



1. Call meeting to order and establish quorum
2. New Member Introduction
3. Minutes – Approve from last meeting
4. Staff Reports
  - a. Dumpster Mural Project
    - i. Event Planning
    - ii. Supplies
5. Strategic Planning & Succession Document Review
6. Public Art Maintenance & Preservation Planning Draft Review
7. Public Art Events & Promotion Opportunities
8. Other Announcements
9. Items for Next Agenda
10. Public Comment
11. Adjourn



## **PUBLIC ART MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION PLAN**

First Draft: March 2024

This document seeks to establish a long-term planning guide for the cleaning, maintenance, conservation, preservation, restoration, and replacement of outdoor public artworks managed by the City of Helena.

### **Information Plaques**

- Warranty and lifespan vary by Plaque design and style
- Damaged signs should be repaired + replaced as needed (Maintenance budget)

### **Traffic Signal Box Art**

- Warrantied for 5 years, Average lifespan of 10 years, 3M Vinyl Wrap Installation
  1. Signal Box is damaged and blank replacement box is installed
    - a. Same design is reinstalled by vendor (Maintenance Budget)
      - i. Replacement of David Goodson Signal Box Wrap at Corner of Euclid + Benton (Summer 2024)
    - b. Box is left blank until new design is selected in future RFP
      - i. Previous artwork is catalogued in library for future use
  2. Signal Box Vinyl wrap is peeling + fading
    - a. Before 5 years – request warranty replacement from vendor
    - b. After 5 years – document damage
      - i. Box is left as-is until deterioration becomes unsightly
      - ii. Same design is reinstalled by vendor (Maintenance Budget)
      - iii. Box is unwrapped and left blank until new design is selected in future RFP
        1. Previous artwork is catalogued in library for future use
  3. Signal Box Vinyl Wrap reaches lifespan of 10 years

*6 boxes reaching 10-year mark in 2028*

    1. Park & Lawrence by Megan Hart
    2. Last Chance & 6<sup>th</sup> by Jessica Glen
    3. 3. Park & Sixth by Amy Jean Miller
    4. Last Chance & Lawrence by Tiffany Knopf
    5. Benton & Gilbert by Kelli Rochelle Lawson
    6. Rodney & 11<sup>th</sup> by Amy Jean Miller
    - ii. Same design is reinstalled by vendor (Maintenance Budget?)
    - iii. Box is left as-is until deterioration occurs
    - iv. Box is left as-is until new design is selected in future RFP
      1. After Replacement – Previous artwork is catalogued in library for future use

## Outdoor Murals

- Average lifespan of 15 – 25 years, typically constructed with Latex and/or spray paints
- Annual Maintenance should include routine cleaning using non-abrasive methods
- Recording any damage or signs of wear for repairs (Vandalism, fading, peeling & chipping paint, weather residue, drainage issues, informational plaques)
- Artists should include guidance on the upkeep, maintenance, and materials used

### 1. Mural is vandalized with graffiti

- a. Keep Photo records, Graffiti should be removed as soon as possible using Vandlclean Super Graffiti Cleaner and following technical data sheet instructions for product
  - i. Test on a small portion of surface, low water pressure
  - ii. For areas with continual vandalism, apply another layer of Vandlgard Protective Graffiti Sealant after clean + dry

### 2. Mural is deteriorating and becoming unsightly

- a. Damage is recorded
  - i. Maintenance repairs are scheduled to prevent further deterioration
    - a. Artist should be consulted whenever possible

### 3. After 15 years (most murals will begin to show signs of aging)

*Palimpsest turns 15 in 2026, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2029, Heart of Gold in 2032*

#### a. Preservation

- i. Maintenance: Clean mural using nonabrasive methods
- ii. Record any damage or signs of wear
- iii. Repair mural damage using guidelines provided by original artist or latest restoration guidelines
- iv. Conservation: consider applying a protective UV coating to entire work to ensure continued longevity

b. Replacement - Is the artwork considered a cultural landmark or could a new design bring fresh vitality to an area?

