

2005 ANNUAL PLAN OF THE PORTLAND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

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 Program commissions art that engages with the surrounding environment to create, enrich, or reveal a sense of place, and to express the spirit, values, visions and poetry of place that collectively define Portland.

The public art collection currently contains twenty-four pieces that are permanently installed throughout Portland. The collection contains works of historical significance that date from the nineteenth century, as well as contemporary pieces that reflect the diversity and spirit of the city.

The Portland Public Art Committee administers the Portland Public Art Program. The responsibilities of the Art Committee are outlined in Article XI of the City Code (Public Art Program). The Art Committee utilizes the *Guidelines for the Public Art Ordinance* (Volume 1, Number 1 – adopted May 2001) for direction in administering their responsibilities.

A key element of the Portland Public Art Program was the establishment of a percent-for-art ordinance. Under that ordinance, the City allocates ½ of 1% of the City's annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the restoration or acquisition of permanent public art.

The Portland Public Art Committee has the following responsibilities:

- Develop and present an Annual Public Art Plan to the City Council which includes recommendations for allocating the public art percentage of the CIP; administration of the program; conservation of the collection; and initiation of new projects;
- Review potential gifts of art to the City's public art collection, and make recommendations to the City Council on whether to accept or not accept the gifts;
- Seek donations for preserving, restoring and/or expanding the art collection;
- Recommend appropriate locations for the installation of public art.

The Portland Public Art Committee is chaired by Alice Spencer and vice-chaired by Jack Soley. The Committee added two new members in 2005 - David Wade represents the Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance, and Steve Halpert is the City Manager's designee. The Committee also includes City Councilor Karen Geraghty, Peggy Golden, Richard Renner, Lauren Silverson, and Jay York. The City staff for the program is Carrie M. Marsh.

Information about the Portland Public Art Program can be obtained from the Department of Planning and Development, City of Portland, 389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101, 207-874-8721, publicart@portlandmaine.gov.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2005

A. Commissions

The 2005 Public Art Plan reviews projects that were commissioned in the following categories of art: Art Works of Remembrance, Community Art Works, Expressive Art Works, and Functional Art Works. Projects were also developed that can be categorized as Environmental Art Works, and Temporary Art Works.

A1. **Art Works of Remembrance:** *Boothby Square Watering Trough*

Art Works of Remembrance are used to commemorate a specific historical figure or memorialize an event of public importance.

The City re-installed and restored the historic Boothby Square Watering Trough near the site where it once sat at the eastern end of Boothby Square. Colonel Boothby originally donated the piece to the City in 1903 in memory of his wife. It was removed in the mid-1900's after being damaged by cars, and was sold to a private antique dealer. The City tried to purchase the fountain over the past twenty years.

Lee Urban, Director of Planning and Economic Development, raised the funds to purchase and reinstall the structure from the Libra Foundation and Eric Cianchette, with in-kind donations by Cianbro.

The City's Public Works department provided significant effort towards the reinstallation of the piece. The Portland Public Art Committee accepted the Boothby Square Watering Trough in to the City's public art collection in June 2005.



Boothby Square Watering Trough

A2. **Art Works of Remembrance:** *Robert B. Ganley Plaza*

A second project in this category is the creation of a memorial marker that will commemorate the life and service of former City Manager Robert B. Ganley.

The project consists of a concrete marker that will match the existing aggregate, and will be detailed with classic bronze lettering. It will be inserted adjacent to the historic granite paving stones in front of City Hall.

Unfortunately, the installation of the marker was pending when the contracted firm declared bankruptcy. The Public Works Department has generously worked with the staff of the Public Art Committee to find a new contractor capable of creating the piece. The marker will be poured in Spring 2006.

**A3. Community Art Works:
*Art Underfoot in Portland***



Samples of clay tiles to be cast in bronze

The Community Art Works program encourages collaborations between artists and community members to create public art in the neighborhoods of Portland.

Community Art Works express the memory, values, traditions, customs, or aspirations of community members, address significant neighborhood sites, and/or respond to the character and history of particular places.

