

MURALS

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Joe Cotter		chameleons_garden@yahoo.com
✓ Bruce Feltz	325 NE 20th Gunnville, OR	bfeltz@afm99.org
✓ Joanne Olesiak	#319 4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd PDX, 97214	indefenseofart@yahoo.com
✓ Robin Cosbo	4214 N Albina Portland OR 97217	el-combo@yahoo.com
✓ Kathy Oliver	1132 SW 13th 97205	koliver@ouviden.org
✓ ART DeMuro	70 NW Couch St. #207 PDX 97209	art@venerableproperties.com
✓ LARRY KANGAS	2185 SW 139th Ave Beaverton 97005	larrykangas@verizon.net
✓ Hector H Hernandez	4047 SE BROOKLYN ST 97202	hectorhhg@comcast.net
✓ Gilly Burlington	2536 SE Morrison 97214	gillygb@yahoo.com
✓ Mark Meltzer	200 NE Thompson St.	saltines5@yahoo.com

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Tim Hills [TimH@hq.mcmenamain.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 9:39 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Original Murals Art Project

To the Members of the Portland City Council,

Hello-

I am writing to urge you to pass the mural ordinance known as the Original Mural Arts Project. I strongly support public art, and original murals have been and should continue to be a vital form of artistic expression in the public realm. In my professional life, I constantly see the artistic and educational value of publicly displayed murals. As historian for McMenamins, I work regularly with artists, providing them with historical material on various topics so that they can commemorate, give new life, to characters, events and properties from the past. Such visual presentations of history done by muralists are accessible to all, are beautifully rendered, and offer lessons that can teach us all about ourselves, our ancestors, our mistakes and our successes as an evolving community. For McMenamins, art has become a leading attraction and the feature that receives the most positive comments from visitors to our properties. Of great significance, too, I have heard from many people familiar with the history depicted in McMenamins' paintings that they feel a genuine connection and pride with the murals because it speaks of their understanding of and connections to their past, to their neighbors, to their communities. And what a great feeling to nurture and encourage among all our fellow residents.

I am familiar with numerous murals around Portland that depict history or other original subject matter. They always capture my attention and I appreciate their contribution toward a better understanding and quality of life. There is a need and use for much more, though, and with your passage of the ordinance at hand, you will make this possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Hills
Historian
McMenamins
430 N. Killingsworth
Portland, OR 97217
Phone: 503.223-0109

6/25/2009

Moore-Love, Karla

182962

From: gloria (and jerry) polzin [polzin2@hevanet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:34 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: community murals.....

hello --

joe cotter is a SMART man and cares about both art and communities.....

murals change communities thus they change lives.....

make art not war.....

gloria polzin
503 630-5688

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joanne Oleksiak [joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joe Cotter; Sher Davidson
Subject: Fw: MURALS: letter of support, please include

Hi, Phil,

Please include this additional letter of support from artist and muralist, Sher Davidson.

Thank you!!

Joanne

joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com

for *Portland Mural Defense*

cc Joe Cotter, Sher Davidson

--- On Tue, 6/23/09, Sher Davidson <sherart@pacifier.com> wrote:

From: Sher Davidson <sherart@pacifier.com>
 Subject: Re: MURALS: letters of support needed
 To: joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com
 Cc: "Cotter Joe" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
 Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 12:34 PM

Hi Joanne,

I am attaching the letter I just finished for the mural project support.

Warm regards,
 Sher

On Jun 20, 2009, at 10:25 AM, joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com wrote:

**Join us in supporting the
 PROPOSED NEW CITY CODE FOR MURALS**

Although the public hearing is on **Wednesday, 6/24 at 2 pm**, it has come to our attention that in order for letters of support to get to City Council members *prior*

6/25/2009

to the hearing (which is ideal), submissions must happen by **noon on Monday 6/22**
Please send your letter of support (and/or comments) on the new plan to the
Planning Bureau staffer heading this project (see e-mail address below).
The title of the new (proposed) code to permit murals (without RACC review) is:

Original Art Mural Project

Letters must be sent **before noon on Monday** to:

Phil Nameny, City Planner, Portland Bureau of Planning

his e-mail is: pnameney@ci.portland.or.us

Please cc to **Joe Cotter** chameleons_garden@yahoo.com

AND cc to: Portland Mural Defense (PMD)

portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com

To review the draft code & plan, you can find a digital copy at:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/planning/index.cfm?c=49623&a=229011>

- 1) Read the draft code (write back to *PMD* if you have any questions).
- 2) Write a letter of support or make comments (we *want* this to pass!!)
- 3) E-mail your letter (and/or comments) to pnameney@ci.portland.or.us and cc to us.
- 4) Attend the public hearing- Weds, 6/24 at **City Hall** 2 pm. *Your presence is important!*

If you are submitting letters of support the day of the hearing 6/24, please bring 10 copies - 5 for each City Council member with extras for the City Clerk, media, etc.

THANK YOU!!

