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## **CITY OF OREGON CITY ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA**

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City Hall Mt. Hood Room, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045  
Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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
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### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (6:30-6:32)**

- a. Adoption of the Agenda

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approve the Minutes from April 16, 2026

### **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**

- a. Mural RFQ Discussion and Approval (6:40-7:10)
- b. Enhancement Grant Application Review and Approval (7:10-7:30)
- c. Art for Every Heart Proposal (7:30-7:50)
- d. Update on Required Legal Document to Authorize Mural on City-Owned Property (7:50-7:55)
- e. Strategy Document Updates (7:55-8:10)
- f. Sidewalk Chalk Proposal - Festival of the Arts (8:10-8:15)
- g. City Commission Update Proposal (8:15-8:20)

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS (8:20-8:30)**

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES**

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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.

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### **ADA NOTICE**

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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.

**1. Call to Order – Roll Call**

The meeting of the Oregon City Arts Commission was called to order on April 16, 2026 Roll call was conducted with the following members were present:

- Amanda Dexter
- Alexis Ingram
- Kristin Iseri
- Joyce La Master
- Josh Planton
- Myra Ravenwise
- Rebecca Sira
- Amy Wilson
- Ann Griffin, City liaison

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved without any changes.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Rebecca noted under Section VI Communications, the Creative Action Lab meeting for April 18<sup>th</sup> will run from *10:00 am – noon* and not 9:00 – 1:00 pm. Josh noted under Section V, part d. that “on public property” should be modified to say “on public *Oregon City* property”. Alexis **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes from March 19, 2026 with these modifications, Amy seconded. The motion was **APPROVED**.

**4. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**5. Public Hearing**

a. Staff report Proposed Mural on Railroad Avenue

Ann related that all of the criteria has been met for this project.

b. Presentation by Soulflags Art Center and Ana the Artist

Tima Carlson, co-founder of Soulflags and Ana Gabriela Honsowetz reviewed the new mural design. Amy questioned the propriety of using QR codes that the City does not have control of on public property. Ann said she would contact the IT Director and The Communications Director to get some input. Josh asked that we identify who will be liable for repairs.

There is still the question of whether or not we need permission for an easement. Even though it will be the City asking for permission from itself, Carrie Richter has stated it is necessary. Ann said she would take care of it.

c. Public Comment on Proposed Mural

Mack McFarland with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde attended via zoom to express the Tribes’ support for the mural

## 6. Discussion Items

### a. Mural RFP Status

#### i. Potential Locations

Alexis and Amanda met with Ann and narrowed potential locations to 3 possibilities: Railroad Ave, The Madison Taproom (private property, they reached out), intersection mural in 6<sup>th</sup> x John Adams area. Alexis mentioned it would be more equitable to put out a public call if we wanted to go with private property. Ann got a long list of public property but the majority were small surfaces like retaining walls. Amanda noted an intersection mural will take a lot of time and planning, so recommended it not be our primary choice. Josh's concern is timing and supports going with a public mural first. Josh also mentioned we could do "rain paint" murals that wouldn't necessarily take a lot of time. Josh suggested we decide on what we want to spend and put an RFP out in May. Amy suggested we could also look at unconventional public resources like pipes and other "industrial" architecture.

#### ii. Draft RFP

Rebecca suggested we get more information before committing to a defined amount.

Alexis concurred and will come back with options in May. She also has a template we could plug details into.

### b. Proposal to update Public Art Mural Program

Our website is now the "friendly welcome mat" to artists. We also updated City Code that goes into effect April 18<sup>th</sup>. The City's website is the regulatory hub. Rebecca re-wrote text to clarify issues like maintenance, alignment with new code and insurance. The "yes/no" application makes it easier for an artist to meet code before they submit.

Next steps would be to convene a small focus group to test the process and to present findings to City staff.

Rebecca would like to vote on approval of recommendations for updates to the Art Mural program web copy and application, as well as convening the focus group next month.

### c. Creative Action Lab Update - budget request

CAL meeting will be Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Willamette Falls Studios. We would like to come out with tangible projects that could potentially be funded with a Metro Enhancement grant.

Josh suggested that OCAC split the \$400 cost of renting the Studios. Amy MOTIONED to approve the \$200 expense; Myra seconded. The motion was **APPROVED**.

### d. Strategy Document Updates and Comments

ask Josh sent the current version to Ann, although final editing will still be required. Josh will ask Ann to send out a comment sheet to facilitate feedback by May 11<sup>th</sup>. He intends to have the final version included in next month's meeting packet. If we have it approved by July 1<sup>st</sup>, we can sync up with the end of the biennium.

e. OCAC Application Status

Ann noted two applications have been received, we agreed we would reach out to previous applicants. The process is still open and posted on the City website.

f. New Commissioner nameplates

Estimated cost is \$20 each, Amy **MOTIONED** to approve spending \$60 for 3 new plates, Amanda seconded. The motion was **APPROVED**.

## 7. Communications

Rebecca reported Cathy Rowe's TedX Mt Hood Artist in Residence stage installation will be on view May 16<sup>th</sup> in Monmouth.

Amanda explained that in addition to the annual summer event, PorchFest now also works with community organizations to arrange and pay for musical performers at their events. They are also helping other communities like Canby to start their own program.

Kristin reminded us that the Festival of the Arts is coming up in August and that OCAC is welcome to do something in conjunction. She also mentioned she met with Lee Kelly's daughter who is potentially open to making donations to the City. We would need to do some legwork to facilitate and define a path for donation as the City has been unresponsive to previous inquiries from the estate.

Joyce and Myra wanted to make amendments to flesh out the proposal for Art for Every Heart. Rebecca explained how to send suggestions for marketing to Jarrod. Josh will make time on our next agenda.

Josh mentioned Seth Henderson with Level Development is working with MOOT to display historical elements they are salvaging from the Courthouse redevelopment. There might be opportunities to involve artists.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

# **Request for Qualifications: Railroad Avenue Mural**

**Issued by:** Oregon City Arts Commission

**Release date:** May 22, 2026

**Submission deadline:** June 5, 2026 by 11:59pm PST

**Budget:** \$300 stipend for each finalist to create a site-specific design

## **Project and process overview**

The Oregon City Arts Commission (OCAC) invites artists and artist teams from across the Pacific Northwest to submit qualifications for an exciting large-scale mural commission in the heart of downtown Oregon City.

OCAC has designed a two-phase selection process to be both rigorous and fair to artists.

In Phase 1 (the RFQ), artists and teams submit qualifications and portfolio samples. OCAC will review all submissions and select two to three finalists.

In Phase 2 (the RFP), finalists are each paid a \$300 design stipend to develop a site-specific concept for the Railroad Avenue wall. OCAC will review the paid concept proposals, select a winning design, and route it to the Oregon City Commission for final approval.

This approach ensures that artists are compensated for their creative labor during the proposal stage, and that OCAC and the community have the opportunity to evaluate real, site-specific concepts before making a final selection.

## **About the commission**

Driven by the initiative "Art for Every Heart," the OCAC is dedicated to championing creativity in all its forms. The commission works to foster a thriving arts ecosystem that supports local talent, promotes economic prosperity and connects the community to Oregon City's evolving cultural landscape.

