

Salem Public Art Commission Annual Report

2025



Carnival, by Eileen Cotter Howell

GENERAL COMMISSION INFORMATION

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Members: Susan Napack, Christine D'arcy, Brian Hart,
Krista Lauer, Karl Roth, Jesus Escobar

City Staff: Christopher Neider

PUBLIC ART FUND

The Public Art Fund supports the public art collection and is funded by periodic donations and grants, and through the dedication of one-half of one percent of eligible publicly funded capital improvement project costs. In recent budget years, the Public Art Fund was allocated \$25,000 from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which continued in fiscal year (FY) 2026. The adopted Public Art Fund budget for FY 2026 was \$140,550. In the last year, funds have been used for the repair of a major sculpture, with another to be completed shortly.

2026 ART FUND BALANCE

Beginning Fund Balance	\$91,817
Revenues	\$14,191

2026 ART FUND EXPENDITURES

Repair/Restoration	(\$600)
Bank Fees	(\$428)

Current Balance **\$104,981**

The Salem Public Art Commission (SPAC) is pleased to report on our accomplishments enhancing public art throughout the City. Chapter 15 recognizes that visual arts contribute to and provide experiences that enrich and better the social and physical environment of the community, because of this positive impact, a desire to foster an advancement of the visual arts within the City is identified. Further emphasizing the importance of visual art, earlier this year, Council passed a motion seeking to increase the public display of art in the community. We are excited to share our progress toward achieving our goals and improving our community through the arts.

ABOUT SPAC

The Public Art Commission stewards the City's public art collection of more than 100 works of art, most recently appraised at a value of more than \$1.37 million.

Seven Commissioners:

- » Two members experienced in the arts, art education, or art criticism
- » Two members experienced in museum curating, art restoration, or art appraisal
- » Two members experienced in landscape architecture, real estate, development, or community foundations
- » One member from the community at-large

Primary commission duties include:

- » Acquisition of works to the public art collection
- » Maintenance of works within the public art collection
- » Management, registration, and documentation of the public art collection
- » Decommissioning of works from the public art collection
- » Management of the Public Mural Program
- » Community Education of public art collection



Utility Box Wraps

Welcome to Salem sign



CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE

Among our accomplishments from the past year, we would like to specifically highlight:

- » Acquisition of the Library Art Collection including 44 works of art, featuring regional artists of significance. These works have transferred ownership in a generous donation from the Salem Public Library Foundation to the Salem Public Art Commission to include in the public art collection. Solidified in 2025.
- » Civic Center Art Relocation.
- » Downtown and West Salem projects (process begun).
- » Slow Art Day Event hosted the library.
- » Kiosk placed in Library linked to Art Collection website.
- » NA Chairs Meeting Presentation.
- » Evaluation of needed repairs including The Unicyclist and Waldo mural.
- » Ongoing evaluation towards Eco Earth Globe restoration.
- » Salem Keiser Gateway Signs redesign support.
- » Reinstallation of repaired Black Discs by William Roy.
- » Expansion of City mural collection with a new mural, located at 3011 Silverton Rd. NE.
- » Continued support of interdepartmental City art programs such as the street painting program, utility box wraps, and Oregon Artist Series Foundation exhibits at the library.

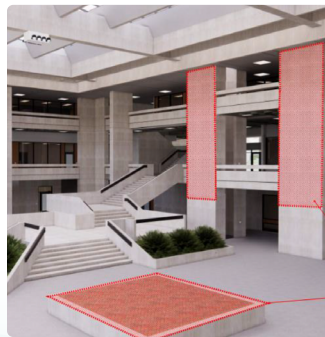
Looking forward, we are excited to make progress on the following:

- » Civic Center Percent for Art public art acquisition.
- » Downtown and West Salem public art acquisition.
- » Continued repair and restoration of important works within the collection.
- » Community outreach and awareness presentations at Neighborhood Association meetings following up on Chairs meeting.
- » Social Media sharing about SPAC and the collection.
- » Promotion and support of the production of murals for City acquisition by increasing awareness of the Public Mural Program and exploring improvements to the application process and copyright issues.
- » Repair of the Eco Earth Globe: Continue evaluation of needed restoration and funding in coordination with Salem Park's Foundation.
- » Updates and improvement to digital public art collection data base cataloging works of art and associated photography of works.

We appreciate the support from City Council and look forward to working with you in the coming year on issues related to Public Art.



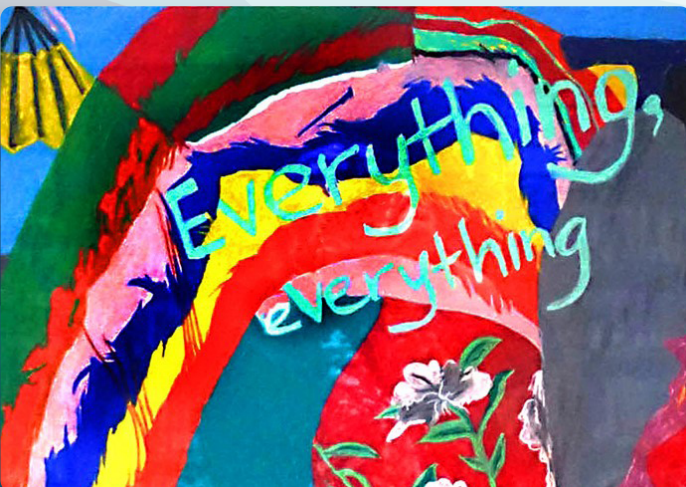
Community Awareness and Education



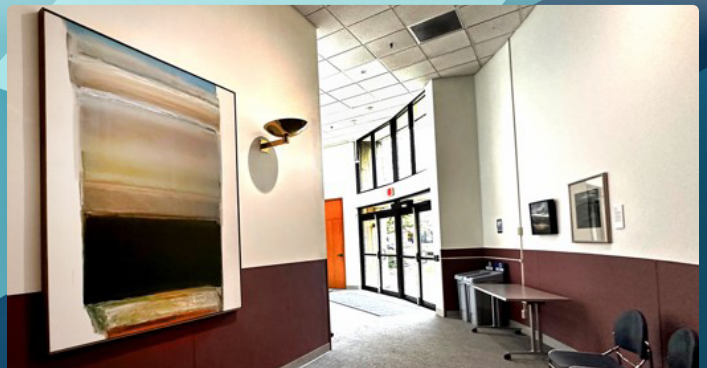
Civic Center Proposed Art Locations



Ray's Produce Mural on Silverton Road



Everything Everything, by Bonnie Hull - Library Collection



Louks Auditorium Entrance