



Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

January 16, 2025

Regular Meeting

4:00pm–5:30pm, Siskiyou Conference Room

51 Winburn Way

Agenda

I. (4:00) CALL TO ORDER:

- a) Welcome
- b) Quorum count

II. (4:10) 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."

III. (4:15) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) December 19, 2024, regular meeting

IV. (4:20–4:30) PUBLIC FORUM (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)

V. (4:30–4:45) LIAISON REPORTS

- a) City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne
- b) APRC Liaison, Jim Bachman
- c) Community Development Liaison, Veronica Allen/Brandon Goldman

VI. (4:45–5:15) DISCUSSION ITEMS and MOTIONS (up to 10 minutes per topic)

- a) Introduce Emily Simon from SERJAC
- b) Say Their Names Memorial
- c) We Are Here – update from subcommittee members (first meeting to be held 1/17)
- d) PAAC Strategic Plan – Susan MacCracken Jain to lead Strategy Update – build on Strategy overview/timeline from November & December meetings. Discuss everyone's needs/wants statements for the audiences from December meeting. Discuss possibility of scheduling a Special Session for Strategic Planning

VII. (5:15–5:30) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES and ACTION ITEMS (up to 5 minutes per item)

- a) Marking Ashland Places II – Update
- b) ODOT Controller Boxes – Update

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

- c) Public Art Maintenance – Update
- d) Crosswalks – Update
- e) Playwrights Walk – Update by Citizen Group members
- f) Micah Blacklight “Ancestors Future – Crystalizing Our Call” – Update
- g) Wayfinding Signs – update & finalize committee volunteers

VIII. ROUND TABLE – Member open discussion of project ideas or opportunities (2 minutes each)

IX. (5:30) ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

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Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

December 19, 2024

Regular Meeting

4:00–5:30 PM, Siskiyou Conference Room

51 Winburn Way

Minutes

Committee Members Present:	Liaisons & Staff Present:
Cassie Preskenis, Chair	Veronica Allen, Associate Planner
Susan MacCracken Jain, Vice Chair	Councilor Gina DuQuenne
Beca Blake	Liaisons & Staff Absent:
Ken Engelund	Jim Bachman, Parks and Rec Commissioner
Heather Warden	Special Guests:
Russell Copley	Brandon Goldman, Community Development Director
Tish Way	Peter Finkle, WalkAshland
Christi McClain	Kate Womack, Applicant for PAAC membership

I. (4:00) 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, Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha – "Where the Crow Lights" – that is now the Ashland City Plaza."

Read by Cassie Preskenis

II. (4:03) CALL TO ORDER:

- a) Welcome
- b) Quorum count – **achieved**
- c) Introductions – new members, presenters, guests
- d) Announcements – Today was Ken's last meeting with the PAAC as a member

III. (4:10) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 21, 2024, Study Session meeting

- a) **Ken Engelund motioned to approve the minutes with no corrections; the motion was seconded. No discussion. All AYES.**

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Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

- IV. (4:11-4:15) **LIAISON REPORTS**
- a) Community Development Liaison, Brandon Goldman; **Update to Committee Structures, Sabrina Cotta would like to speak to PAAC members in February with updates. Velocity repair expected to be completed by the end of the week.**
 - b) City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne; **restructuring of committees, City Council Study Session work plans updates, SERJAC member Emily Simon to start attending in 2025**
ACTION ITEM: email the work plans from council study session to PAAC members
 - c) Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison, APRC Liaison Jim Bachman;
Absent (*Note, Liaison Bachman has never attended a PAAC meeting).
- V. (4:15-4:17) **PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)
- a) **Peter Finkle** – Update on ODOT boxes: first 3 are done with 3 more expected in 2025, Working on an Article for the first 3 boxes, is there a limiting factor as to why we can only do 3 a year?
 - b) **Beca Blake** – Siletz Tribe purchased over 2,000 acres of Table Rock land that was possibly part of the original treaty that was not honored
- VI. (4:18-5:30) **DISCUSSION ITEMS AND MOTIONS** (up to 10 minutes per topic)
- a) Wayfinding Signs – Jordan Rooklyn presented on city project to implement wayfinding signs, wanting to start small and expand if successful, creating a Wayfinding Advisory Committee and would like at least 1 representative from the PAAC to advise, hoping to start meetings in January and installations by October, \$150k budget NOT from PAAC allocation
 - b) John Pugh Mural – QR code on side of mural at ground level to access stories from tribes relating to the mural to provide native voices and stories as they prefer to live by mouth than documentation, changes made to the woman representation to be more in line with tribal roles/expectations, discussion on why widening the curtain would lose the optical illusion, QR code portal also adds in opportunity to include the details that were lost/removed from the original mural, more information is available on the website wherethecrowlights.org
 - c) We Are Here – Beca Blake suggests celebrating the 20th anniversary (2026) of the We Are Here statue installed on the North end of town in 2006, first nation contacts seem receptive to the idea but there is no proposed design, SOU indigenous day is in October and POW-WOW is in April – both offer good opportunities, several ties to other indigenous works in town including SOU (student rep position still open), Christi suggests that SOU could commission a music piece, Russell Beebe could be involved, suggests a subcommittee form for recommendations, proclamation not needed at this point – usually good advertising if done 1-3 months before the event and could use a City Council public forum to inform
ACTION ITEM: email Beca, Tish, Heather, Christi to setup a meeting time for their new We Are Here Subcommittee
 - d) PAAC Strategic Plan – Susan Jain to lead Strategy Update – continuance from