## **Project scope and goals**

The selected artist will be responsible for the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork. The commission is seeking proposals that address the following goals:

- Goal 1: Provide an engaging visual experience for pedestrians and local traffic.
- Goal 2: Use durable, weather-resistant materials requiring minimal long-term maintenance.

- **Goal 3: Subject matter guidance?**

### Site details

- **Location:** Railroad Avenue between 7th and 8th
- **Dimensions/Space:** 265' x 8'

### Timeline

The RFQ is expected to launch in late May 2025, with a two-week submission window. Finalists will be notified shortly after and invited to participate in the RFP phase. The goal is to announce the winning artist by mid-summer, with mural work underway by late July or August and completed by October 2025 before fall weather arrives.

### Budget parameters

The total project budget is \$20,000. This amount must cover all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to:

- Artist fees and design time.
- Materials, supplies and equipment rental.
- Insurance and permits (if applicable).
- Fabrication, transportation and installation.
- Travel and lodging.

### Eligibility

This RFQ is open to professional artists residing in the Pacific Northwest. Artists from diverse backgrounds and those with experience in community-engaged public art are encouraged to apply. Emerging artists with transferable skills, such as large-scale interior painting or commercial sign painting, are highly encouraged to apply.

### Submission requirements

For this RFQ, we are asking artists to submit:

- **Letter of interest (1 page maximum):** Outline your approach to the project, your connection to Oregon City or the region, and how your work aligns with the commission's goals.
- **Professional resume or CV (2 pages maximum):** Highlight relevant public art experience, exhibitions or performances. Teams should include a resume for each member.
- **Work samples:** Up to 10 images or links to video/audio files of past work that demonstrates your ability to complete a project of this scale. Include an image list detailing the title, year, medium, budget and location for each piece.

For the RFP, we will be asking artists to submit the following materials:

- **Concept proposal:** A written description of your proposed artwork, including intended materials, methods and a rough sketch, rendering or written narrative of the design.
- **Itemized budget:** A preliminary breakdown of how the project funds will be allocated.

### **Selection criteria**

A selection panel comprising OCAC board members and other community members will review all RFQs based on the following criteria:

- **Artistic excellence:** Quality, originality and strength of past work.
- **Relevant experience:** Experience with site-specific large-scale art

### **Contact information**

All submissions and questions regarding this RFQ should be directed to:

Ann Griffin  
Economic Development Department  
City of Oregon City  
625 Center Street  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
Email: agriffin@orcitey.org  
PH: 503-496-1552

### **Terms and conditions**

- **Copyright and ownership:** The selected artist will retain the copyright to the original artwork. Upon final completion and final payment, the physical artwork (if applicable) becomes the property of Oregon City. The artist agrees to grant the city and the Oregon City Arts Commission an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free license to photograph, reproduce and distribute images of the artwork for noncommercial civic, educational and promotional purposes, including on the OCAC website and in printed collateral.
- **Originality and AI use:** All submitted proposals and final artworks must be the original creation of the artist or artist team. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools is strictly prohibited in the creation of the final, physical artwork to ensure the piece is fully copyrightable and does not infringe on existing intellectual property. If AI tools are used to assist in drafting the initial concept renderings, the artist must explicitly disclose this in the proposal.
- **Media release:** By submitting a proposal, the artist grants the OCAC permission to use submitted images, renderings and biographical information for the

purposes of the selection process, public engagement and official announcements.

- **Right of refusal:** The OCAC reserves the right to reject any or all applications, to reissue the RFP or to withhold the award of a commission if no submitted proposals meet the project's goals or standards.
- **Contractual agreement:** The selected artist will be required to enter into a formal contract with Oregon City prior to the commencement of any work or the disbursement of any funds.



## Community Enhancement Grant 2026-2027 Application

Thank you for your interest in the Community Enhancement Grant Program. **Please read the 2026-2027 Community Enhancement Grant Program Guidelines before completing this application.** Contact staff in the Economic Development Dept. with any questions: Ann Griffin at 503-974-5517 or [agriffin@orc.org](mailto:agriffin@orc.org).

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Monday, **March 16 at noon** - 2026-27 Grant Applications Available
- Wednesday, **April 8 at 6:00 p.m.** – Grant information session. The information session will be held at City Hall, 622 Center St. A video recording of the session will be available after 4/8.
- Friday, **May 22 at 5 p.m.** – Application Deadline
- Monday, **June 15 at 6:00 p.m.** – Enhancement Grant Program Committee meeting. Grant award decisions will be made at this meeting.

Applicants are encouraged to ask questions after reading the Grant Program Guidelines and application. Staff are available to provide assistance. Applications received after the May 22 deadline will not be accepted.

Your organization may need to apply for city permits to complete the proposed project. General liability insurance coverage is typically required. Please confirm what these costs are so that you may include them in your project budget. Your organization may be able to use grant funds to help pay for these costs. Read the grant guidelines thoroughly.

The application and guidelines are available online: <https://www.orcity.org/1157/Community-Enhancement-Grant>. **Please submit your application online using this link.**

**Recommendation:** It's easiest if you prepare an electronic copy of the application on your own device and then copy and paste your responses into the online application form.

## Section 1: Applicant Information

1. Title of Project\* Lamprey Statue – Clackamette Park

2. Applicant Organization\* Oregon City Arts Commission

3a. Is the applicant organization a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit?\*

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No X

3b. Non-Profit Federal tax-exempt ID number \_\_\_\_\_

4a. Applicant address:

Address\* 625 Center St.

City, State Zip\* Oregon City, OR 97045

Is the project situated within the legal boundaries of Oregon City?\*

Yes X

No \_\_\_\_\_

The applicant organization does not need to be located in the City of Oregon City. However, the project must take place within the legal boundaries of the City.

5. Project location (address)\* 1955 Clackamette Dr, Oregon City, OR 97045

6. Project Manager responsible\* Josh Planton

Phone Number\* \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

7. Chair of Governing Board (if applicable)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Proposal Information

8. Briefly describe the proposed project for which you are requesting funds.\*

The project would be the creation of a large statue of a Pacific Lamprey which would eventually rest in Clackamette Park across from the largest spawning ground of the Pacific Lamprey in Oregon. The project will be a dedication to the Lamprey, as well as a reminder of river conservation efforts happening in the area. QR codes will be placed near the statue for visitors to utilize in finding out more about Lamprey conservation efforts, the Lamprey Festival, the statue itself, and the Oregon City Parks.

The statue will be completed in time for it to be unveiled at the 2027 Lamprey Festival, however, in coordination with the Parks Department, it will be placed in a secure location until its final resting spot is built as part of the Clackamett Park redevelopment efforts are completed.

9a. Has your organization received a Community Enhancement Grant in the past three years?\*

Yes  \_\_\_

No  \_\_\_

9b. If you answered yes, please indicate the amount of funding you received and the name of that project.

2024/25 – Art Restoration in Oregon City [\$8,000]

10. If you are applying for a third year in a row, describe the organization’s efforts to identify other sources of project support in addition to the Enhancement Grant Program.

