



CITY OF OREGON CITY ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City
Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Ways to participate in this public meeting:

- Attend in person, location listed above. Please see the public comment guidelines below.
- Register to provide electronic testimony (email agriffin@orc.city.org or call 503-974-5517 (1588) by 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting to register)
- Email agriffin@orc.city.org (deadline to submit written testimony via email is 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting)
- Mail to City of Oregon City, Attn: City Recorder, P.O. Box 3040, Oregon City, OR 97045

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.a. Approve Minutes for August 15, 2024

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are allowed up to 3 minutes to present information relevant to the City but not listed as an item on the agenda. Prior to speaking, citizens shall complete a comment form and deliver it to the City Recorder. The Arts Commission does not generally engage in dialog with those making comments but may refer the issue to the City Manager. Complaints shall first be addressed at the department level prior to addressing the Arts Commission.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.a. 2025 Arts Commission Grant Program

5.b. RFP Criteria and Evaluation

6. COMMUNICATIONS

7. ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

Complete a Comment Card prior to the meeting and submit it to the clerk. When the Chair calls your name, proceed to the speaker table, and state your name and city of residence. Each speaker is given 3 minutes to speak. As a general practice, the committee does not engage in discussion with those making comments. Complaints shall be addressed at the department level prior to addressing the committee.

ADA NOTICE

The location is ADA accessible. Hearing devices may be requested from the City Recorder prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring other assistance must make their request known 48 hours preceding the meeting by contacting the City Recorder's Office at 503-657-0891.

Agenda Posted at City Hall, Pioneer Community Center, Library, City Website.

Video Streaming & Broadcasts: The meeting is streamed live on the [Oregon City's website](#) and available on demand following the meeting. The meeting can be viewed on Willamette Falls Television channel 28 for Oregon City area residents as a rebroadcast. Please contact WFMC at 503-650-0275 for a programming schedule.

Oregon City Arts Commission

August 15, 2024

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ann Griffin (“Ann”) called the roll. Present were:

Amanda Dexter
Karen Buerhig
Tima Carlson
Emma Lugo
Josh Planton
Quire Hugon
Rebecca Sira

Trieste Andrews (“Trieste”) and Daria Loi (“Daria”) had excused absences. Tima Carlson (“Tima”) and Emma Lugo (“Emma”) participated via Zoom.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Ann confirmed that the agenda does not need to be adopted if there are no changes from the published agenda. No changes to the published agenda were necessary.

III. Approval of Minutes

Emma moved to approve the minutes from July 18, 2024. Amanda Dexter (“Amanda”) seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Discussion

5a. Art for Every Heart (James Graham)

James Graham (“James”), Economic Development Manager, shared a brief presentation about the importance of the Arts to the local economy. He stated that the Arts Commission had accomplished a since the last time he made a presentation (November 2023). He recognized that there are occasions every day when people use the arts, from buying a ticket with a graphic design on it, and they may not even realize it.

James asked the Arts Commission to have as one of their goals an increased awareness of the Arts Commission among all residents of Oregon City, particularly among men and more young people. He suggested that the Arts Commission adopt an administrative policy to confirm that the Arts Commission gets formal recognition for all the projects that it supports.

James asked that the group move forward with projects that make the arts “more relatable.” He stated his belief that not enough people in Oregon City are involved with the arts, particularly men. He stated that the Economic Development Dept. would act as a partner to support the Arts Commission in achieving that goal.

He offered the idea of art-related competitions to engage a younger audience. He suggested 4 potential areas for a competition – music, culinary, sculpture and murals. For example, a local restaurant could host a contest and feature the winner’s recipe on their menu.

He repeated one suggestion that he made in November 2023 - the idea of creating partnerships with local businesses. He coined the acronym "CAB" – Commerce, Art, Beer – a competition for an artist to design a commemorative pint glass. The pint glasses would be used by participating brewer(s) and the Arts Commission could select the winning design(s).

James stated that he has talked to businesses in Oregon City who would like to participate – but that the final outcome is "up to you."

He stated that he really liked the Arts Commission tag line, "Art for Every Heart." He encouraged that this line "Art for Every Heart – Made Possible by the Arts Commission," appear on items, even murals and everything the Arts Commission does.

He encouraged the Arts Commission to get involved with the upcoming Destination Management Organization (DMO) and to explore partnerships with other arts-related organizations like the Three Rivers Artist Guild.

Tima Carlson asked a question about past applications for murals on Railroad Avenue that were turned down. Ann stated that one issue that had impacted past community efforts had been the presumed ownership of the wall along Railroad Avenue (assumed to be owned by Union Pacific Railroad). Ann shared that the City recently learned that documentation had been discovered dating back to October 1924, showing that City did not need to obtain the railroad's permission (effectively, the City owns the easement.)

Rebecca Sira ("Rebecca") asked if it would be helpful to produce a one-page flyer to introduce what Arts Commission to businesses; answer "yes."

Quire thanked James for coming and supporting the Arts Commission.

Quire commented that the past survey the Art Commission conducted pointed to live performances and gallery shows as art-related activities that residents would like to participate in.

Karen Buerhig ("Karen") asked if in an upcoming Trail News could be the right place for an article about Porch Fest, highlighting the Arts Commission's role.

James described his idea for a "life series", essentially, a series of murals or other art forms that portray life's different stages.