Mayor Jill Duson initiated a community-based art project in 2005. Committee members Alice Spencer and Rick Renner worked with artist Natasha Mayers on the project tentatively called *Art Underfoot in Portland*. The design theme reflects what might be found along the ground that is unique to Portland, such as images of leaves, flowers, acorns, shells, insects, feathers, etc.

Bronze bricks will be designed by children at Reiche School; Somali and Latino groups who meet at the Center for Cultural Exchange; and Members of the Portland Coalition for the Psychiatrically Labeled. Other community groups will be identified to participate in the project.

The bricks will be cast in bronze by students at MECA under the guidance of teacher Anthony Tafuri. The City will install the bricks in the Spring of 2006. The funding to produce the bricks will be from the City and the Public Art Committee's allocation for Community Art Works.

The bricks will be installed in Longfellow Square at a point that is heavily used by pedestrians. The intent is to create an identifiable landmark which will help foster a sense of place in a culturally and economically diverse neighborhood.

A4. Expressive Art Works:
Tracing the Fore



Tracing the Fore

Expressive Art Works integrate objects into public spaces with the goal of introducing a sense of artistic vitality, playfulness, spirit, delight, fantasy, joy or wonder in to the daily lives of citizens.

The first piece of Expressive Art to be commissioned is *Tracing the Fore* by artist Shauna Gillies-Smith. It will be located in Boothby Square on Fore Street. This project was under development during 2005, with an installation planned for Spring 2006.

Fore Street once bordered the Fore River before development changed the waterline. *Tracing the Fore* is a holistic landscape design with rolling lawns that are intersected by stainless steel wave forms.

The bases for Pandora LaCasse's holiday light sculptures were re-engineered and replaced in Fall 2005 in preparation of the installation of *Tracing the Fore*. This work was efficiently completed by the City's Public Works Department, with thanks to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Holiday Light Sculptures in Boothby Square



**A5. Functional Art Works:
*The Jewel Box Bus Shelter***

Functional Art Works enliven the public realm while providing comfort to users.

The Jewel Box Bus Shelter in Monument Square was designed by Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan and completed in 2005.

The Jewel Box is designed with elements that reflect Maine's natural marine environment. The canopy is made of overlapping panels of golden anodized aluminum which resemble a lobster shell.

The wall panels are cast iron with a pattern of pyramids, evocative of barnacles. One wall has panes of angled glass joined together like ocean waves. Some of this glass is blue, and some has a holographic film that resembles the way that light reflects on the surface of Casco Bay.

The Jewel Box serves as a heavily used bus shelter in downtown Portland, and is subject to hard use. The ongoing maintenance of the shelter was discussed between staff from the Division of Planning, the Department of Public Works, Portland's Downtown District (PDD), and METRO.

PDD agreed to take care of monthly glass cleaning and trash removal, as well as snow removal from the roof. City staff pursued frequent graffiti and vandalism incidents.

The artists were contacted about the snow, ice and water shedding off the roof and have designed a drip edge and snow guards that will be installed. Jonathan Taggart evaluated the rusting on the "barnacles" and suggested a treatment which will be implemented in the Fall of 2005.



The Jewel Box Bus Shelter

**A6. Environmental Art Works:
*Fishermen's Monument Tidal Park***

The Ocean Gateway site on Portland's Eastern Waterfront will include a marine terminal and a park-sized environmental art installation by artists Mags Harries and Lajos Heder. This artwork was initiated through the State's *Percent for Art* program.

The conceptual design of the project includes a large boat hull form with a path of granite "paving stones" shaped like fish. The path leads to a monument at the end of the park. A tidal pool will be constructed at the edge of the park.

The City worked with the State to create two memos which outlined the City's wishes for a public participation process, and the engineering and technical environmental issues which need to be assessed prior to the City's acceptance of the project. The City Council approved an order to proceed with the design development for the Ocean Gateway Percent for Art project.

A Stakeholder's Committee was formed of interested community members and City staff, with Public Art Committee member Jack Soley serving as Chair.

