



May 29, 2019

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SALEM PEACE MOSAIC

On behalf of the Salem Art Association I would like to give our unqualified support for the preservation of the Salem Peace Mosaic. This mosaic was the result of extensive community engagement by hundreds of individual community members as well as various schools and organizations. It is especially enjoyed by children, not only those who participated but also those who walk by it regularly. I therefore urge that all efforts are made to relocate this artwork at the Riverfront Carousel. It is a particularly appropriate venue given the number of children who frequent that facility.

Communities are built through projects like this. They bring people together and become a source of pride. It would send a very negative message about the values of this community to now rip it apart when it becomes inconvenient to new building plans.

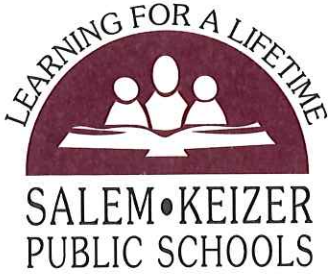
The Salem Peace Mosaic should be saved. To do so would demonstrate respect for the efforts of the past and encourage community engagement in the future.

Thank you for your efforts to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Burnett', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sandra Burnett
Executive Director



April 18, 2019

SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
Lara Tiffin, Principal
1910 Church Street SE • Salem, Oregon 97302
503-399-3252 • FAX: 503-375-7805

Christy Perry, Superintendent

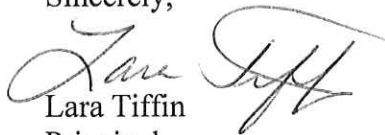
To whom it may concern;

I am writing to support efforts to move the Salem Peace Mosaic from its current location on the Salem Family YMCA building to a new location in Riverfront Park. The YMCA building, including the Salem Peace Mosaic, will be torn down beginning in the fall of 2019 to make way for a new YMCA. A permanent place on city property is needed to insure that this community-developed piece of art remains in Salem. When it was first envisioned, students from McKinley Elementary participated through the work of an artist-in-residence program. As those students saw the mosaic come together, their sense of accomplishment and pride grew.

The project expanded to several schools and to at-risk youth. Giving these students a sense of belonging and the chance to participate with others to create such an impressive piece of art made a positive impact on these students' lives while also impacting our community.

Working to find the funding to remove the mosaic before the demolition of the YMCA and moving it to a permanent place in a prominent city park will assure that it remains an asset to our community for years to come. I can only imagine the sense of pride that all students who participated will have as they bring their families to see their art, art that was created by the youth of our community to promote peace amongst us all.

Sincerely,


Lara Tiffin
Principal
South Salem High School



SALEM PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Attn: Patricia Farrell RLA, Mgr., Parks & Natural Resources Planning
City Hall, 555 Liberty St., SE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: Action Items 5.a, 5.b. Agenda 10/10/2019

Dear SPRAB Members:

On Sunday October 6, 2019, our Board of Directors reviewed the Staff Report of Ms. Patricia Farrell RLA, Parks & Natural Resources Planning Manager, and we laud and support the Staff recommendations. We also commend Marie Bradford-Blevins, Executive Director of the Salem Riverfront Carousel; Salem Public Works Director Peter Fernandez, PE; architect Richard Rothweiler, AIA, Alan Costic, AIA, Katie Costic of AC + CO Architecture Community for exemplary and exceptional work.

We recommend adoption of the Staff Report and recommendations, Action Item 5.

Adopted unanimously.

Board of Directors

Save the Salem Peace Mosaic

Cathy Daniels

Board Secretary

Toni Whitler

From: ed scan <edscannewsletter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Toni Whitler
Cc: Patricia Farrell; Jennifer Kellar
Subject: CONNECTIVITY WITH YOUTH, THE PUBLIC ART IN OUR CITY PARKS: Agenda Item 5
Attachments: SAA Letter of Support.pdf; South Salem High School Letter of Support.pdf

SALEM PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Civic Center, Suite 325
555 Liberty Street, S. E.
Salem, Oregon 97301-3513
c/o: Ms. Toni Whitler, Park Planner I

RE: Support for Salem's Riverfront Carousel "The Stables" Addition and the "River of Peace" Mosaic in Riverfront Park - Agenda Item 5. Oct 10, 2019

Dear Board Members:

I was asked to review Agenda Item 5. I am pleased to do so, and provide comment or feedback. The Staff report and accompanying Attachments are excellent, analytical and very informative, technically based, addressing ADA access, landscape buffers and paths, integration of "The Stables" Addition into the park area, minimum impacts on open space, turf, site plans.

