

# **2014 Annual Public Art Committee Report 2015 Budget Plan**

## **OUTLINE OF REPORT**

### **I. Overview**

### **II. Administrative Updates**

Committee Members  
Administrative Policies – Five Year Goals  
Gifts and Gifts Subcommittee  
Seeking Donations  
Promoting Public Awareness and Engagement

### **III. Conservation & Maintenance**

Conservation & Maintenance

- Public Art Plaques

### **IV. Accomplishments in 2014**

Community Art Work Program

- Portland Brick

Collection Updates

- Portland Jetport
- Bernard Langlais Estate Gifts
- Promised gift of Bernard Langlais' Puffin to the Public Art Collection by Ann Waldron

Congress Square Art Selection Panel

Communication Subcommittee

Temporary Public Art

- New Guidelines
- First Approved Temporary Art Application
- Civic Center Temporary Art at Free Street

Relocation of *Cloud Couch* by Vivian Beer

### **V. Fiscal Year 2015 Expenditures Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016**

## **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 which 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-seven 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.

A key element of the Portland Public Art Program is the establishment of a percent-for-art ordinance. This program allocates .05% of the City's annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the restoration, maintenance or acquisition of permanent public art.

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**

In the beginning of 2014, the Portland Public Art Committee consisted of James Cradock, Jenna Crowder, Jere Dewaters, Terry Dewan, Penny Harris, Alison Hildreth, Pandora LaCasse, Councilor David Marshall, Tony Meunch, Vice Chair Julia Kirby, and Chair Lin Lisberger.

The Committee as of January 2015 is as follows:

Lin Lisberger, Chair, Artist and Professor of Art at USM;

Julia Kirby, Vice Chair, Development Director at St. Lawrence Arts

James Cradock, Information Technology consultant at Yellahoose LLC;

Jenna Crowder, Artist and Admissions assistant at MECA (appointed in September 2013 to fill out Patricia Murtagh's term);

Christopher Devlin, attorney at UNUM

Corey Templeton, photographer and UNUM employee, City Manager's appointee (appointed to replace Terry DeWan)

Alison Hildreth, Artist;

Pandora LaCasse, Artist and Portland's seasonal lighting sculptor;

Penny Harris, Creative Portland representative;

David A. Marshall, City Council representative and Artist;

Anthony Muench, Landscape Architect

## Management & Administration

Alexander Jaegerman, Planning Division Director

Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer

## **Administrative and Policy Matters**

### **Five Year Goals**

In October 2012 the Committee held a workshop and agreed upon the following objectives for the coming five years:

- To commission and execute a signature piece of the Public Art Collection and to grow available funding until a commission has been made. The Committee intends to reserve a portion of the CIP allocation over the next couple fiscal years in order to afford a large commission that will be highly valued by the greater Portland community;
- 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 support current City projects aimed at increasing the use of pedestrian and bicycle as modes of transportation;
- To initiate a formal process for the installation of temporary public art (maximum one year) on public sites. (See Temporary Public Art Guidelines subcommittee and Updated Temporary Art Guidelines);
- To activate 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. (See Portland Public Art Committee Website);
- To increase donation solicitation for projects supported by the PPAC, particularly for projects that enhance community engagement and identity. For many communities, semi-permanent art may be more desirable than permanent pieces and therefore such initiatives would require non-CIP funding;
- To promote the acquisition of derelict land that can be used for the public/communities;
- To have greater influence on site selection for gifts and commissioned works. This specific vision was prompted by a handful of endearing pieces that become either underutilized or inappropriate for the location in which they are placed. (See Sites sub-committee);
- To provide a forum for public input.

Ultimately, these visions 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.

### **Gifts and Gifts Subcommittee**

Many of the pieces in the collection are gifts or have been subsidized by donations – the Bernard Langlais Estate gave ten restored sculptures to the City's Public Art Collection, William Hamill donated several more sculptures to the Portland International Jetport (See Collection Updates), and the Davistown Museum gave Jay Sawyer's *A Spirit of It's Own* as a long-term loan to the Portland Jetport. In December 2014 the committee added a Gifts subcommittee in order to manage further gift donations and siting; this committee is comprised of Julia Kirby, Lin Lisberger, and Chris Devlin. The Jetport Curator shall also be included in this committee for any future proposed gift to the Jetport.