N/A

11. The proposed project must meet one or more of the following 8 goals. Please indicate which of the following outcome(s) your project will achieve. Check all that apply.\*

\_\_\_ 1) Improvement to the appearance or environmental quality of the project neighborhood.

\_\_\_ 2) Reduction in toxicity and/or increased reuse and recycling opportunities.

\_\_\_ 3) Upgrade real or personal property owned or operated by a nonprofit with federal 501 c3 designation.

4) Preservation or enhancement of wildlife areas, riparian zones, wetlands, forest lands or marine areas.

5) Improvement to or increase in recreational areas and programs.

6) Improve safety in Oregon City.

7) Benefit youth, seniors, low-income persons or other underserved group.

8) Enhance art and culture within Oregon City.

12. Clearly describe how the project directly meets (each of) the selected goal(s).\*

**From an “Enhance art and culture within Oregon City” goal perspective, the project will be the first sculpture project of its kind in an Oregon City park since 2013. It will also be the first art project made in conjunction with the Yakama Nation, and one of several art projects that will be in the redeveloped Clackamette Park area.**

**From a “preservation or enhancement of wildlife...marine areas”, the project will be a marker of the Pacific Lamprey’s breeding grounds, which are located near the conjunction of the Clackamas and Willamette Rivers. The Pacific Lamprey have seen declines in their population due to human infrastructure, however, their importance to the entire natural ecosystem and their cultural significance to the indigenous peoples of this area means efforts to educate people and try to reverse their decline is imperative. The statue will provide additional informational resources for visitors who wish to learn more about conservation efforts.**

13. Project Period- Beginning and End Dates\*

Start Date: July 1, 2026

End Date: June 30, 2026

14. Describe why this project was selected and the community need(s) to which it will respond.

**This project was selected based on input from participants representing art, tourism, business, and marketing organizations, during the Oregon City Arts Commission and Travel Oregon City joint Creative Action Lab on April 18<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, several proposed projects were reviewed and identified, however final voting put the Lamprey Statue as the top pick for moving forward.**

**Participants identified it as the winner for three reasons. The first is that it is somewhat unique to Oregon City, given their proximity to Willamette Falls, their breeding in this area,**

and their significance as a food source for many other animals in this area. The second is their importance to the indigenous people of the region. The Yakama Nation hosts an annual Lamprey festival in Clackamette Park each year, which the group was interested in connecting with as part of this project. The last reason it was selected was the contrast it garners as a subject matter for any artist. Often seen as a “parasite” today, using art to educate people on their real beauty is of interest and creates a further unique piece which could be captivating in and of itself.

15. What is the total estimated number of people who will be positively affected by this project? Approximately what percentage of those served will be Oregon City residents?\*

**Clackamette Park sees thousands of visitors each year, a majority (approximately 60%) of which are Oregon City residence who use the park for relaxation and recreational purposes.**

16. Identify and describe the measurements that will be used to assess the project’s effectiveness. Be sure to describe project goals, changes to existing challenges being addressed and the benefits that will result. \*

**Once the statue is placed, QR codes will be placed near it which will allow visitors to access information on various websites about the project, the park, the Yakama Nation conservation efforts, and Pacific Lamprey themselves. We will utilize these QR codes to track the number of visitors to the site, and the level of engagement we see among them.**

17a. Is other City funding being used to carry out the proposed project?\*

Yes  \_\_\_

No  \_\_\_

17b. If yes, what are those sources?

**The Arts Commission will be putting forth funds from its own budget to support this project.**

### Section 3: Budget Project - Sources and Uses of Funds

**NEW FOR 2026:**

In past years, the required amount of matching funds that an applicant organization needed to contribute to the proposed project depended on the size of the proposed project budget.

To simplify the match calculation, the Enhancement Grant Program Committee decided that the required level of match should be **EQUAL TO HALF of the total GRANT REQUEST**. The project match includes both cash match and the value of in-kind match. Volunteer labor may be valued at \$33.49 per hour. This figure is the suggested fee provided by the nonprofit organization, Independent Sector.

Cash match must be secured before the grant is submitted. Provide documentation to confirm your cash match with your Enhancement Grant application.

18. Provide a project budget. For each item, indicate how much of the cost will be met by the Enhancement Grant, how much will be paid by cash the organization has already secured, and how much will be met by in-kind contributions.

Item	Grant Amount Requested	Cash Contribution	In-Kind Contribution	Total Cost
Personnel services, contractors, consultants, performers	\$10,000			\$10,000
Materials and supplies (New, not pre-existing)	\$20,000	\$5,000		\$25,000
Equipment specific to the project				
Construction costs specific to the project		\$5,000		\$5,000
Transportation costs specific to the project		\$5,000		\$5,000

Administration costs - This includes advertising, printing, postage, liability insurance, administrative staff and permits			\$3,349	\$3,349
Other (describe)				
Other (describe)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$3,349</b>	<b>\$48,349</b>

### Budget Summary

Using your proposed budget, summarize the total grant amount requested, the total amount of Cash Funds raised as a match, and the total estimated value of In-kind Contributions to the project. The total project cost is the sum of these three amounts.

<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Total In-Kind Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,349</b>
<b>Total Cash Donations</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$48,349</b>

### 19. Description of in-kind match

List the sources of support for the project's in-kind match (e.g., volunteer hours). As described in the Enhancement Grant Program Guidelines, volunteer labor may be valued at the rate of \$33.49 per hour. Please refer to the Program Guidelines for additional information.

**The Arts Commissions in-kind match will consist of communication and coordination efforts between the Yakama Nation, Parks Department (and their consultants), the selected artist and the Arts Commission. Unveiling for the project will take place during the 2027 Lamprey Festival, and we will also want to make sure coverage of the unveiling is impactful. We will be**

spending time setting up the links for the QR codes that will go with the statue and promoting the process through our website and on social media.

20. List all the grants applied for in support of this project and commitments confirmed to date. If you have not applied for any other grants, respond “N/A”.

**Note: While the Arts Commission has not applied for any other grants, it should be stated that the Parks Department could use the funding of this project to go towards its own funding matches in other grants it is applying for as it prepares for redevelopment of Clackamette Park.**

21. Administrative costs are allowed as part of the project. Administrative costs include rent, mailings, printing, insurance, utilities, and administrative personnel. Administrative costs for the proposed project must not exceed more than 10% of the total project costs.

What percent of the project budget will be spent on administrative costs? 6.9%

## Section 4: Letter(s) of Support and Letter(s) of Permission

### Important Change for 2026 - Letter(s) of Support

- Letter of Support - In the past, nonprofit organizations frequently had trouble obtaining a letter of support from organizations like a neighborhood association. As explained in the Program Guidelines, Letters of Support are NO LONGER REQUIRED to complete your application.

Applicant organizations are still encouraged to share information about their proposed project with the appropriate neighborhood association or business association, or with the Citizens Involvement Committee (CIC). The CIC meets on the first Monday of the month. You may include a letter of support to demonstrate public knowledge of the proposed project. However, a project will not be disqualified if you do not include a Letter of Support.