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Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November meeting. **Susan led the discussion on the top 3-5 audiences from November meeting that members identified.**

ACTION ITEM: Veronica will send the entire group the photo of the audiences, PAAC members are to bring their wants/needs statements for each of the audiences to the January meeting.

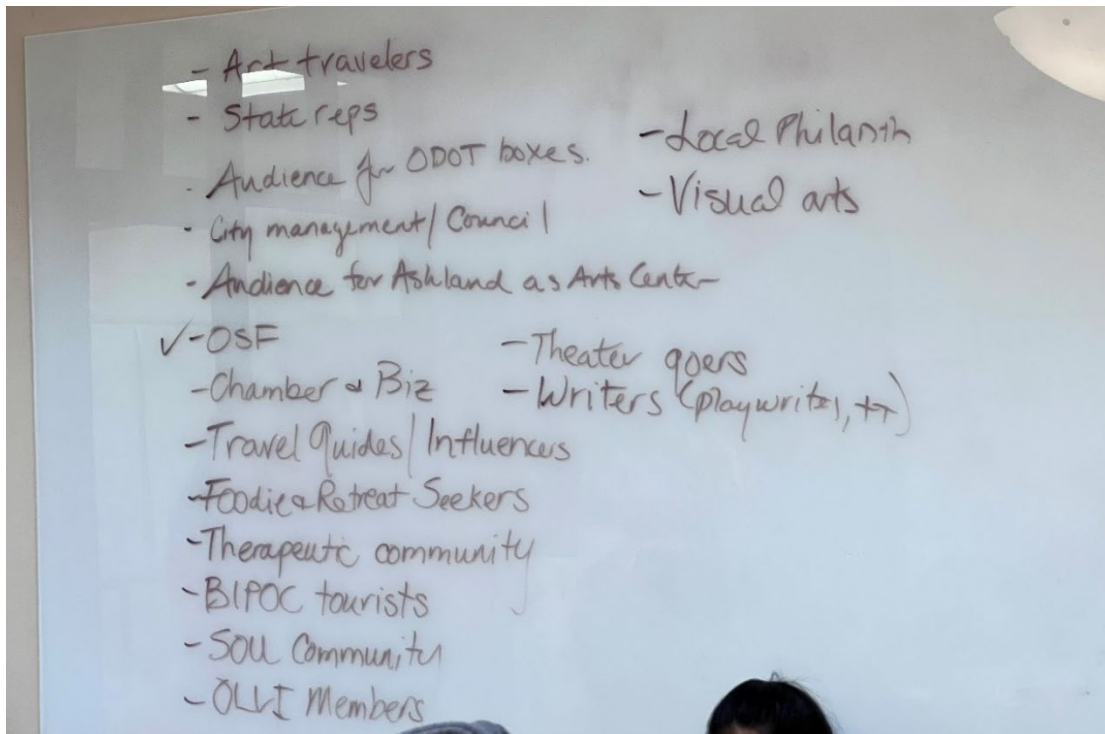
VII. (5:30-5:35) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES and ACTION ITEMS (up to 5 minutes per item)

- a) Marking Ashland Places II - Wait on APRC involvement
- b) ODOT Controller Boxes - Updated earlier in meeting
- c) Public Art Maintenance - Updated earlier in meeting
- d) Crosswalks - SOU follow-up needed
- e) Playwrights Walk - 2 successful meetings, possibly need new plan/timeline?
- f) Micah Blacklight - Micah deciding on non-profit for fundraising, meeting with parks foundation

VIII. ROUND TABLE - Member open discussion of project ideas or opportunities (2 minutes each)

- a) Beca had the Phoenix mayor reach out about starting their own PAAC which Beca will chair
- b) Upcoming events: Jan 17 - Election follow-up, Jan 18 - Women's march, Jan 20 - MLK festival

IX. (5:35) ADJOURNMENT - Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 16 @ 4:00 pm



Audiences

identified were:

Art travelers, state reps, audience for ODOT boxes, city manager/council, audience for Ashland as arts center, OSF, chamber & businesses, travel guides/influencers, foodies and retreat seekers, therapeutic community, BIPOC tourists, SOU community, OLLI members, local philanthropists, visual arts, theater goers, writers.

Photo: December 19, 2024, Brainstorming Study Session, Strategic Plan Development.

