



AGENDA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

December 18, 2025

at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works / Planning Conference Room
311 N. Third Avenue
Stayton, Oregon 97383

MEETING INFORMATION

The Stayton Public Arts Commission will be meeting in-person at the above location, but the meeting can also be attended virtually. If you would like to virtually participate in the meeting, please contact Susan Bender at sbender@staytonoregon.gov to receive an invitation to the online meeting.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. MEETING MINUTES**
 - a. Approval of November 20, 2025 meeting minutes
- 3. GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. Public Comments and/or Presentations
 - b. Upcoming Joint Meeting with City Council: 1/20/26
 - c. Of Interest: City of Stayton Donation Policy
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 5. ADJOURN**

The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you require special accommodation, contact the Community and Economic Development Department at (503) 769-2998.

Stayton Public Arts Commission Report for January 20, 2026 City Council Meeting

Art enhances lives. Art brightens the often grey days and art inspires.

The budget \$4,000 of \$95 million is 0.00421%, Or, as Interim Public Works Director Barry Buchanan put it, about the cost of two municipal trash cans. The Arts Commission is dedicated to getting a lot of impact with our very limited funds.

The chartered purpose of the Public Art Commission (expressed here as bullet points) is to:

- Advise Council and other city entities of the artistic merits of municipal projects under consideration.
- Recommend expenditures of funds for the acquisitions of art and Arts Program Administration
- Develop and recommend to City Council policies and programs that enhance, encourage the planning and placement, insurance and maintenance of public displays of art.
- Work with the City to ensure all art is installed in accordance to standards and laws.
- Oversee maintenance and repair and document and catalogue public art.
- Recommend improvements to policies and procedures re Public Art
- Ensure the use of funds collected increases the amount of public art in the city.
- Seek and approve private donations without caveat. Review art for appropriateness.
- Recommend specific, accessible locations.
- Review and recommend to council acceptance of Public Art.

While surrounded by communities with vibrant Public Arts, Until recently, Stayton has not had a significant public arts presence, communities like Silverton, Corvallis, Salem, Roseburg and Lake Oswego...some near size, some far larger...all with vibrant arts programs and events. Heck, Monroe, Oregon, population ~750 has a Community Arts Center.

Local Artist, the late Sandi Porter and her husband, the late Mayor Hank Porter dreamed of a strong public arts presence here in Stayton.

To that end the Public Arts Commission was established and came to life about a year ago
It is an honor to be a part of and to serve as leader of that Commission.

After much discussion, the Commission, keeping in mind an extremely limited budget, settled on a multi-pronged approach.

1. Inexpensive to free awareness and outreach including distributing hundreds of four-packs of donated crayons and donated art kits at Summerfest, each stickered to encourage folx to take the community arts survey.
2. The aforementioned community arts survey. Presenting this survey to to Commission, the Council and the Community. And taking guidance and inspiration from the results.
3. Outreach and hands on involvement. The first of these was a “Sip and Paint”. Typically Sip and

Paint events are held at Snow Peak and a couple other locations in Stayton. Several Arts Commission Members said “Let’s do it” so we did. The event was sub \$500 total. Over subscribed in less than 24 hours, raised awareness and enjoyed by all and many community members have asked for another. We did not nor did we think of limiting the attendance to Stayton Residents/Business Community members...a point for future discussion.

4. Setting the tone. Go big or go home. The Arts Commission, after much discussion, decided that murals were a great way to kick start art in Stayton. Silverton and Roseburg and many other cities have extensive and outstanding mural “collections.” Our inspiration was drawn from Ernst Lau’s book, The “Waterways of Stayton”, a copy of which was obtained for and given to the Arts Commission and is held for reference in the arts reference files. Public Murals must be approved by the Commission and the Commission, with Council approve, embraced the underlying theme of The Waterways of Stayton. Commission members are working with The Tribes of The Grand Rounde, to highlight the heritage of First Nations Peoples in our community. Arts Commission Members and Council/Community Members which are interested will take a “field trip” to their gallery in 2026.

5. Art in Public Places. The first of these is a selection of images in the lobby of the Community Center. These are in place now. There are many more opportunities.

6. Planning for the future. These are merely ideas at this point.

Future “sip and paints” Perhaps with 3-D Wood shapes

Youth focused arts programs K-12

Puget Sound Photographic Historical Society (I am a member and author there) will donate what we need for a community traditional photo program and provide material support for up to two years

A community art show and sale where artists could meet and sell their creations at the Community Center much like the library/library board does. Unlike the existing Library Art Show (where I exhibit) this would be a “selling” and educational event.

The Commission currently collects ideas from other arts organizations and this information will be accessible to the community.

Stayton Oregon Public Art Inventory

Wood Framed Archival ink Jet Print - Red Barn and Riverfront Park – Planning Conference Room

Ceramic Tiles – Pioneer Park

Welcome Stones – Pioneer Park

Matted Archival Ink Jet Images – Community Center Lobby. Because this is a high traffic area used by many organizations, spare images and reprinted images are available should any be inadvertently damaged.

Murals 505 Building, Soil and Water Conservation Building, Masonic/Odd Fellows Building

US Gov't Mural Side of the Post Office.