



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
MAYOR

Salem Public Art Commission  
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### **Public Art Commission**

**July 19, 2022, 6:30pm**

Meeting held in person at Salem Community  
Life Center

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Note:** All proposals, presentations, and/or documentation to be reviewed and discussed at this meeting can be viewed online at the following link: <https://bit.ly/SalemPACProposals>

- **Meeting called to order at 6:42 pm.**
- **Roll Call PAC:** Norene Gachignard, Janine Liberty, Kurt Ankeny Beauchamp, & John Andrews in physical attendance. Carly Dwyer-Naik, & Catherine Bertrand joined by remote participation.
- **Meeting Minute Approvals**
  - Janine made a motion to approve minutes from May 17, 2022. Kurt seconded. Voted in favor for minute approval. Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Art FY23 (July 2022-June 2023) Strategic Work Plan & Budget Allocations**

This budget summarizes the past budgets that the PAC has approved in previous years. Some new items include an amount of \$15,000 in programming funds (DTPF). This amount does not need to touch the public art funds. \$10,000 has been earmarked for conservation and maintenance once again. The adopted budget is \$25,000, and the \$10,000 Making It Public Grant to be used in FY23.

It is important to be aware of the projects that are upcoming and under commission to be funded using PAC money, as opposed to City projects which are being led through a City lead initiative but paid from the city project budget.

PAC is here for a reason, we have experience, and knowledge and insight that is valuable to the city and to artists. Finding time to articulate to Artists that there are steps to take before being able to plan or promote programs in public is part of our Commission's mission. Having written steps to follow for individuals and group projects will lead to greater success in asks, and artist led projects and asks. Julie suggests coming up with some examples to give applicants or post online of proposals that have been successful in the past. Or at least a checklist of the criteria of what we are looking for.

Julie has been asking the city to look at our ordinance to slightly change some of the language in the ordinance to “any public art that can be seen from a public way” which is language that mimics how other ordinances are phrased and would hopefully lead to less misinterpretations. If there are changes that we would like to change to the ordinance then we can take it to the city.

*John suggests adding a category that would lay out the occasions that would not be under the purview of the PAC.*

Every year the PAC is given an annual allotment, and every year we are aware what it is, and that it is firm. In June each year, we should be able to go over the plan for the year to which only a subgroup of the body would be needed to go over; so that by July we can be confident in the budget for the fiscal year. Specific money requests for commissioned projects would need to be requested and discussed by November to be formally asked by December/January/February of the next year. June-August can be the allocation meetings to commission projects. Janine suggested an annual call to create a new piece of public art around November and allocate during the final months of the fiscal year.

Catherine suggested using this upcoming year as a jump off point to figure out the best method going forward which would lay the groundwork for future years budgets and allocations.

Recently completed projects include the Forest river project as well as the Naumkeag portrait project (projected finish date in October). Large scale projects in the works which are commissioned by the city and not funded by PAC are CLC mural, Charlotte Forton sculpture, MIP grant.

Kurt suggested that the sculpture garden move around so the city gets to see it, as the waterfront area has proved difficult in the past and that the bike trail is no longer funding it, and since there is no reason to call attention to that area as the bike trail is now established. Maybe if the garden is not traveling- it should move locations yearly. Carly suggested reaching out to the different wards to ask for suggestions for the best place for the sculpture garden to go. It would work in our favor to get perspective from community leaders. Even if they're not responsive, we did our due diligence.

Mural slam budget **\$7,000** is agreed to work for the program, as this stipend increase was much needed and deserved to the artists in the previous year.

John suggested using performance art funding over the spring/winter months as artists need to get paid during those times as well. Music performances, building projections, caroling/holiday music, should all be considered for performance money. **\$5000 for a winter activation and \$5000 for a spring activation was mutually agreed upon among the PAC.**

Julie is looking to restore the previously painted art boxes. If we have money left over in the budget then we can look at signage and such to commission.

This body has the ability to formulate a way to spend the \$10,000 in grant money, or can choose to put out an open call to the residents and ask them to propose ideas to us. We have \$10,500 left over after all else was allocated. Should this be added to the MIP money? The parameters of the grant is that it needs to be a temporary art piece and that all the money needs to go towards the piece or performance itself. For example, if DPW says that a piece needs a concrete slab under it for support, the \$10,000 can not go towards the installation. This budget includes fabrication. **Norene proposed \$5,000 to allocate towards the MIP money to make a bigger more impactful project. John suggested waiting on committing the allotment of \$5,000 for a different time.**

The remaining \$5,500 in the budget will be kept for anything cool that might come our way, or

potentially a call to the public for art to come to us on our designated proposal timeline. **PAC plans to allot \$2,500 bi-annually to these projects. Plans to also use the funds as a first come first served basis.**

- **August Meeting and Special meeting announcements-**

The city has extended the remote meetings until March of 2023, either Hybrid or remote, but full in person is being discouraged by the state.

PAC plans a special meeting to discuss a few time sensitive proposals and projects including the Salem Sound Coastwatch annual advocacy project, an update for the Naumkeag portrait project, and a proposal for art installation during the upcoming OTH exhibition. The commission has agreed on next Thursday, July 28th at 5pm.

- **Public Comments-**

None

- **Adjourn-** Norene motioned to adjourn. Moved by John, seconded by Catherine. **Meeting Adjourned at 8:29pm.**

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