

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC ART REVIEW COMMITTEE (PARC) MEETING

June 25, 2025

5:15 PM – 7:15 PM

In-person Meeting

Conference Room A

Link to register for the PARC meeting via Zoom if necessary:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85269297207>

Meeting ID: 852 6929 7207

AGENDA

1. Welcome and agenda review
 - a. in attendance Sean, Chris, Ernie, Beth, Mara, Lennie, Jen, Kate, Alyssa, Nancy, Robin

2. Vote to accept the minutes of May 21 meeting
 - a. Beth made the motion, seconded by Jen, all voted yes

3. Updates:
 - Final version of Temporary Art guidelines (Mara, Jen) upcoming
 - Peirce Island installation (Sean)
emailed the artist for mid-July date, they said yes.
 - City Council: Judy Schubert, Fairy House, CIP budget
Everyone at pleased with with the art. Chris followed up with deputy city manager - no at city hall is in favor of the first location. They will look at PP and get back to us with some ideas. CIP budget included \$25,000 for public art.

--HDC: Ona Judge mural
Discussion about size of mural. Reduced in size by about 25%. I will still be substantial. BHT has done all the fundraising.

--Rail trail meeting
Met a couple weeks ago about incorporating public art onto the trail. They are overwhelmed right now but will come up with guidelines soon.

--Portsmouth Historical Society: sculpture tour; lecture July 29 - moving forward with a sculpture tour, Cabot Lyford lecture coming up in July, PARC will be collaborating through Chris

--Update on meeting with LGBTQ group (Nancy, Kate)

Nancy met with the group to explain what we talked about at our last meeting. They would like to have the City of the Open Door interpretation. Suggested a standalone statue. Seacoast Outright may have a founder willing to get the ball rolling. Nancy has a list of questions that the group has about the project. She will do a site walk with the group, DPW and this may include Terrance Parker, a city artist consultant.

4. Donation of Ruth Blay funds (Laura Brown). This org is a 501c3. Organization unveiled the mural in 2021. There will be 3 murals total that this group helped initiate - Ruth Blay, Sarah Orne Jewett, and an homage to the Italian heritage of Portsmouth on Maplewood. The group proudly donates the remaining funds to PARC to be deposited in the trust. PARC will bring this to the city council for a vote of acceptance. Chris asked if the tag line of History Through Art can be used moving forward. Laura and Terrance said yes probably.
5. Presentation/vote: Nebi Sculpture proposed for Bohenko Park (Anthony Alemany). Anthony presented art when the first piece of art was decided back when the Portsmouth 400 started the sculpture garden at Bohenko Park. So PARC circled back to see if he was still interested in designing a piece of art. We had really liked his NEBI sculpture. He presented a portfolio of his work to our group. Anthony is working with Abenaki locals to make sure his piece is authentic. He gave us information of his inspiration. The piece will be cast in bronze as this is a timeless type of material that lasts for many years. Anthony had some communications with engineers to find out how the sculpture could be stable at the chosen location. Timeline - He will make a small model first to scale so we can see exactly what the sculpture will look like. This process will take 6-8 weeks and cost around \$2500. The first part of the sculpture would take 4-6 months to create, and then multiple steps after the first creation so the whole process would take about a year. We would need council approval for this piece, looking to bring this to them during their July meeting. Once they give their approval we can start the fundraising process. Looking at around \$125,000 for this project. Chris proposed looking at PARC funding for the engineering part of placing the artwork, especially sculptures, moving forward. Nancy made a motion to bring this to city council, Lennie seconded, all approved. Art is not for sale on city property. People need to contact the artist - info will be available about the artist. Perhaps a QR code?
6. Reviews of art donations for public buildings: Connie Bean family. This was just brought to our attention. This is not technically public art - this is a display. This came to the attention of the recreation dept and they sent it along to PARC. This would be a donation and funded by the family. Is PARC the best place for this to be decided? Should

we look at this as a donation and pass this on the city council? We can send this to city council along with a letter describing why we are passing this on to them, as this is more of a display than an art work.

7. Rotating art exhibit considerations/FAQs and plan

- *Reviewed DRAFT considerations. (Chris will likely send up updated considerations.)*

8. Street Life event on August 13, 2025 update with Ernie. Public art message at this event. There will be a table with examples of public art.

Beth update on what happened to the mermaid at Martingale wharf. It fell and broke. Hearth is still open for art visitation as there are offices upstairs.

9. City will not assume liability for artwork. Artists may consider insurance or sign a liability waiver.

10. Public comment - No public input

Motion to adjourn made by Mara Witzling. Second by Beth Hartnett.

Next Meeting: July 30, 2025