

**2009 ANNUAL REPORT and
2010 ANNUAL PLAN OF THE
PORTLAND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**



Fishermen's Memorial artist's maquette; Christopher Gowell and Steven Carpenter, Elliot, Maine

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-eight 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 2008) for direction in administering their responsibilities.

A key element of the Portland Public Art Program was the establishment of a percent-for-art ordinance. This program allocates ½ of 1% 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 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; and
- Recommend appropriate locations for the installation of public art.

The Portland Public Art Committee is chaired by Jack Soley, of East Brown Cow, Inc. Terry DeWan, Principal with T.J. DeWan & Associates, Landscape Architects and Pandora LaCasse, Artist and Portland's seasonal lighting sculptor, were appointed to the Committee in June. Jere DeWaters, Photography Professor, University of Maine, was appointed to the Committee in September. Virginia Rose, Art History Lecturer, SMCC was appointed to the Committee in September as the PACA representative. Anthony Muench, Landscape Architect, was appointed to the Committee in November. The Public Art Committee also includes Councilor David A. Marshall, Artist, Peggy Golden, owner of Greenhut Galleries, and Alice Spencer, Artist. Catherine Valenza, executive director of PACA provides administrative support for the program.

Sally Struever's term on the Committee expired in December. Steve Halpert and Richard Renner terms expired in June. Hadley Schmoyer's term expired in July. David Wade was the Portland Arts & Cultural Alliance's (PACA) representative. His term expired in August.

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, AQJ@portlandmaine.gov.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

Commissions

Community Art Works Program: Peppermint Park

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 Committee has also overseen the development of projects that can be categorized as Environmental Art Works and Temporary Art Works.

In 2009 the Committee reviewed a submission to the Community Art Works program. 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.

Jill Dalton, artist, and Priscilla Dreyman, of Spiral Arts, presented a grant request for the commission of new public art works for Peppermint Park. The East Bayside Neighborhood Association is working on a revitalization plan for the park, including new landscaping and benches. Sculpture will be created using a mosaic process involving the community as previously done on the wall of the Parkside Center. Spiral Arts will initiate the creation of the mosaics, which could become free-standing sculpture or functional sculpture such as benches. Priscilla Dreyman will lead the workshops, and the work will be integrated and manufactured by Jill Dalton. After the workshops, the designs will be brought to Jonathan Taggart, PPAC, East Bayside Association, and Regina Leonard for input and approval prior to fabrication and installation. The Committee approved award of \$5,000.

Rustle & Cloud Bench

These sculptures by Vivian Beer were sited at Winslow Park late in 2008, after being reworked by the artist and fabricator to sustain long term placement outdoors. The final piece of this project was completed when the pads for supporting the sculptures were finished along with the landscaping.



“Rustle Diptych” by Vivian Beer, Winslow Park, August, 2009

Collection Updates

Stone Dragon

Carole Hanson’s 1997 carved granite sculpture *Stone Dragon* was successfully relocated from Congress Square to the East End Community School in October. This was a cooperative project between the East End Community School PTO, PPAC and the artist Carole Hanson. The relocation provided two things: it increased visibility of the sculpture which was in an isolated location and it provided a public art work for the school. The school is an ideal location due to the playful nature of the work. The East End Community School PTO incurred 100% of the cost of relocating the *Stone Dragon* to its new home at the school. This project has received wide acclaim from East End Community School students, parents and teachers as well as from members of the wider community. A reception was held to celebrate once the sculpture had been re-sited and Bob Keyes wrote a cover piece for *The Portland Press Herald*. The PPAC is proposing to challenge the EECS PTO to match a \$5,000 appropriation to expand the *Stone Dragon* by adding wings and feet as originally proposed by the artist.



Stone Dragon Sculpture by Carol Hanson, Relocated to East End School
Photo by Laura Newman, Portland Trails.

Little Water Girl Fountain

Due to the renovations of the Portland Public Library it became necessary to temporarily remove the Watering Girl Fountain until it can be reinstalled as part of the Library's new lobby. As a result, the Library has committed to prominently locating the statue and restoring it as a working fountain. The statue will become an integral element of the lobby redesign and will be highly visible from Congress Street. Some conservation work will be necessary and the Committee has allocated \$2915 for services provided by Jonathan Taggart of Taggart Objects Conservation. The granite base has been carefully cleaned using the gentlest means possible, in this case a chemical wash.



Granite Base of Little Water Girl Sculpture, before & after cleaning
Photo by Jonathan Taggart



On Tuesday November 11, 2009, working with assistance of employees of Shaw Brothers Construction, the granite block attached to the feet of Little Water Girl (LWG) was removed under the supervision of Jonathan Taggart.