- ii. Document existing artwork
- iii. New design is selected in RFP

Memorial Park Bandshell mural is repainted with new design every 15 years since restoration in 1982 (2025, 2010, 1995, 1982...)

### 4. After 25 years (murals will show signs of aging)

Women's mural was constructed in 1979, Restored 25 years later in 2005, next restoration should be scheduled for 2030

Spider Women Youth Art in 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Parking Garage turns 25 in 2026

- a. Preservation
  - i. Maintenance: Clean mural using nonabrasive methods
  - ii. Record any damage or signs of wear
  - iii. Repair mural damage using guidelines provided by original artist or latest restoration guidelines
  - iv. Conservation: consider applying a protective UV coating to entire work to ensure continued longevity
  
- b. Replacement - Is the artwork considered a cultural landmark or could a new design bring fresh vitality to an area?
  - i. Document existing artwork
  - ii. New design is selected in RFP

## **Dumpsters**

1. Dumpster is vandalized with graffiti
  - a. Keep Photo records, Graffiti should be removed as soon as possible using Vandlclean Super Graffiti Cleaner and following technical data sheet instructions for product
    - i. Test on a small portion of surface, low water pressure
    - ii. For areas with continual vandalism, apply another layer of Vandlgard Protective Graffiti Sealant after clean + dry
  
2. Dumpster mural paint is deteriorating
  - a. Artist repairs design (Maintenance budget)
  - b. Box is left as-is until deterioration becomes unsightly
  
3. Dumpster mural deterioration becomes unsightly
  - a. Dumpster is replaced with blank until new design selected in future RFP
  
4. Dumpster Art reaches estimated lifespan of 10 years
  - a. Artist repairs design (Maintenance budget)
  - b. Dumpster is left as-is until deterioration occurs
  - c. Dumpster is replaced with blank until new design selected in future RFP

## **Sculptures**

- If possible, Artists should provide guidance on the upkeep and maintenance of their work
- Sculptures composed of iron, steel, ceramic, stone, or concrete should be cleaned by rinsing at least once a year. Never use a power washer!
- Use a garden hose with a gentle setting, like shower or mist, to rinse statues.
- It is recommended that bronze sculptures be washed with a clear, unscented detergent and receive a new coat of wax at least once a year.
  - o If possible, do not add any sealants or waxes without consulting the original artist first, adding finishes could change the surface of the object.
- All repairs and maintenance should be completed by trained conservators and art professionals
- [How to clean historical bronze plaques](#)

## **Historic Ghost Signs**

- The City of Helena would benefit from contracting a professionally trained conservator or historical ghost sign restoration team to provide a catalogue of estimated costs for the conservation and restoration of Helena's many ghost signs
- All conservation efforts should focus on preserving the original artwork and only partial restoration of detail in a way that retains the original character and authenticity
- Understanding these restoration costs can help reduce barriers for property owners, historical preservation groups, government agencies, and other stakeholders to work together in conservation efforts.

*The Palmquist Ghost Sign on Last Chance Avenue was restored in 2017 for \$15,000*

## **OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE NEEDS**

### City Staff

- Replacement of David Goodson Signal Box Wrap at Corner of Euclid + Benton
- Spider Youth Art Initiative Mural (Water damage/leak repair)
- Women's Mural (building easement renewal?)

### For Future Consideration

- Palimpsest Murals (fading/scratches, efflorescence on back panel)

## **Maintenance that can be completed by HPAC Volunteers during Summer 2024**

- Spray Paint removal on metal Bullwhacker Statue Plaque
- Last Chance Historical Plaques (Bronze needs to be cleaned/waxed)
  - **Need comprehensive supply list for maintenance and repairs**



# City of Helena

Public Art Committee

## **STRATEGIC & SUCCESSION PLANNING GOALS 2023-2027**

Updated March 2024

The Helena Public Art Committee (HPAC) is a volunteer advisory committee appointed by the Helena City Commission. The Committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 3:30 PM via Zoom or in the City County Building.

