



# Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

**May 21, 2026**

**Regular Meeting, 4:30pm–6:00pm**

**Siskiyou Conference Room, 51 Winburn Way**

<https://zoom.us/j/99018358424>

**I. (4:30) CALL TO ORDER:**

- a. Welcome & Announcements
- b. Quorum count – *cancel if no quorum is achieved within 15 minutes*
- c. Land Acknowledgment (attached)
- d. Labor Acknowledgement (attached)

**II. (4:35) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. March 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes

**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
  - i. Invitation to upcoming council meetings
- b. APRC Liaison, Michael Gardiner & APR Staff Liaison, Rachel Dials
- c. Community Development Liaison, Brandon Goldman

**V. (4:50) DISCUSSION ITEMS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, UPDATES**

- a. John Pugh Mural Update
  - i. Cynthia Salbato from White Rabbit (AI-generated project for which they received a grant to add an interactive component)
- b. Traffic Utility Boxes 2026 (Staff)
  - i. Call for Artist issued on Friday May 8.
  - ii. Deadline for submission June 12.
  - iii. Selection Panel ( “mid summer” )
- c. Update on Heart Placement (Staff)
- d. Maintenance Report (Kate)
- e. Mural Fest update (Susan)
- f. South Side Ashland Sign (Susan)

**VI. (5:40) ROUND TABLE** – Member open discussion (2 mins. each)

All PAAC members and friends invited to attend the dedication of the Playwrights Walk plaque at SOU, which is currently scheduled for Friday, May 22 (time TBD.)

**VII. (5:50) MEETING PLANNING** (up to 15 minutes)

- a. Quorum Count
- b. Agenda Creation – discuss items for inclusion at the next meeting

**VIII. (6:00) ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting: June 18, 2026**

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## 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**

**March 19, 2026**

**Regular Meeting 4:30-6:00PM**

**Siskiyou Conference Room, 51 Winburn Way**

## **Attendance**

Present:

Chair, Susan MacCracken Jain  
Heather Warden  
Russell Copley  
Kate Womack  
Monique Abbonizio

Absent: Sue Sears; Jay Bowen; Tish Way;

Gina Duquenne, City Council Liaison;

Staff Present: Brandon Goldman, Aaron Anderson, Jordon Rooklyn

## **I. (4:41) CALL TO ORDER:**

- a) Welcome & Announcements
- b) Quorum count - achieved
- c) Land Acknowledgment [RC]
- d) Labor Acknowledgement [SM]

## **II. (4:46) APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None**

- a) Jan 15 2026 Kate Womack / Russell Copley M/S to approve – unanimous
- b) Feb 19, 2026 Heatehr Warden / Monique Abbonizio M/S to approve – unanimous

## **III. (4:47) PUBLIC FORUM – None**

## **IV. (4:48) LAISON REPORTS**

- a) Community Development Liaison, Brandon Goldman made general announcements

## **V. (4:52) DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES**

- a) Wayfinding Signs Update (Jordan and Heather)

Jordan and Heather updated the group on the wayfinding signs and design work, this is informational only.

- b) Utility Boxes update (Kate and Peter)

There are three more utility boxes proposed for 2026. Four motions were made as follows:

- A proposal to authorize up to \$3750 for the fourth round of utility boxes (2026 cycle). Kate

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## Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Womack / Heather Warden M/S, vote 4 in favor (SM, RC, KW, HW), 1 against (MA). Motion Passed.

- A proposal for Kate, Russel and Peter to work on the RFP and issue call to artists and solicit membership for the selection panel. Kate Womack / Russel Colley M/S, unanimous. Motion Passed.
- A proposal to select the three boxes as proposed (see attached handout) Kate Womack / Heather Warden M/S, unanimous. Motion Passed.
- A proposal was made to choose the themes of Fire Dept and Library Kate Womack / Russel Colley M/S, unanimous. Motion Passed.

c) Brief updates: John Pugh Mural and Micah BlackLight Sculpture Scaffold to go up in May for the John Pugh Mural. Work on Micah sculpture continues

d) Playwrights Walk Update & Launch of the Story Map (Susan)  
A total of 17 playwright walk medallions expected to be completed this year.

e) PAAC Strategy Update & Way Forward (Susan)

- i. Proposal for “Year of Public Art” declaration
- A motion was made to forward the prepared resolution to council for a “year of public art” Susan Jain / Russel Colley M/S, unanimous. Motion Passed.

