

2016 Public Art Committee Annual Report & FY17/FY18 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 2017 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

Jill Duson, City Council representative

Management & Administration

Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer

ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

Five-Year Goals

In fall 2016 the Committee held several meetings and agreed upon the following goals for the coming five years:

- 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 work with current and future City projects, pay attention to project and partner opportunities, and identify potential sites in order to be prepared when gift opportunities arise;
- To activate small urban spaces with public art;
- To further 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. This includes revising the website to provide additional functions and increase traffic, producing a 30 second commercial to distribute to promotional sites, such as movie festivals, a City Hall video stream, or outdoor screening, create cards, brochures or other saleable items, increase and control social media outreach, meet with City stakeholders to reinforce our mission, and look for an intern to help with assorted clerical and archival jobs;
- To increase donation solicitation for projects supported by the PPAC, particularly for projects that enhance community engagement and identity. To solicit grant and private money for current and upcoming projects;
- To have greater influence on site selection for gifts and commissioned works, and to provide a simple and consistent evaluation for acceptance of gifts;
- To continue to provide forums for public input.

Ultimately, these goals 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.

Ordinance and Guidelines Changes

The PPAC recommends several revisions to the Public Art Guidelines to clarify the process to select artists or artwork and a revision to Ordinance ARTICLE XI Public Art Program to clarify what is considered to be the public art collection. Please see the attached documents for those proposed changes.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Governance Subcommittee – No updates

Gifts Subcommittee – Seeking Donations

Many of the pieces in the collection are gifts or have been subsidized by donations. Soliciting financial 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 2017 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 and ArtWorks grants.

Communication Subcommittee – Public Awareness and Engagement

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

The *Art in Our Front Yard* series was expanded in 2015. All talks in 2015 and 2016 were filmed to post on the Public Art website. 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 2017 to increase the public outreach and education about the collection. These include a talk by conservator Jonathan Taggart about the ongoing conservation of several major pieces of public art in the collection, including Our Lady of Victories, the Lincoln Park Fountain, and the Jewel Box Bus Shelter.

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 2016, conservation and maintenance work included the following:

CONSERVATION CONTRACT

Jonathan Taggart was awarded a two-year contract for conservation of six (6) pieces in the collection. In 2016 he resurfaced the cast iron parts of the Jewel Box Bus Shelter and cleaned and did other maintenance on it. Additional work will be needed on the bus shelter. This will be bid to a contractor and the estimate appears in the FY 18 budget proposal. He also cleaned, recoated with resin protector, and repointed parts of Our Lady of Victories. He did several small maintenance jobs as well, and began his restoration work on the Lincoln Park Fountain.

The contract also requires the conservator to review/approve any proposed additions to the collection.



ART UNDERFOOT REPAIR

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

After this repair it was noticed that two more bronze bricks were missing. These will be replaced by memorial bronze bricks in memory of MECA alum Patrick O'Brien who cast the original bricks. MECA will be casting these bricks.

LORING MEMORIAL REPAIR

In February 2016 a driver lost control of his vehicle and toppled and broke one of the granite columns at the *Loring Memorial*. The committee contacted the original fabricator of the column to have it replaced. The column was replaced in September 2016.

PORCUPINE AT THE PORTLAND JETPORT

In April 2016, Wendy Klemperer's *Porcupine* (part of *Glimpse*) was stolen from its site at the Portland Jetport. A report was filed with the Portland police but the sculpture was not found. June LaCombe generously donated another Klemperer *Porcupine* at the same site; this time imbedded in granite and with a baby porcupine by Klemperer added.

FESSENDEN PORTRAIT AND FRAME RESTORATION

The PPAC committed \$1,000 from its donation budget to the restoration of the gilded frame for the portrait Of William Fessenden.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

COLLECTION UPDATES

***Portland Brick* by Ayumi Horie and Elise Peple Installed**

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* is thirty (30) installations around the India Street neighborhood. Project installation began in the fall of 2015 and was completed in 2016. The work was done by members of the public works department with guidance by David Margolis-Pineo.

***Puffin* by Bernard Langlais Installed**

Puffin was installed in Casco Bay Lines Ferry terminal in February 2016. The lighting was completed in September 2016. City Council accepted this gift in 2015 from Anne Waldron. The work was made by Bernard Langlais in 1976.

***Reliefs* by Bernard Langlais Installed**

One relief by Bernard Langlais was placed at the renovated Burbank Library Branch. An additional 6 reliefs will be placed in the Peaks Island School in early 2017.

***Acrobatic Dogs* by Bernard Langlais Relocated**

Portland Public Library requested *Acrobatic Dogs* by Bernard Langlais be relocated from the Main Library building. The sculpture was moved to the Portland Jetport.

