



# Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

**January 18, 2024**

**Regular Meeting**

**4:00pm–5:30pm, Siskiyou Conference Room**

**51 Winburn Way**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

- a) Introductions
- b) Quorum count

**II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

*"We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work – the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we live and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma, and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhaha – "Where the Crow Lights" – that is now the Ashland City Plaza."*

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) November 16, 2023 regular meeting (December 21 meeting canceled)

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)

**V. LIAISON REPORTS**

Liaisons: City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne; Community Development Liaison, APRC Liaison, Stef Seffinger; and Jennifer Chenoweth

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS and MOTIONS**

- a) KS Wild Street Mural Concept Presentation – Michael Dotson, Executive Director, to present conceptual plan for public mural.
- a) Heritage Tourism Workshops – Chair Engelund has asked that the committee read, "Ashland Oregon, Heritage Tourism" provided by Brandon Goldman in the packet prior to this meeting; Chair Engelund has been requested to attend the workshop and seeks a committee vote to approve his attendance.
- b) PAAC Study Session Planning – set date and suggest agenda topics.
- c) PAAC Volunteer Position Openings – total of 9 positions; recruitment and recommendations; can include student (high school/college) representatives.
- d) Marking Ashland Places (MAP) II – update from the task group and proposed motion for presentation with HPAC and APRC meeting in February by Chair Engelund.

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Note: Anyone wishing to speak at any Public Arts Advisory Committee meeting is encouraged to do so. After you have been recognized by the Chair, give your name and City of residence. You will then be allowed to speak. Please note the public testimony may be limited by the Chair.





## Public Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

- e) Crosswalk Project – Update and motion by Chair Engelund.
- f) ODOT Controller Boxes – Update on selection panel; advertising upcoming projects/ notifications; and how to inform interested artists on future opportunities.
- g) AAUW Big Ideas Series “Power of Public Art” – Chair Engelund was asked to present at the Ashland Public Library on March 5. Discussion of the PAAC/Council (2020 PAC) video [The Power of Public Art](#) to make recommendations for use and modifications/edits for upcoming presentation.

### II. OTHER BUSINESS and UPDATES

- a) Velocity (bouncing ball sculpture) repairs – Update by Mike Morrison
- b) Public Arts Map Virtual Walking Tour – the link is live and updated
- c) Golden Connections Medallions – final four were installed on 12/13/2023
- d) Micah Blacklight “Ancestors Future - Crystalizing Our Call” – Update
- e) John Pugh Mural “Where the Crow Lights,” Elks Building – Update
- f) City Council Commissions & Committees Appreciation Event, December 18 – Jenn has items to handout to those who were not able to attend.

### III. ADJOURNMENT - Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 15 @ 4:00pm

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# Public Arts Advisory Committee Minutes – DRAFT

**November 16, 2023**

**Regular Meeting**

**4:00pm–5:30pm, Siskiyou Conference Room**

**51 Winburn Way**

**Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

- a) Introductions and other news – **Stef Seffinger is now officially the Parks liaison to the PAAC; Beca Blake has been notified by the Mayor that her appointment to PAAC will be on the consent agenda at the next council meeting.**
- b) Quorum count – **quorum achieved.**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	<b>Liaisons &amp; Staff Present:</b>
Chair, Ken Engelund	Jennifer Chenoweth, Associate Planner
Laura Bloom	Councilor Gina DuQuenne
Tessa Elbettar	Stef Seffinger, Parks and Rec Commissioner
Cassie Preskenis	
Stanley Smith	<b>Liaisons &amp; Staff Absent:</b>
Heather Warden	
	<b>Special Guests:</b>
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	Peter Finkle

**II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*“We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work – the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we live and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present, and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma, Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K’wakhaha – “Where the Crow Lights” – that is now the Ashland City Plaza.”*

**Read by Chair, Ken Engelund**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) October 19, 2023 regular meeting  
**Chair Engelund motioned to approve the draft October 19, 2023 meeting minutes with no corrections. Cassie Preskenis seconded; All approve the October 19 meeting minutes.**

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## Public Arts Advisory Committee Minutes – DRAFT

