



CITY OF OREGON CITY ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

Community Development, 695 Warner Parrott Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045

Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Ways to participate in this public meeting:

- Attend in person, location listed above. Please see the public comment guidelines below.
- Attend the livestream of the meeting on the City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofOregonCity>

• Register to provide electronic testimony (email agriffin@orccity.org or call 503-974-5517 (1588) by 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting to register)

• Email agriffin@orccity.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

- Approve Minutes from April 17, 2025

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

- Qualified Vendor Application and Project Proposal: Salmon Bench Restoration
- Mural Renovation Projects and Proposed Special Meeting - Ann (10 min)
- 6 x 6 Art Show Update (5-10 min)
- "Art for Every Heart" Contest - Joyce (5 min)
- OC Art Commission Website Update - Rebecca (5 min)

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

April 17, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – Roll Call

Chair Planton called the meeting to order. Ann Griffin conducted a roll call of attendees. Present were Amanda Dexter, Joyce La Master, Daria Loi, Josh Planton, Myriam Ravenwise, Rebecca Sira, and Amy Wilson. It was noted that Quire had an excused absence. Emma Lugo was not present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Josh proposed adding the February 27th minutes from the working session to the agenda for approval. He also suggested adding a report on the school district foundation at the end of the meeting, which Amy would provide an update on. No other changes were proposed.

Amy Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Myra Ravenwise seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Josh noted that the February 20th, February 27th (retreat), and March 20th meeting minutes were up for approval. He mentioned doing a review of the February 20th minutes and not noticing anything that stood out dramatically.

Ann clarified that the February 27th retreat minutes were not included in the packets sent out last week but were printed out and available at the meeting. She explained how to access meeting minutes on the city's webpage.

Rebecca commented on how much progress had been made on the strategic plan since the retreat.

Rebecca asked if the Trail News article due on April 14th had been sent out, which was confirmed.

Amy Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from February 20th, February 27th, and March 20th. Daria Loi seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ann reported that no public comments were received in advance of the meeting.

Discussion Items

Public Art Renovation Grant Staff Update (Ann)

Ann provided an update on the public art renovation grant. She reminded the commission that they had \$28,000 available for renovation projects, with \$20,000 coming from the City Commission and \$8,000 from their 2024-2025 enhancement grant.

Ann announced that the Parks and Recreation Department decided to move forward with the DC Latourette Park mural project. The City received two Qualified Vendor applications, from Oregon City resident Cathy Rowe and Portland resident Rodolfo Serna. Both artists have extensive mural experience.

Ann explained that interviews will be conducted with the Parks Department and each candidate, with Joyce representing the Arts Commission. The goal is to select an artist and have them attend the May meeting, with work on the mural taking place in June.

Josh asked for clarification on the selection process, and Ann explained that the ultimate decision will be made by the Parks and Recreation Department, but both she and Joyce will be present at the interviews.

Rebecca suggested the possibility of having a community work party for the mural project. Ann mentioned that this idea would be discussed during the interviews, noting that there have been neighborhood parties at the site before.

Josh inquired about the budget for the project, which Ann confirmed was set at \$12,000. There was discussion about the possibility of adjusting this amount if needed.

Ann also mentioned receiving an application for the salmon bench project through the qualified vendor process.

Daria raised a question about controversy surrounding the bench project, and Ann suggested the possibility of a broader call for artists or repopulating the qualified vendor application.

Josh shared information from conversations with the original artist of the salmon bench, who expressed surprise that the bench was still in place as it wasn't designed for long-term outdoor use.

The commission discussed options for the future of the salmon bench, including potential relocation or further protection.

Art Show Sub-Committee Update and Beneficiary (Amanda and Josh)

Amanda provided an update on the art show, mentioning a tour of the Arc Light facility and discussing options for setup. She expressed excitement about the venue.

Josh confirmed that they now have access to the entire upstairs space at Arc Light, which will allow for showcasing more art and the venue itself.

Trieste Andrews, a guest speaker, provided additional details on the art show preparations. She reported that 244 boards have been given out to 62 artists, with only 10 artists yet to pick up their boards. Trieste also listed various organizations they've reached out to for promotion, including brush and palette, Glassdoor and Community Art Workshop, Wy'est Art Organization, Three Rivers Artists Guild, Clackamas Community Arts Alliance, and Clackamas Community College.

Trieste mentioned that Brush and Palette has offered to donate grids for hanging artwork at the event. She explained the setup process for the grids and how the artwork will be displayed.

The commission discussed the need for volunteers for the event, scheduled for June 14th from 6 to 9 PM. They also talked about seeking silent auction items and the possibility of promoting other art events at their fundraiser.

