

2015 Annual Public Art Committee Report 2016 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 2016 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

Christopher Devlin, attorney at Bernstein Shur

Penny Harris, Creative Portland representative

Alison Hildreth, Artist

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

Anthony Muench, Landscape Architect

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

City Council representative TBD

Management & Administration

Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer

ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

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 – this year, Anne Waldron gave the City a 1976 Bernard Langlais sculpture *Puffin* to be added to the City's Public Art Collection.

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. In 2016 a major fundraising campaign will begin 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 grant and ArtWorks in addition to ArtPlace.

PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

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

Communication Subcommittee

The *Art in Our Front Yard* series was expanded in 2015. All talks in 2015 were filmed to post on the Public Art website. 2015 speakers included some of the artists who made pieces at the Jetport, and local “celebrities” including Monica Wood and Herb Adams. Additional talks and filming are planned for 2016 to increase the public outreach and education about the collection.

Signage Installations

Six large posters about the Langlais collection were installed inside the Jetport in August 2015 near the Langlais *Playing Bears* in the corridor between baggage claim and the new terminal. Jonathan Taggart is contracted to finish installing public art signage for new public artworks. Additional services in 2015 include the installation of bronze plaques for new artwork.



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 has been contracted on an annual basis to provide ongoing conservation work on the collection. In 2015, conservation and maintenance work included the following:

ASSESSMENT (ATTACHED)

Jonathan Taggart was contracted to conduct an assessment of the collection. This assessment is attached for reference. The committee will use the assessment to prioritize future conservation and maintenance work. A new 5-year contract will be released to bid in 2016 for a conservator to assist with those needs.

ART UNDERFOOT REPAIR

After the winter, the PPAC noticed four bronze bricks missing from the *Art Underfoot* installation. The artist provided the committee with the original molds. The PPAC will replace the missing bricks with duplicate casts. Molds have also been made of the originals for future preservation and restoration.

COMMON GROUND GAZEBO

The PPAC did extensive research on a new placement for the Common Ground Gazebo in Payson Park, and with the approval of the Friends of Payson Park decided to move it from its current site near the Seaside Nursing Home across the field to just outside the entrance to the Payson Park playground. City Council approved this move in September. Because the gazebo also needs roof repair the move has been delayed until Spring 2016.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2015

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 2014/2015 the Committee worked with The Portland Brick Project to develop a community art project that has begun 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. There will be a total of thirty (30) installations once the project is completed. The Committee voted to fund this community art project with \$5,000 and the City Council accepted the project in December 2014. The project began installation in the fall of 2015 and will be complete in Spring 2016.

COLLECTION UPDATES

Gift from Anne Waldron, *Puffin* by Bernard Langlais



Puffin is currently on the second floor of City Hall and is waiting to be sited in the Casco Bay Lines Ferry terminal. City Council accepted this gift in 2015 from Anne Waldron. The work was made by Bernard Langlais in 1976.

Portland Brick by Ayumi Horie and Elise Pepple



Portland Brick will have thirty (30) installations around the India Street neighborhood once the project is completed. The Committee voted to fund this community art project with \$5,000 and the City Council accepted the project in December 2014. The project began installation in the fall of 2015 and will be complete in Spring 2016.

Deaccession of the *East Bayside Community Mural*



The *East Bayside Community Mural* was deaccessioned by the Council in 2015. The artist, Andrew Schoultz, gave permission for the mural to be removed. The mural was power washed and painted over in the Fall 2015 to allow future temporary installations until the building is sold.

CONGRESS SQUARE ART SELECTION PANEL

The Congress Square Art Selection committee, which includes members of PPAC and the public, released a Request for Qualifications in December 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), Jessica May (Portland Museum of Art), Jessica Tomlinson (MECA), Scott Simon (architect), Anne Buckwalter (neighborhood member and Space Gallery), Bruce Wennerstrom (Westin Hotel).

The Committee reserved CIP funds over the last 3 years 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 entering into a contract with an artist in 2016 to develop the design of the public artwork. A fundraising effort will begin in 2016 for the Square and Public Art project implementation.

CONGRESS SQUARE DATA COLLECTION FOR PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT INFORMATION

The Public Art Committee placed several blackboard walls and colored chalk in Congress Square during the August 7th First Friday Art Walk to add to the data collected about space and travel and view corridors. This information has been added to the data that will be used for the commission of public art for the Square.



TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

First Temporary Art Project under the New Guidelines

Local artist Andy Rosen installed the first temporary artwork, *UNPACK Project*, on the waterfront near Ocean Gateway Terminal in the fall 2015. His work was partially funded by a Kindling Fund grant.



Additional Temporary Art Projects in 2015

Acorn by Anne Alexander in Deering Oaks Park (summer 2015)



Mural by Andrea Sulzer on 88 Anderson Street (fall 2015 through 2016)



Noyes Street Fire Memorial by Pandora LaCasse in Longfellow Park (fall/winter 2015)



Temporary Art Guidelines Revisions – Communication to Council

The Committee recommends revisions to the Temporary Art Guidelines regarding public process to allow for public comment on proposed temporary art installations. These revisions are provided as a communication to Council.

V. GOALS FOR 2016

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

- Art in Our Front Yard lectures + filming continues
- Signage installation completed
- Art Walking Tours updated

CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

- 2-year Conservation Contract awarded
- *Common Ground Gazebo* relocation and restoration
- Lincoln Park Fountain Conservation

COLLECTION

- Congress Square Public Art Commission
- Congress Square Fundraising – ArtPlace and Art Works grants
- *Puffin* final installation
- *Portland Brick* installation completed
- Sites Subcommittee identification of future sites – on-going

TEMPORARY ART

- TEMPO temporary art installation in Lincoln Park
- Sandy Macleod sculptures removed

VI. 2015 EXPENDITURES REPORT & 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

The City allocates .5% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the conservation and acquisition of permanent public art. This 2016 Budget Plan does not include the .5% from the FY17 CIP which is unknown at this time.

2015 – Remaining Expenditures from approved 2015 budget plan:

- A. Budgeted
 - a. Conservation and Maintenance
 - \$2,650.00 Sign installation (2015 Taggart contract)
 - \$3,000 – Collection Assessment (2015 Taggart contract)
- B. Encumbered/Expended
 - a. Installation of Bernard Langlais Sculptures (remaining work: *Puffin* repair and installation)
 - \$27400.04 encumbered
 - b. Community Art Project, Portland Brick
 - \$1,000.00 remaining in contract
 - c. New Commission for Congress Square
 - \$225,000.00 total
 - \$3,000.00 encumbered – RFQ stipend
 - \$125,000.00 encumbered – Artist fee

Total Programmed Expenditures from previously approved budget:

\$259,050.40

2016 – Proposed Budget

Starting available balance for 2016:

\$66,625.01

- A. Conservation and Maintenance
 - \$34,000.00 total
 - \$5,000.00 – *Lincoln Park Fountain* conservation (see attached plan)
 - \$3,000.00 – *Common Ground Gazebo* relocation and repair (w/ DPW)
 - \$1,000 – *Art Underfoot* repairs
 - \$25,000 – 2-year Conservation contract (estimate)
- B. One community art project, unidentified
 - \$5,000.00
- C. Website maintenance
 - \$500
- D. Contingency and reserve fund
 - \$10,000.00

Total Programmed for 2016:

\$49,500.00

Remaining Balance:

\$17,125.01