

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORTLAND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

Background:

The Portland City Council adopted the Portland Public Art Program ordinance in the spring of 2000 in order to preserve, restore, enhance and expand the City's public art collection. The ordinance established the City Council-appointed Portland Public Art Committee to oversee the administration of the Public Art Program. One of the responsibilities of the Portland Public Art Committee is to present to the City Council an Annual Art Plan that, among other things, contains recommendations on establishing projects and budget from the annual percent-for-art allocation.

The City Council adopted the first Annual Art Plan in the spring of 2001. Highlights from that first annual plan include:

- Establishment of the official Portland Public Art Collection with the adoption of nineteen publicly owned art objects into the city's collection;
- Establishment of the *Guidelines for the Portland Public Art Ordinance, Volume 1, Number 1 (dated May, 2001)*; and
- Recommendations for public art capital projects based on the percent-for-art allotment. The 2001 Annual Art Plan was based on the FY 2000 C.I.P. public art allocation.
- The 2001 Annual Plan budgeted \$43,125 for conservation and restoration of several of the most deteriorated art objects.

Year in Review:

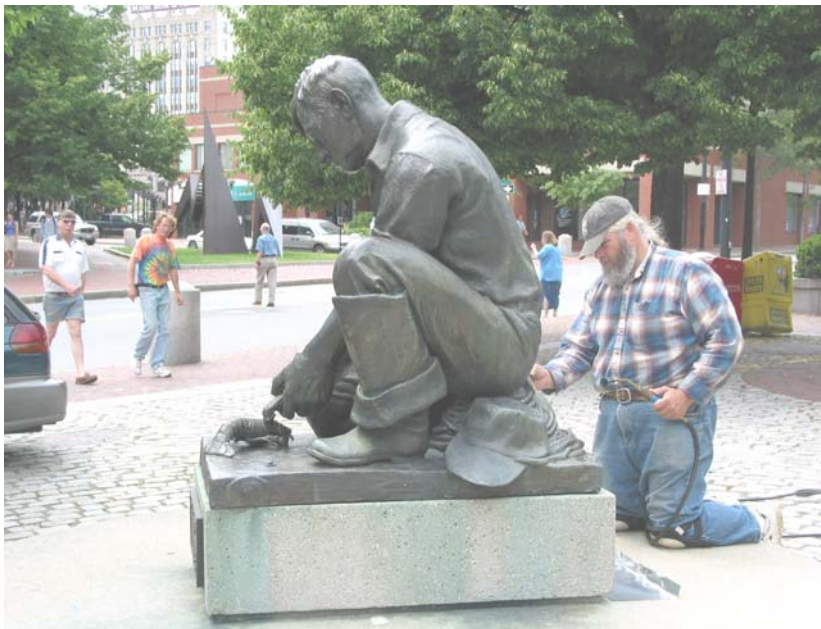
The Portland Public Art Committee has accomplished the following tasks since the adoption of the 2001 Annual Art Plan:

- ***Completing the conservation assessment of the full collection:*** At the time of the 2001 Annual Art Plan, the Committee had completed a professional art conservation assessment of about a third of the collection. This initial work was accomplished with a grant from the Heritage Preservation program of the Smithsonian Institution. In the summer of 2001 the Portland Art Museum offered the Committee the opportunity to work with an art conservator under contract with the Museum. By taking advantage of this opportunity, the Committee was able to complete the conservation assessment of the remaining two-thirds of the collection at a greatly reduced rate and shortened timeframe. Consequently, the Committee completed a conservation assessment of the full collection by the fall of 2001.
- ***Awarding a contract for conservation services:*** The City's Planning Office issued a Request for Proposal in the summer of 2001 for conservation services of the collection. The RFP included the assessment reports for five art objects in the collection. Based on initial conservation estimates, we anticipated that the money set aside in the '01 Annual

Plan for conservation (\$43K) would pay for the restoration of five designated objects. The City received proposals from four highly qualified art conservation firms and was pleased that the winning proposal came in with a bid at one-third the anticipated amount.

- ***Conservation work on the collection – Phase one:*** The art object conservator began work in the spring of 2002. To date, he has completed conservation work on four of the five objects under his contract. Those statues include:
 - The Thomas Brackett Reed statue at Western Prom
 - The Maine Lobsterman at Lobsterman Plaza
 - Temperance (aka: The Little Water Girl), or the Lillian M. N. Stevens Memorial Fountain
 - The Spanish War Veterans Monument (or “The Hiker”) in Deering Oaks Park.

The conservator is scheduled for the spring of 2003 to do repairs and conservation on a fifth artwork – “Michael” at the Monument Way plaza near Free and Temple Streets.



Professional Art Conservator Jonathan Taggart working on “The Maine Lobsterman.” Work on this piece included casting and replacing a lost appendage on the lobster, applying a chemical coloration on the metal joints to match the bronze panels, cleaning, and application of a hot wax/chemical protection coating.

The contract with the art conservator includes training of Parks Department personnel in routine maintenance of artwork. Parks Department personnel will accompany the conservator in the summer '04 for “hands-on training” when he revisits all work completed in phase-one to do a follow-up assessment and cleaning.

The Portland Public Art Committee and staff also participated in several public art-related community outreach events over the past year including:

- ***Black History Month – African American Pioneers:*** Offered curatorial assistance and exhibit design in mounting the City Hall exhibit: AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEERS: 40 YEARS of ELECTED LEADERSHIP IN PORTLAND.

- ***Public Access television program – Gallery Walk:*** Scripted and produced a public access television program about the Portland Public Art Collection along with examples of new directions in public art from other cities.
- ***Temporary art installation at the Maine State Pier:*** Facilitated the temporary installation of six contemporary sculptures at the Maine State Pier.



“Millennium Mobius” by artist Peter Forakis is one of six contemporary sculptures installed on the Maine State Pier. The Public Art Committee worked with sculpture curator Sandy McLeod to arrange for the installation of six sculptures from five artists. The project was accomplished at no cost to the City.