



SALEM PUBLIC ART COMMISSION (SPAC)

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 14th, 2026
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Hybrid Public Meeting
In-person: NEW LOCATION

City Manager's Office, 440 Church Street SE, Room 309 (4th Floor)

Via Zoom

Via [YouTube](#)

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6336.

Para 1sistencia en español, llame al 503-540-2489.

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members

Susan Napack, Chair; Chris D'Arcy, Vice-Chair; Krista Lauer, Brian Hart, Karl Roth, Jesus Escobar, Vacant

Staff

Chris Neider, City Staff Liaison

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and call to order
- 2) Public Comment – Appearance of persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
- 3) Approval of Consent Agenda – Agenda for January 14th, 2026, meeting; Minutes December 10th, 2025, meeting. (5 minutes)
- 4) Discussion Items
 - a. New Business - None
 - b. Consideration of Unfinished Business
 - i. Review of Boards and Commissions and Membership Requirements – *Susan Napack*
 - ii. SPAC Annual Report to City Council – Chris Neider
 - iii. Updated and Missing Labels – Susan Napack

c. Subcommittee Reports.

Civic Center Renovation – *Chris D*

Public Mural Review – Copyright – *Brian (City Legal review is still pending)-may remove?*

Condition Report Process - *Krista*

Social Media and Art Database - *Krista*

Art Donations from local artists - *Susan*

5) Commissioners Comments

6) Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11th, 2026, at 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM. In-person and Zoom Hybrid meeting.

This meeting is being conducted hybrid, virtually and in-person. Interested persons may view the meeting online on [YouTube](#). Please submit written comments on agenda items, or pre-register to provide Public Comment on items not on the agenda, by 5 p.m. or earlier one day prior to the day of the meeting at cneider@cityofsalem.net.

Special accommodations are available, upon request, for persons with disabilities or those needing sign language interpretation, or languages other than English. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-540-2371 (711 for Relay) at least two business days in advance.

It is the City of Salem's policy to assure that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, source of income and housing status, as provided by Salem Revised Code 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and related statutes and regulations, in all programs and activities.



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Mailing Address: PO BOX 14300, Salem, OR 97309-1457

Salem Public Arts Commission Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, December 12th, 2025

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Hybrid Public Meeting

In-person: City Operations Building, 1457 23rd Street SE, Room 175

Via Zoom

Via YouTube

Commissioners Present: Susan Napack (Chair), Chris D’Arcy (Vice-Chair), Spencer Emerick, Brian Hart, KarlRoth, Krista Lauer

Staff Present: Jennifer Kellar, City Staff Liaison/Parks and Recreation Division Manager, Aaron Kimsey, Assistant City Engineer, Chris Neider, Program Manager III

1. Call to Order

Chair Susan Napack called the meeting of the Salem Public Art Commission (SPAC) to order and welcomed attendees. This meeting was noted as a transition meeting due to changes in staff liaison assignments.

2. Staff Liaison Transition

Commission members were informed that beginning January 2026, Chris Neider (City Manager’s Office) will serve as SPAC’s staff liaison as the commission moves under Community Services rather than Parks and Recreation. Appreciation was expressed to Kathleen for her leadership and service during the transition period.

Chris Neider provided a brief introduction, noting his 15 years with the City of Salem and prior experience as staff liaison to multiple boards and commissions.

3. Introductions

- Introductions were made of commissioners, staff and members of the public present at meeting.

4. Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve the December 10, 2025 agenda and the November 12, 2025 meeting minutes
 - Moved by Susan Napack and seconded by Commissioner D’Arcy
 - Motion approved

5. New Business

- **Board and Commission Role Review (Good Governance Project)**
 - Staff explained the City’s ongoing Good Governance Project, which includes reviewing roles and requirements for all boards and commissions. Commissioners were asked to review current SPAC role categories in advance of a detailed discussion scheduled for January, 2026. No recommendations were requested to avoid serial meeting concerns.

