



Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

August 21, 2025

Regular Meeting, 4:00pm–5:30pm

Siskiyou Conference Room, 51 Winburn Way

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93522969824?pwd=3niUlr54ZKvz773KpfIkZoFUOzzl.1>

- I. (4:00) CALL TO ORDER:**
 - a. Welcome – Sue Sears Introduction
 - b. Quorum count
 - c. Announcements
 - d. Land Acknowledgment (attached)
 - e. Labor Acknowledgement (attached)
- II. (4:05) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. July 17, 2025, regular meeting
- III. (4:10) PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Abram Katz, The Home Project (Heartisan Foundation)
 - b. Don Daniels, Mural at 149–167 E Main St
 - c. Caroline Lion, Public Art Installation Non–profit (digital)
- IV. (4:20) LIAISON REPORTS**
 - a. City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne
 - b. APRC Liaison, Michael Gardiner & APR Staff Liaison, Rachel Dials
 - c. Community Development Liaison, Veronica Allen
- V. (4:30) DISCUSSION ITEMS and MOTIONS** (up to 10 minutes per topic)
 - a. Traffic Signal Box Selection Panel Update
 - b. Mural Fest & Fringe Fest Task Group Update
 - c. Guanajuato Heart Task Group Update
- VI. (5:00) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES** (up to 5 minutes per item)
 - a. Budget Update – entering new biennial budget season
 - b. Art Maintenance Report
 - c. Ancestor’s Future Update
 - d. We Are Here Mural Update
 - e. Playwrights Walk Plaque Update
- VII. (5:25) ROUND TABLE** – Member open discussion of project opportunities (2 mins. each)
- VIII. (5:30) ADJOURNMENT** – Next Meeting: Thursday, September 18th, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

Note: Anyone wishing to speak at any Public Arts Advisory Committee meeting is encouraged to do so. After you have been recognized by the Chair, give your name and City of residence. You will then be allowed to speak. Please note the public testimony may be limited by the Chair.





Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

Land Acknowledgement

"We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work – the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we live and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma, and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha – "Where the Crow Lights" – that is now the Ashland City Plaza."

Labor Acknowledgement

We also pause to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions are built.

We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people who were kidnapped and brought to the U.S. from the African continent and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all immigrant & indigenous labor, including voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented peoples who contributed to the building of the country and continue to serve within our labor force. We acknowledge all unpaid care-giving labor.

To the people who contributed this immeasurable work and their descendants, we acknowledge their indelible mark on the space in which we gather today. It is our collective responsibility to critically examine these histories, to repair harm, and to honor, protect, and sustain their contribution to our society.



Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES

July 17, 2025

Regular Meeting 4:00–5:30 PM

Siskiyou Conference Room, 51 Winburn Way

I. (4:06) CALL TO ORDER:

- a) Welcome
- b) Quorum count – achieved
- c) Announcements – none
- d) Land Acknowledgment – read by: Russell Copley
- e) Labor Acknowledgement – read by: Tish Way

Attendance

Present:

Chair Cassie Preskenis
Susan MacCracken Jain
Kate Womack
Heather Warden
Russell Copley
Tish Way
Emily Simon, SERJAC Liaison

Staff Present: Veronica Allen, Staff Liaison

II. (4:13) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) May 15, 2025, regular meeting

Motion: Kate moved to accept the minutes with the correction of Russell Beebe's name

Second: Susan MacCracken Jain

Vote: All ayes – motion passed unanimously (Preskenis, MacCracken Jain, Womack, Warden, Copley, Way)

III. (4:10) PUBLIC FORUM

- a) Abram Katz, The Home Project (Heartisan Foundation) short presentation & Q&A
- b) Sarah Mix – Concerns around Public Art & the Indian Arts & Crafts Act

IV. (4:30) LAISON REPORT

- a) City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne – Absent
- b) APRC Liaison, Michael Gardiner & APR Staff Liaison, Rachel Dials – Absent
- c) Community Development Liaison, Veronica Allen – no updates

V. (4:37–5:29) DISCUSSION ITEMS – FORMAL ACTIONS & MOTIONS

- a) **Velocity Update – Public Works, Mike Morrison**

Update on Velocity repairs – additional repair needed for the back end at a similar cost to previous repair (\$3,000). Discussion focused on cost comparisons (removal, relocation, reinforcement, private sale, etc.). Mike Morrison will put together a list of costs to bring to the PAAC at a future meeting.

