

FY2018 Public Art Committee Annual Report & FY2019 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 January 2017 is as follows:

Julia Kirby, Chair, Development Director at St. Lawrence Arts rtist and Professor of Art at USM

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

Pandora LaCasse, Artist and Portland's seasonal lighting sculptor

Daniel Minter, Creative Portland representative

Anthony Muench, Landscape Architect

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

Brian Batson, 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 – Diana Greenwold from the Portland Museum of Art, and Daniel Minter, and artist and representative from Creative Portland.

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. The Rotary Club offered financial support in 2017 for the conservation of the *Armillary* on the Eastern Promenade Trail. In 2017, a major fundraising campaign began for Congress Square Redesign and Public Art Commission. This will be supplemented by grant applications such as the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town and ArtWorks grants.

Communication Subcommittee

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

The *Art in Our Front Yard* series was expanded in 2015. Additional talks and films were created in 2017 to increase the public outreach and education about the collection. These include a talk by conservator

Jonathan Taggart about the ongoing conservation of several major pieces of public art in the collection, including *Our Lady of Victories*, the *Lincoln Park Fountain*, and the *Jewel Box Bus Shelter*.

III. CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

It is essential to the longevity and safety of the works in the collection to engage a conservator for conservation and repair of our public art collection. The collection requires on-going assessment and maintenance. Jonathan Taggart, of Taggart Object Conservation, was contracted on a bi-annual basis to provide ongoing conservation work on the collection. In 2017, conservation and maintenance work included the following:

CONSERVATION

Jonathan Taggart completed a two-year contract for conservation of works in the collection including the *Lincoln Park Fountain*, *The Hiker*, *Czar Reed*, *Our Lady of Victories*, *Jewel Box*, *Cloud Couch* and *Puffin*. Lincoln Park Fountain has undergone a full restoration and is now complete (see below).



Minor conservation has been done to *Glimpse* by the artist, Wendy Kemperer. The new conservation contract requires the artist to develop a conservation plan with the conservator for more extensive conservation. At present the committee is weighing options of further restoration between measures to greatly prolong the structures, or stick to a more limited approach promoted by the artist. The Armillary will receive a coat of Penetrol and power wash of the trail for its maintenance, paid for through a donation by the Rotary Club.

Loring Memorial

The Loring Memorial was damaged on New Year's Day with insurance covering the cost of the repair and the Parks Department undergoing the work. Safety measures to better alert drivers to the curve before the memorial have been put in place to prevent any more damage to the memorial (this is the third

recent accident). The Loring family proposed to add an interpretive sign which is under review in 2018.

Art Underfoot

Replacement bricks were created and are awaiting installation by the Department of Public Works. These bricks are a memorial to one of the artists for the original project, Patrick O'Brien.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2018

PROJECT UPDATES

Woodfords Corner

The final design for the light sculpture, *Luminous Arbor*, by Aaron Stephan at Woodfords Corner was approved in January and is awaiting fabrication and installation in the fall of 2018. The installation will be coordinated with the changes to the traffic pattern of the area and completion of the construction to the intersection.



Art in Our Front Yard Videos and PPAC Public Service Announcement

Students from the University of Southern Maine Media Studies Learning Practicum produced an Art in our Front Yard video on the recent acquisitions of the Bernard Langlais works to the collection, as well as a PSA highlighting the mission of the Portland Public Art Committee. Another USM student produced videos on the works by Vivian Beer and All videos can be viewed on PPAC's website www.publicartportland.org.

Portland Landing

The committee funded new artwork for this public park project - \$48,000 was approved in the budget plan. An artwork selection committee was formed to lead the selection/acquisition process for new artwork in the proposed waterfront park. This subcommittee includes members from the Public Art Committee, the design team, neighborhood residents, artists, and Sail Maine.

Congress Square Public Art Commission

The City received a prestigious grant from NEA ArtWorks for \$30,000 towards the creation of the Congress Square artwork that must be used within a two-year time frame. In the last year, the Committee continued to work with Sze Studio to develop a concept for the new public art commission in Congress Square. The project is a collaboration with the landscape architects, WRT. Project partners met with the artist and landscape architect in person for a working session in New York City. The Committee approved the art concept for *Scattered Sphere* – three sculptures within Congress Square Park – during the summer after a series of public meetings. The artist is waiting for the design development of the park space to be completed before proceeding with the artwork design development.

Sarah Sze Studio
2017

Congress Square Art Commission
Rendering - View From Intersection



TEMPORARY ART

The American Dream

This sculpture, installed in Lincoln Park was renewed once but has since been removed. Three projects relating to this work were installed by TEMPO in the summer of 2017 along the Congress Street corridor.

Casco Bay Marine Life Mural

Creative Trails and the Art Department installed these wonderful murals down alongside the bathroom building at the East End Beach as part of a Temporary Art Project. The project was renewed for another year.



ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Donations

The committee received \$3,000 from the Rotary Club towards the conservation of the *Armillary* sculpture on the Eastern Promenade Trail to be completed in the summer of 2018.

Local developer Robert LeBlanc donated \$2,500 to the committee as part of a site plan approval contribution. The committee has not, yet, committed those funds to a specific purpose.

V. GOALS FOR FY2019

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

- Art in Our Front Yard lectures + filming continues
- 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

CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

- New 2-year Conservation Contract including *Glimpse, Michael, Little Water Girl, John Ford Memorial, Longfellow Monument, the Lobsterman, Cleves Memorial, Pullen Fountain, Rustle Diptych, Hadlock Field Family* sculpture
- Additional conservation on the *Jewel Box Bus Shelter*
- Install 2 memorial bricks at *Art Underfoot*
- Small scale maintenance and repairs, replace missing signage

COLLECTION

- Congress Square Public Art Commission Design Development
- Congress Square Fundraising
- Engage with the City, MDOT, and neighborhood groups on placement of new public art at the proposed traffic circle on Brighton Avenue
- Sites Subcommittee identification of future sites – on-going
- Portland Landing – Convene the artwork selection committee, research fundraising and grant opportunities

VI. FY19 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 \$52,500 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	Woodfords Corner Public Art	New commission – Aaron Stephan artist	\$ 6,000
D	Amethyst Lot Public Artwork	New acquisition (Phase I)	\$ 48,000
	Total Encumbered		\$ 278,100

FY19 – Proposed Budget (July 2018-June 2019)

	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Conservation and Maintenance	Additional Projects – Jewelbox Bus Shelter additional work, Glimpse maintenance	\$ 15,000
B	Operations	Web hosting, collection documentation, etc.	\$ 500
C	Contingency Fund	To cover repairs, theft, relocation, Community Art grant, etc.	\$ 7,000
D	USM Roundabout Artwork	New artwork (Phase I)	\$ 30,000
	Total FY19 Budget		\$ 52,500