



Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, August 20, 2026

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way

[Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/99755275389](https://zoom.us/j/99755275389)

I. Call to Order (4:30)

1. Welcome & Announcements
2. Quorum confirmation
3. Land Acknowledgment - We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work- the Iikrakutsum 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 love 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.
4. 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 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.

II. Approval of Minutes (4:35)

1. Minutes from the regular meeting on July 16, 2026 (see agenda packet).

III. Public Forum (4:35)

IV. Liaison Reports (4:40)

1. Meeting schedule
2. Guanajuato Heart: Confirmation of permanent installation

V. Discussion & Decision Items (4:50)

1. Traffic Signal Boxes
 - A. Current updates and funding request (Finkle)
 - B. Process Simplification (Rooklyn)
 - C. Graffiti problem (discussion)

Traffic signal box painted by Jessica Lee Findleton near corner of Mountain Ave. and Siskiyou Blvd. Photos before and after graffiti tag were taken May 4, 2026 and June 27, 2026 respectively.
2. Year of Public Art: Family Celebration of Public Art Proposal, Brochure update (Susan)
3. Strategic Plan -- 'Plan for a Plan' discussion and vote (Susan, Jordan)





Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

VI. Ongoing Updates / Sponsored Initiatives (5:40)

1. Pugh Mural
2. Playwrights Walk
 - A. Publicity Links:
 - <https://kobi5.com/news/ashland-playwrights-walk-celebrates-citys-art-and-theater-history-312838/>
 - <https://www.ashlandoregon.gov/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/544>
 - <https://ashland.news/peter-finkle-playwrights-walk-adds-six-new-plaques/>
 - <https://theashlandchronicle.com/ashlands-playwrights-walk-comes-to-life-with-public-art/>
3. Story Maps
 - A. Links:
 - ashlandoregon.gov/playwrightswalk
 - ashlandoregon.gov/publicart
4. BlackLight Sculpture
5. Mural Fest

VII. Meeting Planning (5:50)

VIII. Adjournment (6:00)

1. Next Meeting: September 17, 2026

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, including electronic attendance, please contact Kerrick Gooden at citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov or 541.488.6002 (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.



**ASHLAND PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SISKIYOU CONFERENCE ROOM - 51 WINBURN WAY
MINUTES
July 16, 2026**

These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm

Present were committee members Susan MacCracken Jain, Heather Warden, Kate Womack, Patricia Way, Russell Copley, Monique Abbonizio, and Jay Bowen

Also present were council liaison Gina DuQuenne; staff liaisons Jordan Rooklyn and Kerrick Gooden; and guest Sean Van Ausdall

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 21, 2026 meeting minutes were presented for approval. No corrections or amendments were offered. There was no June meeting.

Warden moved to approve the May 21, 2026 meeting minutes. Womack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Sean Van Ausdall, a member of the Amigo Club board of directors, addressed the committee. He reported that the Amigo Club was pleased with the installation of the Guanajuato Heart and noted that the club is planning an art symposium with visitors from Guanajuato and local Ashland artists, tentatively scheduled for spring 2027, with a potential request for city grant funding.

IV. LIAISON REPORTS

DuQuenne reported that three advisory committees – the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC), the Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee (SERJAC), and the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) – had been directed to shift from monthly to quarterly meetings. She noted that on July 20th, the City Manager would convene a meeting of the affected committee chairs to discuss and explore equitable alternatives. DuQuenne expressed optimism that the outcome would allow committees to continue meeting monthly. MacCracken Jain noted she had provided public comment to the City Council opposing the change, citing the committee's productive track record, including the rapid three-month turnaround on the Lorraine Hansberry plaque with SERJAC support.

Rooklyn advised the committee that the City Manager's Office would be assuming the staff liaison role for the committee previously held by Community Development, as PAAC is funded through the Tourism Fund overseen by that office. Gooden was introduced as staff support for meeting logistics and minutes. Rooklyn also informed the committee of a new council-adopted policy requiring all public advisory committee meetings to be recorded and posted to the city's YouTube channel. Staff noted this policy would be revisited at the August council meeting.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS and MOTIONS

1.
 - a. Administrative Changes
 - b. Signal Boxes: i. Discuss results of the selection committee.
 - c. Guanajuato Heart & Cervantes Plaque: Location Proposal (Heather/Jay/Susan)
 - d. Year of Public Art : Update & Sign Funding Proposal (Susan)
 - e. Ongoing Updates/Sponsored Initiatives (As warranted)
 - i. Pugh Mural
 - ii. Playwrights Walk
 - iii. Blacklight Sculpture
 - iv. Muralfest f. Strategic Plan: Form MAC

Administrative Changes

Addressed under Section IV above

Signal Boxes

Womack reported that the community selection panel convened on July 6th and reviewed submissions from eight artists for three traffic signal boxes. The panel selected the following designs: a library-themed design by artist Helene Houghton for the box at the corner of East Main and Gresham Streets; a firefighter-themed design by Glory Nylander for the box adjacent to the fire station; and a nature-themed design by Jennifer Alexander for the box near the Astro Gas Station. Upon PAAC approval, the designs will proceed to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ashland City Council for final authorization, with painting anticipated in September. An update was also provided on previously approved boxes: two have been painted, and the Ashland Street and Tolman Creek Road box will be painted in the coming weeks under the supervision of a YMCA-affiliated artist using the originally approved design.