New *Porcupine* by Wendy Klemperer gifted by June LaCombe

After the theft of Wendy Klemperer's *Porcupine* at the Jetport in April 2016, June LaCombe generously donated another Klemperer *Porcupine* at the site; this time imbedded in granite and with a baby porcupine by Klemperer added.



Common Ground Gazebo Deaccessioned

The PPAC did extensive research on a new placement for the Common Ground Gazebo in Payson Park, but with research into the cost of the necessary repairs and the move it was decided to de-accession the piece. It was removed by City parks staff during the summer.

PROJECT UPDATES

Congress Square Public Art Commission

The Congress Square Art Selection committee, which includes members of PPAC and the public, released a Request for Qualifications in December 2015 to begin the process to select an artist to create a significant work for Congress Square. The committee consisted of Pandora Lacasse, Alison Hildreth, and Tony Muench (PPAC members), Jessica May (Portland Museum of Art), Jessica Tomlinson (MECA), Scott Simons (architect), and Ian Jacobs from Friends of Congress Square Park.

Four finalists for the project were selected in May – Ned Kahn, Patrick Marold, Matthew Ritchie, and Sarah Sze. The artists were invited to come to Portland in June for interviews and to present their work at a public forum hosted by the project partners at the Portland Museum of Art. The Selection Artist Sarah Sze was ultimately selected by the committee after much deliberation for the commission and work is underway to develop a public art concept for the Square. Two out of three public meetings have been held to date for the concept development with Sze Studio and the design team WRT. The concept phase is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2017. A fundraising effort will begin in 2017 for the Square and Public Art project implementation.

Example work by artist Sarah Sze in New York City



Woodfords Corner Commission

Aaron Stephan was commissioned to make a free-standing light sculpture in Woodford's Corner as part of the rebuilding of the State roadway project at that intersection. A public hearing was held with the neighborhood associations and other interested parties at the Woodford's Club and at the PPAC meeting in August 2016. Stephan will present a revised design to the committee and the public again in January 2017 to select a final design. Installation will happen concurrent with the roadwork. The cost for this piece is \$20,000 plus \$5,000 for installation.



Room 24 Photographs

A collection of photographs, mostly by committee member Corey Templeton, was installed in Room 24 of City Hall. This installation had been requested by former mayor, Michael Brennan, and was funded through the current City Manager's office.



TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

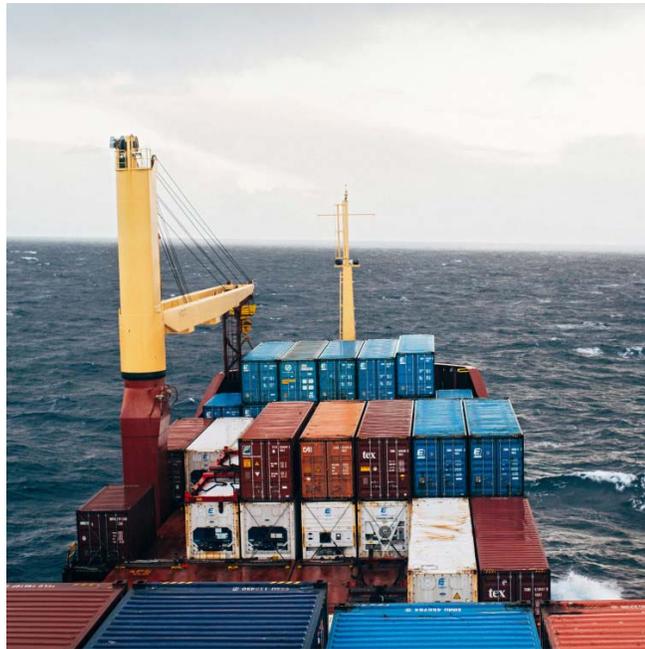
***The American Dream* by Judith Hoffman in Lincoln Park, May 2016**

The first installation by the private group, TEMPO was completed in May 2016 in Lincoln Park after approvals by the temporary art subcommittee. The piece, *The American Dream*, by Judith Hoffman, will be in Lincoln Park for a year and TEMPO has requested a one year extension.