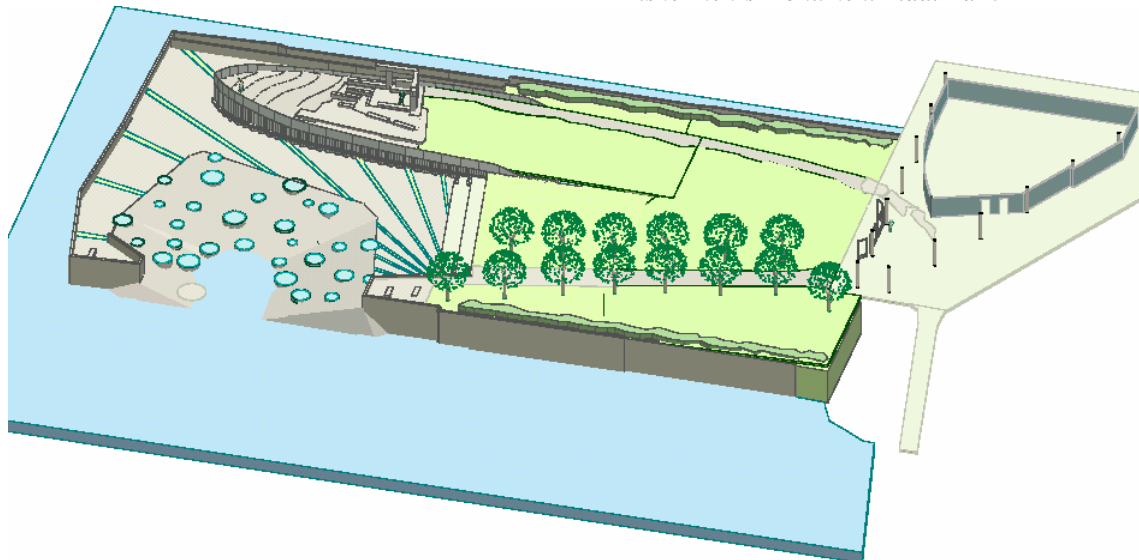
The State worked directly with the Fisherman's Monument Commission. The artists refined the design to incorporate the interests of the Fishermen to provide memorial and gathering space on the site.

The project was renamed the *Fishermen's Monument Tidal Park* at Ocean Gateway.

Assistant City Manager Larry Mead, and City staff from the departments of Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Waterfront, Legal and the Public Art Committee have evaluated the proposed design with regards to environmental, engineering, maintenance, safety and liability issues. This group will continue its discussions with the artists.

The final design was presented in November 2005. The Portland Public Art Committee will evaluate the project and vote on whether to accept it in to the City's collection. The City Council will then review the project and vote on it. Following that outcome, fundraising will commence on this significant piece of public art.

Fishermen's Monument Tidal Park



A7. Temporary/Student Art:
Taking on Water

The City's Department of Parks and Recreation has a program called *Art in the Park* which works with students who would like to install temporary art in public spaces.

Christina Bechstein taught a class called PUBLIC ART NOW at Maine College of Art in the Fall of 2005. The class created an installation entitled *Taking on Water* in Tommy's Park and Post Office Park.

The piece was related to Hurricane Katrina, and consisted of blue fabric tied in trees 13 feet up to symbolize the storm's water line, and included forms made of sandbags.

The project description noted that by using subtle and overt methods, and materials such as sandbags and cloth, the students hoped to evoke in the viewer a sense of displacement from their immediate surroundings.

The students noted that with this project, the class explored new ways of utilizing visual and public art as a tool for community awareness, fundraising, and organizing.

The objective was to evoke empathy in viewers, and also to provoke questions in the public about their immediate, physical surroundings and their place in relation to the Nation and current events.

The City's Public Art staff received favorable public comments about the project. Christina Bechstein and her students are to be commended for a project that was aesthetic, safe, thought provoking, carefully planned, well executed, conscientiously maintained, contributed positively to the streetscape for its duration, and was efficiently removed at the end.



Taking on Water

A8. Temporary Art: *Light in the City*

MECA student Scott Fuller created a temporary art installation in April in which he placed candles in a hollowed out snow bank in front of the Portland Museum of Art. The project was well received and a similar project is proposed for the December Solstice.

