



Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

September 18, 2025

Regular Meeting, 4:00pm–5:30pm

Siskiyou Conference Room, 51 Winburn Way

- I. (4:00) CALL TO ORDER:**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Quorum count
 - c. Announcements
 - d. Land Acknowledgment (attached)
 - e. Labor Acknowledgement (attached)
- II. (4:05) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. August 21, 2025, regular meeting
- III. (4:10) PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)
- IV. (4:15) 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. (4:20) DISCUSSION ITEMS and MOTIONS** (up to 10 minutes per topic)
 - a. Mural Fest & Fringe Fest Task Group Update & Possible Recommendation
 - b. Guanajuato Heart Task Group Update & Possible Recommendation
 - c. Meeting Frequency, Start Time, other possible changes
 - d. Pioneer Mike Discussion
- VI. (4:50) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES** (up to 5 minutes per item)
 - a. Budget Update - entering new biennial budget season
 - b. Art Maintenance Report/Update
 - c. Traffic Signal Box Selection Panel Update
 - d. Playwrights Walk Plaque Update
- VII. (5:10) ROUND TABLE** - Member open discussion of project opportunities (2 mins. each)
- VIII. (5:30) ADJOURNMENT** - Next Meeting: Thursday, October 16th, 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

August 21, 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 – Sue Sears Introduction
- d) Land Acknowledgment – read by: Sue Sears
- e) Labor Acknowledgement – read by: Tish Way

Attendance

Present:

Vice Chair, Susan MacCracken Jain
Kate Womack (via zoom)
Heather Warden
Russell Copley (via zoom)
Tish Way
Sue Sears
Gina Duquette, City Council Liaison

Absent: Chair Cassie Preskenis; Emily Simon, SERJAC Liaison; APRC Liaison, Michael Gardiner

Staff Present: Veronica Allen, Staff Liaison; Rachel Dials, APR Staff Liaison

II. (4:12) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) July 17, 2025, regular meeting
Motion: Tish moved to accept the minutes as presented
Second: Heather Warden
Vote: All ayes - motion passed unanimously (MacCracken Jain, Womack, Warden, Copley, Way, Sears)

III. (4:13) PUBLIC FORUM

- a) Don Daniels, Mural at 149-167 E Main St, (received digitally) – PAAC interested
- b) Caroline Lion, Public Art Installation Non-profit (received digitally, will be at next meeting)

IV. (4:15) LAISON REPORT

- a) APR Staff Liaison, Rachel Dials – Parks & Rec upcoming meetings, Butler Fountain update
- b) City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne - none

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Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

- c) Community Development Liaison, Veronica Allen – Guanajuato Heart touch-ups needed prior to install, Velocity update, resignation of Christi McClain at last meeting, discuss possibility of changing meeting times/frequency

V. (4:20) DISCUSSION ITEMS – FORMAL ACTIONS & MOTIONS

- a) **Mural Fest & Fringe Fest Task Group Update** – have not yet met
- b) **Traffic Signal Box (TSB) Update** – Selection Panel met and made recommendations to the PAAC for the TSB located at Tolman & Ashland Street, Walker & Ashland Street, and Mountain & Siskiyou Blvd. The selected pieces in order are “Field Notes & Folks” by Arzoo Adhikari, “Hummingbirds & Hands” by Dylan Fram, and “Whimsical Birds & Plants” by Jessica Lee Findleton.

Motion: Heather moved to approve the Selection Panel’s recommendations and recommend their approval to the City Council at their next available meeting, tentatively the September 16th meeting.

Second: Tish Way

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

Additional discussion: a list of interested artists/previous submittals will be compiled either together or separate from other interested artists list to utilize for future years. This list could be shared with Don Daniels (business owner) who shared interest via Public Forum in having a mural added to his business.