Earlier this year, at a SCAN Board meeting at South Salem High School, Marie Bradford-Blevins, Executive Director of Salem's Riverfront Carousel provided an outreach presentation to the community on the proposed "The Stables Addition." The proposal was very well received. The SCAN Board and attendees applauded Ms. Bradford-Blevins, the designer, and Carousel volunteers.

Inclusion of the "*River of Peace*" mosaic has wide support in the community. Attached are letters from Sandra Burnett, Executive Director, Salem Art Association (SAA), and the principal of South Salem High School, Lara Tiffin. Ms. Burnett's letter encourages that "*all efforts be made to relocate this artwork at the Riverfront Carousel.*"

There is strong support for inclusion of the mosaic from civic leaders: Oregon State Representative Brian Clem, our Mayor Chuck Bennett, City Councillors Tom Andersen and Sally Cook; the Hon. Nancy MacMorris-Adix, former Chair of the Salem-Keizer School Board 24-J; and Annie Morton, a very respected educator and former principal of our local neighborhood elementary school. CANDO has endorsed the Riverfront location. As has Union Gospel Mission of Salem.

Connectivity with Youth and Children

"*River of Peace*" or the Salem Peace Mosaic is a very joyous art piece. It is colorful, culturally diverse, a bird, fish, a stream, a river, a snapdragon, a Panda bear, a tree, a horse, a river: a rare significant public artwork that was actually fabricated, in part, by the youth of our city, from 14 schools; and has extraordinary connectivity with the younger child. Adds a very different and new dimension to the Riverfront Park space.

In years of my observations of parks in the central city core, there is only one other authentic artwork that has that special connectivity to the smaller child, the sculpture *The Cow & the Cat* by Tom R. Arie Donch in Bush's Pasture Park, installed by volunteers in 1998, in a citizens rebuild of the Crooked House Playground.

Wise as you are to recreation, you know children are not mini-adults. The younger child is often very curious; and forms and art have a vitality, a living breathing aspect, animation and life.

Inclusion of the mosaic into artisan "The Stables" Addition by Marie Bradford-Blevins and the architects, Richard Rothweiler AIA, Alan Costic AIA AC + Co Architecture/Community is visionary, -- design and marketing genius. "A tip of the hat" to Ms. Bradford-Blevins.

Already on the Internet are puzzles proposed for 2021 using Salem's "*River of Peace*" or Salem Peace Mosaic.

This is an unique community piece. No other major public artwork in the park is youth fabricated. This is innovative. What we have primarily in our central city park is metal art, metal alloy, on metal, monumental (e.g., bronze, *Tom McCall Memorial* by Rip Caswell 2008 [Riverfront Park], *Guidance of Youth* by Avarad T. Fairbanks, 1958 and *Sentinels* by Devin Laurence Field 2019 [Bush's Pasture Park]; or abstract form (aluminum, glass, *Good Cents* by Lillian Pitt, Mikkel and Saralyn Hilde 2018 [open space near SAIF]).

River of Peace is art of the people.

Towards A True People's Art

Locally made -- from the people. In April 2019, **John Pitman Weber**, a **co-founder of the Chicago Public Art Group** (and co-author of [Towards A People's Art](#)) assessed - reviewed Lynn Takata's "*River of Peace*" mosaic and concluded, he found the work to be:

*"...an outstanding example of community public art. It is **unique** in being largely made up of handmade ceramic elements made by an extraordinary number of local residents. **The technical and aesthetic qualities are absolutely superb....a brilliant example of community public art...testimony to the creative strength of the Salem community..**"*

John Pitman Weber's assessment above of the mosaic is noteworthy, deserves your consideration, and awareness in your deliberations -- and should be in the public record. An artist and a writer, he studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Ecole Nationale Superievre des Beaux and Harvard University. His portfolio includes 40 major public works (in England, France, Spain, Latin America, USA -- New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, cities in Georgia and Iowa); and 30 solo exhibits.

And the "*River of Peace*" is now to a credit to our city, our community ages 5 to 85, the vision of the artist Lynn Takata, our City's youth, our schools, outcome of the seed "Artist-in-Residence" program and SAA, Parks staff, the leadership of the Carousel and AC + Co Architecture/Community.

I would encourage your adoption of the Staff recommendations, Action Item 5. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Christenson MURP
Chair, SCAN Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens Committee