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**Mission:** The mission of the Helena Public Art Committee is to cultivate, advocate, and preserve public artworks in the City of Helena. We aim to develop and collaborate on projects that are a source of pride to residents, represent the unique and historical identity of our community, and are accessible to all.

### **Goals**

- Beautify Helena with artworks that represent our unique identity, dynamic nature, and diverse citizenship
- Create opportunities for local and statewide artists
- Secure funding through matching funds, grants, and public donations for specific projects
- Collaborate with community organizations, art professionals, businesses, and residents
- Promote awareness and accessibility to public art for residents and visitors alike

**History of Helena Public Art Committee:** The Helena Public Art Committee (HPAC) was created when Becky Eiker, a Helena resident and artist, expressed a desire in 1998 to donate a statue to the City of Helena entitled “Extra! Extra!,” a bronze statue of a newsboy now located on the Walking Mall in downtown Helena. City officials accepted the gift and realized others might be interested in making art donations. The City Commission passed a resolution and appointed an advisory committee composed of artists, businesses, art administrators and citizens at large as the Helena Public Art Committee.

**Fiscal Year:** July 1 - June 30

### **Fundraising & Development**

1. Develop a 5-year vision that supports the mission statement. To include:
  - a. Alternating focus between select small projects (\$5,000 or under)
    - i. Utility boxes
    - ii. Dumpsters
    - iii. Community Collaborations

- b. Development of public art proposals
  - i. Consider additional funding sources for larger scale projects (\$15,000+)
    - 1. Petition City for new construction fee (1.5%)
    - 2. Consider partnering with private developers
    - 3. Pursue grants for specific projects
    - 4. Fundraising events
  - c. Identify areas in Helena in need of public art
  - d. Develop plan to assess and anticipate public art maintenance and associated costs

### **Maintenance**

- 1. Update Maintenance + Preservation Plan for existing public artworks
- 2. Assess and contract any maintenance needed on public art

### **Outreach & Awareness**

- 1. Community Outreach
  - a. Actively engage in community
  - b. Share projects and events on social media
  - c. Collaborate with other organizations & seek out ways to donate to & support public art projects across Helena
- 2. Public Art Map
  - a. Update information catalogue and public art map with new installations

### **Governance**

- 1. Recruit to fill any vacated seats
  - a. Actively seek to create member body that reflects the diversity of the community and Montana and that ensures equal representation
  - b. Share Dropbox files & Strategic Plan with new members
- 2. Hold election for Chair & Vice Chair positions

## **YEAR 1 // 2023**

### **Projects**

- 1. Centennial Trail Tunnel Mural (\$15,000)
  - a. Completed in August 2023 by Elise Perpignano
- 2. 4 Utility box wraps (\$5,000)
  - a. Completed August 2023
- 3. Community Collaboration – 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Wayfinding mural with the Rotary Club (\$5,000)
  - a. Installed July 2022

## **Fundraising & Development**

1. Pursue implementation of 1.5% petition for “Percent for Art” program to City of Helena
2. Seek grant funding for one large scale project that addresses community need
  - a. Centennial Trail Tunnel Mural (\$7,750 in RURD TIF funds)
3. Identify areas in Helena in need of public art + develop future project proposals

## **Maintenance**

1. Assess and contract any maintenance needed on public art
  - a. Palimpsest Murals (fading/scratches, efflorescence on back panel)
  - b. Spray Paint on metal Bullwhacker Statue Plaque
  - c. Last Chance Historical Plaques (Bronze needs to be cleaned/waxed)
  - d. Spider Youth Art Initiative Mural (Water damage/leak repair)
  - e. Women’s Mural (City needs to renew easement with building owner)

## **Outreach and Awareness:**

1. Chalk donations at pop-up events (Kid’s fall fest, Soapbox Derby)
  2. Board Vacancy printouts for Winter Art Walk
  3. Update public art information catalogue and digital public art map
  4. Momentum Mural Plaque
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## **YEAR 2 // 2024**