- c) **Guanajuato Heart Task Group** – have not yet met, but Jordan Rooklyn referred a group interested in improving the plaza to this group

VI. (4:34) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES

- a) **Budget Update** – miscommunication, will be provided at next meeting
- b) **Art Maintenance** – Velocity repair estimate will be tentatively provided at next meeting; numbers being compiled for future estimated maintenance of John Pugh mural once donated to the city. Rio Amistad, Ethel E. Reid, and Inorganic Compound are having contracts drafted for the artists to do the repair work.
- c) **Ancestor’s Future Update** – no update at this time – Cassie out, Micah Blacklight mural, 501(c)(3) created
- d) **We Are Here Mural Update** – no update at this time, “we are here” is in error and should refer to the work being done by Micah Blacklight (“Where the Crow Lights”) being done in studio and available to the public on First Fridays
- e) **Playwright’s Walk Plaques Update** – presentation from Ken Engleund and Senora Chella of Amigo Club. Proposal to have 2 identical plaques created to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Guanajuato. Both plaques would be in Spanish and English. One plaque to stay in Ashland and one to go to Guanajuato. A local artist could be selected for the art, a Spanish playwright for the quote (Senora Chella shared examples), and Jack Langford would cast the plaques

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Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

as done before. The cost would be \$9,000 for the two plaques to be created and installed. The presentation states that the Guanajuato plaque will be externally funded by private investors and requests that previous funding for approved City Hall plaque be re-allocated to this plaque to expedite its creation. It was not stated what would happen with the City Hall plaque, or the proposed location or art of the Sister City plaque.

Motion: Heather moved to approve the re-allocation of funds from the City Hall plaque to the Guanajuato sister plaque, with the secondary plaque to be externally funded.

Second: Tish Way

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

- f) *Strategic Planning – moved from last meeting but delayed to a future meeting*
- g) *M.A.P Discussion – moved from last meeting but delayed to a future meeting*
- h) *PAAC Timeline Planning – moved from last meeting but delayed to a future meeting*

VII. (5:12) ROUND TABLE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Guanajuato Heart (location TBD) may need touch-ups, investigate the possibility to utilize the marketing budget (\$1,000) that was allocated if unused.
- b) Susan MacCracken Jain updates: she has left the Guanajuato Heart Task Group to allow Sue Sears to join; the Thalden Playwright's Walk Plaques are moving along; Jack Langford's Gallery showing on August 22; Oregon Peace Trail end is in Ashland and suggests having David Wick come to address the PAAC at a meeting for identifying what it means to be a destination point on the trail, Susan to email Veronica the contact information for David Wick who is organizing the Peace Trail
- c) Heather Warden updates: will send invitation to Veronica to send to PAAC group for 30 Year Celebration and fundraiser for Ashland Gallery Association
- d) Possible meeting time/frequency changes will be discussed at next meeting

VIII. (5:29) ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 18, 4:00 pm

Memo

DATE: September 18th, 2025

TO: PAAC

FROM: Veronica Allen, Associate Planner

RE: Public Forum Submittal – Request for Assistance

Caroline Lion – Save The Art (Submittal for Public Forum)

- The attached letter from Caroline Lion outlines her intent to form a non-profit centered around sharing art to benefit fire prevention and safety. Caroline would like assistance in the form of finding board members, a curator, finance manager, editor, and an attorney, as well as locating artists via an open announcement to participate in the exhibition. While the scope of the non-profit and its exhibition is outside the scope of the PAAC's role, locating or suggesting artists, providing contacts, or help getting the word out could be done by individual members of the PAAC.

Planning Department

20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
ashland.or.us

Tel: 541.488.5300
Fax: 541.552.2059
TTY: 800.735.2900



SAVE THE ART: SHARE THE ART

Caroline Lion 541 488 5284 klion230@yahoo.com

This organization will be a nonprofit community alliance with the goal to protect sensitive work from the negative effects of wildfire and climate change. In so doing, it will contribute to the interweaving of art ecosystems and communities in the Pacific Northwest, and later, Southwest.

Purpose: Given the drastic effects of climate change and wildfire, there are many in Ashland, Oregon (for example) who might own art that needs protection. While insurance is obvious, the saving of the art itself is vital. Recent losses resulting from wildfire include at least thirty paintings by Andy Warhol 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. 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.

Process: This organization is now being reviewed for registration by the state, and once accepted, it will become a nonprofit. 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 locate possible board members. Of course, I will need to find a curator, a finance manager, and an attorney. 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 presently need: I would appreciate legal help (donations welcome) 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 an expensive undertaking. While I can write grants, I would appreciate an editor. Finally, any ideas are welcome!

What I have done: I have talked to the Regional Arts and Culture Counsel in Portland as well as the Portland Art Museum. The responses were very positive. I have also reached out to the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco and have applied for business registration (State of Oregon).

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. I have worked in nonprofits, know how to get things done, and love art. I have a proven track record as a supporter of the arts and humanities.