#

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joe Cotter [chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 1:20 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Re: Tomorrow's City Council

Phil,
Here's another letter.
Joe

--- On Tue, 6/23/09, Nameny, Phil (PLN) <pnameny@ci.portland.or.us> wrote:

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN) <pnameny@ci.portland.or.us>
Subject: Tomorrow's City Council
To: "Reeve, Tracy" <treeve@ci.portland.or.us>, "Peggy Kendellen" <pkendellen@racc.org>
Cc: "Joe Cotter" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 11:02 AM

Just wanted to make sure that you folks will be in attendance at tomorrow's council hearing on the murals at 2p.m.

Although we will be doing the presentation, I will likely mention the two of you (and Joe) as experts/spokespersons who are available to provide additional information and answer any questions. I wanted to see if you are ok with this. Thanks.

Phil Nameny, AICP
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
City of Portland
1900 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201
503-823-7709

Phil Nameny, City Planner
Portland Bureau of Planning
Portland City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nameny,

I am a Portland Artist and muralist writing in support of The Original Art Murals Project recommendations to create a process to complement the existing city public art mural program administered by the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC).

It is extremely important that there be an option for privately funded murals not intended for the city's art collection, but rather as a form of "freedom of expression" within acceptable community parameters where the mural is to be painted (these things can be worked out between artists, small business owners, and building owners where the murals might be proposed, and neighborhood members). Murals bring together community, create aesthetic and vibrant additions to our city and enhance neighborhoods. I have experienced this first hand having worked on several murals in various locations in Portland, New York City and in Mexico.

Our city of Portland is in a unique period of our history when the nation's eyes often look Northwesterly to Portland, as representative of an environmentally aware community, a place of many cultural assets and physical beauty and one in which "freedom of ideas" can flourish. We need to build on that reputation and allow for the "artistic environment" to be another of those many assets. Murals have a grand place in that just as they have in many other exemplary cities in our nation such as Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

Having traveled in Latin America and after participating in two small mural projects there besides witnessing and viewing hundreds of beautiful murals in communities from Caracas, Venezuela, to Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico, I am convinced that murals are an integral part to creating a "free society" as well as well as one in which personal artistic expression can thrive, when there may be limitations in other areas.

Let's support and keep open the doors to Portland's many mural artists and enhance our city at the same time!

Sincerely,
Sher Davidson
Portland Artist

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joe Cotter [chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 12:45 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joanne Oleksiak
Subject: Fw: Portland City Council, RE: Original Art Murals Project.

Phil,
Here's another one.
Joe

--- On Tue, 6/23/09, Olivia Behm <livbehm@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Olivia Behm <livbehm@gmail.com>
Subject: Portland City Council, RE: Original Art Murals Project.
To: "Kolieha & Joe" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 9:11 AM

Dear City Council members:

I have been aware of the situation regarding murals in Portland for many years. I'm so happy to see that they are now going to be permitted in our lovely city! I have lived in many cities over the years, including San Francisco, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Denver, and San Diego. The one thing I that I always notice in a city is its art, especially murals. They delight the eye and bring a smile to the faces of all who see them. I think we need as many "smiling" people in our cities as we can get!

Thank you so much for Portland's future murals!

Olivia Behm, artist
503-522-2647

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mark Larsen [sevenstararts@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 12:42 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Support of Murals in Portland Oregon

Dear Phil Nameny,

Please support the return of murals to Portland. An artistic mural is an asset to the city. Art enriches lives of all who see. Murals reach a wide range of the public providing education, enjoyment, enrichment to all who view them.

Our planet is in crisis, resources are depleted, climate is changing, and pollution is poisoning all life on earth. Crass commercialism, unconcious greed, material gain at the expense of quality of life is responsible. This grasping for profit at the expense of life has become a means to put a sad end to the life of mural painting in Portland.

Please give art, color, creativity, beauty, education, community a chance to thrive in this city. What is best of Western Civilization can be found in the art, murals, architecture, sculpture in the cities of the world that protect and preserve these things. For Portland to ban murals, to prevent creativity and beauty and honoring Oregon history is a backwards, unproductive, uncreative step. Please make this right, bring back murals and help create a more beautiful, livable city. A step in this direction could be a part of the change that so many people in this country agree needs to happen.

Mark Larsen
2635 S.E. 25th Ave.
Portland, Oregon
97202

6/25/2009

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: icuart@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 10:07 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: chameleons_garden@yahoo.com; joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com
Subject: Letter of Support for Portland Mural Program

A letter of support is attached as a PDF.

Stash Maleski
Director
ICU Art - In Creative Unity
(310) 309-7756 cell

Save energy, paper and money -- [get the Green Toolbar.](#)

6/25/2009



June 23, 2009

TO: Portland City Council

I am writing in support of the June 1, 2009 draft of the "Original Art Murals Project Regulatory and Permit Process Improvement" for Portland, Oregon. I am a muralist, and the owner of an art production company in Los Angeles that works with a large number of muralists from all around the country. I am currently working with the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission and the Department of Cultural Affairs to address similar issues and concerns here in Los Angeles as it relates to fine art murals on private property. I am aware of all of the difficulties involved with developing a comprehensive plan that protects the rights of muralists, building owners, the residents of the city and the city itself.