Warden moved to approve the three signal box designs as recommended by the selection committee. Abbonizio seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The committee also briefly discussed establishing a process to allow private sponsors to fund the painting of additional signal boxes. It was agreed that the existing signal box ad hoc group would develop a draft proposal to bring to the next meeting.

Guanajuato Heart & Cervantes Plaque: Location Proposal

The committee reflected that the Guanajuato Heart, currently installed on a temporary basis adjacent to Ashland Plaza, has attracted considerable public attention. The committee discussed formalizing the current temporary location as the permanent site, noting that the adjacent sidewalk space is also pre-approved for placement of the forthcoming Cervantes plaque, allowing the two works to reinforce one another. Members expressed broad support for the location. Bowen suggested exploring a long-term program to acquire additional hearts from Guanajuato for placement throughout the city as a tourism initiative.

Womack moved that the Guanajuato Heart be permanently placed at its current location at the entryway to the park. Warden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Year of Public Art: Update & Sign Funding Proposal

MacCracken Jain reported that the Year of Public Art was formally declared by the Mayor on June 6th. She presented a proposal to fund the design and production of a banner to be hung across Main Street, with the flexibility to redirect funds toward light pole pendants if the Main Street banner space proved unavailable. The estimated cost for production and four hangings was \$1,500, already committed from a private donor. Members discussed designing the banner without a specific year so it could be reused in future years.

Womack moved to release \$1,500 to create a banner for placement across Main Street, with the funds also available to be directed toward street pole pendants as an alternative. Warden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional ideas discussed for the Year of Public Art included a citywide artist recognition program in

partnership with the Ashland Gallery Association and a school mural initiative and were noted for further development.

Ongoing Updates/Sponsored Initiatives:

Pugh Mural

The committee discussed that the necessary paperwork for scaffolding installation is nearly complete for the Pugh Mural and that painting is expected to proceed soon.

Playwrights Walk

The committee discussed that nine plaques are now installed. Three new plaques were added in the downtown area, including quotes by Karen Zacarias and Octavio Solis, and one privately funded plaque installed in front of the library. An OSF private celebration of three plaques installed on its campus was scheduled for the following day. Seven additional plaques are anticipated to be installed by the end of August, bringing the funded total to as many as 13 or 14 plaques due to savings from OSF's decision not to charge back installation costs. A community celebration, including family-oriented programming, is under consideration for planning after the Baldwin set of plaques is installed.

BlackLight Sculpture

Micah BlackLight's sculpture is progressing and available to see at the Langford Gallery, with a spring 2027 installation target.

Mural Fest

The committee discussed the status of murals received through the Mural Fest program. The mural donated in the prior year is understood to still be in the artist's studio and needs to be coordinated for transfer to OHRA. The status of the mural from the current year's Mural Fest needs follow-up by Rooklyn.

Strategic Plan: Form MAC

MacCracken Jain summarized the committee's prior strategic planning work, including two design thinking workshops and a completed public art inventory. MacCracken Jain and Rooklyn agreed to meet to consolidate prior work and develop a draft framework for the committee's consideration. Key themes already identified include increased student and school engagement, expanded public art presence in south Ashland, and the long-term aspirational goal of pursuing a UNESCO recognition for Ashland based on its arts and theater heritage. DuQuenne noted she would share the outcome of her July 20th council presentation regarding gateway beautification at the south end of town, as it may align with the committee's strategic priorities.

VI. MEETING PLANNING

A quorum was confirmed for the next meeting.

Items identified for the next meeting agenda include the private sponsorship process for signal boxes, the Year of Public Art banner design, strategic plan framework, and an update on the south Ashland gateway presentation outcomes.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **October 15, 2026**.

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\$56.34

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Size

32 oz Ready-to-Use

Quantity

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VandlClean Super is an environmentally friendly, biodegradable graffiti remover designed to dissolve spray paint, marker, pen and pencil. VandlClean Super is a concentrated citrus based cleaner and degreaser designed for cleaning almost any surface with stains not affected by water alone.

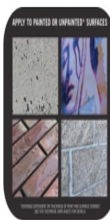
Details

What It Is: A graffiti remover, degreaser, and sticker glue disintegrator

Surface Types: Any Surface Coated with VandlGuard Products (see TDS for full list)

Formulation: A Citrus-based Detergent

Coverage Rate: Varies Depending on Size of Stain(s) (See TDS for details)



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meow



White through

is rarely pure

and never simple.



Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest 1895



"Para alcanzar lo imposible, uno debe intentar lo absurdo."
"In order to attain the impossible, one must attempt the absurd."



55 Years of Sister Cities - Ashland and Guanajuato
Miguel de Cervantes 1546 - 1616



ALL'S WELL THAT
ENDS WELL

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

ACT ONE
SCENE ONE