- Letter of Permission - Applicant organizations that plan to utilize a city-owned asset ARE REQUIRED to submit a Letter of Permission. Common examples include an Oregon City

Park or a public street. The public agency that owns the facility must write a letter to the EGPC to confirm that they are in support of the proposed project and that there are sufficient resources to support the maintenance of the public asset during the proposed project period.

The online application allows applicants to upload up to three letters. If you have more than three, please email the additional letters to Ann Griffin, [agriffin@orcitey.org](mailto:agriffin@orcitey.org). In the subject line, include "Letters for Enhancement Grant Application."

With the online application, you will also be able to:

- Provide verification that you have either attended the April 8 Enhancement Grant Information Session or watched a video of the meeting.
- Provide an electronic signature.

If you have questions, contact Ann Griffin at 503-974-5517 or [agriffin@orcitey.org](mailto:agriffin@orcitey.org).  
Thank you.

*This is a rendering of the what the lamprey statue could look like, however, the final design, materials and layout will be determined after the RFQ and RFP process has been completed, and with input by the Yakama Nation and Parks Department.*

*This is a rendering of the proposed plans for the development of Clackamette Park. The #12 which sits between the two boat ramps at the north end of the park, is the proposed final location for this statue.*





Oregon City Art Commission  
**Five Year Strategic Plan**

Draft V.0.5.0

**Oregon City Disclosures (If Applicable)**

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## Executive Summary

<TO BE COMPLETED WITH FINAL DRAFT OF DOCUMENT>

## Introduction to the Oregon City Arts Commission

Formal coordination of Public Art on Oregon City began in 1991 when the Oregon City Mural Society formed as a nonprofit organization that was contracted to paint a mural at 1001 Main Street. Almost a decade later the Oregon City, City Commission would go on to establish the Oregon City Arts Commission by adopting Ordinance No. 00-1041 at their December 20, 2000, meeting.

By December 19, 2001, the Arts Commission had developed the first Public Art Policies and Guidelines for Public Art, which the City Commission adopted in February 2002. The Arts Commission continued to operate under these guidelines forming several committees to address items such as Murals, Art Faire, and Public Art projects. Despite this the Arts Commission was moved to inactive status by 2006.

Attempts to revive the Arts Commission began in 2011, but there was not enough interest at the time to reform the group and by 2013 discussion on the topic ceased.

It would not be until September of 2021 that the Arts Commission would be reactivated, and nine (9) new Commissioners appointed. As one of primary activities, the Arts Commission was designated as the quasi-judicial body within Oregon that approved Public Mural Applications, as defined in section 15.28.090 of the City's municipal code.

## Document Overview

This Strategic Plan is divided into four main sections.

Section 1 considers the importance of public art and the respective regional creative communities' impact to the overall health and vitality of any city—such as livability and economic success—as well as the purpose of and process by which the plan was prepared.

Section 2 summarizes public art's current role in supporting Oregon City's creative communities, and how it can be improved to meet the City's changing social and economic status in the region. The section also includes a brief discussion of Oregon City's unique characteristics which serve as its foundation for its creative future, and a summary of the outreach efforts used to establish a framework for the strategic plan.

Working from stakeholder input and feedback, Section 3 identifies four (4) major strategic goals and supporting objectives intended to enhance and expand the impact of arts and culture programs overseen by the Oregon City Arts Commission in Oregon City and position the arts as an economic, social, and cultural driver for the city. The strategies and initiatives incorporate the fundamental principles that the Art Commission has identified and refined based on stakeholder input. Building on what the city has learned and on where it envisions itself in 5 years.

Section 4 includes a list of references and acknowledgments related to the Oregon City Arts Strategic Plan.



## Section 1: The Impact of Public Art

More than ever before, public artwork is stimulating and inviting active dialogue rather than just passive observation, thereby fostering social interaction that can even lead to a sense of social cohesion among the viewers themselves<sup>1</sup>. So, what is public art?

### What is Public Art?

The term “art” broadly signifies those things that are *created with imagination, skill, and meaningful intention, acting as a form of expression for feelings, ideas, or beauty.* meaningful. “Public” designates those places that, whether owned by the government or by a private entity, are open and accessible to the public. Public art is artwork in the public realm, regardless of whether it is situated on public or private property, or whether it is acquired through public or private funding. Public art can be sculpture, murals, manhole covers, paving patterns, lighting, street furniture, building facades, kiosks, gates, fountains, play equipment, engravings, carvings, frescos, mobiles, collages, mosaics, bas-reliefs, tapestries, photographs, drawings, poems, music, dance and more.

Public art highlights a community’s commitment to art and enhances the community’s quality of life. It educates and inspires citizens and stimulates creativity in the workplace and in our schools. Studies show that public art serves as a powerful economic force, attracting businesses and qualified workforces. The most traditional and perhaps most fundamental reason for public art is for the delight of citizens and visitors alike. Public art enhances public spaces and creates destinations in a community where people walk and gather. Well-designed and attractive artwork strategically located throughout the city encourages people to fully appreciate and utilize public spaces.

Public art can advance overall urban design initiatives or priorities for a community by delineating gateways and neighborhoods and beautifying traditionally unremarkable aspects of public works infrastructure. For instance: in Seattle artists have designed manhole covers and tree grates; in Miami sound walls along freeways are designed by artists; and across the country, artists have been commissioned to create sidewalk paving patterns, gateways, benches, light standards and utility boxes.

Public Art is a descriptive term for a broad range of art that exists in the public realm; it may be sited on public land, funded through public resources, or developed through a public process. A simple definition of public art is an artwork or element of design that is either temporarily or permanently located in a public space, and which responds to or is informed by its site. The word public indicates community involvement; public art projects thereby create and inspire relationships and communication among constituent interests who are necessary to complete the work. Public art is more than placing a sculpture on a site. Public art demands that works of art be context and site-specific with attention to audience, environmental conditions, cultural history, and urban or natural landscape.

Public art and design elements that define public space enhance the aesthetic and visual quality of the community.

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<sup>1</sup> Fred Kent and Cynthia Nikitin, Public Art Review, Issue 45, website: <https://www.pps.org/article/collaborative-creative-placemaking-good-public-art-depends-on-good-public-spaces>

## Why is Public Art Important?

Public art programs in cities throughout the United States can be considered the prototypes for creative placemaking. These public art programs have helped municipalities understand the potential of the arts to transform a city, assisting a city in achieving strategic goals such as economic prosperity, health, tourism, social cohesion, and educational enrichment. In many cities, public art programs have evolved into a division of a Department of Cultural Affairs (New York), Commission for Arts and Humanities (Norfolk, VA), or Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (Chicago).

Public art has historic and educational value as well. It can commemorate events, honor individuals, or identify historic locations. It also creates an opportunity to express diversity and highlight the unique characteristics of a group or area. Finally, public art may serve as a forum for supporting local and regional artists. As a city works to enhance the quality and character of its public buildings and spaces, there is a tremendous opportunity to illustrate the rich visual heritage of the region. By providing access to art and creating an environment of enrichment and pride for all citizens, public art within our city gives a sense of discovery and vibrancy to public spaces. For all these reasons, public art is an essential component of a thriving community, and why the Oregon City Art Commissions takes seriously its mission to bring all forms of art to the Oregon City community.