**VI. (6:00) ADJOURNMENT** – Next Meeting Date: May 21, 2026

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## **Traffic Signal Boxes 2026 – proposed timeline**

From the Traffic Signal Boxes sub-committee: Kate Womack, Russell Copley, Peter Finkle.  
For PAAC's March 19, 2026 meeting.

We recommend painting three more traffic signal boxes in 2026, as Phase 4 of the "Neighborhood Public Artworks: Traffic Signal Box Beautification Project." We have learned in previous phases that delays often occur in the process. Therefore, we want to propose the following timeline. We assume in this timeline that PAAC will not meet in April, but will meet in May and June.

### **We hope the following can happen at the PAAC March 2026 meeting:**

Approve budget for painting three more traffic signal boxes in 2026.  
Approve the subcommittee's three suggested boxes to paint in 2026. Or approve alternate boxes to paint in 2026.  
Approve a 2026 RFP format that will closely follow wording in the RFP used in 2025.  
Give the subcommittee authorization to write the 2026 RFP, subject to review by city staff.  
Give the subcommittee authorization to collect names of potential Selection Panel members, and to present a recommended list of Selection Panel members at the PAAC meeting in May.

(Note: Based on this timeline, the RFP would be released and publicized by April 10, 2026. The subcommittee recommends giving artists at least six weeks to send in their designs, from the date of the RFP. Perhaps the deadline for artist designs could be May 28, 2026.)

### **We hope the following can happen at the PAAC May 2026 meeting:**

Approve members of the 2026 designs Selection Panel.

(Note: The Selection Panel would probably meet in early June to review the designs and choose one for each box.)

### **We hope the following can happen at the PAAC June 2026 meeting:**

Approve the three designs chosen and recommended by the Selection Panel, and ask City Council to also approve the three designs.

(Note: With this timeline, we hope City Council could approve the three designs at one of their July meetings.)

Following this timeline, it should be possible for artists to purchase materials in August and to paint boxes in September.

If items proposed here to be accomplished in March are pushed back to the May PAAC meeting, artists would most likely be painting their boxes in November, when the weather is likely to be cold and wet. Those are not pleasant conditions for painting outdoors.

## **Traffic Signal Boxes 2026 – suggested boxes to paint this year**

From the Traffic Signal Boxes sub-committee: Kate Womack, Russell Copley, Peter Finkle.  
For PAAC's March 19, 2026 meeting.

We recommend painting three more traffic signal boxes in 2026, as Phase 4 of the "Neighborhood Public Artworks: Traffic Signal Box Beautification Project." Our suggestions below include the location, our rationale for this location, and our thoughts about the "community" or "neighborhood" of people who would assist the artist in creating the new artwork.

Three boxes were chosen in 2025, but will be painted in spring 2026 due to ODOT work on Ashland's traffic signal boxes toward the end of 2025. Two of the "2025 boxes" are in the "Ashland Street" part of town, and the third one is across the street from SOU.

Our three recommendations for 2026 are grouped together near both Fire Station Number 1 and Ashland Library. Our theme this year is to honor those two important institutions that have been serving the community since the late 1800s, as well as the people who work in those institutions today.

### **2026 Box 1: West end of Siskiyou Blvd next to Fire Station Number 1**

This is a full size traffic signal box, approximately six feet tall. We propose asking artists to present designs for this box that relate to the work of and community contributions of the Ashland Fire Department – past, present or future.

"Community" or "neighborhood" participation: We envision assistance in painting the box by the "community" of Ashland Fire Department staff and their family members. This would allow all-ages participation, from young children to elderly, which would be exciting to see.

Two photos: overview of the site; close-up of the box.



**2026 Box 2: corner of Lithia Way and East Main Street**

This is a full size traffic signal box, approximately six feet tall. We propose asking artists to present designs for this box in any style they choose.

"Community" or "neighborhood" participation: We envision assistance in painting the box by the "community" of nearby business owners, staff and residents. This would allow all-ages participation, from young children to elderly.

Two photos: overview of the site; close-up of the box.





**2026 Box 3: corner of East Main Street and Gresham Street**

This is a full size traffic signal box, approximately six feet tall. We propose asking artists to present designs for this box that relate to the community contributions of the Ashland Public Library – past, present or future.

