

City of South Portland – Public Arts Committee  
2024 Annual Report

**Introduction**

Established in Chapter 2, Division 9B of City Code, the South Portland Public Arts Committee (PAC) promotes and develops artistic and cultural initiatives that will advance the quality of life and vibrancy of the community. The Committee is required by Section 2-141F to submit an annual report to the City Council each year.

**Current Committee Members**

- Anne Sedlack – District 1
- Willys DeVoll – District 1
- Deidra Levasseur – District 3
- Gregory Norton – District 2
- James LaPlante – District 4
- Robert McKeagney – District 5
- Allison Dale – District 1
- Linnea Whitton – Youth representative

**Meeting Dates**

January 4	April 1	July 1	Dec 2
February 5	May 6	August 5	
March 4	June 3	October 21	

**2023 Summary**

The Public Arts Committee had 10 meetings in 2024. Kyle Drexler was our city liaison from January till September and was very helpful to the committee. Marin Stephens is our incoming liaison and we look forward to working with her in 2025.

Major accomplishments of the committee:

- The committee was excited to welcome our new youth representative Linnea Whitton to the committee as a result of the newly amended Chapter 2, Division 9B of the City Code. We look forward to including more youth voices in our committee in the future.
- Our continued area of focus for the Committee was the Mill Creek mural project. We reviewed and approved the project RFP. We developed a review and scoring system and evaluated the four mural design submissions. And we awarded the winner to send to city council as a recommendation. The RFP was awarded to Erica Sedler who plans to install the Mural in spring of 2025.

After the passage of the new Policy on Artwork and Monuments on City Property the public art committee reviewed and made recommendations on the following public art applications:

1] Rwandan genocide memorial monument – Recommended to council – approved by council– future installation TBD.

2] Re-Site public art proposal from SPACE / Ling-Wen Tsai – Recommended to council – approved by council – installation in place for the month of May

3] West end fire station memorial monument - Recommended to council – approved by council – future installation TBD

4] Fisherman’s Point temporary silk art installation – Public Arts Committee voted to approve for council review.

The committee worked to help promote public arts in South Portland with some of the following actions:

1] Committee member James LaPlante participated in an interview with artist Ling-Wen Tsai by Kaycee Hendrix of South Portland Forward to help promote and bring awareness of the public art happening in our city.

2] The committee had a booth at Art In the Park and provided handouts about public art and the public arts committee to the attendees.

3] The committee has been exploring ways to seek funding and grants for public art projects and looked into working with TEMPO Arts to bring former public art piece to South Portland when their install dates end in Portland.

As the Public Arts committee was not involved in the original drafting of the Policy on Artwork and Monuments on City Property it has been reviewing the policy to make recommendations to city council for changes to the policy based on our input. That recommendation is currently pending review.

The Committee participated in evaluation and recommendations for the comprehensive planning process in regards to arts in South Portland.

### **Goals for 2025**

The Committee has several goals that they are aiming to complete in the upcoming year. The Committee would like to create a master plan for the Public Arts Committee moving forward. We will continue our efforts to raise awareness of public art opportunities in South Portland and seek funding sources for this art. The committee will reach out to public arts organizations and the community to collaborate and support public arts in South Portland. We will continue to seek new opportunities like painted crosswalks, art kits for Maine Needs, bus shelter murals, community arts outreach events, flower box/beautification projects, and other ideas.