Tima asked if there is work going on in the Economic Development Dept. specifically, and the City more broadly, to support a community art center. James replied that a community art center would be "a heavy lift". James said not at this time but that is not to say that the City wouldn't be involved in supporting the process of putting one together. "evolved into bricks and mortar"

Amanda suggested one strategy would be to highlight what other community organizations are doing in Oregon City related to the arts.

Both Amanda and Rebecca are interested in being a liaison to the DMO when it begins.

Put tagline on the new Seventh and Center sculpture – and potentially host an unveiling/ribbon cutting event.

Josh Planton ("Josh") talked about strategic plan efforts and getting prepared for the next biennium budget.

James said to discuss a mural on Railroad Avenue at an upcoming meeting.

5b. Report on Meeting with Communications Manager

Rebecca confirmed that she and Daria Loi met with Jarrod Lyman, Oregon City Communications Manager about branding strategy and other resources from the Communications team and how we can build on the brand of the Arts Commission.

Rebecca has prepared a spreadsheet with suggestions on how to organize RFPs, detailed scheduling for communications and related information. She will make a presentation at the September meeting to review with the Arts Commission.

5c. Public Art Restoration Priorities

Elks Lodge Mural: Josh stated that the Elks lodge application to the Enhancement Grant is almost ready. He is waiting for clarification from the City's legal team regarding a discrepancy that he sees in the easement form: 1.1 versus 1.4 regarding who maintains the mural during the five-year easement time. Ann could send an email to legal staff to receive clarification.

Salmon Bench: Josh has been in contact with the artist who designed the Salmon bench. The artist replied that she could come to Oregon City to determine costs and effort needed to complete necessary repairs.

Josh estimated that there are about 27 pieces of art that require some regular cleaning. The Arts Commission should discuss with the Public Works Department is a regular cleaning schedule could be established. Also, there are about 6 pieces that need some repair work done sooner rather than later.

Discussion continued around the process of how the Arts Commission could potentially fund the restoration of murals. Could the Arts Commission fund mural restoration or would that be a conflict of interest, given the Commission's regulatory role? Does a mural that is being restored need to be approved by the Arts Commission in the same manner that a new mural does? Josh stated that he would like input from the City's legal counsel on this matter. (Follow-up: A restored mural should be approved by the Arts Commission just as a new mural would be.)

James stated that the Arts Commission has the authority to identify the priority repair pieces and state as a Commission what needs to be done.

Ann Griffin will contact Public Works about creating a potential cleaning schedule. She also agreed to discuss with James the idea of creating a grant fund to support public art restoration projects.

V. Communications

Amanda asked if the Arts Commission would like to partner with Porch Fest in the future about a youth Battle of the Bands.

Quire - In Sept., she will have a show at Imperfecta. She is also involved in a Foraging event on 9/29.

Tima reported that Soulflags had participated at the Three Rivers Artist Guide Festival of the Arts event the previous weekend.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32.



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

To: Oregon City Arts Commission

Agenda Date: September 19, 2024

From: Ann Griffin, Economic Development Coordinator

SUBJECT:

Arts Commission Grant Program 2025

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Determine the parameters for and approve the proposed Arts Commission Grant Program for 2025, including dates for implementation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its 2024 Strategic Planning Session in January, and on other subsequent occasions, members of the Arts Commission have expressed their satisfaction with the Arts Commission Grant Program, stating that it had engaged many people in the community and supported multiple forms of art. The Arts Commission would like to move forward with a second round of grant funding in Spring 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon City Arts Commission offered a two-tiered grant program in March 2023. "Small Grants" were established for projects requesting between \$1,000 and \$2,499, while "Large Grants" provided support between \$2,500 and \$10,000. The program was designed to give financial support to individuals and/or businesses located in Oregon City. In total, the Arts Commission awarded \$35,000 in 2023, summarized below:

Grand Opening Open House, Willamette Falls Studios	\$2,300
Oregon City Juneteenth Celebration	\$2,400
Oregon City Porch Fest	\$2,450
Oregon City Coloring Book	\$2,490
Party Factory Mural and Cow Sculpture	\$6,360
Man of La Mancha, Clackamas Repertory Theater	\$9,000
Oregon City Cultural Events, Souflags	\$10,000

Total \$35,000

The Arts Commission learned some valuable lessons with its first round of grants. On the positive side, the two-tiered approach allowed the Arts Commission to support a range of activities, from a coloring book to a musical production. The group has also discussed three aspects of the program that they would like to modify in 2025:

- Devote more time to the promotion of the program
- Give applicants more time to complete their grant submissions
- Do a better job of ensuring that grant recipients acknowledge the Arts Commission during the implementation of the grant projects

At the September 2024 meeting, the Arts Commission will determine:

- 1) The timeline for the 2025 grant program
- 2) Confirmation of the amount of funds to award (between \$35,000-\$50,000)
- 3) Outreach ideas to include in the promotion plan for the grant program

For example, the application period for the grant in 2023 was March 20th to April 28th or approximately five weeks. The group would like to extend the grant application period to at least 8 weeks. One potential schedule would be as follows:

Review Grant Application	January 16, 2025
Start of Grant Period	January 27, 2025
Grant Applications Due	March 28, 2025
Award Decisions	April 17, 2025

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the Arts Commission Grant Program as outlined above.
2. Approve the Arts Commission Grant Program with a modified schedule.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Amount: \$35,000-\$50,000

FY: 2025

Funding Source: Arts Commission Unrestricted Funds