Note: Anyone wishing to speak at any Public Arts Advisory Committee meeting is encouraged to do so. After you have been recognized by the Chair, give your name and City of residence. You will then be allowed to speak. Please note the public testimony may be limited by the Chair.





Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

b) **Traffic Signal Box Update**

Letters to be drafted by Veronica to send to the property owners/residents of nearby boxes once the art pieces are selected. Selection Panel has not yet met but will before the August meeting, City Council agenda pushed back to late September. ODOT has provided their approval for all designs.

c) **Placement of 2nd Guanajuato Heart**

Mike Morrison provided an overview of the relationship between Ashland and Guanajuato, the connection to the Heart art pieces, and provided recommended locations: the fire station, city hall, police station. PAAC members added in Garfield Park, general high-traffic areas, the plaza, replace Pioneer Mike, and the Community Development lobby. Concerns were voiced about vandalism in/near park or police station. Further discussion included the possibility of adding plaques to the back of the hearts and coming up with a public voting mechanism (ie a survey).

Motion: Susan moved to form a Task Group to make location recommendations.

Second: Kate Womack

Vote: All ayes - motion passed unanimously (Preskenis, MacCracken Jain, Womack, Warden, Copley, Way)

Volunteers for Task Group: Tish, Kate, Susan

Motion: Cassie moved to have items f-h moved to the next meeting due to time constraints.

Amended Motion: Susan moved to add to Cassie's motion to have an email sent to PAAC members to describe next steps for strategic plan and enlist PAAC members to join the group between meetings.

Vote: All ayes - motion passed unanimously (Preskenis, MacCracken Jain, Womack, Warden, Copley, Way)

d) **Placement of Jarrett Davidson's Mural from Mural Fest**

Discussion included possible locations of OHRA, 2200 Ashland Street, other city properties, and possibility of needing a protective clear coat applied.

Motion: Kate Womack motioned to create a Task Group to identify possible mural locations.

Second: Russell Copley

Motion stricken by Kate Womack and addressed with Fringe Festival item.

e) **Placement of Art Piece from Fringe Festival**

Discussion centered around identifying which piece of art was desired/donated to the City of Ashland and possible locations would depend on the piece chosen. Emily Simon suggested that we get more background information from the Fringe Festival organizers on the diversity of the artists.

New Motion: Kate Womack motioned to create a Task Group to identify locations for the art pieces from Mural Fest and Fringe Festival.

Second: Heather Warden



Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Vote: All ayes – motion passed unanimously (Preskenis, MacCracken Jain, Womack, Warden, Copley, Way)

Volunteers for Task Group: Kate, Heather, and Russell.

Veronica to provide contact information to the Task Group to receive more information about the art piece(s).

- f) *Strategic Planning – moved to next meeting*
- g) *M.A.P Discussion – moved to next meeting*
- h) *PAAC Timeline Planning – moved to next meeting*

VI. (5:29) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES

a. **Unveiling Lorraine Hansberry Plaque/Playwrights Walk Plaque Update**

b. **Guanajuato Hearts arrived and first unveiled at SOU – discussed in previous items**

Motion: Motion by Cassie Preskenis to move all remaining items not discussed to the August meeting.

Second: Tish Way.

Vote: All ayes – motion passed unanimously (Preskenis, MacCracken Jain, Womack, Warden, Copley, Way)

- c. *Ancestor's Future Update – moved to next meeting*
- d. *We Are Here Mural Update – moved to next meeting*
- e. *Budget Update – moved to next meeting*
- f. *Art Maintenance Report – moved to next meeting*

VII. (5:31) ROUND TABLE – none

VIII. (5:32) ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 21, 4:00 pm



Mural on south blank wall of 149-167 E Main

From Don Daniels <711donut@gmail.com>
Date Mon 8/4/2025 11:47 PM
To Veronica Allen <veronica.allen@ashland.or.us>
Cc Ashland Main-Amistad <amistadllc@icloud.com>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Veronica,

We are looking for ideas to commission a mural on the south end of our building. We would like for the work to feature Ashland specific themes...whether it be the Shakespeare Festival, the natural landscape (Lithia Park, Rouge Valley) or the town history. Open to ideas. Would appreciate any funding...but I am prepared to finance the majority of it. Just looking for ideas!