## Section 2: Art in Oregon City

### Status of Public Arts in Oregon City

Oregon City has a long history of Public Art, stretching back decades in some cases. There are approximately 80 pieces of public art within Oregon City as of the Arts Commission’s last assessment<sup>2</sup>, although that number continues to increase as new pieces are added and old art pieces are still being discovered. Public Art pieces include murals, sculptures, etchings, paintings, wood carvings, and prints.

Since the Art Commission reformed in 2021, it has endeavored to not only add to the inventory of public art in Oregon City, but broaden, maintain, and improve upon it through collaboration with the City, local artists, community member outreach, education, and promotion. Utilizing its budget and grant funds, the Arts Commission has been able to erect new sculptures, add and restore murals, and provide art-based event programs for Oregon City Citizens. It has also engaged with several local and regional groups in efforts to collaborate with them with the intention of providing new opportunities and resources for Oregon City residence.

Starting in 2025, the Arts Commission took the initial step to also update the municipal code which outlined its role and responsibilities, and the mural code, of which it plays a quasi-judicial role in, to bring both up to date<sup>3</sup>. These changes were approved in April 2026. Updates to the Art Commission’s bylaws were also made to align with the new municipal code changes in 2026.

### Vision Statement

The Oregon City Arts Commission’s current (as of Q1 2026) vision statement is “The Oregon City Arts Commission acknowledges the past, fosters the present and envisions a future where the arts are celebrated as a vital force that brings joy and builds community. We strive for a thriving, culturally enriched, sustainable arts community that creates connection to place and economic prosperity, and centers on diversity, equity and inclusion.

However, it should be noted that this version will be updated as part of this strategic document (see objective 4B below), and this section will be updated with the new proposed text once approved.

### What is the City’s Role

The successful implementation of this strategic plan depends upon productive engagement with the City. Through collaboration with various departments, direction and support by the City Commission, or the ongoing support by City Staff to help on a day-to-day basis, the Arts Commission will heavily rely on the City for support and guidance. In return, within its function as an advisory board to the City, the Arts Commission will provide feedback to the City on how best to engage with the Art Community, promote

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<sup>2</sup> Kathy Rowe, Oregon City Public Artwork Assessment, Approved January 15, 2026, website: <https://oregoncityor.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3127/files/attachment/3356>

<sup>3</sup> The Oregon City Arts Commission operates under Chapter 2.26 of the Oregon City Municipal Code and follows guidelines as set forth in Chapter 15.28.090 of the Municipal Code when determining approval for public mural applications

Oregon City businesses through art-based programs, and create a sense of place for all Oregon City citizens.

### The Importance of Community Engagement

One thing that the Oregon City Arts Commission cannot allow is for the Oregon City community to stay convinced that it should leave the creative function solely in the hands of the specially trained. The Oregon City Arts Commission believes there is a role, opportunity, and place for art in everyone's life. We have a responsibility to nurture creativity beyond a few locations and truly make it a piece of everyone's existence. Public Art in Oregon City will be for anyone who works, lives, visits, or calls Oregon City home. What truly makes public art great is that it is designed with the community in mind, and they feel connected to it.

## Section 3: Five Year Strategic Plan

### Introduction

Work on this 5-year strategic plan began in the summer of 2025, with an initial outline and format being proposed in July. In the fall of 2025, the Oregon City Arts Commission met at a one-off work session to identify and discuss initial goals.

At the following meeting of the Arts Commission, and refined set of goals were shared and approved by the Arts Commission. Work then began on identifying a set of objectives for each goal. A high-level summary of these objectives was presented to the Arts Commission in January 2026, and more detailed version along with a timeline were provided to them in March 2026.

In April 2026, the Arts Commission was presented with an initial draft of the strategic plan in its entirety. Arts Commissions submitted final edits to the document in April and May, and a final version of the document was presented at the May meeting for approval. In June of 2026, the Arts Commission approved the 5-year Strategic Plan, which went into effect on July 1, 2026.

### Periodic Review

On an annual basis the Arts Commission will review their progress against the Goals outlined below and report a status update to the Oregon City Commission, as outlined in their charter (reference Chapter 2.26 of the Oregon City Municipal Code). Any noted adjustments to this document will be reviewed and approved by the Arts Commission.

### Oregon City Public Arts Strategic Plan Overview

REF		IMMEDIATE (6 MONTHS)	SHORT-TERM (1 YEAR)	MID-TERM (3 YEARS)	LONG-TERM (5 YEARS)
<b>1</b>	<b>Strengthen the OCAC Structural Foundation</b>				
<b>1A</b>	<i>Establish key best practice policies and procedures to align programs</i>	■		■	
<b>1B</b>	<i>Create a robust marketing plan to promote art and artists in Oregon City</i>		■		
<b>1C</b>	<i>Launch array of programs for soliciting financial support for the arts in Oregon City</i>			■	■
<b>2</b>	<b>Forge Community Partnerships Through Art</b>				

2A	<i>Develop program to promote local business in Oregon City in coordination with Travel Oregon City</i>			
2B	<i>Forge partnerships with key organizations to promote the arts in Oregon City</i>			
2C	<i>Establish long-term, multi-stakeholder projects</i>			
3	<b>Focus on projects that support the City's placemaking efforts</b>			
3A	<i>Produce new stationary and performing pieces of art that are uniquely "Oregon City"</i>			
3B	<i>Build out the Art for Every Heart Initiative</i>			
3C	<i>Establish an Art Master Plan for Oregon City</i>			
4	<b>Enhance Regional Awareness and Brand</b>			
4A	<i>Launch Website for promoting the arts in Oregon City</i>			
4B	<i>Update vision statement to align with new Commission goals</i>			
4C	<i>Promote Art Thought Leadership within the Art Commission</i>			

### **Goal 1: Strengthen the OCAC Structural Foundation**

*Build a strong foundation for the OCAC by implementing best practices, standardizing operations, and securing flexible funding to create a leading public art program.*

#### **OBJECTIVE 1A: ESTABLISH KEY BEST PRACTICE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ALIGN PROGRAMS**

*In order for the Oregon City Arts Commission (OCAC) to work more efficiently and focus on its shared vision of the future of public art in Oregon City, it will be imperative to establish best practices and policies that minimize discussion on standardized processes.*

*To this end, the OCAC seeks to establish the following program documents it has deemed key to this objective: An Art Installation and Management Process; an updated Mural Program Guidelines and Checklist; an RFQ/RFP and Artwork Evaluation Process; Budget and Financial Best Practices (in coordination with the Oregon City Finance Department).*

