



Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

February 19, 2026

Regular Meeting, 4:30pm–6:00pm

Siskiyou Conference Room, 51 Winburn Way

- I. (4:30) CALL TO ORDER:**
 - a. Welcome & Announcements
 - b. Quorum count - *If no quorum is achieved within 15 minutes of meeting start, the meeting will be cancelled.*
 - c. Land Acknowledgment (attached)
 - d. Labor Acknowledgement (attached)
- II. (4:35) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Jan 15, 2026 - Pending
- III. (4:35) PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)
- IV. (4:40) LIAISON REPORTS**
 - a. City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne
 - b. APRC Liaison, Michael Gardiner & APR Staff Liaison, Rachel Dials
 - c. Community Development Liaison, Brandon Goldman
- V. (4:50) DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES**
 - a. Playwrights Walk Update & Preview of City & OSF Plaques (10 minutes)
 - i. Guest: City/Guanajuato Plaque designer J K Meadows
 - b. *"Where the Crow Lights"* - John Pugh Mural update (5 minutes)
 - c. *"Ancestor's Future: Crystallizing Our Call"* - Micah BlackLight Sculpture Update (5 minutes)
 - d. Public Art Maintenance Update (15 minutes)
 - i. Gathering sculpture lighting
 - ii. Guanajuato Art installation
 - iii. Maintenance Plan Discussion
 - e. PAAC Strategy Update & Way Forward (15 minutes)
 - i. Council December 15, 2025 year end Update
- VI. (5:40) ROUND TABLE** - Member open discussion of project opportunities (10 minutes)
- VII. (5:50) MEETING PLANNING** (up to 15 minutes)
 - a. Quorum Count
 - b. Agenda Creation – discuss items, etc. for inclusion at the next meeting
- VIII. (6:00) ADJOURNMENT** - Next Meeting: March 19, 2026, at 4:30 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 Acknowledgment

"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 Acknowledgment

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.

Electronic Participation

If you would like to attend this meeting virtually, please contact Brandon Goldman, Community Development Director, at brandon.goldman@ashland.or.us by 10 am the day of the meeting. The City will arrange electronic participation and provide you the necessary access information.

Accessibility notice

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Brandon Goldman, Community Development Director, or 541.488.5305 (TTY phone number 1.800.735.2900). Notification at least three business days before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Memo

DATE: December 15, 2025
TO: Mayor Graham and City Council
FROM: Cassie Preskenis, Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) Chair
RE: PAAC 2025 Achievements & 2026 Priorities and Workplan

2025 Achievements

Over the course of 2025, the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC):

- **Internal Projects & Awarded Funding**

- Began a living "maintenance plan" for PAAC that includes an inventory of all artworks and an assessment of upcoming potential maintenance needs.
- Facilitated the RFP and selection process for three additional traffic control boxes to be painted in 2025 with a focus on South Ashland.
- Recommended the use of a small amount of funding to support local live arts events that drive tourism and beauty Ashland: Mural Fest and Fringe Festival.
 - Both events donated artworks to the city to be installed in South Ashland
- Recommended the use of funds for two Playwright plaques
 - The installation of the Lorraine Hansberry plaque on A St was a large and celebrated community unveiling
- Recommended the use of funding to receive two gifted hearts from Guanajato
 - One heart was temporarily installed on the lawn outside of the Schneider Museum for the 55th anniversary of the sister city relationship on July 3rd, with a lovely community celebration.
 - Both hearts are awaiting permanent placement and are intended to drive photo ops and drum up a sense of belonging for people of ALL backgrounds.

- **Traffic Signal Box project**

- This is a multi-year public art project that will continue for another six or seven years. The first three traffic signal boxes of the project were painted in 2024.
- In 2025, three additional designs were approved (with a focus on beautifying the South end of Ashland), the locations of the approved boxes are:
 1. Ashland Street and Tolman Creek Road
 2. Ashland Street and Walker Avenue

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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3. Siskiyou Blvd and Mountain Avenue
 - Due to unexpected ODOT box maintenance and possible box replacements, painting for these three boxes is on hold until early 2026.
 - The Traffic Signal Box project has a theme of "Neighborhood public artworks." In other words, we hope a number of residents will help the artist create each box artwork. The sub-committee found youth to collaborate in painting each of the designs approved this year:
 1. Youth from the nearby YMCA
 2. Youth from the nearby Walker Elementary School
 3. Youth from Ashland High School art classes
- **Public Art Story Map on the city website**
 - A sub-committee is working with City of Ashland GIS staff to update and revise the Story Map.
 - Adding additional public artworks, to bring the Story Map up to date.
 - Adding additional photos.
 - Adding additional descriptive text.
 - **Playwrights Walk plaques**

*Although the Playwrights Walk project is a community driven initiative, several of the members of PAAC are driving this project forward in partnership with OSF, SOU, The Chamber of Commerce, and philanthropists Barry and Kathryn Thalden.