### **Seeking Donations**

As stated above, soliciting donations must be an increased focus of the Committee because of the

nature of the CIP allocations. Anything funded using the CIP budget must have a projected life-span of at least 20 years. Since the Public Art Program applies to all forms of public art, the committee must actively seek donations for any semi-permanent, rotating, or temporary installments, and for large-scale significant pieces.

### **Promoting Public Awareness and Engagement**

The PPAC continues to update and make improvements to the collection website: [publicartportland.org](http://publicartportland.org)

The Portland Public Art Collection was also recently added to the CultureNOW *Museum Without Walls* website. [www.culturenow.org](http://www.culturenow.org)

The PPAC also hosted a public lecture with the Portland Public Library by Hannah Blunt, Colby Museum Assistant Curator, who was instrumental in cataloguing the Langlais Estate and is an expert in the work of Bernard Langlais.

### **III. DEACCESSIONS, 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 has been contracted on an annual basis to provide ongoing conservation work on the collection. In 2014, conservation and maintenance work included removing graffiti from *Rustle Diptych II*. Additional services yet to be performed in 2015 include the installation of bronze plaques for new artwork.

### **IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014**

#### **Community Art Works Program**

The Portland Public Art Committee reviews projects that are commissioned in the following categories: Community Art Works, Expressive Art Works, Art Works of Remembrance, and Functional Art Works. 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.

#### **Portland Brick**

In 2014 the Committee worked with The Portland Brick Project to develop a community art project that will begin in the India Street neighborhood. Portland Brick consists of Ayumi Horie, a ceramic artist, and Elise Pepple, an independent producer of place-based audio documentary. As stated by the artists, "Portland Brick is a multifaceted public art project that marries together community, function, and history through technology, live performance, and the fabrication of bricks. By collaborating with a historian and crowd sourcing future wishes and memories from current residents through social media and a website, we hope to create an everyman's history, present, and future of Portland. The project consists of three parts. First, historical facts, individual memories, and future wishes (limited to 140 characters) will be stamped into local Stroudwater brick clay that has been customized in shape to fill gaps in existing brick sidewalks. ... Second, the website will connect residents and tourists to an online map of the brick locations. ... Third, to kick off this project we will host a live story telling event..." The Committee voted to fund this community art project with \$5,000 and the City Council accepted the project in December 2014. The project is due to be installed Spring 2015.

## COLLECTION UPDATES

### Portland Jetport:

#### Gifts from Mary Louise and William Hamill



*Glimpse* by Wendy Klemperer had two more sculptures added. These two deer were sited on a hill near the exit from the parking lot.



*Link* by Jesse Salisbury was sited along the roadway between the parking garage and the terminal. This placement connects the two existing sculptures in a sight-line and completes an outstanding installation. This split and carved piece is made from one solid granite block forming two connected links.

#### Interior Jet port pieces:



*Carved Rabbit* by Lise Becu is a small, carved granite rabbit placed at a height that invites engagement of children.



*Gyre Falcon* by Andreas Von Huene is carved from feldspar and wood.



*Figure* by Don Meserve is a carved granite sculpture.

## Other Jetport Installations



*A Spirit of Its Own* by Jay Sawyer was installed along the entrance road to the Jetport in June 2014. This is a sculpture loaned indefinitely by the Davistown Museum of Owls Head made with aviation shear rings from the naval airbase in Brunswick.



*Playing Bears*, a large wood sculpture by Bernard Langlais was installed inside the Jetport in August 2014 after having been placed temporarily in the Public Library. This is one of a large group of Bernard Langlais sculptures given to the City by Colby College and the Kohler Foundation. In 2015, PPAC will add information signage to the walls of the Jetport talking about the City's Langlais collection.

## Bernard Langlais Sculptures

Installation began in June 2014 and is almost completed at this time. Seven abstract reliefs still need to be installed at the Burbank branch and Peaks Island branch of the Public Library. The installation has been funded by \$30,000 set aside in the current budget.

*Standing Bear* at the Ocean Gateway Visitor Center

*Playing Bears* at the Portland International Jetport

*Birdhouse Heads* (3) at Portland High School

*Birdhouse Heads* (2) at Deering High School

*Birdhouse Heads* (3) at Casco Bay High School/PATHS

*Elephant* at The Portland Public Library Main Branch Children's Room

*Acrobatic Dogs* at the Portland Public Library Main Branch

Hanging *Lion Head* at the Portland Public Library Peaks Island Branch

Group of small reliefs at the Portland Public Library Peaks Island Branch

*Relief* at the Portland Public Library Burbank Branch (not yet installed)

## Potential New Langlais Gift

Ann Waldron has promised a Bernard Langlais piece, called *Puffin*, from her collection to the Portland Public Art Committee. Plans are under discussion to site this sculpture at Casco Bay Lines Ferry Terminal.