A9. Other Projects

The staff and members of the Portland Public Art Committee were involved in the following initiatives related to art and the Creative Economy in 2005:

- Coordination of graffiti removal and vandalism repair to the City's public art;
- Oversight of the documentation of the City's art collection by Jack Smith;
- Coordination of meetings with the Art Conservator and Graphic Designer hired to design and install signage at each site of the City's public art;
- Participation with the Friends of Deering Oaks in the development of a new fountain for the duck pond;
- Collaboration with Portland's Downtown District in the renovation of the information kiosk and exploration of options for a new kiosk that could be a piece of functional public art;
- Participation with the City's Parks and Recreation Department in selection meetings for the *Art in the Park* student art program;
- Attendance at the Creative Conversations Meetings held monthly at SPACE Gallery;
- Membership on the Board of the Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance; and
- Participation in the selection of a developer for the Sacred Heart School Artists Studio

A10. Deaccessioned Art: *Milkweed Pod*



Milkweed Pod

The *Milkweed Pod* sculpture was created by artist Clark Fitzgerald in 1979. It was located at the intersection of Baxter Boulevard and Preble Street in Back Cove.

Unfortunately, the *Milkweed Pod* was destroyed in a windstorm in May 2005. It was consequently deaccessioned from the City's Public Art Collection.

B. Conservation

Taggart Objects Conservation continued its work to conserve the City’s public art collection. The pieces that were restored in 2005 include the Boothby Square Watering Trough, *John Ford* on Danforth Street, the *Common Ground Gazebo* in Payson Park, the Bayside Murals, the *Union Station* mural in Portland Expo, the Lincoln Park Fountain, *The Jewel Box* Bus Shelter, *Our Lady of Victories*, and the Longfellow Monument.

The contract with Taggart Objects Conservation included hands-on training for staff in the City’s Parks and Recreation Department in conservation techniques and routine maintenance of the City’s public art.

B1. *Boothby Fountain*

The *Boothby Square Fountain* was re-installed on Fore Street. The conservation work included the stabilization of the aesthetics of the fountain, cleaning of the exterior, and collaboration with the installers to oversee the finish pointing of the seams.

B2. *Our Lady of Victories*

Our Lady of Victories in Monument Square had its bronze elements recoated, deteriorated joints repointed, and sod laid on the base. This work was paid for by funding from Greater Portland Landmarks.

B3. *Lincoln Park Fountain*

The *Lincoln Park Fountain* is in the center of Lincoln Park between Commercial, Pearl and Federal Street and the Franklin Arterial. Conservation efforts included stripping and re-painting the fountain a greenish-grey color. Graffiti was removed from the base. A design was developed for a cover to be used to protect the fountain in winter.



Our Lady of Victories



Lincoln Park Fountain

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B4. Common Ground Gazebo

The *Common Ground Gazebo* in Payson Park had vandalized skylights replaced, graffiti removed from posts, and damaged flashing and missing shingles replaced.

B5. Pullen Fountain

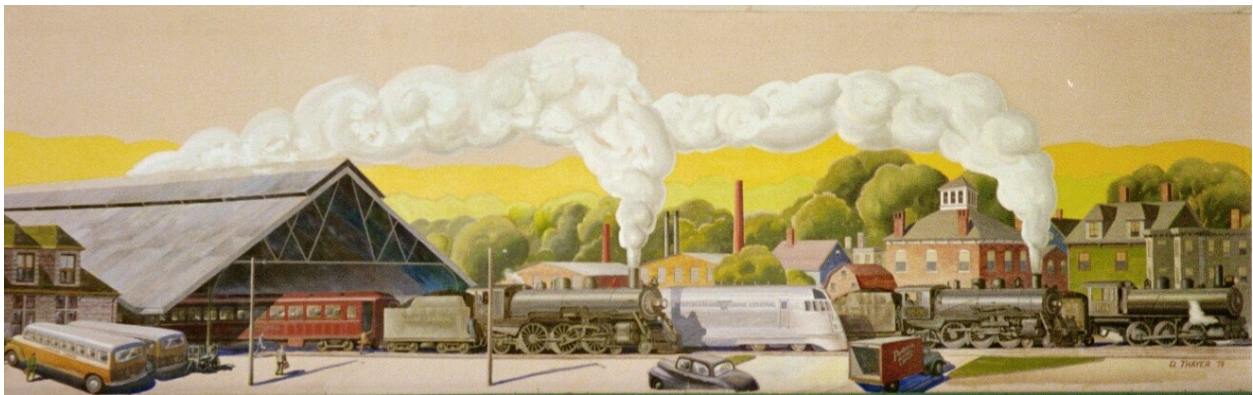
The Pullen Fountain located on Newbury Street was cleaned.