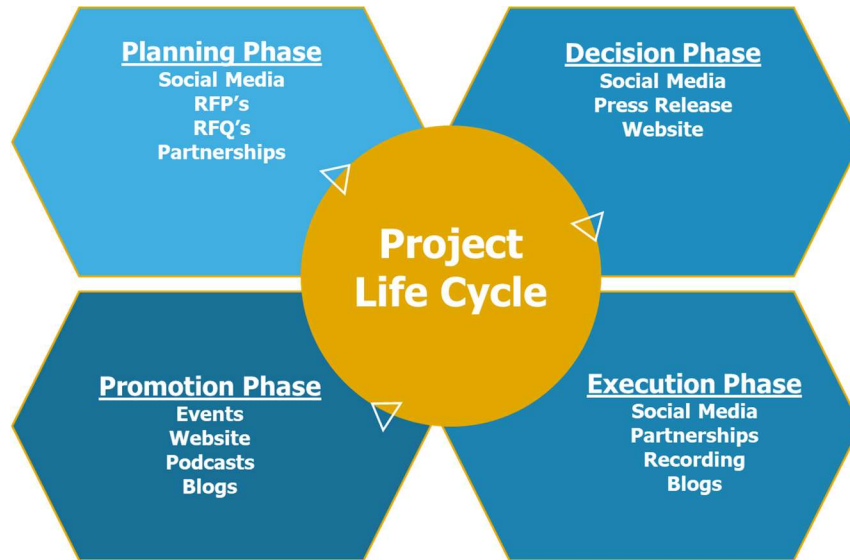
*The below table summarizes the intention of each of the above documents and their prioritization for the Arts Commission.*

DOCUMENT	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITIZATION
Mural Program Guidelines and Checklist	Updated Public Mural Guidelines to align with approved changes to the Mural Code; a checklist to outline steps of Mural Program; links to additional resources on the Oregon City website.	6 months
An Art Installation and Management Process	Public Art Management Policies and Procedures to ensure new artwork meets certain quality metrics, are being properly catalogued, appraised, and insured; Ongoing procedures for the upkeep of public art; Deaccessioning procedures for public artwork no longer meeting quality standards.	1 year
Budget and Financial Best Practices	Procedures outlining communications between the Finance Department and Arts Commission on any grant writing or other income source funding not from the City’s budget; Procedures for the Arts Commission on reviewing and approving budgets for projects or the entire biennium.	1 year
RFQ/RFP and Artwork Evaluation Process	An RFQ/RFP procedure document laying out criteria, templates, and review procedures in line with industry best practices; Review criteria outlines and checklists for Arts Commissioners to use when evaluating submitted applications and proposals.	2 years

**OBJECTIVE 1B: CREATE A ROBUST MARKETING PLAN TO PROMOTE ART AND ARTISTS IN OREGON CITY**

*Key to the Oregon City Arts Commission’s success will be its ability to promote, educate, and advertise the importance of public art to the Oregon City Community and tourist. In order to do this, the Arts Commission must establish a comprehensive marketing plan that outlines media channels, provides consistent dissemination of information, and provides thought leadership to Oregon City citizens.*

*A robust plan will include detailed procedures for advertising new opportunities to artists, mapping out how the Art Commission will promote new works of art and artists and achieve growth of the Oregon City Arts Commission brand to maximize appeal to tourist.*



**OBJECTIVE 1C: LAUNCH ARRAY OF PROGRAMS FOR SOLICITING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS IN OREGON CITY**

*Establishing multiple streams of revenue for public arts in Oregon City is the only way to guarantee that funds are available for meeting the Oregon City Arts Commission (OCAC) goals. To this end, the OCAC must look for alternative sources of funds outside of the City’s biennium budget cycle, which can support future projects and programs.*

*The OCAC will seek to establish the following programs to help secure additional dollars for Oregon City public art: Art Donation Program; Grant Writing; and a Percentage for the Arts Program.*

*The Art Donation Program should be broad in terms of being able to accept both cash donations, as well as physical art assets. Financial Department participation in the development of this program is crucial as it needs to meet legal standards and be easily trackable. In the immediate future, the Art Commission will have to rely on volunteers to help write grant proposals for funding, utilizing staff support to make sure the grants are written in accordance with the City’s guidelines. In the future, the Arts Commission could look at hiring this process out.*

FUNDING TYPE	SOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACT
Biannual Budget Process	Oregon City Budget Committee	\$\$
Art Donation Program	Public/Oregon City Businesses	\$\$
Grant Writing	Multiple/Federal and State Governments	\$\$\$
Percentage for the Arts	Oregon City Permit Process	\$\$\$\$

*The Percentage for the Arts Program, which will be similar to programs from other cities in the Portland Metro area and across Oregon and the country will be the most important program, given the possible revenue it could generate from new developments in Oregon City. A proposal was previously drafted for*

*Oregon City but never approved. The goal will be to review that proposal; make sure it meets common best practices; and promote the program to the City Commission for consideration.*

**Goal 2: Forge Community Partnerships Through Art**

*Develop strong partnerships to engage the Oregon City community through art. Connect city government, the regional arts community, and citizens to expand public art opportunities.*

**OBJECTIVE 2A: DEVELOP PROGRAM TO PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESS IN OREGON CITY IN COORDINATION WITH TRAVEL OREGON CITY**

*A key point in promoting public art is its ability to draw tourism to local areas. It is therefore important to rely on the expertise of Travel Oregon City and Downtown Oregon City Association (DOCA) to help establish art-based programs which ultimately draw individuals to economic centers across the city. The Arts Commission will look to establish long term programs that promote community engagement with local businesses in Oregon City and help drive revenue to them while still maximizing the utility for all. Program could consist of temporary art installations, advertisements and promotional events, and experiences which are unique to Oregon City.*

**OBJECTIVE 2B: ESTABLISH LONG TERM, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROJECTS**

*The Arts Commission will look to establish two multi-stakeholder programs that will foster public art development in Oregon City, promote tourism to Oregon City from across the Metro area, and promote Oregon City businesses, including artist over the next 5 years.*

*These programs will consist of a multi-prong approach with several Oregon City Municipal Departments and Organizations within Oregon City, such as the Parks Department, Library, Pioneer Center, and Public Works.*

*The second will be collaborating with cities outside of Oregon City to draw attention and tourism to Oregon City. It is important to note here that any funds granted to the Arts Commission from the Oregon City government will not be spent outside of Oregon City except for marketing costs.*

INTERNAL TO OREGON CITY	EXTERNAL TO OREGON CITY
Parks and Recreation	Neighbors (West Linn, Lake Oswego, etc.)
Library	Oregon State
Heritage Houses and Museums	Sister City - Tateshina, Japan
Public Works	Regional Tribes

**OBJECTIVE 2C: FORGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH KEY ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE THE ARTS IN OREGON CITY**

*It is important for the Oregon City Arts Commission to establish partnerships with other organizations who have aligned or shared interests. While the Arts Commission would be happy to partner with any*

organization, it understands the feasibility of that is low and therefore decided to work towards the establishment of only 10 MOU's over the course of the next 5 years. These MOU's will outline the intentions of each organization to work with one another and how this partnership will benefit both groups, as well as the broader Oregon City Community.