### **Congress Square Art Selection Panel**

A committee was formed of members of PPAC and the public to begin the process to select a significant piece of public art for Congress Square. The committee consists of Pandora Lacasse, Alison Hildreth, and Tony Muench (PPAC members), Frank Turek (Friends of Congress Square), Jessica May (Portland Museum of Art), Jessica Tomlinson (MECA), Scott Simon (architect), Anne Buckwalter (neighborhood member and Space Gallery), Bruce Wennerstrom (Westin Hotel), and the Congress Square Redesign design team. The committee met with Mark Bessire in December 2014 to discuss fundraising ideas and promotion of greater public understanding of public art and placemaking through a series of lectures.

### **Communication Subcommittee**

Plans for an expanded Art in Our Front Yard series are in the works for 2015. Grant money will be sought to videotape the talks to post on the Public Art website, but the talks will proceed without the grant money if necessary. Local “celebrities” will give the talks and the time for the talks will vary, most of the in-town ones being in the lunch hour. We began this new series in December 2014 with “Santa” giving a talk about Langlais’ *Standing Bear* at Ocean Gateway terminal. The Time & Temperature Building read STND BEAR during the same week bringing public awareness of the Langlais installations.

### **Temporary Public Art**

#### **Guidelines Subcommittee (2014)**

In November of 2012, PPAC formed a subcommittee to write guidelines for any temporary art installations on City property. City Council approved these guidelines with the acceptance of the previous Annual Report and the information was posted on the PPAC and City’s website.

#### **Civic Center Temporary Art at Free Street**

PPAC had a role in developing a design solution for the Civic Center brick wall on Free Street which was a condition of approval for the recent Civic Center renovations. The Civic Center chose to pursue a temporary art solution in collaboration with a MECA class to install a mural.

#### **First Temporary Art Project under the New Guidelines**

Local artist Andy Rosen applied for approval of a temporary artwork, *UNPACK*, that would be installed on the waterfront near Ocean Gateway Terminal. The project was approved conditionally for installation in the fall of 2015.

### **Relocation of *Cloud Couch* by Vivian Beer**



*Cloud Couch* by Vivian Beer was sited in Winslow Park but because of the lack of accessibility to the general walking public the PPAC relocated the bench to a site about half way around Baxter Boulevard. The site is on the water side of the Boulevard, across from the exit road from Payson Park. This relocation was done by the Department of Public Works in the spring of 2014 and during the summer Jeff Tarling cleared a considerable amount of brush in order to broaden the lovely view of the City from the bench.



## V. 2015 EXPENDITURES REPORT & PROPOSED BUDGET

The City allocates .05% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the restoration or acquisition of permanent public art. The allocation for FY15 was \$63,000.00. The beginning balance for FY15 was \$295,699. This 2015 Budget Plan does not include the .05% from the FY16 which is unknown at this time.

Remaining Expenditures from approved 2014 budget plan:

- A. Budgeted
  - a. Conservation and Maintenance  
\$5,000.00
- B. Encumbered/Expended
  - a. Installation of Bernard Langlais Sculptures  
\$30,000.00 encumbered  
- \$3,535 expended
- C. Invoiced
  - a. Community Art Project, Portland Brick  
\$5,000.00

Programmed Expenditures from previously approved budget: \$40,000.00

Total available balance for 2015 is \$255,699.00

For 2015, the PPAC proposes the following list of expenditures:

- A. Programmed
  - a. Conservation and Maintenance  
\$5,000.00
  - b. One community art project, unidentified  
\$5,000.00
  - c. Contingency and reserve fund  
\$10,000.00
  - d. New Acquisition/Commission for Congress Square  
\$225,000.00
  - e. New Acquisition  
\$10,699.00

Total Programmed for 2015:

**\$255,699.00**

The Committee is currently reserving CIP funds to be used for a large commission within the coming five years. This will be associated with the developments at Congress Square, which has figured prominently in our considerations going forward. We will be engaged with the planning process for Congress Square to assess the role of public art in this space.