6. Percent for Art – Civic Center Project

- **Overview** – The commission discussed the Civic Center retrofit project and the allocation of approximately \$140,000 in Percent for Art funding. A subcommittee presented potential locations for public art installation and outlined guiding considerations, including:
 - Monumentality and visibility
 - Relationship to Brutalist architecture
 - Durability and maintenance
 - Civic identity and public engagement
- **Proposed Art Locations**
 - Four locations were reviewed, with emphasis on the following:
 - Elevator Towers (Atrium)
 - Central Platform/Pedestal (Atrium)
 - Other locations were discussed but considered lower priority included planter areas and stairwell wall surfaces

- **Discussions**
 - Commissioners discussed budget implications, structural limitations, historic building considerations, and long-term maintenance. Staff noted the need for consultation with the city's structural engineer and Landmark's Commission staff prior to final installment.
- **Motion**
 - Motion by Chair Napack and seconded by Commissioner D'Arcy to recommend the elevator towers as the primary location for public art at the Civic Center, with the central pedestal/sculpture location as a secondary option, and direct staff to include both locations in the RFQ.
 - Motion approved

7. RFQ Development

- Engineering staff will draft the RFQ incorporating location descriptions and constraints, structural and maintenance considerations, and a vision statement reflecting civic engagement, transparency and Salem's role as the state capital.
- The draft RFQ will be shared with the commission for review prior to release in early 2026.

8. Subcommittee Reports

- Deferred to the January 2026 meeting

9. Commissioner Comments

- Chair Napack acknowledged Commissioner Spencer Emerick, noting this as his final meeting and thanking him for his years of service to SPAC.

10. Adjournment

Salem Public Art Commission

2025 Annual Report

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.
Members: Susan Napack, Christine D’arcy, Brian Hart, Krista Lauer, Karl Roth, Jesus Escobar
City Staff: Christopher Neider

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) 2026. The adopted Public Art Fund budget for FY 2026 was \$140,550. In the last year, funds have been used for the repair of a major sculpture, with another to be completed shortly.

2026 Art Fund Resources	
Beginning Fund Balance	\$91,817
Revenues	\$14,191
2026 Art Fund Expenditures	
Repair/Restoration	(\$600)
Bank Fees	(\$428)
Current Balance	\$104,981

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

- **Acquisition of the Library Art Collection** including 44 works of art, featuring regional artists of significance. These works have transferred ownership in a generous donation from the Salem Public Library Foundation to the Salem Public Art Commission to include in the public art collection. Solidified in 2025
- **Civic Center Art Relocation**
- **Downtown and West Salem projects** (process begun)
- **Slow Art Day Event** hosted the library
- **Kiosk** placed in Library linked to Art Collection website
- **NA Chairs Meeting Presentation**
- Evaluation of needed **repairs** including The Unicyclist and Waldo mural
- Ongoing evaluation towards **Eco Earth Globe** restoration
- **Salem Keiser Gateway Signs** redesign support
- Reinstallation of repaired Black Discs by William Roy.
- **Expansion of City mural collection** with a new mural, located at 3011 Silverton Rd. NE.
- **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:

- **Civic Center Percent for Art** public art acquisition
- **Downtown and West Salem** public art acquisition
- **Continued repair and restoration** of important works within the collection.
- **Community outreach and awareness** presentations at Neighborhood Association meetings following up on Chairs meeting.
- Social Media sharing about SPAC and the collection.
- **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 and copyright issues.
- **Repair of the Eco Earth Globe:** Continue evaluation of needed restoration and funding in coordination with Salem Park's Foundation
- **Updates and improvement to digital public art collection data base** cataloging works of art and associated photography of works.

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

Ongoing Projects and Subcommittee Updates

12/10/2025

a. Ongoing Projects

i. Artist Retention of Copyright for Works Added to Public Collection

Summary: Following research presented by the Public Mural and Application Review subcommittee at the September 10th, 2025, SPAC meeting a motion was made to suggest a change of policy to allow artists to retain copyright to works of art that are added to the Public Art Collection. Three public comments in support of artist retention of copyright were submitted via email prior to the October 8th meeting and attached as an addendum to the agenda, and two additional comments were made in person, as well as broad Commissioner support and conversation. The City Attorney's office suggested that the next step would be for the Commission to make a recommendation to City Council after further staff recommendations. Staff is expected to report back at February meeting.

ii. Condition Reports

Summary: The SPAC guidelines, Policies and Procedures state "the Commission or members of the Commission will review the condition of the works of art in the Collection, and a Condition Report will be completed. This report will contain the object ID number, the name of the artist, the title of the work of art and a report of the condition of the work of art." The Commission is working to meet this goal. At the October 8th, 2025, meeting, Commissioner Lauer expressed the importance of maintaining regular condition reports, and that it was standard when caring for a collection. Commissioner Lauer suggest that an annual condition report be completed for every work in the Collection, she also volunteered to identify artwork that have current condition reports, and which do not, as well as share the template that has historically been used to document condition reports at the November meeting. It was shared that it was important that the condition reports are completed by someone with an art background, and that City staff would not be appropriate as they have limited capacity and expertise.