The Oregon City Arts Commission has identified the following organizations as its list of initial groups will seek to establish MOU's with over the next 5 years:

Art Based Organization	Tourism Focused Organizations	Inter-City Departments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Rivers Artists Guild (TRAG)</li> <li>• Clackamas Art Alliance (CAA)</li> <li>• Lake Oswego Art Council</li> <li>• Porch Fest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel Oregon City</li> <li>• Downtown Oregon City Association (DOCA)</li> <li>• End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center</li> <li>• Museum of the Oregon Territory (MOOT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oregon City Parks and Recreation</li> <li>• Oregon City Public Works</li> </ul>

**Goal 3: Focus on projects that support the City's placemaking efforts**

*Expand the city's art program by diversifying artistic mediums, subject matter, and locations to enhance tourism and community quality of life.*

**OBJECTIVE 3A: PRODUCE NEW STATIONARY AND PERFORMING PIECES OF ART THAT ARE UNIQUELY "OREGON CITY"**

*Public art is not just murals, and not every form of art speaks to each member of the community the same way. The Oregon City Arts Commission must promote the broadest possible array of art forms to reach all the City's citizens and make an impact on their lives. As part of its efforts to do this, the Arts Commission needs to make sure that it produces a variety of public art projects each year.*

*For each calendar year, the Arts Commission will be looking to produce at least one new piece of stationary art (mural, statue, garden, etc.) and one new program of performance art (dance, music, literary, etc.).*

**OBJECTIVE 3B: BUILD OUT THE ART FOR EVERY HEART INITIATIVE**

*Art for Every Heart was originally designed as a motto for the Oregon City Arts Commission but has grown to become an important piece of its mission. Making sure that all citizens of Oregon City feel involved, are impacted by, and sharing the vision of public art in the city is maybe the most important aspect of the Arts Commission's role.*

*To this end, the Art for Every Heart program needs to be developed further and actions justified to make sure its objectives align with that of this document and the City’s own goals. Its development must also include promotional guidelines, program assets, and a strong foundation of being a cornerstone in all art projects in Oregon City.*

**OBJECTIVE 3C: ESTABLISH AN ART MASTER PLAN FOR OREGON CITY**

*As the Oregon City Arts Commission begins working towards an expansive and robust stationary public art scene in Oregon City, it is important that each piece be distinct but connected to one another to tell the entire story of Oregon City. It is also key that these pieces be placed in such a way that they maximize their utility to promote Oregon City as an art hub and are seen as economic drivers in the area. To do this, the Oregon City Arts Commission must establish an Art Master Plan.*

*An Art Master Plan is different from a Strategic Art Plan in that it focuses on the long-term roadmap that guides the planning, acquisition, placement, and maintenance of art in public spaces, which is detailed out. Both documents should align with one another to make sure the planning for public art aligns with the vision of public art.*



**Goal 4: Enhance Regional Awareness and Brand**

*Increase regional awareness and build a strong, cohesive identity for the Art Commission, establishing Oregon City as a premier public art destination. Position OCAC as a strategic leader in shaping the city's public art landscape by grounding our work in a clear vision and community storytelling.*

**OBJECTIVE 4A: LAUNCH WEBSITE FOR PROMOTING THE ARTS IN OREGON CITY**

*Maybe one of the most important tools in the Oregon City Arts Commission’s “toolbox” is the Oregon*

*City Art Commission website. Launched in March of 2026, the website will be a window into the programs, policies, and principles of the Oregon City Arts Commission. It will be our megaphone to the outside world, and our messaging board for promoting its goals across the city.*

*However, launching the website is not merely a matter of clicking a button. It also includes developing an ongoing and consistent drumbeat of messaging from the Arts Commission to the citizens of Oregon City and beyond. It must also work effectively in promoting opportunities for artists and allowing individuals to easily find the information they may be looking for. Therefore, the Arts Commission must also develop guidelines for the ongoing management and promotion of the site to make sure it is being widely observed.*

#### **OBJECTIVE 4B: UPDATE VISION STATEMENT TO ALIGN WITH NEW COMMISSION GOALS**

*Early in its re-establishment, the Arts Commission set about the drafting of a comprehensive vision statement. Over the years, as we have learned more about our role, responsibilities, and goals, our vision has shifted and become more focused. It is therefore important that the Arts Commission take the time to re-visit its Vision Statement to make sure it is still aligned with our priorities and spreads the message we are hoping it will to all those we engage with.*

#### **OBJECTIVE 4C: PROMOTE ART THOUGHT LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE ART COMMISSION**

*In the end, the Oregon City Arts Commission will only be as good as the individuals who sit upon it. The Commission is greatly supported by Oregon City staff to help review and appoint new Arts Commissions, however to maximize efficiencies and make the annual transitions as smooth as possible, to avoid disruptions, the Arts Commission should also take the time to develop our own understanding of the wider topics impacting art across the state, county, city, and provide resources to Arts Commission now and in the future for making sure their decisions will be the best possible for every member of the Oregon City Community.*

*Establishing a streamlined onboarding packet, inviting guest speakers who have knowledge of key topics to come and meet with the Commission, make sure to communicate among ourselves in meetings about important art related topics (such as AI, funding, events, etc.) is necessary to make sure we stay well informed and are able to also respond with strong, well-conceived, and thoughtful action.*

## Section 4: References and Acknowledgements

### References

1. Oregon City Arts Commission Website (Launched 2026, March)
  - a. URL - <https://ocartscommission.com/>
2. Oregon City Public Art Mural Program (Launched 2021, October)
  - a. URL - <https://www.orcity.org/265/Public-Art-Mural-Program>
3. Oregon City Municipal Code
  - a. Title 2, Chapter 2.26 – Arts Commission (Updated 2026, April)
    - i. URL - [https://library.municode.com/or/oregon\\_city/codes/municipal\\_code?nodeId=TI2ADPE\\_CH2.26ARCO](https://library.municode.com/or/oregon_city/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TI2ADPE_CH2.26ARCO)
  - b. Title 15, Chapter 12.28.90 – Public Art Murals (Updated 2026, April)
    - i. URL - [https://library.municode.com/or/oregon\\_city/codes/municipal\\_code?nodeId=TI15BUCO\\_CH15.28SI\\_15.28.090PUARMU](https://library.municode.com/or/oregon_city/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TI15BUCO_CH15.28SI_15.28.090PUARMU)
4. Rowe, C., Oregon City Public Artwork Assessment (Update 2026, January)
  - a. URL - <https://docreader.reciteme.com/doc/view/id/6978fe7ada6f2>

### Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere thanks to the Arts Commissioners who have come before the publication of this strategic document. Their tireless stewardship helped support the initial efforts of the Arts Commission as it rebuilt itself from the ground up.

We would also like to offer our thanks to the Arts Commission’s City Liaison(s) James Graham and Ann Griffin, who provided guidance throughout this process.

Denyse McGriff, Mayor, Commissioner Marl, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Wilson, and Commissioner Smith for their support and approval of the updates to the Municipal Code changes proposed by the Arts Commission.

## Appendix

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## **Report Out City Council – Target Meeting on June 17**

### **Executive Summary**

Over the course of the past year, the Oregon City Arts Commission (OCAC) has been finalizing several projects and events which we deemed necessary in bringing our process and procedures up to date and making sure we had the means of achieving our strategic goals for the Oregon City Community. In June 2025, the OCAC concluded the 2023-2025 biennium with the holding of several interrelated events and open projects which were time sensitive. The second half of 2025 was spent working through our policies and procedures to standardize our work processes and create a shared vision for the Arts Commission leading into the future.