What I respect most about the Portland plan is the thoroughness of the process and the level of community support and outreach that has been involved in bringing the current proposal to the table. I applaud the work and care that has gone into this proposal and believe that it would be a good and progressive step for Portland to adopt this plan. I think this plan offers a unique approach that offers a clear path through the specific circumstances found in the Portland community. I am certain that we will eventually incorporate many aspects of the Portland plan into the mural program for Los Angeles.

Although there are a few points that I do not feel would be appropriate for Los Angeles in the current Portland plan, I am supportive of the overall plan as a workable compromise for all parties. After years working in Los Angeles on the issue of murals, I understand that this is a difficult issue and that the rules regulating murals must be flexible and must evolve.

Stash Maleski

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stash Maleski".

Director
ICU Art – In Creative Unity
icuart@aol.com

I.C.U. Art – In Creative Unity
2554 Lincoln Blvd. #162
Venice, CA 90291
Phone (310) 309-7756
www.icuart.com

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Brian Campbell [brian.campbell@muralarts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 7:58 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joe Cotter
Subject: LOS to Portland City Council

Mr. Nameny,

Attached is a letter from the Director of the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program in support of the mural ordinance that is coming before the Portland City Council tomorrow.

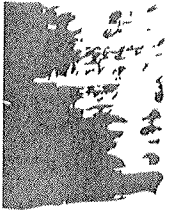
Regards,
Brian

--

Brian Campbell
Exhibitions Coordinator and Reception Manager
City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program
The Lincoln Financial Mural Arts Center
at the Thomas Eakins House
1727-29 Mount Vernon Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215.685.0750 work
215.292.9313 cell
www.muralarts.org

Make your donation to the Mural Arts Program today! Visit www.muralarts.org/support

6/25/2009



City of Philadelphia
MuralArtsProgram

Lincoln Financial Mural Arts Center at the Thomas Eakins House
1727-29 Mount Vernon Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130
P: 215.685.0750 F: 215.685.0757
www.muralarts.org

182962

June 22, 2009

Portland City Council
c/o Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Portland City Council:

We are pleased to learn that the City of Portland is on the verge of passing a mural permitting program after all these years of legal issues. We have been following the mural situation in Portland since 2004 when we hosted a Mural Conference in Philadelphia, which was attended by a delegation from Portland. Since then we have maintained a relationship with the Portland mural community and have supported its efforts to bring murals back to Portland.

The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program is one of the nation's largest public arts. Its mission is to engage in art education and community public art collaborations, and to increase public access to art. Since the Mural Arts Program began, we have produced over 3,000 murals and educated tens of thousands of underserved youth in neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia. Today's Mural Arts Program is an innovative and successful public/private partnership that encompasses both a city agency and a not-for-profit organization.

The Mural Arts Program works with more than 100 communities each year to create murals that reflect the culture of Philadelphia's diverse neighborhoods, often incorporating stabilization of abandoned lots and revitalization of open spaces. Our community partners include block captains, neighborhood associations, public schools, community development corporations, local nonprofits, and other city agencies. We strive to coordinate mural projects with existing strategies for community development, thereby leveraging grassroots social capital to build positive momentum and achieve greater results.

Portland now stands on the threshold of such an opportunity. Passing the Original Mural Arts Project could lead to the development of a much stronger relationship between the City and the mural community while providing a catalyst for creative expression for neighborhood groups, at-risk youth and others who could benefit from such a program.

We urge the Portland City Council to pass the mural proposal before you and we applaud your resolution of this very difficult issue.

Sincerely,

Jane Golden

The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program is a unique public/private venture of the City of Philadelphia and the nonprofit Philadelphia Mural Arts Advocates, which since 1984 has transformed communities and youth through the creation of public art.

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: lyle hehn [hehn@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 12:03 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: cotter joe
Subject: RE: Original Art Murals Project

Phil Nameny, AICP
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
City of Portland
1900 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201
503-823-7709

Dear Phil Nameny,
I would like to express my support for the proposed mural ordinance being considered before the Portland City Council on June 24th, 2009.

I have read the draft proposal and I'm impressed with the careful wording and the thinking that went into it. I think the guidelines and limitations included in the ordinance should be enough to satisfy anyone.

I'm a long-time Portland resident and I've been privileged to make my living as an artist here since 1986. One of the great things I've enjoyed about this city is the fact that, over and over again, areas of town that were a bit run-down and neglected have gradually attracted young creative people who, without a lot of money, managed to make their neighborhoods interesting, inviting and fun places to visit. Here's our chance to remove some absurd local restrictions and enhance that quality of Portland that always impresses visitors from out of town.

Thank you,
Lyle Hehn
866 NE 43rd Ave.
Portland OR 97213

To: The Portland City Council

6/22/09

I am writing this letter in support of the recommended proposal for murals in the city of Portland. I'm an artist living out in Eagle Creek and a member of the Artback Artists Cooperative. It is a group of painters from the Estacada area who paint a mural in the town of Estacada each July. We've been doing this since 1994. The impact these murals have made is dramatic in the small ex-logging town. Estacada has since formed an Arts Commission, a Summer Celebration (an arts and music festival started to coincide with the painting of the murals). It has a co-op gallery with its own First Friday event that has expanded to include other shops and restaurants on the block. Over the years, we've gotten funding from various arts and community building organizations such as RACC, the Arts Action Alliance and the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition.