iii. Art Labels

Summary: Art Labels need to be updated for several art pieces including art recently relocated to the Library, art recently

donated to the Public Art Collection, and outdoor sculptures. Examples were provided at the July 9th, 2025, SPAC meeting. A style and approach for update are needed. At the October 8th, 2025, SPAC Meeting Chris D’Arcy volunteered to draft a 1-2 sentence acknowledgement of the Library Foundation gift. Susan Napack has volunteered to edit the existing labels to add acknowledgement. Chris D’Arcy has also created an inventory of 20 sculptures/outdoor works requiring label replacements.

iv. Art Database

Summary: It has been discussed that SPAC might benefit from an art database management software subscription. For IT to assist in identifying a product, it has been suggested that a review of the current system is needed. City Staff has met with IT and is identifying gaps in the current system, as well as potential solutions. Once more information is gathered it will be shared with the Commission for review and comparison.

v. Civic Center Renovation, Percent for Art – *City Engineering Staff*

Summary: At the August 2025 meeting, the Commission was asked for feedback on potential public art to be acquired through the Civic Center renovation funds dedicated to Percent for Art. All improvement projects paid for wholly or in part by the City or the Agency where the amount of eligible funds equals \$100,000 or more will include in the budget one-half of one percent of the total eligible costs for public art. City engineers staff, and Hacker presented multiple options and ideas for consideration. Susan Napack, Karl Roth, and Chistine Darcy have formed a subcommittee to research options. The Subcommittee toured the construction site on September 17th, 2025 and presented at the October 8th meeting. They returned for additional site visit on October 14th. The estimated budget for art to be acquired is \$140,000.00

Update December 10, 2025, motion by Chair Napack and seconded by Commissioner D’Arcy to recommend the elevator towers as the primary location for public art at the Civic Center, with the central pedestal/sculpture location as a secondary option, and direct staff to include both locations in the RFQ.

- vi. Peace Plaza – *City Engineering Staff*
Summary: As part of the renovation of the Civic Center, updates to the Peace Plaza City Park are being considered. Project managers are collecting feedback from interested groups and individuals to integrate ideas into a phased plan for development. There is a limited budget for the project, which will prioritize accessibility upgrades. Concept designs were shared which introduce landscaping, and seating to emphasize the central sculpture as a focal point. It was mentioned that there are no plans to turn the water feature on, as the cost of maintenance and potential for hazard are too high.

- vii. Neighborhood Association Presentations – Susan Napack
Summary: Commissioners would like to present to Neighborhood Associations to help spread awareness of the Commission and Public Art Collection.

- viii. Staff Report to Council – *City Staff and Attorneys Office*
Summary: Council made a motion to direct staff to provide a staff report to Council outlining the requirements and process to modify the City’s public art regulations to allow the temporary display of public art. City staff in collaboration with the City Attorney’s office are working to create the report.

- ix. Art Condition and Location Reports - *PW Tony Ou*
Summary: **Eco Earth Globe**, 2003, tile Mosaic by Mary Heintzman and multiple artists. An update report completed by ARG estimated full restoration of the Eco Earth Globe at a cost of \$1,500,000.00. Although their initial 2020 report indicated repair could be possible for an estimate \$400,000.000, due to continued deterioration a complete restoration has been recommended by art conservation experts at ARG. Since the initial 2020 report, the Salem Parks Foundation (SPF) has been fundraising for repairs. SPF has successfully raised \$300,000 in grants and donations. The City of Salem pledged \$79,000 in staff administrative time, and \$31,000 to manage fencing. The Eco Earth Globe is designated as a Historic Landmark, Historic Landmark Staff have been updated of the condition. Project managers have determined the next best step would be to obtain a second assessment and repair/restoration estimate. Art Solutions Lab has confirmed their ability to complete an assessment and provide a

repair/restoration estimate. Art Solutions Lab will be completing their first site visit in late November/early December and expect to have the report complete in February. It is suggested that a public Open House be scheduled after the second assessment is completed, so staff can confidently provide the public with accurate and complete information. As to the preservation and maintenance to the Eco-Earth Globe in its current condition, ARG could not guarantee that cleaning it would prevent further deterioration, but thought it was worth consideration as improving the esthetics would have positive benefits. The representative at ARG that project managers spoke with, was concerned that cleaning would introduce more water, but had personal experience with seeing removal of bio growth slow deterioration. ARG suggested that cleaning be done by hand using a soft bristle brush and non-ionic cleaning agent containing no solvents, abrasives, acids, caustics or other deleterious materials. For areas with bio growth a biocide cleaner like D2 could be used. ARG is assessing their ability to complete the recommended cleaning and will confirm with an estimated cost and timeline, if possible. Art Solutions Lab has also been asked for their recommendations for maintenance, cleaning, and preservation, and are expected to outline suggestions after completing their assessment estimated some time in Feb/Mar 2026 pending questions.