"Community" or "neighborhood" participation: We envision assistance in painting the box by the "community" of Ashland Public Library staff and their family members. This would allow all-ages participation, from young children to elderly.

Two photos: overview of the site; close-up of the box.







# Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

**May 21, 2026**

**The following is an attendance report for PAAC members from Jan 2025 to present.**

**PAAC Attendance Percentages** (Jan 2025 – Mar 2026, 13 total meetings):

<b>Member</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Susan MacCracken Jain</i>	13	13	<b>100.0%</b>
<i>Monique Abbonizio</i>	2	2	<b>100.0%</b>
<i>Russell Copley</i>	12	13	<b>92.3%</b>
<i>Heather Warden</i>	12	13	<b>92.3%</b>
<i>Kate Womack</i>	10	12	<b>83.3%</b>
<i>Jay Bowen</i>	3	4	<b>75.0%</b>
<i>Patricia Way</i>	9	13	<b>69.2%</b>
<i>Sue Sears</i>	2	7	<b>28.6%</b>

*methodology notes: each member's count starts from their appointment date; March 2025 had two meetings; no meeting was held in June 2025*

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MuralFest III :

**The Mission :** Southern Oregon MuralFest is a free event hosted by the art-team *The Brothers Grime*, located at ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum on June 20-21. Our mission is to showcase contemporary artists as they execute large scale paintings in a public setting where viewers can witness art in a public space and gain a sense of creative interaction in a festival setting.

**The Festival:** Artists work for 2-8 hour days in the plaza of the Scienceworks Museum, while live music is performed by numerous musicians, art vendors promote their crafts and local food vendors showcase their unique food.

**The Museum Gallery:** During the span of time that the completed Mural-Walls are on display, an additional art-showcase will be on display inside the museum. This year the ScienceWorks Museum gallery will showcase artwork curated by a non-profit organization The Heartisan Foundation's *The Home Project*, which brings awareness to the houseless community of Southern Oregon and will raise money for individuals sharing their stories and experiences.

#### **MuralFEST II - 2025 Results :**

- 17 Southern Oregon Artists were able to interact and share their artwork with hundreds of visitors to ScienceWorks for a weekend event and the 4-month duration of the outdoor showcase of murals.
- 3 Ashland-based food vendors provided food for over 600 guests of the museum/festival for the weekend.
- 10 local artists were able to sell and share their artwork to viewers and participants of the MuralFest weekend.
- 5 local musical acts played live and provided their talents to those in attendance.
- Spectators of all ages were able to share the experience of immersing themselves in the arts and witnessing the range of creative output from members of their community and share the experience with visitors from outside the area.

It is our hope that we can continue this event annually for bringing arts to the forefront of importance for supporting the stewardship of the arts in Southern Oregon, showcase the city of Ashland priority to stewardship for creative expression and potentially create more opportunities for permanent public art ahead.

#### **The Budget :**

- Materials for x20 mural walls - \$1200
- Materials and artist compensation for a permanent mural at ScienceWorks : \$2000
- Compensation for performing musicians : \$500
- Advertising/promotion : \$450
- Food / Water / safety equipment for volunteers and participants: \$300

Total:

\$4450

### **The Auction:**

Summer of 2025, ScienceWorks was proud to host the 2nd annual Southern Oregon Mural Fest, a joyful celebration of creativity, community, and artmaking. Over two days in June, sixteen incredible artists transformed blank 8' x 8' panels into large-scale murals exploring the theme of *History*. The public was invited to watch the entire process unfold while chatting with artists about their vision and techniques.

With live music, beloved local food trucks, and the hum of conversation between neighbors, visitors, and artists, the atmosphere was vibrant, welcoming, and inspiring. Mural Fest wasn't just about watching art being made — it was about celebrating together, experiencing creativity in action, and feeling part of something bigger than ourselves.

For the first time one-of-a-kind mural panels were available to take home through the *Mural Fest Silent Auction*. Proceeds went directly to the artists, helping them continue their work, with 15% supporting the future of Mural Fest itself. Even though only 3 murals were purchased, they established a financial starting point for this event to continue into a third year.

Now more than ever, we need to come together to support what we love and want to see more of in our community. By bidding on a mural, you're not only capturing the spirit of summer 2025, you're investing in local artists, public art, and a unique festival that brings joy, connection, and inspiration to Southern Oregon.