- IV. **PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda) **Peter Finkle spoke at the City Council meeting on November 7 during the public forum after the PAAC annual presentation. He mentioned to the council his work photographing public art and called on the council to encourage creativity throughout town.**
- V. **LIAISON REPORTS**  
Liaisons: City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne; **Council DuQuenne thanked Chair Englund for the PAAC presentation update at the City Council meeting on November 7 and thanked Peter Finkle for his contributions to Public Art in Ashland. DuQuenne noted that the Mayor suggested the PAAC consider artworks at the south end of Ashland.** Community Development Liaison, Jennifer Chenoweth; **Community Development received a call from Art Builds Community – they are researching public art funding through private development support in Oregon cities;** and APRC Liaison, Stef Seffinger; **Commissioner Seffinger discussed that Parks is working on making up a deficit in capital improvement projects – this may affect future projects outside the budget cycle; also discussed starting potential new uses in the parks such as camping and special events like weddings.**
- VI. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
- a) City Council Annual Committee Update Presentation, November 7 – **Ken presented a PowerPoint presentation that was well received by the City Council. The Mayor noted that it would benefit the community to have art in the south end of town.**
  - b) PAAC Study Session Planning (potential date January 19, 2024) – **All agreed that January 19 could work for a Study Session date. Another option is to hold the Study Session on January 18 during the regular meeting and extend the meeting time to end at 6:00. A vote during the December meeting will determine the date.**
  - c) Public Arts Map Walking Tour – StoryMap final review and comments; **the group reviewed the StoryMap and had a few comments to GIS in regard to wording. Jenn will send the comments to the GIS department.**
  - d) Marking Ashland Places (MAP) II – review of potential site selection and next steps; **The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) conducted a ranking for the potential location of the downtown historic hub artwork. They voted for the entrance to Lithia Park. Ken is arranging a subcommittee meeting next week (November 21) with the HPAC and Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) members.**
- VII. **OTHER BUSINESS AND UPDATES**
- a) Velocity (bouncing ball sculpture) repairs – **no update**
  - b) Golden Connections Medallions Installation & Bids – **no update**
  - c) ODOT Controller Boxes – **call for artists has good interest, but only one submission so far; section panel is coming together– Stan motioned to approve the selection**

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## Public Arts Advisory Committee Minutes – DRAFT

panel for the ODOT controller boxes as recommended by the task group. The motion was approved.

- d) Crosswalk Project – Update; **bids for the thermoplastic installation at crosswalks range from \$7,000 to \$18,000 depending on complexity of design and area of coverage; looking at one near SOU and one near Lithia Park – Action item: Stef will find out the rules for art in the parks and update the group during the next regular meeting.**
- e) Haines & Friends Grant – **no update was available during the meeting; however, the following day PAAC task group received a letter that the project was not selected for funding at this time.**
- f) Micah Blacklight “Ancestors Future - Crystalizing Our Call” – **no new update**
- g) John Pugh Mural “Where the Crow Lights,” Elks Building – **no new update**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 21 @ 4:00pm (discussion regarding date of next meeting)

**At least four members can attend the meeting in December so the next meeting will be held on December 21. Chair Englund requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. All AYES to adjourn.**



## Re: Conceptual Plan for Public Mural at 552 A Street

Thank you Jennifer, Ken, and the Public Arts Commission for the time and space to present a conceptual public art project for our small block on A Street. After consultation with John and Carol Davis (former arts commission chair and owner of 552 A St.), I am here to solicit feedback on the creative process associated with a large-scale mural in one of Ashland's Historic Districts.

My name is Michael Dotson, and I am the executive director of a local non profit – the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center. For the past three decades, our organization has worked across more than 8 million acres of public land in southwest Oregon and northern California, promoting conservation of our region's forests, waters, and wildlife. During the pandemic, our organization moved into a new permanent office space at 562 A Street, and we have started to settle into the neighborhood over the past couple of years.

Last fall, we welcomed another organization – Ridges to Riffles Indigenous Conservation Group – into our shared office space. This is a big year for Ridges to Riffles, as they have long been advocating for the removal of 4 large dams along the upper Klamath River, about 20 miles southeast of the Ashland zip code. The last 3 dams are slated to come out this year, and to commemorate the occasion and acknowledge Tribal efforts leading the largest river restoration project in the world, the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center would like to consider a public art mural on a building wall next to our front entrance.



*Caption: The blue building (562 A St.) is owned by KS Wild. The wall (and building) next to our office is 552 A St. and is owned by John and Carol Davis. Picadilly Cycles is a renter in the space.*

Our vision for the mural is to highlight endangered fish species of the Klamath River, symbolizing the hopeful return of salmon (and plenty of other species) to more than 300 miles of waterways that have been choked off by dams for the past century. KS Wild is in the early stages of planning, but we are excited about the team of people that are interested in moving such a project forward.

