

# CITY OF SALEM



585 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

## Staff Report

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File #: 23-239

Version: 1

Date: 6/12/2023

Item #: 7.2a.

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**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Keith Stahley, City Manager  
**FROM:** Brian D. Martin, PE., Public Works Director

### **SUBJECT:**

Proposed amendments to *Salem Revised Code* Chapter 15 (Public Art) to add new definitions of "building" and "public mural." Ordinance No. 8-23.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Welcoming and Livable Community

### **SUMMARY:**

Ordinance Bill No. 8-23 (Attachment 1) amends Chapter 15 of *Salem Revised Code* (SRC) to add the definition of "building" and clarify the definition of "public mural."

### **ISSUE:**

Shall City Council pass Ordinance Bill 8-23 amending SRC Chapter 15?

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Pass Ordinance Bill 8-23 amending SRC Chapter 15.

### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

Procedural Findings

1. The new definitions for "building" and "public mural" will allow for paintings on curved buildings, like storage silos and water towers, to be considered for installation as a public mural.

## Proposed Amendments

1. The complete text of the proposed amendments is included as Exhibit A to Ordinance Bill 8-23 (see Attachment 2). The amendments proposed in Ordinance Bill 8-23 include new definitions for the terms "building" and "public mural" under SRC 15.

## Substantive Findings

SRC 110.085 establishes the following approval criteria that must be met for a Code amendment to be approved:

1. The amendment is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City.

**Finding:** The Code amendments are in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the city because they will foster community creativity, pride, and placemaking in Salem neighborhoods.

## BACKGROUND:

On November 28, 2022, City Council adopted a motion directing staff to determine whether amendments to the SRC are necessary to allow public murals on structures other than the wall of a building and, if so, to prepare potential amendments to these types of murals for review by the Salem Public Art Commission (SPAC) and City Council. As part of the public mural program, three-dimensional objects like silos and water towers are presently not allowed to have murals in Salem per SRC Chapter 15. To allow for murals on buildings with curved surfaces, like storage silos and water towers, new definitions for "building" and "public mural" are required. Staff proposed new definitions of "building" and "public mural" to the SPAC at its March 8, 2023, meeting. As reflected in the adopted meeting minutes (See Attachment 3) SPAC passed a motion to recommend the new definitions to City Council. City Staff propose that the new definitions for "building" and "public mural" are authorized in SRC Chapter 15. This requires additions to SRC Chapter 15 that define "building" and "public mural."

A first reading was held May 22, 2023. No public comment has been received.

Keith Bondaug-Winn  
Management Analyst II

## Attachments:

1. Ordinance Bill 8-23
2. Exhibit A, Amendments to SRC Chapter 15
3. Exhibit B, SPAC Adopted Minutes April 2023