B6. John Ford

A protective coating was applied to the bronze of the John Ford statue.

B7. Union Station Mural

The Union Station mural at Portland Expo was restored, repaired and cleaned by Jonathan Taggart and Nina Roth-Wells.



Union Station Mural

B8. *Longfellow Monument*

The City redesigned Longfellow Square in 2005 in order to provide streetscape amenities and improved pedestrian safety. As part of that effort, the Longfellow Monument was cleaned and recoated.

Funding obtained by Greater Portland Landmarks paid for the conservation work. The City's Parks and Recreation Department provided attractive landscaping.



Longfellow Monument

C. Administrative and Policy Matters

The Committee pursued the following administrative and policy matters in 2005.

C1. *Community Art Works*

The Public Art Committee created *Guidelines for Community Art Works*. This document will be provided to citizens interested in creating public art in the City's neighborhoods, using allocated funding.

C2. *Temporary Art*

Members of the Public Art Committee met with the committee which oversees the *Art in the Park* Temporary Student Art program, City Parks and Recreation staff, and Christina Bechstein of MECA to modify and simplify the program application process.

C3. *The Friends of Portland Public Art*

The Public Art Committee explored the idea of a "Friends of Public Art" group which would provide advocacy and fundraising input to the City's public art program.

C4. *Website*

New text was written, and updated information was provided for the Public Art section of the City's website at www.portlandmaine.gov.

C5. *Collection Documentation*

Jack Smith began documenting the City's public art collection. The results will apply to the walking tour and the website. Committee member Lauren Silversen is overseeing this effort.

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III. RECOMMEDATIONS FOR 2006

The City allocates ½ of 1% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the restoration or acquisition of permanent public art. The 2006 CIP allotment for Art is \$49,500.

Additionally, the development planned for the Jordan Meat site will provide the Public Art Committee an opportunity to provide \$75,000 for a public art project in the nearby area.

The Public Art Committee recommends the following to the City Council for its consideration:

A. Commissions

The following commission projects are proposed for 2006.

A1. Boothby Square - *Tracing the Fore* \$15,000

Additional money is needed in order to offset anticipated rise in steel costs.

A2. Boothby Square - Pandora LaCasse Art \$4000

Cost to re-engineer and re-install bases for Pandora LaCasse’s light sculptures at Boothby Square in anticipation of the installation of the *Tracing the Fore* project.

A3. Community Art Project Fund \$5500

A4. Contingency Fund \$7200

A5. Fishermen’s Monument Tidal Park (from Westin Hotel development) \$75,000

B. Conservation

The following conservation projects are proposed for 2006.

B1. Common Ground Gazebo – Vandalism Repair \$1000

This amount covers the cost to repair the vandalism to the Common Ground Gazebo.

B2. East Bayside Mural – Vandalism Repair \$150

This amount covers the cost to remove graffiti on this mural.

B3. The Jewel Box - Snow Guards for Roof \$1500

Snow and ice accumulate on the roof of The Jewel Box Bus Shelter and slide off at random intervals. A method to prevent this problem has been devised through coordination with the artists. The art conservator will coordinate with the artists to install “Sno-Gem” snow barriers.

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B4. *The Jewel Box - Cast Iron Protection and Staff Training* \$600

The cast iron elements on *The Jewel Box* have begun to corrode and it is likely that this condition will worsen during winter when salt is used. The cast iron will be washed and recoated. The treatment will be completed in coordination with the City's sculpture maintenance crew.

B5. *The Jewel Box - Roof Drip Edge* \$2500

Water sheds off the roof of the Bus Shelter and forms icicles, or running water depending on the season. The artists have developed a design for a drip edge that can be fabricated to match the roof treatment. This line item is the cost to design, fabricate and install the drip edge.

B6. *The Jewel Box - Vandalism Repair* \$450

A panel of glass in the Bus Shelter was damaged by vandalism in 2005 and must be replaced.