- **John and Carol Davis, owners of the building at 552 A St.** have expressed interest in being host to a public mural on their wall. Carol has a wealth of knowledge about historic structures/districts and is a former chair of the Ashland public arts commission.
- **Ridges to Riffles Indigenous Conservation Group** has worked extensively with Tribes and Indigenous communities in the region on Klamath River restoration. R2R's co-director Amy Cordalis is Yurok, grew up in Ashland, and is a graduate of Ashland High School.
- **Roger Peet** is a Portland-based artist and muralist and has managed dozens of [Endangered Species mural projects](#) across the country, in coordination with the Center For Biological Diversity. Roger paints on his own but has also brought in local artists to help with projects. Roger has been looking for the 'perfect' wall in southern Oregon to commemorate the Klamath Dams coming down, and he thinks we 'have it.' 😊
- **Center for Biological Diversity** has worked with Roger on numerous endangered species murals; and according to Roger, they should be able to fund a project of this modest size and scope.
- **Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center** is coordinating the project for now and will support various aspects of planning and development with local officials and/or committees.

Having spoken with Roger and having identified an appropriate wall for such a project, I come to the public arts commission at this January meeting to discuss a few key details about a formal proposal down the road. Thanks to the knowledge and insight of Carol Davis, we understand the additional layers and need for approval from the Historic Commission and city council. We are prepared to navigate the bureaucratic process that comes with a project like this, and it would be our ultimate goal to have a mural dedication ceremony in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025.

At this juncture, I would be open to hearing feedback from folks on the commission about our concept and would be open to learn about any previous public art murals in historic districts, as well as what style of art is acceptable for historic districts. We have held off on artistic renderings for now, but I would point to Roger's previous work on dozens of other murals (linked above) as examples of where we can take the design(s).





# Ashland Oregon, Heritage Tourism

Prepared by Brandon Goldman, 12/05/2023, for the chairs of Historic Advisory Committee and the Public Arts Advisory Committee in preparation for their January 17<sup>th</sup> Travel Southern Oregon joint presentation.

Ashland, Oregon, employs several strategies to honor the area's historical significance but also enhances the visual and cultural experience of Ashland's historic districts, making them more engaging for both locals and tourists.

## Historic Preservation

**Partnership with the National Register of Historic Places:** Ashland works with the National Register of Historic Places to create travel itineraries, highlighting historical sites and hotels like the Ashland Springs Hotel. This initiative is part of the Historic Hotels of America program by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**Maintenance of Historic Districts:** The city has established four historic districts: the Downtown District, the Siskiyou-Hargadine District, the Railroad District, and the Skidmore Academy District. Each of these districts represents a significant period of Ashland's early development. Their historic integrity is maintained through specific land use requirements and incentives like tax deferments, ensuring these areas remain attractive and authentic for tourists.

**Historic Preservation Advisory Committee:** Formed in the early 1970s, this committee surveys and recommends areas or properties of significant historical value to be designated as historical properties. It also drafts and recommends ordinances and other measures to protect and foster these sites, contributing to the city's overall preservation efforts.

**Historic Preservation Week:** Ashland celebrates Historic Preservation Week, which includes events like the Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony and a walking tour titled "Walking through Time in downtown Ashland." These events not only honor the city's history but also serve as a means to engage both locals and tourists in the importance and beauty of Ashland's historic sites.

These efforts showcase Ashland's commitment to preserving its rich historical heritage while leveraging it as a key component of its tourism strategy.

## Public Art in Historic Districts

The public art installation "Golden Connections" at Ashland Railroad Park and the related medallion project are part of a broader initiative to celebrate Ashland's history and connect its residents and visitors to the area's rich heritage.

**Golden Connections Sculpture:** The "Golden Connections" sculpture, located in Ashland Railroad Park, was officially dedicated in April of 2023. It features a large golden spike driven into an 11-foot diameter circle of iron, symbolizing the final connection for Southern Pacific's complete rail circuit around the nation in Ashland on December 17, 1887. The sculpture, created by Jennifer Corio and David Frei of

Cobalt Designworks, honors the workers who built the railroad, particularly over 2,000 Chinese railroad workers who played a significant role in constructing the first railroad through the Siskiyou Mountains.

<https://ashland.news/golden-connections-celebrates-history-honors-railroad-workers/>

**Medallion Public Art Project:** In addition to the "Golden Connections" sculpture, the plan includes the installation of five bronze medallions throughout the Railroad District. These medallions commemorate historic sites and are part of a "hub-and-spoke" historical marker project in the district.