However, Artback gets most of its funding in small contributions from people who live in the Estacada area. The murals have helped to foster a creative spirit in the community. A little renaissance is happening here, with music classes (dulcimer and ukulele), bluegrass jam sessions, a community orchestra, three different belly dancing troupes, tai chi and yoga classes, The Performing Arts Group of Estacada and The Springwater Players, The Teeny Tiny Film Festival, theater workshops, art workshops, ceramic classes, painting classes, mural tours, and more. All this has happened since the Artback began painting the town 15 years ago. Maybe all these things would have happened without the murals but I believe they acted as a catalyst. Art really does make a positive difference. A mural project in a Portland neighborhood could be a starting point for all kinds of community building opportunities. The Original Art Murals Project is a step in the right direction for the city.

I also have a very personal reason for wanting this program to pass. Joe Cotter is my partner and father of our two sons. We have watched him over the past 9 years work persistently, tenaciously and passionately to clearly distinguish that there is a fundamental difference between murals and signs. It is something most people would agree with though it is amazing how complicated it gets when legal definitions come into play. John Fronmayer, former head of the National Endowment for the Arts, has called Joe his hero for championing this cause. We are finally at a point where we could have a rational mural program in Portland. Please support The Original Art Murals Project.

Sincerely,
Kolieha Bush

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joe Cotter [chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 5:51 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: RE: Mural Proposal

Dear Phil,

Could you please pass this on to the city council members.

Thank you very much,

Kolieha Bush

--- On **Mon, 6/22/09, Nameny, Phil (PLN)** <pnameny@ci.portland.or.us> wrote:

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN) <pnameny@ci.portland.or.us>
Subject: RE: Mural Proposal
To: "'Joe Cotter'" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Date: Monday, June 22, 2009, 2:47 PM

Thanks, they also sent one directly to me which I just forwarded. - Phil

From: Joe Cotter [mailto:chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:24 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joanne Oleksiak
Subject: Mural Proposal

Phil,

Here is one from the Diego Rivera Foundation. Could you forward it please.

Thank you, Joe

182962

From: mark meltzer ()
To: saltines5@yahoo.com
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 1:02:23 PM
Subject: Fw: testimony for original art mural proposal

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: mark meltzer <saltines5@yahoo.com>
To: pnameny@ci.portland.or.us
Cc: joe cotter <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 12:00:31 PM
Subject: testimony for original art mural proposal

Greetings City Council and citizens,

My name is Mark Meltzer. I live at 200 NE Thompson Street in Portland. I first volunteered on a community mural in Portland in 1988, and have worked on over 30 murals in Portland since. I have worked on murals with youth from Outside In, Portland State University, Metropolitan Learning Center, Open Meadows, and Reynolds High School. I have worked with more local artists than i dare to name.

I am speaking today in favor of the Original Mural Arts Proposal and the removal of public arts murals from the existing sign code. I am testifying in favor of recognizing murals as a legal autonomous public form of expression. I am hopeful that this new proposal will encourage artists to create new public murals. Though I have my doubts. This proposal, like the RACC mural program, was borne looking over it's shoulder in fear of a Clear Channel lawsuit. The definition of public art as free speech in Oregon was always in question here, and remains in question. I do not believe it is in the best interests of artists to have the size and location of their public work regulated by the city, but under the circumstances i believe that this is the best that the city can do.

I am grateful to the city for at least trying to uphold their role as the guarantors of free speech under the the federal first amendment and article one section 8 of the Oregon Constitution.

Finally, an artform as ancient and varied as public painting on walls can hardly be defined with integrity in the face of a dominant commercial culture. Obviously, with or without the legal permission of the city, people will continue to paint on walls. Thank you for allowing this.

Addendum: In my experience, the process of creating a mural has had a consistently positive effect on youth, through working on a group project with artists to create a painting on a public wall, the connection to local community is felt as a much more positive thing. Murals create public symbols that illuminate the landscapes of towns and cities. The protection of this form of public expression is the responsibility of the city.

Portland Mural Defense
P.O. Box 33098
Portland, Oregon 97292-3098

June 24, 2009

TO: Mayor Sam Adams, Portland City Commissioners and City staff
RE: Support *Original Art Murals Project* and creation of new title and rules for murals
FROM: Joanne Oleksiak, NE Portland resident, Co-founder of *Portland Mural Defense*

ORIGINAL ART MURALS PROJECT TITLE 4 (BDS Chapter 3.30, Section A, #9)

To the Mayor, members of Portland City Council and Planning Bureau staff members:
I would like to add my voice to those in support of the proposed measure to allow murals to be permitted separately from signs.

WHY SUPPORT ORIGINAL ART MURALS

Many reasons attracted me to this issue, but one of the most compelling is to find a democratic answer to the question "who can *speak* in public?" In our modern urban environment we experience a shocking amount of visual clutter- billboards, screaming-blinking neon signs and advertisements of all sizes and description. These methods of expression are protected by law. However, there is a de facto suppression of speech that is normally unremarked upon- and that is that the overwhelming majority of the visual content we experience each day is commercial speech, *not art*. We are 24/7 surrounded by messages that - at times- are unpleasant (ads that are degrading to women, for example) or seek to sell us (and our children) something that we don't need (such as cigarettes).

