

Salem Public Art Commission

2024 Annual Report



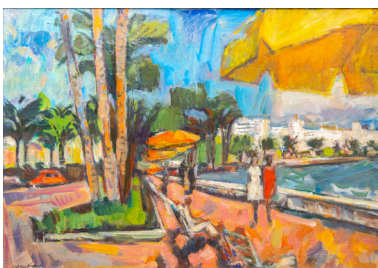
Butterfly Dogs - Jack McLarty



Extra-Terrestrial - Tom Cappuccio



Fall Still-Life - Elizabeth Brinton



La Croisette, Cannes - Andrew McDuffie

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.
Members: Susan Napack, Christine D'arcy, Spencer Emerick, Brian Hart, Krista Lauer
City Staff: Kathleen Swarm

The Salem Public Art Commission (SPAC) is pleased to report on our accomplishments enhancing public art throughout the City. Chapter 15 recognizes that visual arts contribute to and provide experiences that enrich and better the social and physical environment of the community, because of this positive impact, a desire to foster an advancement of the visual arts within the City is identified. Further emphasizing the importance of visual art, earlier this year, Council passed a motion seeking to increase the public display of art in the community. We are excited to share our progress toward achieving our goals and improving our community through the arts.

About SPAC

- Seven Commissioners
 - Two members experienced in the arts, art education, or art criticism
 - Two members experienced in museum curating, art restoration, or art appraisal
 - Two members experienced in landscape architecture, real estate, development, or community foundations
 - One member from the community at-large
- The Public Art Commission stewards the City's public art collection of more than 100 works of art, most recently appraised at a value of more than \$1.37 million.
- Primary commission duties include:
 - Acquisition of works to the public art collection
 - Maintenance of works within the public art collection
 - Management, registration, and documentation of the public art collection
 - Decommissioning of works from the public art collection
 - Management of the Public Mural Program
 - Community Education of public art collection

Public Art Fund

The Public Art Fund supports the public art collection and is funded by periodic donations and grants, and through the dedication of one-half of one percent of eligible publicly funded capital improvement project costs. In recent budget years, the Public Art Fund was allocated \$25,000 from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which continued in fiscal year (FY) 2025. The adopted Public Art Fund budget for FY 2025 was \$101,000. In the last year, funds have been used for the repair of a major sculpture, with another to be completed shortly.

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Historic Roman Scene - Lorenzo Cabaniss

2025 Art Fund Resources

Beginning Fund Balance	\$84,640
Revenues.....	\$ 13,508

2025 Art Fund Expenditures

Repair/Restoration	(\$10,050)
Bank Fees	(\$15)
Current Balance	\$88,083

Among our accomplishments from the past year, we would like to specifically highlight:

- The development of a Strategic Vision and Work Plan which outlines a comprehensive strategy to enhance and encourage community engagement and awareness of the public art collection. SPAC aims to foster collaborative conversations, ensuring that public art initiatives align with the diverse needs and aspirations of Salem’s communities.
- Development and execution of a social media strategy and awareness campaign, in collaboration with the City’s Communications team regular social media posts highlighting the City’s public art collection have been shared.
- Acquisition of the Library Art Collection including 44 works of art, featuring regional artists of significance. These works have transferred ownership from the Salem Public Library Foundation to the Salem Public Art Commission to include in the public art collection.
- Repair of art including two significant sculptures, the Drummer and Rooster by Robert Hess, and Black Discs by William Roy.
- Expansion of City mural collection with a new mural, titled Urban Wilderness, located at 1380 Madison St. NE.
- Partnership and support of a temporary art installation at Riverfront Park, called Scarves for Salem. Willamette University Students displayed donated knitted items around the Eco-Earth Globe for the community to take as needed.
- Continued support of interdepartmental City art programs such as the street painting program, utility box wraps, and Oregon Artist Series Foundation exhibits at the library.

Looking forward, we are excited to make progress on the following:

- Continued repair and restoration of important works within the collection.
- Three sculpture acquisitions to be located at sites Downtown and in West Salem. The Urban Renewal Agency Board approved a \$50,000 budget to fund the addition of two sculptures in the downtown core. Additionally, the West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board allocated \$30,000 of West Salem Urban Renewal tax increment funds for sculptural art at 2nd Street NW.
- Community outreach and awareness with Neighborhood Association presentation at Chairs meeting followed by individual Neighborhood Association meetings.
- Promotion and support of the production of murals for City acquisition by increasing awareness of the Public Mural Program and exploring improvements to the application process.
- Refinement, adoption and implementation of Strategic Vision and Work Plan.
- Repair of the Eco Earth Globe in coordination with Salem Parks Foundation, the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon, Salem City Council and many donors. Of the \$330,00 raised, \$70,000 were contributed via donations, \$112,000 via TOT, and \$150,000 via the State of Oregon’s Cultural Resource Economic Fund.
- Updates and improvement to digital public art collection data base cataloging works of art and associated photography of works.
- An interactive digital kiosk at Library showcasing the public art collection was made possible thanks to a Sprinkles Grant and is awaiting final approvals.

We appreciate the support from City Council and look forward to working with you in the coming year on issues related to Public Art.