**Hub Sculpture and the MAP Project:** The Public Arts and Historic Advisory Committees are continuing their collaboration on the "Marking Ashland Places" (MAP) project. This project aims to create a sense of place and pride by establishing distinctive landmarks within each of the city's four Nationally Registered Historic Districts, including the Railroad, Downtown, Siskiyou-Hargadine, and Skidmore-Academy Districts. The vision for the MAP project is to create a Hub Site in each district, where historic-themed, site-specific contemporary artwork will be located. The Railroad District has been designated for the first Hub Site, and the Public Arts Commission is seeking to commission an artist or artist-led team to design, fabricate, and install the artwork in Railroad Park. The artwork is expected to be original, site-specific, contemporary, visually stimulating, and reflective of the historic significance of the Railroad District.

<https://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=18084>

## **Business Beatification Grants**

The City of Ashland has created a pilot grant-matching program that is aimed to encourage private investment in renovating and rehabilitating existing business properties, both lodging and commercial, within Ashland City limits. The goal of this program is to enhance the appearance of the City and achieve compliance with current regulations where necessary.

The City has up to \$175K available per fiscal year (July through June) in the 2023-2025 Biennium. The grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, and distributed until funds are exhausted. Applicants are encouraged to apply soon, even if their project is scheduled later in the fiscal year. Grant applicants are eligible for up to \$20K in matching grant funds. Businesses can apply for more than one grant; however, funds must be expended from their first award, before applying for another.

[ashland.or.us/2023Grants](http://ashland.or.us/2023Grants).

## **Transit Occupancy Tax**

The City collects a Transient Occupancy Tax from people who stay in overnight lodgings within City limits. Over half (58%) of those funds are reserved for the City's General Fund and are used to support Police, Fire, Community Development and Municipal Court. Slightly more than 25% of the funds are used to support the tourism industry through the City's partnership with Travel Ashland in support of their work to market Ashland to tourists. The remaining funds are dedicated to the City's grant programs focused on reinvestment in tourist-related infrastructure, tourism drawing events, and public art projects.

## Marking Ashland Places (MAP) – Golden Connections Medallions



The four remaining medallions from the first phase of the "Marking Ashland Places (MAP)" project were installed this week. The MAP project was a cooperative effort by the Public Arts and Historic Preservation Advisory Committees to create markers highlighting locations of historic significance in Ashland's four National Register of Historic Places-listed historic districts. Medallions installed in the Railroad Addition Historic District in this first phase include:

**1<sup>st</sup> & A Streets:** This medallion describes the Natatorium and Twin Plunges formerly located at this site.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & A Streets:** This medallion discusses the history of Ashland's Chinatown.

**4<sup>th</sup> & A Streets:** This medallion discusses the historic Fourth Street Fire Station, which became Haskins Garage and is now Revive.

**5<sup>th</sup> & A Streets:** This medallion explains the history of the Ashland Depot Hotel Kitchen that was near this location.

A fifth medallion was placed at Railroad Park earlier this year in connection with the unveiling of the 'Golden Connections' public art installation which was the centerpiece of this first phase of the MAP project.

Public Arts Advisory Committee and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee members have begun meeting to discuss the second phase of the MAP project.