### **Projects**

1. 4 - 5 Dumpster Murals (\$5,000)
2. Lyndale Tunnel Mural (\$15,000)
3. Community Collaboration (\$5,000)
4. Opportunity Budget (\$1,000)

### **Fundraising & Development**

1. Pursue implementation of 1.5% petition for “Percent for Art” program to City of Helena
2. Identify areas in Helena in need of public art + future project proposals

### **Maintenance**

1. Develop Maintenance + Preservation Plan for existing public artworks
2. Develop method to report public artworks in need of maintenance to City Staff
3. Assess and contract any maintenance as needed on public art
  - a. Replacement of David Goodson Signal Box Wrap at Corner of Euclid + Benton
  - b. Spider Youth Art Initiative Mural (Water damage/leak repair)
  - c. Last Chance Historical Plaques (Bronze needs to be cleaned/waxed)



### **Outreach & Awareness**

1. Chalk Donation at Pop-Up Events
2. Public Art Maps
  - a. Consider the addition of sound and voiceovers for Public Art listings
3. Update marketing and promotional materials

### **Governance**

1. Member terms end 12/31/24 (Amanda Reese, 1<sup>st</sup> term) (Ramsay Ballew, 1<sup>st</sup> term)
    - a. Members may elect to renew term or vacate
- 

## **YEAR 3 // 2025**

### **Projects**

1. **8 Signal Box Wraps**
2. **Memorial Park Bandshell Mural**

### **Fundraising & Development**

1. Identify areas in Helena in need of public art + future project proposals
2. Collaborate with other organizations & seek out funding resources to support public art projects across Helena

### **Maintenance**

3. Update Maintenance + Preservation Plan for existing public artworks
4. Assess and contract any maintenance needed on public art

### **Outreach & Awareness**

2. Chalk Donation at Pop-Up Events
3. Public Art Maps – Ensure information and listings are correct and up to date

### **Governance**

1. Member terms end 12/31/25 (Maxwell Hay, 1<sup>st</sup> term) (Jeanie Warden, 1<sup>st</sup> term)
    - a. Members may elect to renew term or vacate
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## **YEAR 4 // 2026**

### **Projects**

1. Small Scale Project?
  - a. Dumpster Murals? (Pending 2024 results + analysis)
2. Community Collaboration?
3. Large Scale Project

- a. Mural? Sculpture? Other Opportunity?
4. Other Project developed by HPAC? TBD

### **Fundraising & Development**

1. Identify areas in Helena in need of public art + future project proposals
2. Collaborate with other organizations & seek out funding resources to support public art projects across Helena

### **Maintenance**

1. Update Maintenance + Preservation Plan for existing public artworks
2. Assess and contract any maintenance needed on public art

Palimpsest Mural series turns 15 years old

Spider Women Youth Art in 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Parking Garage turns 25 years old

### **Outreach & Awareness**

1. Chalk Donation at Pop-Up Events
2. Public Art Maps – Ensure information and listings are correct and up to date

### **Governance**

1. Member terms end 12/31/26 (Helen Paulson, 1<sup>st</sup> term) (Laura Langdon, 1<sup>st</sup> term)
    - a. Members may elect to renew term or vacate
- 

## **YEAR 5 // 2027**

### **Projects**

1. Small Scale Project?
  - a. Signal Box Wraps?
2. Community Collaboration?
3. Large Scale Project
  - a. Mural? Sculpture? Other Opportunity?
4. Project developed by HPAC? TBD

### **Fundraising & Development**

3. Identify areas in Helena in need of public art + future project proposals
4. Collaborate with other organizations & seek out funding resources to support public art projects across Helena

### **Maintenance**

3. Update Maintenance + Lifespan Plan for existing public artworks across the City of Helena
4. Assess and contract any maintenance needed on public art

### **Outreach & Awareness**

3. Chalk Donation at Pop-Up Events
4. Public Art Maps – Ensure information and listings are correct and up to date

### **Governance**

1. Member terms expiring 12/31/27 (Amanda Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> term) (Ramsay Ballew, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - a. Members may elect to renew term or vacate