Regarding the beneficiary of the fundraiser, Josh explained that after initial discussions, they are now considering donating to the Oregon City School Foundation instead of the school district directly. This change was suggested to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Daria suggested checking with the city attorney to ensure the fundraising approach is appropriate and in line with city regulations.

The subcommittee will continue to meet every two weeks on Friday afternoons, with the next meeting scheduled for April 25th at 5 PM.

Art for Every Heart Contest Update (Joyce and Emma)

Joyce reported that they are ready to proceed with the Art for Every Heart contest. She plans to contact elementary schools to distribute information about the contest. The contest details have been posted on the website.

Ann mentioned that social media promotion for the contest will begin the following week, with the contest officially starting on April 22nd. She explained that they decided to lower the maximum award to \$500 to avoid issues with W-9 forms for children.

Rebecca provided feedback on categorizing the contest into two different categories: a visual representation of what "art for every heart" means, and an artistic response that could include various forms of art such as poetry, music, dance, or sculpture.

The commission discussed the prizes for each category, deciding on \$500 for first place, \$300 for second, and \$200 for third in each category.

Website Update (Rebecca)

Rebecca reported on the progress of the website development. She announced that they had selected Dave Garlock with Ink Stained Creative as their designer. Rebecca emphasized the importance of working with a local designer who understands Oregon City and can create a website with an open, friendly, and inviting feel.

Rebecca explained that for administrative ease, Dave will handle hosting and website maintenance. The URL, OCArtCommission.com, has been purchased by the city.

Ann showed examples of Dave's work and mentioned that he is familiar with the city's branding guidelines.

Rebecca noted that once the contract is signed, she and Ann will work on providing content and images for the website. She also mentioned that website expenses will need to be built into the budget moving forward.

Ann stated that the contract is expected to be signed by Monday or Tuesday of the following week. The total cost for the website development is approximately \$2,300.

Artist Spotlight Suggestions (Ann)

Ann introduced the topic of highlighting local artists in the Economic Development Department's quarterly newsletter. She asked for feedback from the commission on how to select artists to feature and what process should be used.

The commission discussed various suggestions, including:

- Featuring artists the commission is currently working with
- Highlighting non-visual artists, such as musicians or performers
- Using a random selection process from a pre-approved list

- Featuring artists whose work is already on display around town
- Highlighting local performance groups like the repertory theater or symphony

For the upcoming newsletter, the commission considered featuring Cathy Rowe, or another local artist who has participated in an Arts Commission project.

Ann noted that the newsletter is distributed to city commissioners, staff, other economic development organizations, and local businesses that have subscribed. The publication is still relatively new, being only in its third edition.

Review May Report to City Commission (Josh)

Josh presented a draft of the report to be given to the City Commission in May. The report included an overview of the Arts Commission's current members, hours spent on commission work, and various projects and initiatives.

The commission provided feedback on the presentation, suggesting:

- Adjusting language to sound more positive
- Clarifying certain points about municipal codes and funding
- Reducing the amount of text on slides to make them more visually appealing
- Avoiding direct budget requests during the presentation

Josh agreed to revise the presentation based on the feedback received. The commission also discussed the timing of the presentation, considering either May 7th or May 21st, with a preference for the earlier date to align with the budget review timeframe.

Willamette Corridor LOI (Amy)

Amy presented a letter of interest regarding the Willamette Corridor art project. She explained that the Clackamas County Arts Alliance (CCAA) has been working on this project, which involves placing art along the Highway 43/McLoughlin Boulevard corridor.

Amy clarified that the Arts Commission would be signing on to express interest in participating in the project, which is still in its early stages. She noted that Lake Oswego and West Linn are also involved, with their cities allocating 1.5% and 1% of their budgets to art, respectively.

The commission discussed the potential for this project and agreed to support the letter of interest. Amy mentioned that she would contact the tribe (presumably the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) the following day to discuss the project further.

Communications

Mayor Denyse McGriff shared updates on various city initiatives:

- The appointment of members to the Destination Marketing and Management Organization (DMMO), including Daria as treasurer
- Approval of large event grants for upcoming events in the city
- The upcoming deadline for Metro enhancement grants on May 23rd
- The special event applications deadline on May 26th

Ann reminded the commission about the upcoming enhancement grant deadline and the Metro enhancement grant meeting in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47.



Oregon City Arts Commission Qualified Vendor Application

"Art for Every Heart"

The Oregon City Arts Commission is pleased to release this Qualified Vendor Application. Individual artists and artist teams from a variety of disciplines are encouraged to apply (muralists, other painters, tradespeople and related professionals). The goal of this Qualified Vendor Application is to identify eligible artists who would like to be considered to complete needed restoration for Oregon City's public artworks. City staff will make an effort to connect property owners interested in the Public Art Renovation Grant program with artists who share their qualifications. Applications received because of this outreach by the Oregon City Arts Commission will be retained for future project consideration for a period of five years, as well as the current Public Art Renovation Grant program.