Please let us know when the next meeting is; I will try to attend via zoom or ideally in person.

Thanks!

Don

<https://warroomcellars.com/>

Don Daniels

WarRoom Cellars

22985 El Camino Real

Santa Margarita, CA 93453

805-550-8912

www.warroomcellars.com




Re: question and follow up from voicemail

From Caroline Lion <klion230@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 8/7/2025 1:17 PM

To Veronica Allen <veronica.allen@ashland.or.us>

 2 attachments (474 KB)

SAVE THE ART.pdf; Vitae 2025.pdf;

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Veronica,

Thanks for offering to send this along. I've attached a one-page description of the project (as it stands now) as well as my cv.

There is much on the cv that might not be of interest, but it is important for the people on the commission to know something about me. I'm basically a supporter of the humanities and the arts and want to do what I can at this time to help the community.

best wishes
Caroline

On Monday, August 4, 2025 at 08:02:42 AM PDT, Veronica Allen <veronica.allen@ashland.or.us> wrote:

Hi Caroline,

Yes, you can provide written comments which I can provide to the PAAC.

Much thanks

Veronica Allen, CFM, Associate Planner

Pronouns She/Her

SAVE THE ART: SHARE THE ART

This organization will be a non-profit community alliance with the goal to protect sensitive works from the negative effects of summer wildfires and climate change and also contribute to the interweaving of art ecosystems and communities in the Pacific Northwest.

Purpose: Given the drastic effects of climate change (specifically, wildfire), there are many in Ashland who might own art that needs protection. While insurance is obvious, the saving of the art itself is vital for any culture, especially one under threat from external forces. Recent losses resulting from wildfire include at least thirty paintings by Andy Warhole and the collection of Schoenberg's scores (LA) as well as much art by local artists during the Alameda fire of 2020.

Goal: I want to create exhibitions in San Francisco and/or Portland from June through September of art and important collections that are owned privately or publicly in Ashland and the surrounding area. Entrance fees at these exhibitions would be small but the profit would go to fire prevention and safety. I specifically think of middle-class homeowners in Southern Oregon who cannot afford fire defense. A small percentage of sales (some pieces could be for sale) would go to this same effort. The pieces would therefore be relatively safe during fire season. Meanwhile, the people of Portland and San Francisco would be able to view a portion of the treasure of art stashed away here in Southern Oregon. The art would be made up of museum pieces, gallery pieces, and that of local artists. Some documents from the OSF archives could possibly be included as well as Shakespeare's Quarto at the Hannon Library.

Process: First, I need to create a non-profit. Second, I need to meet possible donors and foundations that would see the importance of this project. Third, I need to collect more information and find a curator as well as a professional who knows about moving art and creating safe exhibits. I would also need contracts for the art owners. Next, there would be an open announcement to the public to see who might be interested in saving their art free of charge during these four or five months. Then, in June, the art would be carefully and professionally transported to the chosen exhibition spaces.

What I need from the Ashland Art Commission: At this point, I would appreciate legal help in the creation of a nonprofit as well as contracts for the art owners for when the time comes. I also would appreciate contacts with any foundations or donors. This will be a very expensive undertaking. While I can write grants, I would appreciate it if someone could offer to glance at my grant applications. Finally, any ideas are welcome!

What I have done: I have talked to the Regional Arts and Culture Counsel in Portland as well as to the Portland Art Museum. The responses were very positive. I have also reached out to the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco and am waiting to hear back.

Who I am: I hold a PhD from the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, Stratford upon Avon, UK and am a twenty-five year resident of Ashland. Please see my resume.