While the library renovations have proceeded, the Planning Division received a communication from the Chicago Park District requesting permission to create a replica of the Little Water Girl sculpture to replace an original version that was stolen in 1958 from one of their parks. It has been confirmed that the City of Chicago had one of the original castings of “Fountain Girl” commissioned in 1895 by the Loyal Temperance Legion of Boys and Girls. (The Women’s Christian Temperance Union donated our “Little Water Girl” sculpture to the City of Portland in 1917.) We have documentation of Water Girl sculptures in Portland, London, Detroit, and Chicago. Our sculpture appears to be the only remaining original in its original condition, never damaged nor stolen. We have negotiated an agreement to allow Chicago to create a replica by creating a mold from our original before it is reinstalled on its pedestal in the Library. A contract between Portland, Maine and Chicago Park District stipulates terms and conditions for this to take place, including recognition of Portland’s contribution, the fact that the replica is a reproduction, that the Chicago Park District will cover all costs, and the stipulation that only one replica be created and that the mold be returned to the City of Portland for safekeeping or destroyed. We intend to keep the mold for the future in case there is a legitimate need for it for conservation purposes.

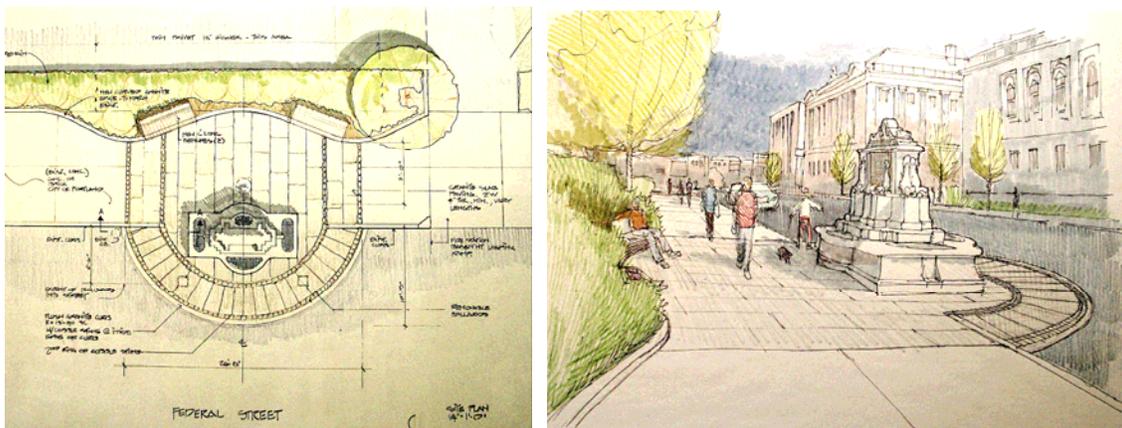


Water Girl Fountain in Chicago, ca 1907

[Fountain Girl with a horse drinking from its basin while a team of horses waits alongside]. Chicago Daily News, Inc., photographer. Cite as: DN-0056947, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago History Museum.

Stanley Pullen Foundation Memorial Fountain

The granite fountain was surrounded by vehicle barriers during the later part of 2008 and early 2009 to protect it from the elements during the winter and is protected again during winter 2009-2010. A plan was created by Anthony Muench, Landscape Architect, to help conserve and restore the fountain, and to create a more appropriate setting that will permanently protect it from vehicle damage. The fountain and surrounding area has been underutilized and this plan will turn it into a jewel of a pocket park. Additionally, the fountain's original function as a horse trough will be restored. These plans effectively create a pocket park while addressing additional issues pertaining to its location such as protection from skateboard activity, parking and snow plowing. The plan has been reviewed and unanimously approved by the Historic Preservation Board and the Portland Public Art Committee. It will be put out to bid in 2010 with a completion date also in 2010. Tony Muench, Landscape Architect, generously contributed his professional services to this project.



Pullen Fountain proposed improvement plan; Plan and renderings by Tony Muench, Landscape Architect

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 commissioned for the collection was *Tracing the Fore* by Shauna Gillies-Smith. Installed in fall 2006, on Fore Street in Boothby Square in the Old Port, it incorporates natural grass as an integral element of the work. As expected establishment and maturation of the grass has taken some time. This work has seen positive improvement over the last year due to the diligence of Jeff Tarling and his maintenance of the natural grass element of this work. This has led to a very optimistic

view of this work for next year when the plants will be even more established and able to conveying the artist's original intention more fully.

Public Art Community Projects

Bayside Trails Bench Project & MLK Memorial

The Portland Public Art Committee is working with Portland Trails on its expansion of the Bayside Trails and in conjunction with Rachael Talbot Ross on the Martin Luther King Memorial which will be included as a key element of expansion project. The Portland Public Art Committee will dedicate a significant portion of its budget to the commission of new public art for the Bayside Trail Project. A call for submissions will be issued for designs for a community bench competition in 2010.