Potential Projects - The Oregon City Economic Development Department manages the Oregon City Public Art Renovation Grant program. Please see the Public Art Renovation Grant Guidelines on the City of Oregon City website in the Arts Commission section (<https://www.orcity.org/763/Arts-Commission>). Interested applicants are encouraged to review the Public Artwork Assessment Report available on the Oregon City Arts Commission page. The restoration projects identified in this report will be among the first projects that the City of Oregon City considers.

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to submitting a response to be placed on a Qualified Vendor List, artists are welcome to team with a private property owner and apply directly to the Public Art Renovation Grant program. The Grant Guidelines and application for the Public Art Renovation Grant are available on the Oregon City Arts Commission section of the City of Oregon City website.

Artist Qualifications - Professionals who would like to be placed on a qualified artist list should complete this online application OR return a printed copy to Ann Griffin at Oregon City City Hall, 625 Center Street. We would like to learn more about your previous work creating and restoring public art. Your responses will be reviewed by members of the Oregon City Arts Commission and shared with applicants to the Public Art Renovation Grant program with a proposed project that matches your described expertise.

1) Please provide us with you name and contact information.	Becky Dawson
Business Name (if any)	One Lane Road
Phone Number	(503) 314-3966
Email	becky@onelaneroad.com
Address	19092 S Sylvan Ave Estacada, OR, 97023
What is the best way to contact you?	Email or phone

2) Briefly describe your experience creating or restoring public art. In addition to providing a brief description, please attach a resume or artist statement that outlines your artistic skills.

While I don't have direct experience restoring public art, I've worked on a wide variety of creative projects using many different materials and methods. I'm especially interested in restoring the tile mosaic bench in front of Mike's Drive-In. I've completed several tile mosaic projects and have experience with ceramics and glazing techniques, which would help me match the colors and textures used in the original bench. With the help of my husband, Shane Dawson, I'm confident we could carefully remove the broken pieces and replace them with a patchwork of beautiful, new tiles that honor the spirit of the original design.

Resume or Artist Statement	 Becky Dawson Bio.pdf
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3) Project examples. Please describe a small number of projects with which you were involved (between 1 and 3 existing public artworks). List the community that you worked with and the date of the project. Please upload photographs if available.

While I haven't yet worked on public city art installations, I have completed numerous private commissions that share many of the same skills and creative problem-solving required for public art. My experience includes hand-painted murals (2022, 2023, 2025), tile mosaic projects with handmade tiles (2024,2025), and the creation of small ceramic creatures that I've hidden in community spaces to spark surprise and joy(2023, 2024)—art meant to engage the public in a more informal way. I'm especially drawn to the opportunity to restore the mosaic bench in front of Mike's Drive-In. With my background in ceramics, glazing, and mosaic work, and the help of my husband Shane Dawson, I'm confident in our ability to thoughtfully remove the damaged tiles and replace them with a colorful, cohesive patchwork that preserves the bench's original charm while giving it new life.

Please note the large frame floral

tiles pictured below is a project I recently did with 64 middle schoolers where they hand painted the tiles and I arranged them on this frame that will soon get a mirror. The other two mosaic mirrors are ones I made with my hand sculpted and glazed tiles.

Project examples





4) Is there a specific public artwork in Oregon City in which you are interested? Please answer "Yes" or "No". You do not need to select a specific artwork in order to be considered.

Yes

If "yes", please tell us which one.

I'm interested in the fish bench made of tile mosaics near Mike's Drive in.

Deadline for Submissions: Please provide your response before Wednesday February 26, 2025 at 12:00 pm. Thank you.

Mosaic Bench Restoration Proposal

Artist: Becky Dawson

This proposal outlines a full restoration of the existing mosaic bench in Oregon City. The bench top will be replaced with a new, hand-sculpted and glazed ceramic tile mosaic created by Oregon-based artist Becky Dawson. The new design will feature locally inspired imagery such as the Oregon City Municipal Elevator, Willamette Falls, native trout, evergreen trees, and river elements-honoring the bench's current theme while restoring beauty and integrity with an updated, custom artwork.

Materials & Supplies Estimate (approx. \$2,750)

Clay: \$300

150 lbs of stoneware or porcelain for hand-sculpted tiles

Glaze & Underglaze: \$400

Multiple colors, mid/high fire glazes for durability

Kiln Firing: \$600

3-4 full kiln loads (electric), includes bisque and glaze

Tile Adhesive / Thinset: \$150

Outdoor-rated, for setting tiles on concrete bench base

Grout: \$100

Weatherproof sanded grout, color options TBD

Sealant: \$100

Waterproof sealer for grout and tile surface

Concrete Board (Optional): \$150

If attaching to a backer board first for ease of install

Tile Tools & Supplies: \$100

Trowels, sponges, buckets, gloves, nippers, etc.