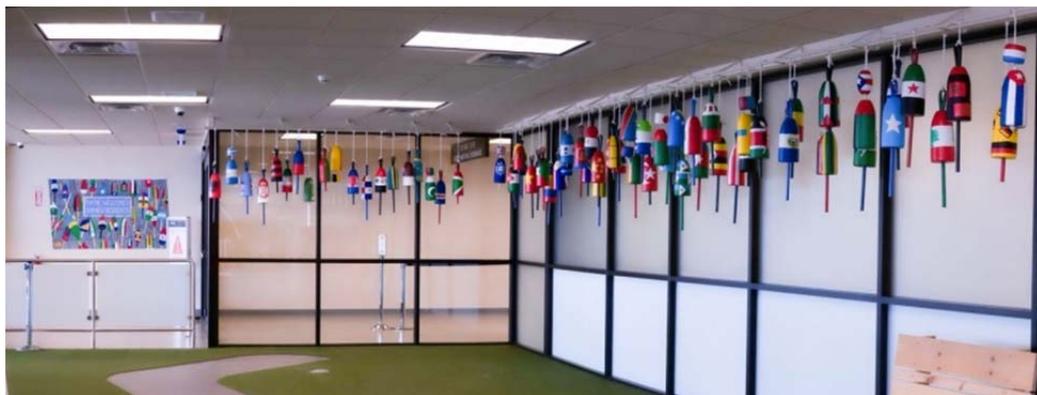
***Icelandx207* by Justin Levesque in Congress Square Park, October 2016**

Levesque placed an altered Eimskip shipping container in the Park to coincide with the Arctic Council meeting, and filled it with his photographs from a 2015 trip he did on an Eimskip container ship.



***Welcome New Mainers* by Natasha Mayers, at Portland Jetport, May 2016**

Mayers was a visiting artist in residence at the University of Southern Maine during the Spring 2016 semester. During that time she worked with native and international students on a project that involved painting the flags of Portland's large immigrant population on lobster buoys. These were hung in the waiting area of the Portland Jetport as a temporary art installation in May 2016.



V. GOALS FOR 2017

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

- Art in Our Front Yard lectures + filming continues
- Art Walking Tours updated and possibly printed for visitors and residents.
- Continued upgrades to the PPAC website, publicartportland.org

CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE

- 2-year Conservation Contract continues
- Lincoln Park Fountain Conservation
- Install 2 memorial bricks at Art Underfoot

COLLECTION

- Congress Square Public Art Commission Concept Design
- Congress Square Fundraising – ArtPlace and Art Works grant applications
- Assist Portland Trails and East Bayside Neighborhood Association with placement of sculpture and landscaping at the intersection of Cove and Anderson streets.
- Create an art selection subcommittee for selection of public art for the new Amethyst Lot Park.
- Engage with the City on possible placement of public art at the new traffic circle being developed on Deering St. by the UMaine Law School.
- Sites Subcommittee identification of future sites – on-going

VI. PROPOSED BUDGETS FY17 and FY18

The City allocates .05% of the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the conservation and acquisition of permanent public art. This FY18 Budget Plan includes an estimate of \$65,000 for the .05% allocation from the FY18 CIP budget that is unknown at this time.

The Committee intends to realign its budget year with that of the City's fiscal year – in the past the budget was per calendar year. The proposed budget below includes the remainder of the FY17 fiscal year and a budget proposal for the FY18 fiscal year.

Remaining Encumbrances from approved budget plans

	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Conservation and Maintenance	2-year Conservation contract	\$ 8,248
B	Conservation and Maintenance	Conservation contract addendum	\$ 2,950
C	Lincoln Park Fountain Conserv.	Under contract (Phase I and II)	\$ 21,000
D	Congress Square Public Art	New commission – Sarah Sze artist	\$ 221,000
E	Woodfords Corner Public Art	New commission – Aaron Stephan artist	\$ 22,000
F	Langlais Installation	Peaks Island School installation	\$1,500
	Total Encumbered		\$ 276,698

	Starting Balance	Approximate, after encumbrances	\$ 132,640
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FY17 – Proposed Budget (January 2017-June 2017)

	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Conservation and Maintenance	<i>Lincoln Park Fountain</i> conservation (Phase III)	\$ 10,000
B	Amethyst Lot Public Artwork	New Acquisition (Phase I)	\$ 48,000
C	Community Art Project	Unidentified	\$ 5,000
D	Contingency Fund	To cover repairs, theft, relocation, etc.	\$ 2,000
	Total FY17 Budget		\$ 65,000

FY18 – Proposed Budget (July 2017-June 2018)

	Activity	Description	Budget
A	Conservation and Maintenance	2-year Conservation Contract (assessment)	\$ 38,000
B	Community Art Project	Unidentified	\$ 5,000
C	Operations	Web hosting, collection documentation, etc.	\$ 500
D	Contingency Fund	To cover repairs, theft, relocation, etc.	\$ 5,000
	Total FY18 Budget		\$ 48,500

	Remaining Balance	approximate	\$ 19,140
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