Crosswalk Concepts. 1



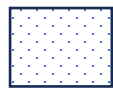
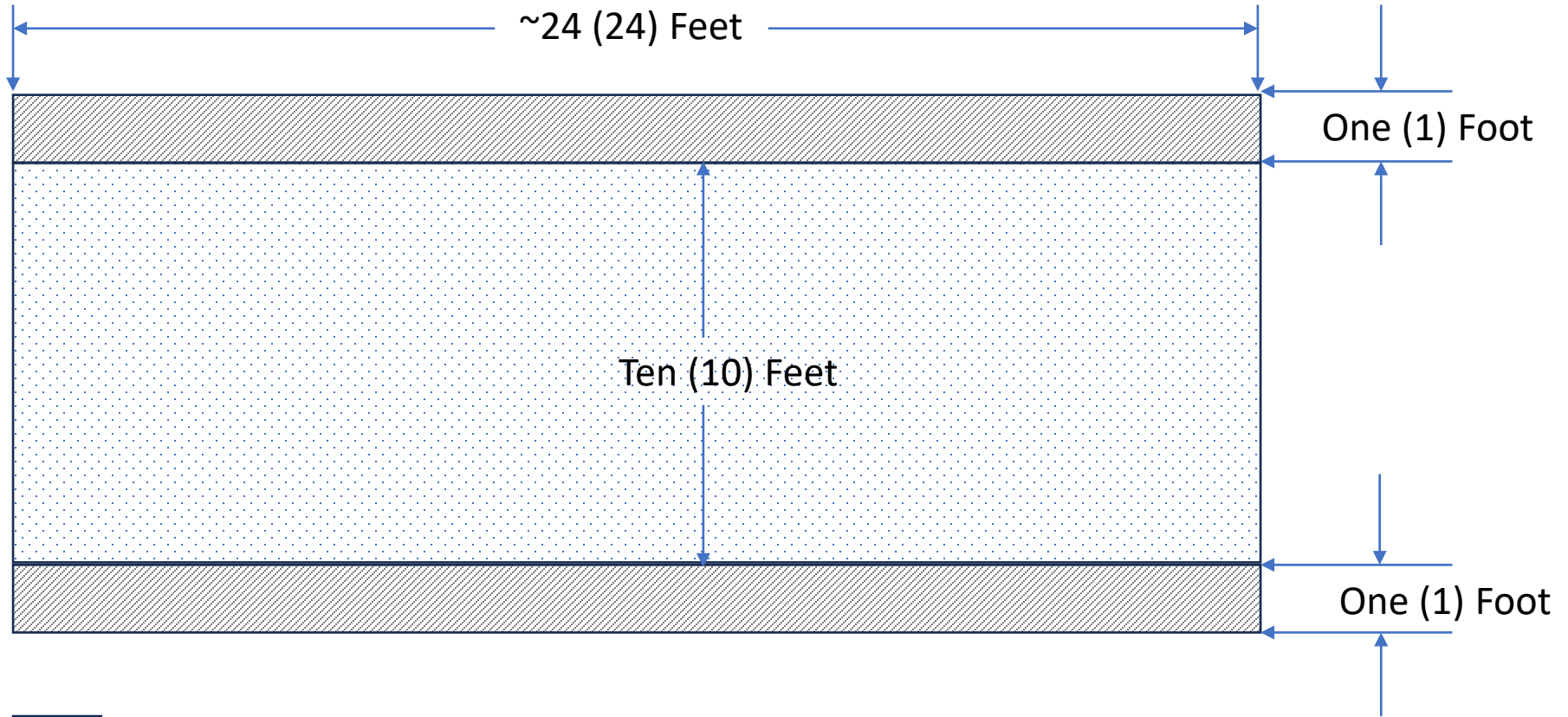
# Crosswalk Concepts. 2



Crosswalk Concepts. 3



# Crosswalk Layout



Working Area (Art)



Solid White Crosswalk Markings  
(Border of Working Area)

# The Power of Public Art Presentation

YouTube Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgH\\_RP2cPW4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgH_RP2cPW4)

The Chair requests the committee to review 2020 PAC video [The Power of Public Art](#) prior to 12/21 meeting and bring suggestions and recommendations for use and modifications for upcoming presentation.

Example screen shots below of what the presentation should look like:



Power of Public Art Presentation

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## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06

### A RESOLUTION UPDATING AND CONSOLIDATING RESOLUTIONS 2022-24 AND 2022-32 ESTABLISHING CITY COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

#### Section 2. H (pages 3/4)

In keeping with the diversity, equity, and inclusion goals of the City of Ashland, efforts will be made to ensure that information regarding standing advisory committee vacancies and the application process is readily available and advisory committees are made up of residents that represent the diverse populations within the City. All committees shall assist the City of Ashland in ensuring that city programs related to the charge of the committee are equitable for all community members, including low-income, young people, persons of color, the elderly, and those living with disabilities. Standing advisory committees may have up to two additional voting, ex-officio student/youth members who are of high school or college age (see also Section I below).

#### Section 3. E. (pages 8/9)

The PAAC will consist of nine (9) voting members of which six (6) voting members will be from a broad spectrum of citizens including artists and those with a background in the arts, arts organizations, education, structural and landscape architecture. Up to three (3) of these six (6) voting members of the P ACC may reside outside the City limits. The three (3) remaining voting members of the PAAC will be citizens at-large and residents of the City. The City Manager may also appoint two (2) non-voting ex-officio members to the PAAC, one (1) of which will be from the City's Public Works Department, to provide support to the committee.