



Julia Kirby, Chair
Lin Lisberger, Vice-Chair

Management & Administration
Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer, Planning Division
ccameron@portlandmaine.gov

City of Portland Public Art Program: How Artists Can Engage

In April 2000, the City Council established the Portland Public Art Program to preserve, restore, and enhance the City's public art collection. The Public Art Committee administers that program with support of City staff and receives ½% of the Capital Improvement Budget each fiscal year for conservation, maintenance, and new commissions. Artists can engage with the public art program in several ways:

- **Apply to install Temporary Art**

The City has a permit process specifically for temporary art installations for professional and student artists. Artists may apply to install a work on public property for up to two years. City funding is not available for temporary art – artists have sought financial support through grants, community groups, or by working with TEMPOArts.

Temporary Art information/application: <http://portlandmaine.gov/1342/Temporary-Art>

- **Submit a project to the Community Art Grant**

The Public Art Committee allocates a portion of its budget for Community Artworks with the goal of engaging citizens and community groups in the creation of public art on City property. Grants are available to applicants that include a neighborhood-based non-for-profit partner. The proposed artwork would be adopted into the permanent collection and must have a lifespan of at least 20 years. Examples of past projects include *Art Underfoot* and *Portland Brick*.

Guidelines for Community Artworks: <http://portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3417/Community-Art?bidId=>

- **Respond to calls for Public Art Commissions**

Occasionally, the Public Art Committee seeks to commission new artwork to be added to the permanent collection. The Committee may add artwork through direct purchase of an existing artwork, invitational competition, or by open call. Artists stay apprised of opportunities by checking the Public Art website, or following the PPAC on social media or the City Calendar with NotifyMe.

City of Portland website: <http://portlandmaine.gov/560/Public-Art-Committee>

Public Art Collection website: <https://www.publicartportland.org/>

- **Respond to Painting Outside the Box: Utility Box Murals**

As funding is available, the Police Department, with the support of the Public Art Committee, invites local artists to submit ideas for artwork to be painted onto existing utility boxes around the city.

Electrical Box Murals Call to Artists: <http://portlandmaine.gov/1034/BidsRFP-Search>

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21969/2018-Utility-Box-Application-with-Appendix-A>

- **Join the Public Art Committee**

The Public Art Committee is responsible for administering the Public Art Program to preserve, restore, and enhance the city-owned public art collection comprised of 56 permanent public artworks on City property. Committee members manage the budget, administer conservation and maintenance, evaluate temporary art installations, and facilitate new commissions. The committee of volunteers is selected by Council Committee; members must either live or work in Portland and agree to a three-year term.

Committee Vacancies: <http://portlandmaine.gov/349/Public-Art-Committee>