B7. *Pullen Fountain - Caulking* \$1000

The concrete surrounding the fountain is deteriorated. This area collects dirt, and allows water to migrate below the fountain, undermining its structure and aiding in the deterioration of the subterranean plumbing vault under the fountain. This line item will repair that issue.

B8. *Lincoln Park Fountain - Caulking* \$700

The mortar pointing and caulking around the granite stones and basin have failed. It is recommended that the failed caulking be replaced at this time in order to prevent the water in the basin from leaking under the basin and undermining the overall support of the structure.

B9. *Lincoln Park Fountain – Reusable Winter Cover* \$1200

The Lincoln Park Fountain was recently restored and a cover will be constructed to protect it from winter damage. This amount will pay for the materials to build a reusable cover.

B10. *Armillary - Rust Mitigation* To be pursued with the original artist

The sculpture is rusting, leaving a disfiguring brown stain. The rust stain on the concrete should be removed if possible. A hot wax protective coating should be applied to the surface.

B11. *Michael- Cleaning, Stabilization and Staff Training* \$500

This applied protective coating has begun to deteriorate in some areas. The sacrificial zincs will be inspected and replaced if needed. The sculpture will be washed and coated. This work will be done in coordination with the City's maintenance team as a training process.

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B12. *Loring Veterans Memorial and The Circle of Life* **\$200**

These pieces will be assessed and treatment proposals developed if stabilization work is needed.

B12. *Signage - Installation* **\$6000**

The 2001 Public Art Plan allocated funding to design and fabricate a signage system for the City's art collection. Katie Murphy of Univoice Graphics designed the signage system. Art Conservator Jonathan Taggart reviewed the final designs in 2005 and determined the best placement and installation method for the signage on the sculptures. This line item will cover the oversight of the production of the signage and the installation by various methods:

D. Administrative Recommendations

D1. *Documentation of Collection* **\$2000**

This covers work that was started in 2005 by Jack Smith, and will be completed in 2006.

The *Guidelines for the Public Art Program* were adopted as part of the 2001 Annual Art Plan. These guidelines contain sections on administration of various aspects of the program. The following recommendations are made for changes that will be further developed in 2006.

D2. *Responsibilities of a Public Art Selection Committee*

Section II – Guidelines for Selecting Artwork for the Public Art Program should specify the role of the Selection Panel and the Art Committee during design-development.

D3. *Conservation Assessment of New Commissions*

Section II – Guidelines for Selecting Artwork for the Public Art Program should include language that requires artists to collaborate with an art conservation expert to determine issues related to sustainability, to make maintenance recommendations, and to submit a joint report.

D4. *Maintenance Program*

A maintenance program is essential to the preservation of public art. A program will be developed to provide the simplest, least expensive, safest, and easiest way to preserve sculpture.

D5. *Temporary Art*

Guidelines will be modified for the creation of temporary student public art.

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2006 BUDGET OF THE PORTLAND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The 2006 CIP allocation for the Portland Public Art Program is \$49,500. Additionally, \$75,000 has been provided to the public art program through the development of the Westin Hotel.

A. Commissions

Boothby Square – Increase in Steel Costs	\$15,000
Boothby Square - Pandora LaCasse Art	\$4000
Community Art Projects Fund	\$5500
Contingency Fund	\$7200
Fishermen’s Monument Tidal Park	\$75,000

B. Conservation

<i>Common Ground Gazebo – Vandalism Repair</i>	\$1000
East Bayside Mural – Vandalism Repair	\$150
<i>The Jewel Box - Snow Guards for Roof</i>	\$1500
<i>The Jewel Box - Cast Iron Protection</i>	\$600
<i>The Jewel Box - Roof Drip Edge</i>	\$2500
<i>The Jewel Box – Vandalism Repair</i>	\$450
<i>Pullen Fountain - Caulking</i>	\$1000
<i>Lincoln Park Fountain - Caulking</i>	\$700
<i>Lincoln Park Fountain - Winter Cover</i>	\$1200
<i>Michael- Cleaning, Stabilization and Training</i>	\$500
<i>Loring Veterans Memorial and The Circle of Life</i>	\$200
Signage - Installation	\$6000
Documentation of Collection	\$2000