CURRICULUM VITAE
 CAROLINE WIESENTHAL LION
 541 488 5284
Klion230@yahoo.com

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

- *University of Birmingham, Stratford Upon Avon, United Kingdom
PhD English (Shakespeare Studies) and Jewish Thought 2021
- *Dissertation Title: *Beyond Violence: "The Merchant of Venice."*
- Supervisor: Dr. Ewan Fernie, Shakespeare studies
- Secondary supervisor: Dr. Isabel Wollaston, Jewish Studies
- *Middlebury College in Vermont and Paris, **MA French** (theatre and philosophy)
- *College of Franklin and Marshall, **BA French**
- *Academy for Jewish Religion, rabbinic program, Jewish thought, Talmud, Midrash, history
- *Middlebury Hebrew immersion summer program
- *Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem; Jewish thought and mystical constructs
- *NYU Tisch School of Dramatic Writing, MFA Program, Dramatic Writing

HONORS

PhD Dissertation passed with honors and without corrections
 Huntington-Oxford Fellowship awarded 04/2023

TEACHING CREDENTIALS

Present: I am a Research Associate for the New Swan Theater, University of California, Irvine.
2025: to today: Adjunct Professor Shakespeare Studies, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR
2014 to today: *Community Writing Workshops in Ashland Oregon, sliding scale to create a chance for challenged students and those who are underprivileged.*
2021: temporary Assistant Professor at *Lees McRae College*, North Carolina

- *English Composition
- *Creative Writing
- * British Literature (*Beowulf* to Shakespeare)

2000 to 2021: *Rogue Community College*, Oregon, instructor, online (Blackboard) and on campus, highly diverse student population

- *English Composition/ Argumentative Writing (115.121)
- *Research Writing (122)
- *Imaginative Writing (playwriting, fiction, poetry, and memoir) I created the curriculum and syllabi for these classes.

2019: *University of Birmingham, UK*. instructor

- **British Theater and Literature Before 1790*
- * *Erasmus Students from all over the world*
- *online presence
- **British grading rubric*

2014-2016 *Southern Oregon University*, intermittently.

- *Adjunct instructor of playwriting
- *Shakespeare Facilitator for Visiting High School Students (lecturer)
 workshop titles include *Bringing Much Ado to Your High School* and *Be Your Own Shakespeare* (a writing workshop)

RESEARCH AND ADVISING POSITIONS

2016 Advisor in Hebrew Bible interpretation for Julia Lupton, Shakespeare scholar at UC Irvine
2016 Advisor for Shakespeare-America, an organization in Ashland Oregon that furthers

scholarship of Shakespeare productions as interpreted through American venues.

GRANTS and SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Shakespeare Association of America travel grant, 2025, not accessed*
- *Oxford-Huntington Exchange fellowship awarded 04/2023, \$5,000 to research early modern Hebraic texts at the Bodleian Library (Oxford) for my next project on *The Tempest*.
- *Grant from the World Shakespeare Congress to attend the 2021 conference.
- *Rogue Community College Faculty Development Award, 2019, to enable the presentation of a paper at the Blackfriars Conference at the American Shakespeare Center
- *University of Birmingham, UK Research Development Award, 2019, research in Israel of marginalized groups and political/social unrest with the aim to achieve accurate presentist analysis of *The Merchant of Venice*, \$1,400
- *University of Birmingham Research Development Award. to enable the presentation of a paper at the British Shakespeare Association Conference, 2018, \$500
- * British Shakespeare Association Conference scholarships, \$500
- **Shakespeare and Presentism* Conference, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Kingston, United Kingdom, scholarship, 2018, \$200
- *Rogue Community College Faculty Development Award to enable the presentation of a paper at the *Shakespeare and the Jews* conference, University College of London, UK, 2017, \$1000
- **Shakespeare and the Jews* Conference, University College of London, 2017, \$200
- *Scholarships at The Academy for Jewish Religion, \$750
- *Scholarship at the Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem, \$300
- *Grant to start an experimental theater in Oregon/ recently widowed/ not accessed, \$75,000

CONFERENCES

2025: *Shakespeare Association of America Conference paper "Reading Shakespeare in Jewish Theological Frameworks: The Flaming Amazement of Ariel"* note: family issues so I did not attend but took part in the peer review

2024 Shakespeare Association of America Conference, paper "Reading Shakespeare in Jewish Theological Frameworks: Caliban in the Rock"

2023 Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2022 Kingston Shakespeare Seminar, *The College de Sociologie and Shakespeare*, Chair for Dominique Goy Blanquet.

2022 The Shakespeare Association of America, paper "Shakespeare and the *Song of Songs*"

2021 The World Shakespeare Congress, paper, "Lorenzo in *The Merchant of Venice* as *Aspiring Kabbalist*"

2019 Blackfriar's Conference, American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, Virginia, paper, "Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* as Post-Holocaust Prophetess."