WHAT KIND OF SPEECH?

Over time, corporate speech has been repeatedly protected through case law, and in Portland, that legal direction was taken to new and unprecedented extremes. The answer to the question "who can speak in public?" seemed to be: "only Ackerley Media (later Clear Channel's Outdoor Division) and similar corporate entities" (with rare exception). Only corporations with the financial means to purchase billboards and to get their products and ideas before the public eye. To see this lopsided situation continue constitutes nothing less than a form of censorship. It would blatantly prevent or severely limit speech by small, local, independent, and community voices that lack the resources to purchase advertising space. We are swamped by corporate images and ideas in every corner of our city.

A NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW

The *Clear Channel v City of Portland* trial in 2006, incredibly (and against all odds) with the intervention and participation of Joe Cotter (who brought artists to the witness stand for the first time in the history of this case), led us to an interpretation of the law (Judge

LAW, cont'd

Michael Marcus *Opinion 2007*) that allows the City to support the creation of public art (murals). This interpretation- signs are not art- must be embraced and supported.

MORE SIGNS?

Although, in thinking about Portland's visual landscape, I'm troubled by the number of signs (which seem to be increasing in Portland) of the type that are behind glass windows or pasted into architectural elements, like the Walgreen's store at SE 39th & Belmont, or the Nike Outlet store on NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd. The Nike panels (located on the south side of the building) are especially egregious, since they show *photos* of two murals (one by Chris Haberman and one of Isaka Shamsud-Din's) without crediting the artists.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS, INCLUDING MURALS

Another issue is the lack of support for the arts in general that we experience in Portland, in direct contrast to our City's reputation as an "arts-y" town. That it has taken *this* long, and *this* much effort to create a small opening for murals is extremely frustrating.

Portland Mural Defense- a network of artists, muralists and arts advocates that formed in 2004- has worked for over five years to change things for murals. Though other community efforts preceded our work, since May, 2004 alone, *Portland Mural Defense* has presented public art lectures and media interviews (primarily on KBOO and cable TV) featuring local, national *and* internationally respected mural experts, including Isaka Shamsud-Din, Theodore Harris, Jim Prigoff, Robin Dunitz and Guadalupe Rivera Marin (CEO of *The Diego Rivera Foundation*).

We organized mural workshops, potlucks. Networked, posted informational signs and flyers all over town. Held an art exhibit with over 30 mural artists participating (and 50 artists in a live paint event). We've visited other city's mural programs (Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program and the Perkins Art Center in Camden, New Jersey, among several others) and we've attended national and international mural conferences.

At these conferences, other muralists frequently expressed their horror and disbelief at Portland's strange mural situation, fearing what could happen in their own town. PMD supporters have spent countless (*countless!!*) hours in meetings, and on long distance phone calls (with the amicus committee of the APA, Philly's Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight, Scenic America, the First Amendment Center and *many* others). In the years leading up to the Clear Channel trial- the goal was to find legal advice and support for the idea (and *fact!*) that art *is* different from signage. Because of our efforts during this time, it is no exaggeration to say that other cities and other mural programs around the country are watching to see what happens to murals in Portland's Council chambers this week, *and* in the next few months as the new mural code goes into effect.

VOICES OF COMMUNITY

In-as-much as murals are often the expressions of voiceless people (homeless, war-torn citizens, ethnic minorities, youth, people with AIDS, etc) this issue is about racism and other types of bias, and about the loss of opportunities for democratic and public discourse. Murals can commemorate local history, honor community and national leaders and bring minority voices to a larger audience.

COMMUNITY, cont'd

I hope that we will see a flowering of these visual "voices" in the next few years as beautiful murals are created through this new permit process.

I urge that you pass *BDS Title 4, Original Art Murals* and its administrative rules*.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Joanne Oleksiak

art & community resources

Portland Mural Defense

portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com

* Qualifications:

- 1) The Central City 20' setback restriction should be reconsidered
- 2) *Non-contributing* buildings in historic districts should be available (with review)
- 3) Permit fees should be waived (or a sliding scale) for mural projects working with or coordinated by non-profit community organizations. The economic crisis (12.4% unemployment) guarantees that the groups (artists, small businesses, tiny non-profit organizations and grassroots projects), which are among the hardest hit by the worsening economy, would have to struggle to find an additional \$250- 400 to paint a mural. This cost may even be a prohibitive one and defeat a key goal of the entire *Original Art Murals Project*: to make mural permits accessible to the *community*.

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 3:31 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Original Art Murals

Oops, forgot this one in my last email. Phil

From: Gwyllm [mailto:rowantre@hevanet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 9:40 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Original Art Murals

From: William Floyd/Gwyllm Llwydd
Address: 1526 S.E. 22nd Avenue
Portland, Or 97214

To Mr. Phil Nameny, City Council & The Portland Mural Defense,

As an Artist/Muralist, as a Citizen of Portland, the subject of murals are very dear to my heart. Murals have been an art form probably from the time of the first settled urban sites. There is adequate evidence of the art going back some 7000 years as we know it, and the roots of the mural goes back deeper into our collective past. Where civilization has been, murals & and the arts have been there as a defining elements of discourse through art as a public medium.