Share the world, 1994, Mural by Peggy O'Neal, Larry Watson and others. Located in Peace Plaza and in need of repair, in 2021 Staff had a phone conversation with Mr. Lewis and the artists (Peggy O'Neal and Larry Watson –WOW Arts & Exhibits). The artists would be willing to travel from North Bend to provide an estimate for repairs. Their time and travel expense to visit the artwork in-person would be \$439.47.

The Unicyclist, 1972, cut glass and metal sculpture by Robert Hess. A condition assessment report and repair estimate of *The Unicyclist* was completed in July of 2025. It was determined by the Conservator that repair could be completed by removing and replacing failing laminate. The estimated cost for repairs totaled \$9,200.00, which includes transportation, reporting, construction of a holding tank, disassembly, cleaning, replacement of adhesive, repair and reassembly. Detailed findings were provided at the September 10th, 2025

SPAC meeting, and options were discussed. Consensus was made that further research and evaluation would need to be made on all the pieces in the collection before funds could be spent.

Salmon in the City, 2005, stainless steel created by multiple artists. The sculpture is showing signs of rust. City staff are currently determining ownership of the piece.

Vine Maple and Volcanic Rock, 1972, mixed media on canvas by Lanete King. Canvas is torn. Currently stored in staff office.

Majestic Supremacy, 1970s, welded steel by Delbert Hodges. Heavy 3D piece, unsafe for high traffic areas. Currently stored in staff office.

Flying Geese, 1970s, welded steel by Delbert Hodges. Heavy 3D piece, unsafe for high traffic areas. Currently stored in staff office.

Majestic Supremacy, 1970s, welded steel by Delbert Hodges. Heavy 3D piece, unsafe for high traffic areas. Currently stored in staff office.

Falling Books, 2008, bronze sculpture by Robert Hess. Has been repaired by SPLF. Will be relocated to library. Currently stored in Library storage. May require purchase of new pedestal.

Salem Peace Mosaic, 2011, tile mosaic, by Lynn Takata and multiple artists. Currently in storage. The Riverfront Carousel building expansion has been identified as a potential relocation site for this mosaic. Funds needed to start the Carousel expansion project and expected to be raised by 2028.

Waldo Stewards, 2017, Mural, by Blaine Fontana. In need of repair due to damage and graffiti. Original artist has been contacted for assessment.

b. Subcommittee Reports

- i. Civic Center Renovation, **PW Aaron Kimsey**, Percent for Art Acquisition- Susan Napack, Chair, Chris D’Arcy, Vice Chair, Karl Roth

Summary: A subcommittee was formed to plan for public art at the Civic Center acquired through the funds dedicated to Percent for Art. The subcommittee has identified locations and is working with staff on RFQ.

- ii. Acquiring New Art – *Susan Napack, Chair*

Summary: A subcommittee was formed to research the potential of acquiring new art from local contemporary artists for the Public Art Collection.

- iii. Public Mural and Application Review Subcommittee – *Brian Hart, Karl Roth, Spencer Emerick, Commissioners*

Summary: A subcommittee was formed to research mural applications and programs. Information has been provided to the Commission comparing how other Cities manage art programs. Examples of differences in mural easement and surfaces, art programs, partnerships/collaborations, digital applications, and copyright ownership guidelines were provided. In further discussion amongst Commissioners, it was suggested that past mural applicants be asked for their feedback on the process. The Commission shared support of this conversation topic and emphasized wanting to continue to discuss possible improvements. At the September 2025 SPAC meeting, following research provided by the subcommittee, the Commission made two motions, the first was to look in to reducing the length of easement required for a mural, and the second was to allow artist to retain copyright to works of art that are added to the Public Art Collection, while the City would hold a non-exclusive license. The City Attorney’s Office is researching the requests and will update the commission with findings. At the October Meeting several public testimonies were provided in support allowing artist to retain copyright to works of art in the Public Art Collection. A motion was passed for Commissioner Hart to draft a Council recommendation which the Commission will review at the November 2025 meeting. Follow up from staff is expected in February 2026.

- iv. Social Media & Art Database – *Krista Lauer, Commissioner*
Summary: A subcommittee was formed to provide information regarding past and future social media content, as well as public engagement efforts, and an art database overview. Posts on City social media channels have been reduced to once a month, Commissioners suggested that posts be forward thinking, fun, informative, and engaging. The Art Database is in need of updates, Krista has been working with City staff and other commissioners who have volunteered to look into options.