2019 Kingston Shakespeare Seminar, *Arendt and Shakespeare*, Shakespeare and Philosophy, Garrick's Temple, University of Kingston, UK, paper, "Hannah Arendt's Worst Nightmare."

2019 British Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Oxford, UK, paper, "Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* as Post Holocaust Prophetess."

2019 *Shakespeare: Race and Nation*, British Shakespeare Association, Swansea

University, UK, paper, "Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* as Post-Holocaust Prophetess."
2019 Shakespeare Association of America, paper, "Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* as Post-Holocaust Prophetess," Washington, DC.
2018 *Shakespeare and Philosophy*, University College of London, paper, "Peace in an Age of Mechanical Reproducibility."
2018 *Shakespeare and Presentism*, Kingston University, UK and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, paper, "Peace in an Age of Mechanical Reproducibility."
2018 *Radical Mischief Conference*, The University of Birmingham and The Royal Shakespeare Company, committees attended; *Religion* led by Julia Lupton and *Violence* led by Kiernan Ryan.
2018 *British Shakespeare Association Conference*, Belfast University, paper, "Beyond Violence: 'The Merchant of Venice'."
2017 *Shakespeare and the Jews*, University College of London, paper, "Beyond Violence; 'The Merchant of Venice'."

INTERVIEWS (samples)

02/2024 Friends of the Hannon Library Speaker Series, *Reading Shakespeare in Jewish Theological Frameworks: Shylock Beyond the Holocaust*,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF3ULEwo6Mo&t=19s>

06/28/23 New Swan Theater, UC Irvine, interview with Julia Lupton, distinguished professor of English on *Reading Shakespeare in Jewish Theological Frameworks*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGkAnCTXjLI>

11/04/2022 Jackson Public Radio (an affiliate of NPR) *How to View Shakespeare's Shylock As More Than A Caricature* <https://www.ijpr.org/show/the-jefferson-exchange/2022-11-04/mon-9-am-how-to-view-shakespeares-shylock-as-more-than-a-caricature>

PUBLICATIONS

2024 pending article "Prospero the Perplexed" forthcoming in *Shakespeare and Religion* (Vernon Press).

2022 *Reading Shakespeare in Jewish Theological Frameworks: Shylock Beyond the Holocaust*, <https://www.routledge.com/Reading-Shakespeare-in-Jewish-Theological-Frameworks-Shylock-Beyond-the/Lion/p/book/9781032121376>

2012-2013 12 six hundred-word essays in DOVray TORAH, a journal of Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins, author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

2010 *Ashlandia*, full-length novel, Endorsements from poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Tom Robbins.

ORGANIZATIONS (membership past and/or present)

Shakespeare Association of America

British Shakespeare Association

British Association of Jewish Studies

American Academy of Religion

The Havurah and Temple Emek Shalom in Ashland, Oregon

PRODUCTIONS and OPTIONS

1996 *To Die in Provence*, screenplay adapted from the full-length novel (unpublished) optioned to a filmmaker. Examines antisemitism and Islamophobia in post-war France.

1990 *Money is Fun*, full-length play, festival reading, The Magic Theater, San Francisco. Several

staged readings of other plays at the same theater.

UNPUBLISHED PLAYS AND FICTION

I have written seven plays and four full-length novels.

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Magic Theatre, San Francisco, California.

*assistant to John Lion (artistic director).

*literary manager (under dramaturge Martin Esslin).

*actor (understudy and readings).

*playwright.

VOLUNTEER WORK

*First-ever Interfaith Passover Seder at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford upon Avon with minister Paul Edmondson and special guest Sir Stanley Wells.

*Lectures at the University of Birmingham, UK extra-curricular events on Jewish holidays

*Holland America cruise ships, five cruises, leader of High Holiday and Shabbat services as well as Passover Seders.

*Leader of several High Holiday and Shabbat services, southern Oregon and Northern California.

*Volunteer for victims of the Alameda fire, 2020.

*Volunteer, Ashland Food Project

Please ask if interested as I have volunteered often within the Ashland, Oregon community.

Fluent in French and Biblical Hebrew, widow of John Lion (founder of the Magic Theater, San Francisco), loving mother of our four grown children. I love hiking, rafting, running, nature. I practice yoga and have traveled extensively, originally from New York, onsite student at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford upon Avon for three years, resident of Ashland, Oregon.