Starting in 2026 we saw the final steps taken for many of these projects, the launch of our website, and the engagement with several different partnerships we hope will grow and be impactful for the citizens of Oregon City. Looking into H2 of 2026 and beyond, we will utilize our new strategy document to help guide our decision-making processes and focus into 2031.

### **End of Biennium**

Since the last time we presented to the City Commission, the OCAC worked diligently to complete several projects which needed to be completed by the end of the 2023-2025 Biennium. These included the 6x6 Art Show, which was the first event of its kind in Oregon City. The event saw over 50 artists participate in the event, with a total of 296 panels contributed to the event. The event raised over \$3,000 for art supplies for students in Oregon City Schools and received positive reviews from dozens of attendees. Overall, we had more than 200 individuals attend the event, which included live music and raffle prizes. We would also like to give a special thank you to our venue, the Hive, for granting us the space free of charge for this event.

Around the same time, we also conducted our first Art for Every Heart contest. The 2025 contest was geared towards children in the K-12 grades. While we received many great pieces in response to this contest, we also realized the difficulty of conducting a contest that includes minors. Following this event, we decided to restructure the “Art for Every Heart” program to increase its impact for the broader Oregon City Community. We are in the process of reviewing the initial proposals for this restructuring now, and hope that the program will continue with a bi-annual contest that showcases how art can impact everyone.

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At the end of the biennium, we were notified that we would be able to rollover any unused funds not spent by June 30, 2025. The total of this rollover ended up being \$20,088.11, which we plan to spend in the 2025-2027 biennium.

### Oregon City Municipal Code (OCMC) Changes and Key Policy Updates

Starting in the second half of 2025, the Arts Commission turned its attention to drafting proposed updates to its Charter (OCMC Chapter 2.26), and the Mural Code (OCMC Chapter 15.28.090). The Arts Commission felt changes to the code were necessary given parts of them were outdated (referencing items no longer in existence), or needed further clarification based on our prior experiences.

Proposed changes to the municipal code Chapter 2.26 included the addition of a term limit for Art Commissioners, officer terms, and clarification within its powers and responsibilities. Edits to Chapter 15.28.090 of the municipal code include the expansion of surfaces that could be considered for public murals, clarification around the term “alteration” in the mural application review process, and extension of the easement term for public murals.

The Arts Commission worked through several review cycles with City Staff and Legal Counsel as it refined its draft edits. Submission and review of the proposed municipal code changes to the City Commission occurred at a joint working session in October 2025. The City Commission would later review proposed final edits from Legal Counsel in February, which were shared with the Art Commission at our February meeting. The City Commission approved the proposed changes to the municipal code on DD/MM/YYYY, and they went into effect on DD/MM/YYYY.

In conjunction with the edits to the municipal code, the Arts Commission also reviewed proposed edits to its Bylaws, to align the document with the expected municipal code changes. Now that the municipal code has been ratified, the Art Commission will work to make final edits to its Bylaws.

The second half of 2025 also saw the initial drafting of the Arts Commission’s very first 5-Year Strategic Plan, which will define our goals and objectives for the next five years and outline our steps for achieving them within that timeframe. The Arts Commission set out on this task by first defining what items might be most important for the Arts Commission to establish now, which would be the most impactful to the longevity of our work 10, 20, and 30 years into the future. We then refined those ideas into the following four goals:

## Report Out City Council – Target Meeting on June 17

**Strengthen the OCAC Structural Foundation** - *Build a strong foundation for the OCAC by implementing best practices, standardizing operations, and securing flexible funding to create a leading public art program.*

**Forge Community Partnerships Through Art** - *Develop strong partnerships to engage the Oregon City community through art. Connect city government, the regional arts community, and citizens to expand public art opportunities.*

**Focus on projects that support the City's placemaking efforts** - *Expand the city's art program by diversifying artistic mediums, subject matter, and locations to enhance tourism and community quality of life.*

**Enhance Regional Awareness and Brand** - *Increase regional awareness and build a strong, cohesive identity for the Art Commission, establishing Oregon City as a premier public art destination. Position OCAC as a strategic leader in shaping the city's public art landscape by grounding our work in a clear vision and community storytelling.*

These goals will be the foundation of our work over the next 5 years and will ultimately help us in bringing wonderful public art to the Oregon City community. As we progress through the various tasks and objectives identified for each goal, we will keep the City Commission update on our progress. The Strategic Plan will be our roadmap and reviewed annually by the Arts Commission to make sure the efforts we are taking are in the best interest of Oregon City.

We are in the final stages of the review process now and are working towards approving the final document in June. The plan will then have a start date of July 1, 2026, to align it with the biennium until 2031.

### Website Launch

In March of 2026 the Arts Commission launched its own website (<https://ocartscommission.com/>), which had been established through an MOU with various City Departments. The City retains all rights to the site, and information is shared with the City's IT department, however, all maintenance of the site is handled through a third-party vendor the Arts Commission has contracted with.

The website offers the Arts Commission a marvelous tool for us to utilize on anything from existing public art inventory, highlighting local artists, communications with the

## **Report Out City Council – Target Meeting on June 17**

community, RFQ/RFP announcements, and general local news relevant to the Oregon City art industry.

Now that the site is launched, our next step is to create a marketing plan to keep the information on the site fresh and updated. The marketing plan will also include information related to other mechanisms we can utilize to spread our information to the Oregon City Community, such as a qualified vendor list or updates to the City's art inventory as it grows.

### **Partnerships**

One of the most important items the Art Commission has been working on the past several months is establishing partnerships with other organizations inside and outside of Oregon City. As noted earlier, the Arts Commission's focus is public art programs and their relations to the Oregon City Community, however, there is a lot of information which can be shared across with other organizations whose own mission overlaps or is adjacent to our own.

A clear example of this is Travel Oregon City. Their focus on cultural and art-based points of interest or events have led us to work closely with them. We have recently launched a program called the Creative Action Lab, which is meant to bring together individuals from tourist, marketing, and service industries to discuss possible projects or programs which we can use to help promote Oregon City to outside visitors or create spaces/events that Oregon City residence can experience. These labs are open to the public as well and provide a means for us to have direct communication with anyone who is interested in sharing their ideas of public arts in Oregon City.

We have also been in communications with other organizations, the Museum of the Oregon Territory, the Oregon City Parks Department, and the Willamette Corridor Project. Additionally, as part of our 5 Year Strategic Plan, we have identified a list of other organizations we would like to establish ongoing relationships with over the course of the next few years to better coordinate our efforts with parallel or similar projects happening in Oregon City.

### **Conclusion**

As I hope the City Commission can see, the Oregon City Arts Commission has been active in reengaging as a group focused on bring more public art into the lives of Oregon City residence, promoting Oregon City businesses through art-based tourism, and taking a

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more engaging role with all those in the Art Community. The foundations we have been working on the last year to complete will mean that the Arts Commission will be in a great position to achieve its identified goals in the next several years and beyond.