Protective Cover Materials: \$100

For transport & weather protection during installation

Transportation Costs: \$200

Pickup/delivery of materials + finished mosaic

Contingency / Misc.: \$550

Extra for breakage, glaze re-firing, adjustments

Artist Labor & Design Process Estimate (approx. \$9,250)

Design & Concept Development: \$1,125

15 hrs at \$75/hr

Clay Sculpting & Tile Creation: \$4,500

60 hrs at \$75/hr

Glazing, Surface Decoration & Firing: \$1,875

25 hrs at \$75/hr

Mosaic Layout Planning & Test Assembly: \$600

8 hrs at \$75/hr

Bench Installation & Grouting: \$1,125

15 hrs at \$75/hr

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$12,000



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

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

To: Oregon City Arts Commission **Agenda Date:** May 15, 2025
From: Ann Griffin, Economic Development Coordinator

SUBJECT:

Public Art Renovation Project – Salmon Bench Proposal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Review and approve the proposed Salmon Bench restoration project, including a final project budget. To inform the Arts Commission on budget availability, staff is providing information related to two proposed mural projects, including the preliminary costs associated with each mural. The Arts Commission will discuss the technical aspects of the two mural renovation projects at a special meeting in early June.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The restoration of the Salmon Bench on Seventh Street is one of the priority projects identified in the 2024 Oregon City Public Art Assessment Report. Oregon City artist Becky Dawson brings her strong background in sculpture and mosaic design to her proposal to restore the Salmon Bench. The Arts Commission has the opportunity to meet with Ms. Dawson at its May meeting.

In addition to the Salmon Bench project, Economic Development staff have received two other public art renovation proposals, for the DC Latourette Park mural and for the mural on the Fairclough Building at the corner of 10th and Main Street. The owner of the Fairclough Building, David Blindheim, has applied for support through the Public Art Renovation Grant program. He would like to restore the former mural on the building, working with the original artist, Justin Riede.

While the Arts Commission may not approve funding for a mural given its current role as regulator of murals, the two mural renovation projects necessarily impact the availability of funding for the Salmon Bench restoration project.

Hence, additional information about each public art renovation project is included with this Staff Report, and the projects are summarized in the following table.

Project	Property Owner	Artist	Proposed Budget
Salmon Bench	City of Oregon City	Becky Dawson	\$12,000
DC Latourette Park Mural	Oregon City Parks and Recreation Department	Cathy Rowe	\$13,730
Fairclough Bldg. Mural	David Blindheim	Justin Riede	\$6,000
Total			\$31,730

The Parks and Recreation Dept. selected Cathy Rowe after reviewing two Qualified Vendor applications. To support their final decision, staff asked each of the Qualified Vendor candidates to prepare a mock-up of the renovated design and determined that it was appropriate to compensate the artists for their time. Staff offered each of the Qualified Vendor applicants \$300 for a mock-up of the renovated mural.

The Arts Commission has \$28,000 available to support the three projects. The Arts Commission should approve funds to be allocated to the Salmon Bench Renovation. Staff will negotiate with the mural artists/property owners to determine the cost for each mural based on the available budget.

I look forward to the completion of these public art renovation projects.

OPTIONS:

1. Agree with the proposed public art renovation project budget as recommended by staff.
2. Make a recommendation to modify the proposed Salmon Bench project budget, in line with the total available budget of \$28,000.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Amount: \$28,000

FY: 2023-2025

Funding Sources:

\$20,000 attributed to the Arts Commission from the Budget Committee

\$ 8,000 from the 24-25 Enhancement Grant awarded to the Arts Commission



ART FOR EVERY HEART CONTEST

OREGON CITY STUDENTS (K-12)

The Oregon City Arts Commission invites you to get creative! We are sponsoring a contest to illustrate our tagline, *Art for Every Heart*.

Win Cash Prizes: \$200, \$300 and \$500

How Do I Enter the Contest?

- Open to all schools in Oregon City.
- Create an original piece of art - A painting, a sculpture, a new song, or a new dance.
- Use the words "Art for Every Heart" in your entry or create something that shows how you feel when you read that phrase
- **Take a Picture of Your Art!** Take a picture of your artwork or submit a short video. (Please limit your video to 90 seconds).
- **Upload** the photographs/or short video on the Oregon City Arts Commission page: <https://www.orcity.org/3384/Art-Contest-For-Oregon-City-Students>
- **Submit your pictures or video before May 21, 2025** at 5:00 pm.

Winners will be announced on May 28th.