P.D. Merrill Memorial

The Portland Public Art Committee has been working with Anne Pringle and members of the P.D. Merrill Memorial Committee to help bring their vision to fruition for a large scale piece of public art honoring the memory of prominent Portland businessman and philanthropist P.D. Merrill who passed away in 2007. The memorial will include a large sculpture by noted Portland artist Aaron Stephan and will be located at the end of West Commercial Street.

Fishermen's Monument

The Portland Public Art Committee has been working with the Fishermen's Monument Committee to establish a new piece of public art. The sculptural element of the memorial will depict a large boat with fishermen returning ashore after a day at sea. This dynamic component of the memorial is significant in stature and plans are underway for the memorial to be located at Ocean Gateway on Portland's Eastern Waterfront.



Fishermen's Memorial artist's manquette; Christopher Gowell and Steven Carpenter, Elliot, Maine

Conservation

Taggart Objects Conservation has worked for the City for several years to repair and conserve the pieces in the Public Art Collection. 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

Maintenance Plan & Signage

The collection requires on-going assessment and maintenance. Jonathan Taggart surveyed the collection in 2009 as part of the work required for the finalization of designs for bronze signage planned for each work in the collection. Taggart Object Conservation will also install the bronze signs once they are cast as part of the work plan. Sally Struever generously contributed her professional design services of the layouts for the signage. Jonathan Taggart is also available to the City for vandalism repair as needed.

As a result of the survey, identified needs were determined not to be time sensitive and will be addressed as part of the 2010 work plan. An exception was the work Taggart undertook pertaining to the move and preparations for the recasting of the *Little Water Girl Fountain*. Managing such undertakings is critical to the safety and preservation of works in the collection yet, can often be overlooked.

Administrative and Policy Matters

The Committee pursued the following administrative and policy matters in 2009.

- Portland Arts & Cultural Alliance provides administrative support to the Portland Public Art Committee.
- Portland Public Art Committee Member Virginia Rose holds a seat on the Portland Arts & Cultural Alliance Board.
- The Portland Public Art Committee has initiated a comprehensive mapping of sites for future public art works and of locations of current public art works.
- The Portland Public Art Committee has undertaken a detailed documentary map, curatorial information, and photographic database for the collection which will be integrated into the City of Portland's website ensuring greater access to the Collection by the general public and for academic research purposes.
- The Portland Public Art Committee has identified the need for creating guidelines for the relocation of works in the Collection.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS & INIATIVES FOR 2010

The City allocates ½ of 1% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the restoration or acquisition of permanent public art. The amount and funding currently available for the program is as follows:

Available Funding for the Portland Public Art Program:

CO7A01	\$32,257
CO8A01	\$50,000
CO9A01	\$43,500
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$125,757</u>

The Portland Public Art Committee (PPAC) is charged with administering the capital resources in building and caring for Portland's Public Art Collection. Each year the Portland Public Art Committee presents their annual report to the City Council along with a proposed budget allocation of available resources. This budget, if approved by the City Council, constitutes the planned appropriations for the utilization of the public art funds. Over the next year, the Portland Public Art Committee proposes to undertake the following new initiatives with the associated budget estimates.

A. Commissions

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| A1. Commission Expansion of Dragon Sculpture
<i>PPAC will engage the artist and the East End School to collaborate on the expansion of the Stone Dragon sculpture, adding originally proposed wings/feet. This is presented as a challenge match to the EECS PTO who will raise funds to complete the project.</i> | \$5,000 |
| A2. Future Commission/Purchase in 2010
<i>PPAC plans to undertake the commissioning of artist-designed benches to be placed along the Bayside Trail.</i> | \$50,000 |
| A3. Community Art Works Program – Peppermint Park
<i>A collaboration between Spiral Arts, Jill Dalton and neighborhood children, PPAC has awarded funds to support the creation of benches for this community park. This is a seed fund to support the project budget estimated at \$10,000.</i> | \$5,000 |
| A4. Community Art Works Program – New Initiative
<i>PPAC plans to allocate some of its funds to the creation of a new project/work submitted to the Community Art Works Program of PPAC.</i> | \$5,000 |

B. Conservation/Maintenance

B1. Conservation Fund Ongoing Assessment & Maintenance \$5,000
Retainer for Taggart Objects Conservation allocated for the ongoing assessment and maintenance of the public art collection.

B2. Signage \$5,000
Fabrication and installation of bronze plaques identifying each work in the public art collection.

B3. Little Water Girl Fountain \$2,915
PPAC has previously allocated these funds for conservation work for the fountain prior to its reinstallation in the lobby of the Portland Public Library.

B4. Stanley Pullen Fountain \$35,000
PPAC has allocated these funds for the implementation of the work identified to conserve, restore and protect this fountain.

C. Documentation of Collection

C1. Public Art Map on City of Portland's Website \$5,000
PPAC has allocated these funds to prepare, design and implement the map for the website.

D. Contingency Fund

D1. Contingency & Reserve Fund \$7,842

Total \$125,757