and the *Black Discs*:** During the meeting, Chair Hull provided updates on the maintenance of the art collection, specifically mentioning artist Lee Imonen's involvement in restoring the drummer and rooster sculptures. Lee reported that these sculptures would be ready for installation by the end of April. Additionally, Lee proposed a bid of \$6,000 for the removal, restoration, and repainting of the black disc sculptures, which was deemed favorable compared to previous bids. The commission agreed to wait for the completion of the first restoration job before proceeding with the second one, ensuring adherence to procurement procedures.

Chair Hull shared personal experiences with the popular disc piece, highlighting its significance to the community. Susan Napack appreciated Lee's thoroughness, suggesting the inclusion of historic photos in the commission's archives. Keith noted that the maintenance costs would come from SPAC's budget, which currently stands at approximately \$45,000.

Furthermore, Chair Hull discussed the recent vandalism of the Guidance of Youth statue and efforts to address graffiti in the area. Linda Nishioka and others suggested exploring volunteer assistance for graffiti abatement, although regulatory considerations were acknowledged. Brian provided updates on the parks department's response to graffiti incidents, highlighting the challenges posed by limited staff resources. Overall, the commission expressed concerns about the vandalism and the importance of timely maintenance efforts.

- b. **Social Media Plan Report:** Commissioner Krista Lauer shared the recent focus on bird-themed artwork and the current emphasis on women artists for Women's History Month. She noted the need to diversify the collection further and highlighted the integration of the library's art collection with the city's public art collection, suggesting that officially acquiring it would be beneficial due to the existing data and research conducted on those artworks.

Keith mentioned the need for a conversation with Kate from the foundation to determine the city's capacity to manage the library's art collection, considering limited resources and the current state of the city's general fund. He proposed combining appraisals and database management efforts to streamline the process. Chair Hull agreed and requested an update at the next meeting.

- c. **Review and Approve Draft Strategic Plan:** Moving on to the draft strategic plan, Chair Hull suggested postponing the review and approval to allow commissioners to provide input and assign focus areas for themselves. Krista and Zach acknowledged the need to update their sections, with Zach proposing a challenge for all commissioners to contribute their comments for the next meeting. Finally, Napack noted the importance of neighborhood association involvement, indicating her interest in that area.

5. New Business

- a. **West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board Commissioned Art Discussion – Tory Banford:** Chair Hull initiated the discussion on new business, expressing gratitude for everyone's patience. Tory Banford from the City's Urban Renewal Agency (URA) then joined the meeting to address the commission regarding the West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board's (WSRAB) commissioned art project.

Tory outlined the project, which involved the URA funding the construction of Second Street in West Salem and the installation of artwork on a single pedestal along the street. He sought clarification on the process for commissioning an artist and selecting artwork, particularly considering the involvement of WSRAB and community members in the decision-making process.

In response, Keith shared his experiences with art selection committees for city projects, mentioning the involvement of stakeholders and the formation of subcommittees to oversee the selection process. Tory expressed interest in forming a subcommittee under WSRAB to facilitate the selection process and sought input from the commission members on potential participants.

Chair Hull suggested conducting research on past procedures and reaching out to relevant personnel, such as Chris D'Arcy, to formalize the process. Krista and Spencer volunteered to participate in the subcommittee, expressing their willingness to contribute to the project.

Tory provided additional details about the project timeline, indicating that the installation would coincide with the completion of street construction. He confirmed that the pedestal would include lighting and drainage features similar to existing ones in the area.

The commission concluded the discussion by agreeing to follow up on the project details and coordinate further communication with Tory and other stakeholders involved.

- b. **Councilor Nishioka's Motion for Temporary Art:** In this section of the meeting, Councilor Linda Nishioka introduced her motion for temporary art installations in Salem, aiming to facilitate art projects on city property without adding to the permanent art collection or incurring costs to the city. She highlighted the possibility of obtaining funding through grants like Bloomberg Grants, specifically targeting improvements to Peace Plaza.

The discussion focused on the potential scope of temporary art projects, ranging from light shows to sculptures like the trolls seen in parks. Councilor Nishioka emphasized the importance of finding ways to improve Peace Plaza and promoting both permanent and temporary art installations.

Chair Hull and other commission members expressed enthusiasm for the idea, discussing the logistics of implementing temporary art projects. They explored the possibility of artists or arts organizations self-funding projects, with approval from the Salem Public Art Commission (SPAC). Councilor Nishioka clarified that SPAC would need to approve proposed projects, even if they were not funded by the city.

Keith provided insight from legal advisor Marc Weinstein, indicating that legal considerations would vary depending on the specific project and location. However, they were supportive of exploring a wider range of art installations beyond murals.

Overall, the commission welcomed the initiative to expand opportunities for temporary art in Salem, recognizing its potential to enhance public spaces and engage the community. They expressed appreciation for Councilor Nishioka's efforts in opening up new avenues for artistic expression in the city.

- c. **Tagging of Murals at Chemeketa Parkade, Bush Park Restroom, *Guidance of Youth* statue in Bush Park, City Hall:** Keith shared information about recent tagging incidents in Salem, particularly near Rudy's Steakhouse. He explained that the city's facilities and abatement crew were able to address the tagging, although some murals were more challenging to clean because they lacked anti-graffiti coating.

Chair Hull raised the idea of involving volunteers in graffiti abatement efforts, suggesting the possibility of providing training for volunteers to assist the abatement team. Napack inquired about the maintenance routine for murals and whether the anti-graffiti coating needed reapplication over time.

- d. **Louis Bunce Piece Fell at Library; no damage and rehung:** Keith provided updates on a piece by Louise Bunce that fell at the library and the current exhibit by Nancy Eng at the convention center. The discussion shifted to the security of artwork in public spaces, with Napack suggesting the use of anti-theft hooks and expressing concerns about the vulnerability of valuable artwork.

- e. ***Layered Impressions*, paintings by Nancy Eng at Level 2 Gallery at Salem Convention Center and Library Art Hall**

6. **Action Items**

- a. Zach concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and reminding them of the upcoming deadlines for the strategic plan annotations.

8. **Commissioner and Staff Comments**

- a. In the last item on the agenda, Napack inquired about the selection process for new commissioners, to which Keith provided an update on the applications received and the review process by the boards and commissions committee. Keith also mentioned potential updates to the Salem Public Art Commission (SPAC) makeup due to ongoing discussions about equity and the city's efforts to update boards and commissions.

Napack then discussed the distribution of brochures about Salem's public art, suggesting placing them in hotels such as the Grand Hotel for visitors to access. Keith offered extra brochures and suggested discussing brochure updates at the next meeting.

Lastly, Napack mentioned Brian Hart's idea of installing an iconic carpet at the airport as public art, drawing inspiration from the iconic carpet at Portland International Airport (PDX). Hull and others found the idea amusing and expressed interest in capturing the airport's carpet as a part of Salem's identity. Keith mentioned discussions with the airport commission about reserving wall space for artwork.

- 9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned, and attendees were wished a great day and safe travels. Chair Hull adjourned the meeting around 5:00 PM.