 - This spring (in response to the news that PAAC's budget would no longer roll over), the city manager approved funding for two Playwright's plaques.
 - The first was the Lorraine Hansberry plaque on A Street, celebrated with a large community unveiling.
 - This plaque, through its artwork and quote, weaves together and permanently memorializes the "Say Their Names" T-shirt memorials with ongoing goals of the PAAC and SERJAC advisory committees.
- **Gifted Artworks**
 - *Ancestor's Future: Crystallizing Our Call*
 - This artwork was wholeheartedly endorsed in 2022 and was recently fully funded by an anonymous donor.
 - Micah BlackLight is expected that the sculpture will be installed in early 2027.
 - *Where the Crow Lights*
 - John Pugh's artwork is nearly fully funded for installation on the Elk's Lodge public facing wall in downtown Ashland.
 - *Mural Fest*

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- Mural painted by Jarrett Davidson, hope to be installed in public facing location at OHRA on Ashland Street in the South end of Ashland
- *Fringe Festival*
 - Small sculptures by two artists from the festival, PAAC is exploring installing them in a future median or somewhere visible from the road in South Ashland
- *Guanajuato Hearts*
 - The artist Gilberto Negocio gifted the hearts in honor of the sister city's 55th anniversary. One heart will be located on SOU property (and is temporarily placed on the lawn near the arts buildings) and the second will be placed in a public space to invite photo ops to drive tourism.

2026 Priorities & Workplan

The Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) discussed priorities and a work plan for the 2026 calendar year at regular meetings in October, assigned group members to make a work group to create a draft document to bring to the scheduled November meeting to continue discussion, but had to be rescheduled to January. The list below is provided in anticipation of the December 15th conversation with Council, and is in addition to continuing the current projects and activities.

- **Modified Meeting Schedule** – PAAC will continue to look at potential modifications to its meeting schedule in response to limited resources to address quorum counts for all future meetings. Some steps have already been taken towards this goal.
- **Collaboration with city committees/commissions/city council** – Representatives from the following groups have been able to attend most PAAC meetings in 2025, which has been appreciated and is very helpful:
 - City Council
 - Parks Department
 - Social Equity Racial Justice Advisory Committee
 - Community Development & Public Works
- **Increasing public art in southeast Ashland** – With City Council support and PAAC support, this is beginning to happen. However, it will take years of small steps and focused effort to see "big" results.

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- Traffic Control boxes
- Guanajuato heart
- Mural Fest
- Fringe Festival
- Strategic plan** - Finalize goals and timeline for prioritizing, procuring, and maintaining artworks

Next Steps

PAAC looks forward to the December 15th discussion as an opportunity to align PAAC's priorities and proposed workplan to the Council and hear any feedback.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

None.

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Public Comments

From: Russell Copley <rcopley4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2026 5:58 AM
To: Mary Snelgrove <mary@ashlandfringe.org>
Cc: cassie@scienceworksmuseum.org; Veronica Allen <veronica.allen@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Re: Ashland Fringe and the Public Arts Advisory Committee

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Good morning, Mary.

Thank you for your email.

I have copied the City of Ashland, PAAC liaison, Veronica Allen, here. I am hereby suggesting that this topic be tabled on our next meeting's agenda.

Kind regards,

Russell

On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 12:37 PM Mary Snelgrove <mary@ashlandfringe.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon!

I hope that this email finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Ashland Fringe. I wanted to again thank you for awarding a grant of \$1000 to the 2025 Ashland Fringe Festival. Those funds were game changing toward the success of our festival and more specifically, the success of our visual art walk through Lithia Park.

Thanks to the support we have received like yours, we were propelled forward in establishing Ashland Fringe as a federal 501(c)3 non-profit with hopes to keep the spirit of fringe art alive in our community for years to come.

I wanted to reach out to see if the Public Arts Advisory Committee is seeking to award grants this year. I would love to chat more as Ashland Fringe would be honored to be considered again for our 2026 festival.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to start a conversation.

With gratitude,

--

Mary Snelgrove

Executive Director

(775)870-6325

ashlandfringe.org