



DOMINICK PANGALLO

MAYOR

Salem Public Art Commission
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Public Art Commission

August 18, 2026

6:30pm

Meeting held remotely via zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Note: All proposals, presentations, and/or documentation to be reviewed and discussed at this meeting can be viewed online at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/SalemPACProposals>

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm.

Roll Call PAC: Jim Bostick (Chair), Becky Fisher, Gwendolyn Rosemond, Brittany Minton, Hannah Gathman.

Absent at Roll Call: Bryan Apito.

Also Present: Staff: Julie Barry (Senior Planner Arts & Culture); Maura Welch (Clerk).

- **Meeting Minutes Approval - May 19, 2026 and July 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Barry noted that the June meeting was cancelled and there were no June minutes. The May 19 minutes had not been reviewed in July, so both the May 19 and July 21 minutes were before the Commission. Members noted minor name and spelling corrections.

Motion to approve the May 19, 2026 and July 21, 2026 meeting minutes is made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Rosemond and passes 5-0.

- **FY2027 Budget Planning**

Ms. Barry reviewed the FY2027 draft budget: \$25,000 for Public Art, \$10,498 for Conservation & Maintenance (C&M), and \$10,000 for the Downtown Programming Fund. The Downtown Programming Fund was reduced by \$5,150 for FY2027.

Several signage costs remain estimates pending final designs and quotes. Ms. Barry expects firmer numbers for review in September.

The Commission revisited additional structural engineering assistance for Roark Congdon's 400+ Traces of Arrival sculpture. After reviewing the original call and the artist's documentation, members agreed not to allocate additional engineering funds and to remove that line from the draft budget.

Because travel costs from Seattle could prevent Mr. Congdon from attending the dedication, the Commission agreed instead to add an artist travel stipend: up to \$2,000 if lodging is included, or \$1,500 if lodging is secured separately. Ms. Barry will coordinate the details with the artist.

Ms. Barry estimated that roughly \$3,000 would remain in the Public Art fund after the travel stipend and the current placeholder for the Rousseau works.

Members agreed to pause further allocations until September, when signage, travel, and Rousseau costs should be clearer. The Public Art & Performance Mini Grant, ArtBox continuation, Arts Festival community art sponsorship, and a possible new public art project can be revisited then.

- **Artists' Row 2027/2028 Call for Creatives - Recommendations**

Ms. Barry reviewed the Artists' Row application results. Seven reviewers scored applications independently and the scores were averaged; some applications were disqualified for missing required materials.

For the Public Artist in Residence (PAiR), Javiera Garcia/Cornucopia Threads received the highest score for 2027. Her proposal centers on sculptural textile and fiber work with community participation. The next highest-scoring applications were thecollab and Gwyn S Marathas.

The Commission felt thecollab's larger public mural project would benefit from the additional planning time available for 2028, with Gwyn S Marathas recommended as runner-up.

Motion is made by Ms. Minton to offer the 2027 PAiR to Javiera Garcia/Cornucopia Threads and the 2028 PAiR to thecollab, with Gwyn S Marathas as the 2028 runner-up if thecollab declines, seconded by Ms. Fisher and passes 5-0.

For Studio/Retail/Maker spaces, MiraMar Printmakers received the highest overall score and was recommended for Stall #4. North Shore Glass School LLC was recommended to remain in Stall #2 for its final eligible cycle. French Press Candle Co. was also discussed for Stall #2.

The Commission discussed Erik Quigley/Death & Decorum and Kimberly Ballou as strong candidates to share or divide Stall #1. Members felt their work could complement one another. Ms. Barry noted that any taxidermy activity must comply with Artists' Row rules, including the prohibition on human remains.

Leah Tsukamoto/Do-It-Together Salem submitted the only performance-focused application. Members discussed the value of performance programming, but noted that the application scored lower and focused more on rehearsal and gathering space than public performance.

Motion is made by Ms. Gathman to award Stall #4 to MiraMar Printmakers, keep North Shore Glass School LLC in Stall #2, and invite Erik Quigley/Death & Decorum and Kimberly Ballou to share or divide Stall #1, seconded by Ms. Rosemond and passes 5-0.

Ms. Barry will contact the selected applicants and discuss a shared or divided Stall #1 with Mr. Quigley and Ms. Ballou. If the arrangement is not workable, she will bring the issue back to the Commission.

- **Rousseau Collection Donation and Display**

Ms. Barry reviewed the updated Rousseau Collection proposal, draft agreement, and possible display locations at Salem High School. The current plan is for two larger paintings to enter the City's public art collection, with the remaining materials housed and displayed through the high school archive/collection.

Ms. Barry said elaborate custom cases are not needed at this stage. City-owned works are covered by fine art insurance, and Salem High School has existing display cases and furniture that may work for smaller materials.

Ms. Minton supported the high school location because of Rousseau's connection to the school and the potential for student research and art education. Members also discussed involving students in interpretive materials and displays.

Ms. Barry recommended property/contact labels on the artworks and language in the agreement requiring consultation with the PAC before works are moved. The PAC would remain responsible for conservation and maintenance.

Members were also supportive of exploring a small temporary exhibition of the collection before permanent installation, if timing and space allow.

Because gifts valued over \$1,000 require City Council acceptance, Ms. Barry will confirm the approval process with the City Clerk and Mayor's Office, obtain a statement of value from the estate representative, and finalize the supporting documentation. No formal Commission vote was taken.

- **Project & City Updates**

Ms. Barry reported that installation of Roark Congdon's 400+ Traces of Arrival sculpture is scheduled for the following week. Base preparation is planned for Monday, with delivery and installation on Tuesday. Ms. Barry will document the installation.

Mr. Congdon declined to design the interpretive sign, so Ms. Barry will move the sign design and fabrication forward separately. Final payment will be made after the sculpture is installed and accepted.

MOON Base One has received approval to reopen, with the City hopeful the space will be active again early next month.

Ms. Barry also updated the Commission on Old Town Hall planning. The City is working with outside consultants on options that could include an approximately \$15 million renovation

and a new community-focused operating model. A fuller report is expected after the current phase ends in December.

Ms. Barry reminded members of upcoming public art and 400+ events, including the early September unveiling of the restored George Washington portrait. She is also awaiting Hels Gibson's final title-panel design for the Flowers Grow in Massachusetts mural.

Motion to adjourn is made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Gathman and passes 5-0.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

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