I am the painter of the infamous Mirador Mural. If one looks at it uncovered, you would find a dedication: "Dedicated to the Community of the South East". I painted this piece at the request of Lynn & Steve Hanrahan, the owners of Mirador. They wanted a mural that would communicate the soul of our community, and to the soul of the community.

I sincerely hope that this mural will soon be uncovered. It was never meant to be an advertisement, but as a gift to the greater community. I have had people communicate with me from around the world about the situation in Portland regarding murals/public art and generally, they don't believe it.

I hope the council sees fit to change the regulations so that Portland can take its place among other cities as one that fosters public/mural art, and as a city that is proud of what artist/muralist bring to the common table of discourse.

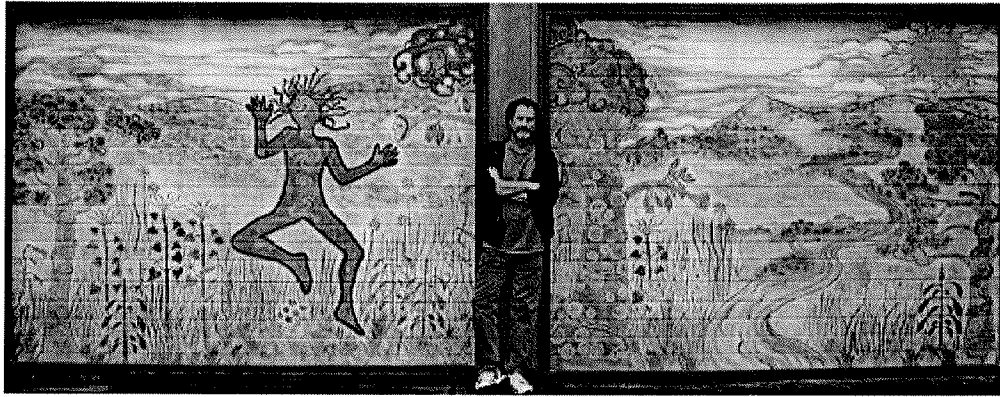
I wish I could be here to plead the case for art. I know in my heart of hearts, the council will/should approve these new regulations.

Bright Blessings,

William Floyd/Gwyllm Llwydd

6/23/2009

182962



182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joe Cotter [chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 1:20 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Re: Tomorrow's City Council

Phil,
Here's another letter.
Joe

--- On Tue, 6/23/09, Nameny, Phil (PLN) <pnameny@ci.portland.or.us> wrote:

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN) <pnameny@ci.portland.or.us>
Subject: Tomorrow's City Council
To: "Reeve, Tracy" <treeve@ci.portland.or.us>, "Peggy Kendellen" <pkendellen@racc.org>
Cc: "Joe Cotter" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 11:02 AM

Just wanted to make sure that you folks will be in attendance at tomorrow's council hearing on the murals at 2p.m.

Although we will be doing the presentation, I will likely mention the two of you (and Joe) as experts/spokespersons who are available to provide additional information and answer any questions. I wanted to see if you are ok with this. Thanks.

Phil Nameny, AICP
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
City of Portland
1900 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201
503-823-7709

Phil Nameny, City Planner
Portland Bureau of Planning
Portland City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nameny,

I am a Portland Artist and muralist writing in support of The Original Art Murals Project recommendations to create a process to complement the existing city public art mural program administered by the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC).

It is extremely important that there be an option for privately funded murals not intended for the city's art collection, but rather as a form of "freedom of expression" within acceptable community parameters where the mural is to be painted (these things can be worked out between artists, small business owners, and building owners where the murals might be proposed, and neighborhood members). Murals bring together community, create aesthetic and vibrant additions to our city and enhance neighborhoods. I have experienced this first hand having worked on several murals in various locations in Portland, New York City and in Mexico.

Our city of Portland is in a unique period of our history when the nation's eyes often look Northwesterly to Portland, as representative of an environmentally aware community, a place of many cultural assets and physical beauty and one in which "freedom of ideas" can flourish. We need to build on that reputation and allow for the "artistic environment" to be another of those many assets. Murals have a grand place in that just as they have in many other exemplary cities in our nation such as Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

Having traveled in Latin America and after participating in two small mural projects there besides witnessing and viewing hundreds of beautiful murals in communities from Caracas, Venezuela, to Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico, I am convinced that murals are an integral part to creating a "free society" as well as well as one in which personal artistic expression can thrive, when there may be limitations in other areas.

Let's support and keep open the doors to Portland's many mural artists and enhance our city at the same time!

Sincerely,
Sher Davidson
Portland Artist

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Joe Cotter [chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 12:45 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joanne Oleksiak
Subject: Fw: Portland City Council, RE: Original Art Murals Project.

Phil,

Here's another one.

