

Legal Walls PDX Abstract

The purpose of the *Legal Walls PDX* project is to chart a path toward a more equitable and inclusive atmosphere for street art, and specifically graffiti-style art, in Portland, Oregon by planning a legal graffiti wall for public expression in the Central Eastside Industrial District (CEID). The project will attempt to understand the needs of the graffiti community, stakeholders within the CEID, and policymakers at the City of Portland through early and meaningful engagement. Case studies of analogous projects from other cities will inform best practices in legal wall design, implementation, and management from around the nation. The product of this planning effort will be a set of research- and data-informed alternatives and recommendations for both the policy mechanism to enable a pilot legal wall as well as the physical and social criteria for such a space.

This project comes out of a need for public expression and development of networks in Portland's creative community. Due to the negative connotations associated with graffiti, this form of public expression is prohibited in many cities, including Portland. The illegal status of graffiti often leads to expensive enforcement and abatement efforts and negative interactions between the public and law enforcement. Currently, formal avenues for this form of expression present a range of obstacles for both commissioning property owners and street artists. These regulations and a lack of alternatives have limited the ability of the public to fully realize its right to the city and freedom of expression in Portland, signifying the need for an inclusive, legal space to practice the art of graffiti writing. Traditional strategies for graffiti management, couched in the rhetoric of Broken Windows Theory, have proven to be ineffective and inequitable, necessitating a change in strategies for managing graffiti. By engaging with those involved with graffiti and affected by its practice in the City and Central Eastside, including artists, property owners, elected officials, and City planners, this project will shape a legal space for graffiti art that is informed by relevant stakeholders and allows for a more equitable and inclusive atmosphere of public expression in Portland.

From: [Joseph Williams](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Request for August 7th Community Communication
Date: Saturday, June 1, 2019 10:39:55 AM
Attachments: [Legal Walls PDX Abstract \(1\).pdf](#)

Hi,

My name is Joey Williams and I would like to make a request for a community communications slot on August 7h to present the Legal Walls PDX project, represented by Tiffany Conklin, Tomás Valladares, Brittany Quale, Joey Williams, and Quinn the Artist. We would like to present together, in that order.

Thank you!

Joey Williams
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281-743-0543

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Joey Williams

Master of Urban & Regional Planning, Candidate
Sustaining Urban Places Research Lab
Portland State University
Pronouns: he / his / him

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Request of Joey Williams to address Council regarding the Legal Walls PDX project (Communication)

AUG 07 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JUL 30 2019
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		