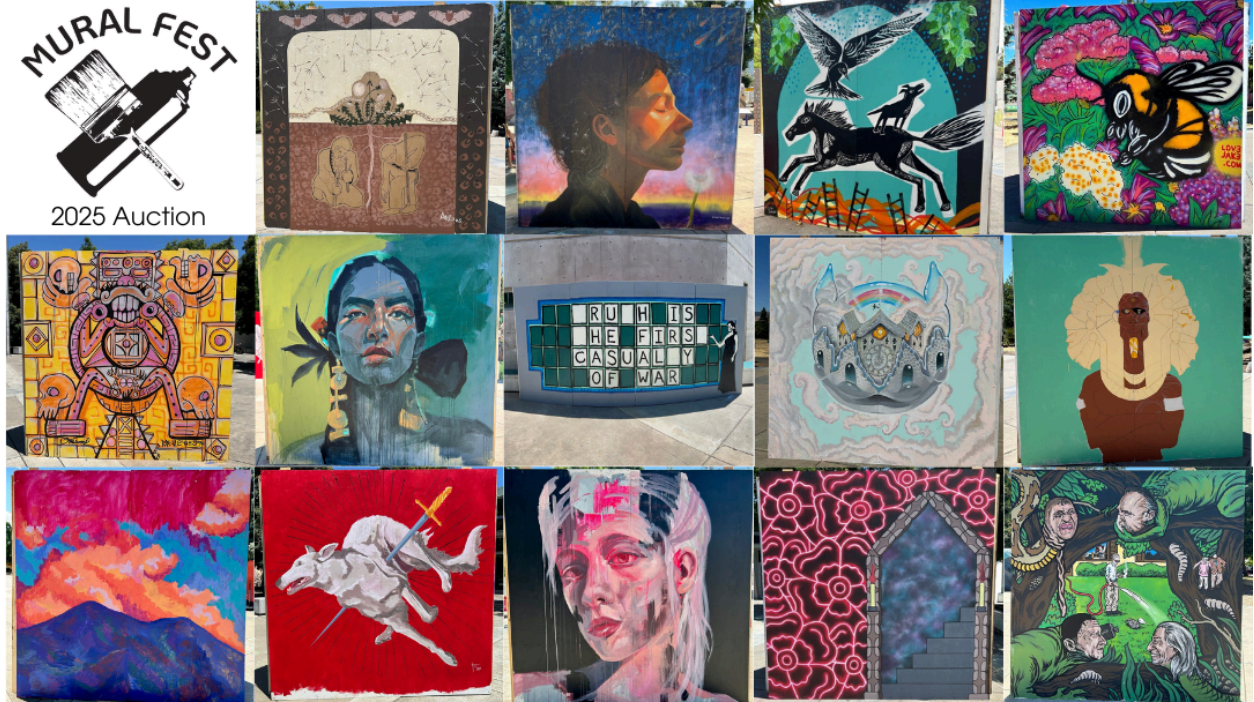
👉 Browse the completed auction - Mural Fest Auctria Site :  
<https://event.auctria.com/f73030fd-2495-43c0-bb21-a0f6228a4714/>