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Memo

DATE: January 16, 2025
TO: Public Arts Advisory Committee
FROM: Veronica Allen, Associate Planner
DEPT: Planning
RE: Discussion and Business Items – Project Backgrounds/Update

- **Say Their Names Memorial** – A memorial for Black Americans that have lost their life to racial violence over the last several years. The memorial is put together by local artists and volunteers. Each t-shirt attached to a chain link fence at the Railroad Park on A Street consists of a name of a person that has lost their life to racial violence. The memorial has been vandalized many times with the most recent in December 2024. The subcommittee hopes to have a more permanent piece installed at some time in the future to go alongside the current Say Their Names Memorial.
- **We Are Here** – Subcommittee formed with Beca, Tish, and Christi to identify how we can celebrate the 20th anniversary in 2026 of the We Are Here Statute; first meeting will be on January 17th
- **PAAC Strategic Plan** – Susan Jain to lead Strategy Update, building on the information from the November and December meetings. PowerPoint presentation in packet. Discuss the “homework” from December meeting to identify each person’s needs/wants statements for each of the audiences that were identified in the December meeting. Discuss the possibility of scheduling a Special Session for Strategic Planning to complete the process.
- **Marking Ashland Places II** – Together, the PAAC and the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) were charged by the City Council to create a sculpture for each of the four Historic Districts in Ashland to be titled, Marking Ashland Places (MAP). The first sculpture was placed in the Historic Railroad District in Railroad Park with the participation and support of APRC. This was funded by PAAC and the City and is referred to as the MAP I project. Several months ago,

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Memo

the PAAC and HPAC made a recommendation to APRC for the placement of an art installation in the Downtown Historic District at the entrance to Lithia Park. The art piece is proposed to be funded by PAAC funds through the approval of City Council and in coordination with APRC representatives. A presentation to APRC was made and a motion was passed requesting an APRC Commissioner and staff person to join the task group for moving the Marking Ashland Places (MAP II) project forward. MAP II was put on hold until APRC could develop requirements for placing artwork in the parks. The APRC Policy on Art in Parks has since been approved.

- **ODOT Controller Boxes** – ODOT Traffic Signal Box Beautification Project is one that the PAAC initially envisioned in 2022. Phase 2 will be a continuation of the work completed in Phase 1, the beautification of nineteen utility boxes throughout Ashland. As seen in many culturally robust cities across the US, large utility boxes, while a necessity for our cities, also provide an opportunity for public art and engagement in the form of an urban canvas. Phase 1 of the project (approved and completed between 2009 and 2015) resulted in the transformation of the “necessary” utilitarian objects into works of art that enhance our city’s visual landscape. In Phase 2, artists will paint three of the Oregon Department Of Transportation traffic signal boxes, [also referred to as ODOT boxes].

The theme of phase 2 is Neighborhood Public Artworks. The Goal of the project is to increase interest in public art and participation from community members through the process of painting the artists’ designs onto the ODOT boxes. In this phase, the PAAC invites artists to submit a design proposal that incorporates community participation in painting the ODOT boxes. Three boxes have been completed in Phase 2 as of the beginning of 2025.

- **Public Art Maintenance** – Maintenance of current and future Public Art pieces, collaborating with Parks, Admin, and Public Works’ Mike Morrison to get a schedule/plan together and assess the costs. Staff is having a meeting on January 14, 2025, to discuss this further, including cost assessment; staff will provide an update at the January 16th meeting.

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Memo

- **Crosswalks** – Artwork must be designed to represent historic events near the project site. First completed crosswalk project is located at the entrance of Lithia Park on Winburn Way in the Ashland Downtown Historic District. This project is part of the City of Ashland Beautification Initiative, aimed at enhancing the visual appeal and cultural richness of our historic downtown area. The artwork by Glory Nylander is titled, *“Walking Upstream.”* Nylander researched historical information about Ashland, and it was the Shasta people that captured her attention. The artwork by Glory Nylander is titled, *“Walking Upstream.”* Nylander researched historical information about Ashland, and it was the Shasta people that captured her attention.
- **Playwrights Walk** – This concept plan explores an idea to create a Playwright Walk in Ashland that will encourage locals and tourists to walk and explore a designated route, viewing plaques that celebrate a diverse range of local and famous playwrights from different periods and backgrounds. The quotes will offer insight into universal themes of life, love, struggle, and triumph. The concept is being made possible by fostering partnerships between philanthropists, local organizations, and government entities. Update to be provided by Citizen Group members; OSF and SOU continue to work on developing quotes and design for future plaques.
- **Micah Blacklight “Ancestors Future – Crystalizing Our Call”** – trying to secure funding/sponsorship through a non-profit, possibly the Parks Foundation non-profit
- **John Pugh Mural** – Update was provided by John at the December 19, 2024, meeting. PAAC has approved of the revisions, work is ongoing.
- **Bonus: Wayfinding Signs** – Subcommittee to be formed by Jordan Rooklyn in the Admin department. Jordan would like one (2 max) PAAC member(s) to act as representatives on the subcommittee to address public art concerns, ideas, etc. Meetings are to start in late January or early February with installations starting in October. The installations will **NOT** affect any PAAC funds. Discuss members to appoint; Heather has already volunteered at the last meeting.

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