Joe

--- On Tue, 6/23/09, Olivia Behm <livbehm@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Olivia Behm <livbehm@gmail.com>
Subject: Portland City Council, RE: Original Art Murals Project.
To: "Kolieha & Joe" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 9:11 AM

Dear City Council members:

I have been aware of the situation regarding murals in Portland for many years. I'm so happy to see that they are now going to be permitted in our lovely city! I have lived in many cities over the years, including San Francisco, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Denver, and San Diego. The one thing I that I always notice in a city is its art, especially murals. They delight the eye and bring a smile to the faces of all who see them. I think we need as many "smiling" people in our cities as we can get!

Thank you so much for Portland's future murals!

Olivia Behm, artist
503-522-2647

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mark Larsen [sevenstararts@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 12:42 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Support of Murals in Portland Oregon

Dear Phil Nameny,

Please support the return of murals to Portland. An artistic mural is an asset to the city. Art enriches lives of all who see. Murals reach a wide range of the public providing education, enjoyment, enrichment to all who view them.

Our planet is in crisis, resources are depleted, climate is changing, and pollution is poisoning all life on earth. Crass commercialism, unconcious greed, material gain at the expense of quality of life is responsible. This grasping for profit at the expense of life has become a means to put a sad end to the life of mural painting in Portland.

Please give art, color, creativity, beauty, education, community a chance to thrive in this city. What is best of Western Civilization can be found in the art, murals, architecture, sculpture in the cities of the world that protect and preserve these things. For Portland to ban murals, to prevent creativity and beauty and honoring Oregon history is a backwards, unproductive, uncreative step. Please make this right, bring back murals and help create a more beautiful, livable city. A step in this direction could be a part of the change that so many people in this country agree needs to happen.

Mark Larsen
2635 S.E. 25th Ave.
Portland, Oregon
97202

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: icuart@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 10:07 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: chameleons_garden@yahoo.com; joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com
Subject: Letter of Support for Portland Mural Program

A letter of support is attached as a PDF.

Stash Maleski
Director
ICU Art - In Creative Unity
(310) 309-7756 cell

Save energy, paper and money -- [get the Green Toolbar](#).

6/23/2009



182962

June 23, 2009

TO: Portland City Council

I am writing in support of the June 1, 2009 draft of the "Original Art Murals Project Regulatory and Permit Process Improvement" for Portland, Oregon. I am a muralist, and the owner of an art production company in Los Angeles that works with a large number of muralists from all around the country. I am currently working with the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission and the Department of Cultural Affairs to address similar issues and concerns here in Los Angeles as it relates to fine art murals on private property. I am aware of all of the difficulties involved with developing a comprehensive plan that protects the rights of muralists, building owners, the residents of the city and the city itself.

What I respect most about the Portland plan is the thoroughness of the process and the level of community support and outreach that has been involved in bringing the current proposal to the table. I applaud the work and care that has gone into this proposal and believe that it would be a good and progressive step for Portland to adopt this plan. I think this plan offers a unique approach that offers a clear path through the specific circumstances found in the Portland community. I am certain that we will eventually incorporate many aspects of the Portland plan into the mural program for Los Angeles.

Although there are a few points that I do not feel would be appropriate for Los Angeles in the current Portland plan, I am supportive of the overall plan as a workable compromise for all parties. After years working in Los Angeles on the issue of murals, I understand that this is a difficult issue and that the rules regulating murals must be flexible and must evolve.

Stash Maleski

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stash Maleski".

Director
ICU Art – In Creative Unity
icuart@aol.com

I.C.U. Art – In Creative Unity
2554 Lincoln Blvd. #162
Venice, CA 90291
Phone (310) 309-7756
www.icuart.com

303 NE 16th Ave, Apt 303
Portland, OR 97232
June 17, 2009

182962

To City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Rm 140
Portland OR 97204

RECEIVED

2009 JUN 22 P 2:36

GARY BLACKMER, AUDITOR
CITY OF PORTLAND, OR

BY

When the City Council, next Wednesday
considers the issue of legalizing
outdoor murals, non-commercial art,
please count my vote in favor.

I have had the pleasure of seeing
how such public art enhances life
in cities, and especially in cities
like Portland where nature and
weather provide a neutral gray
background for all that great possible
color. Let's lighten up + brighten up
Portland! Rationalize the relevant laws,
please

Thank you,
Mary Francillon

See enclosure for example.

It's inspiring to see murals being actually
created, too! "Performance art" in the act.
And definitely "site-specific" (in art world jargon).

Ms. Mary Francillon
303 NE 16th Ave. Apt. 303
Portland, OR 97232-3093



© Mary Francillon Portland, Oregon

Action during painting of mural on Musicians' Union building on NE 20th near Sandy

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:49 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Support for Original Art Murals Project

This is the last one in this go-around.

I think next time, I'll just group the letters/email into one email with attachments that I'll send to you, so you don't get so many separate emails from me.