Visit the Mural Fest Website: <https://muralfestashland.wordpress.com/>

Instagram Page : @Muralfest2026



2025 Auction

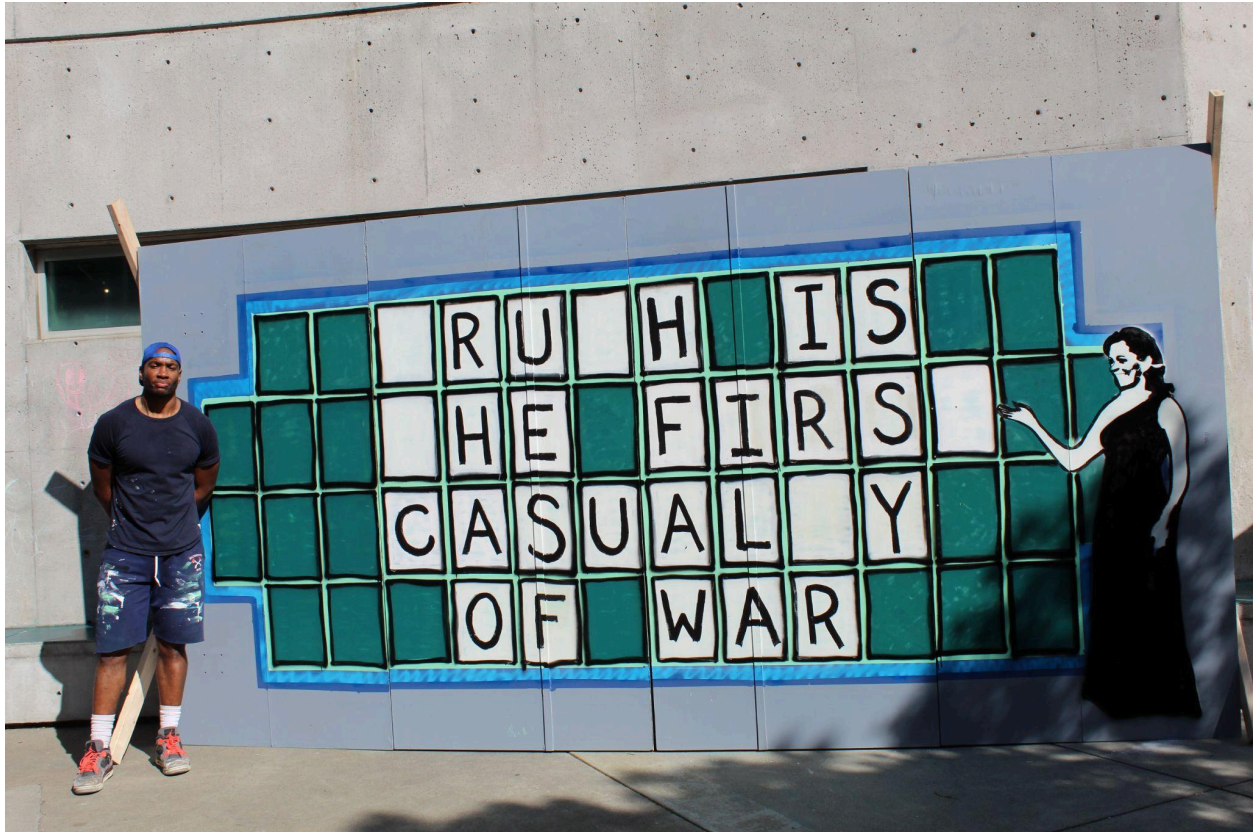


2025 Collective



**Additional event photos:**

















## A Proclamation declaring 2026 as the year of Art in Ashland

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Ashland is nationally recognized for its vibrant arts and cultural community, where the arts enrich quality of life, strengthen the local economy, and foster civic identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Arts Advisory Committee works to enhance the cultural and aesthetic quality of life in Ashland by advancing public art, preserving access to the arts, and supporting creative expression in public spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, 2026 will see the advancement of several notable public art projects throughout Ashland, including the installation of a new mural by renowned artist John Pugh, continued development of the Playwrights Walk celebrating Ashland’s theatrical legacy and building upon the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s 90th anniversary season, the installation of the Guanajuato Heart sculpture recognizing Ashland’s Sister City relationship with Guanajuato, and the participation of local artists in the Traffic Signal Box painting project, bringing community based artwork into the public realm; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ashland’s public art collection extends throughout its parks and trail system, where sculptures, fountains, and interpretive works enhance the natural environment and provide accessible cultural experiences, including the community funded restoration of the historic Perozzi Fountain, reflecting a shared commitment to preserving and reinvesting in Ashland’s artistic and cultural assets; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern Oregon University plays a vital role in advancing the arts in Ashland through the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University and the Schneider Museum of Art, which provide exhibitions, performances, and educational opportunities that enrich the cultural life of the community and support both emerging and established artists;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tonya Graham, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Oregon, on behalf of the City Council and Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, do hereby proclaim the year 2026 as the “YEAR OF ART IN ASHLAND” in the City of Ashland, and I urge all residents, businesses, artists, and visitors to celebrate, participate in, and support the arts in all its forms throughout the year, and

**FURTHER**, I recognize the invaluable contributions of artists, cultural organizations, educators, and volunteers whose creativity and dedication continue to shape a vibrant and inspired community.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya Graham, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alissa Kolodzinski, City Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Bachman, APRC Chair