Phil

From: joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com [mailto:joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:24 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Portland Mural; Joe Cotter; Mark Meltzer
Subject: Support for Original Art Murals Project

TO: Phil Namey, City Planner, Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
 RE: Support for proposed legislation to create new code for Original Art Murals
 FROM: Joanne Oleksiak (on behalf of *Portland Mural Defense*, a network of muralists)
 ORIGINAL ART MURALS PROJECT

To the members Portland City Council, and Planning Bureau staff members:

I would like to add my voice to those in support of the proposed measure to allow murals to more easily be permitted and without review by the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ORIGINAL ART MURALS PROJECT

Many reasons attracted me to this issue, but one of the most compelling is finding a democratic answer to the question "who gets to *speak* in public?" In our modern urban environment we experience a shocking amount of visual clutter- billboards, screaming- blinking neon signs and advertisements of all sizes and description. These methods of expression are protected by law. However, there is a de facto suppression of speech that is normally unremarked upon- and that is that the overwhelming majority of the visual content we experience each day is commercial speech, *not art*. We are 24/7 surrounded by messages that - at times- are unpleasant (ads that are degrading to women, for example) or seek to sell us (and our children) something that we don't need (such as cigarettes).

WHAT KIND OF SPEECH?

Over time, corporate speech has been repeatedly protected through case law, and in Portland, that legal direction was taken to new and unprecedented extremes. The answer to the question "who can speak in public?" seemed to be: "only Ackerley Media (later Clear Channel's Outdoor Division) and similar corporate entities" (with rare exception). Only corporations with the financial means to purchase billboards and to get their products and ideas before the public eye. To see this lopsided situation continue would constitute

nothing less than censorship. An outright prevention or severe limiting of speech by small, local, independent, and community voices who lack the resources to purchase advertising space. We are swamped by corporate images and ideas in every corner of our city.

A NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW

The Clear Channel v City of Portland trial in 2006, incredibly (and against all odds) with the intervention and participation of Joe Cotter (who brought artists to the witness stand for the first time in the history of this case), led us to an interpretation of the law (Judge Michael Marcus *Opinion 2007*) that

allows the City to support the creation of public art (murals). This interpretation- signs are not art- must be embraced and supported.

MORE SIGNS

Although, in thinking about Portland's visual landscape, I'm troubled by the number of signs (which seem to be increasing in Portland) of the type that are behind glass windows or pasted into architectural elements, like the Walgreen's store at 39th & Belmont or the Nike Outlet store on NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd. The Nike panels (located on the south side of the building) are especially egregious, since they show *photos* of two murals (one by Chris Haberman and one of Isaka Shamsud-Din's), both without crediting the artists.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS, INCLUDING MURALS

Another issue is the lack of support for the arts in general that we experience in Portland, in direct contrast to our City's reputation as an "arts-y" town. That it has taken *this* long, and *this* much effort to create a small opening for murals is extremely frustrating.

Portland Mural Defense- a network of artists, muralists and arts advocates that formed in 2004- has worked for over five years to change things for murals. Though other community efforts preceded our work, since May, 2004 alone, *Portland Mural Defense* has presented public art lectures and media interviews (primarily on KBOO and cable TV) featuring local, national *and* internationally respected mural experts, including Isaka Shamsud-Din, Theodore Harris, Jim Prigoff, Robin Dunitz and Guadalupe Rivera Marin (President of *The Diego Rivera Foundation*). We've organized mural workshops, potlucks, networked, posted informational signs and flyers all over town, held an art exhibit with over 30 mural artists participating (and 50 artists in a live paint event). We've visited other city's mural programs (Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program and the Perkins Art Center in Camden New Jersey, among several others) and we've attended national and international mural conferences. At the conferences, other muralists often expressed their horror and disbelief at Portland's strange mural situation, fearing what could happen in their own town. PMD supporters have spent countless (countless!!) hours in meetings, and on long distance phone calls (with the amicaus committe of the APA, Philly's Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight, Attorneys working with Scenic America, staff at the First Amendment Center and *many* others). In the years leading up to the Clear Channel trial- the goal was to find legal advice and support for the idea (and fact!) that art *is* different from signage. Because of our efforts during this time, it is no exaggeration to say that other cities and other mural programs around the country are watching to see what happens to murals in Portland's Council chambers this week, *and* in the next few months as the new mural code is put into effect.

VOICES OF COMMUNITY

In-as-much as murals are often the expressions of voiceless people (homeless, war-torn citizens, ethnic minorities, youth, people with AIDS, etc) this issue is about racism and other types of bias, and about the loss of opportunities for democratic and public discourse. Murals can commemorate local history, honor community and national leaders and bring minority voices to a larger audience. I hope that we will see a flowering of these visual "voices" in the next few years as beautiful murals are created through this new permit process. I urge the passage of the *Original Art Murals* code.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Oleksiak

for *Portland Mural Defense*

portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Supporting the Art Mural Project

See attached jpg which is the letter.

From: Ma. Eulalia Espinosa Acuña [mailto:eulaliaea@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:18 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joe Cotter
Subject: Supporting the Art Mural Project

To whom it may concern,

Following instructions of the C.E.O and the C.O. of the Foundation Diego Rivera we are mailing this letter. We aware of what is hapening with the murals in Portland. and we support this expression.

Best regards.
Eulalia Espinosa

Gana Xbox, celulares y mucho más. [Actualiza tu Perfil ya!](#)

México, D.F., a 22 de junio de 2009.

Portland City Council
RE: Original Art Murals Project
c/o City Council Clerk, Room 140
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland Oregon, USA 97204

To whom it may concern:

As you know, Diego Rivera is one of the greatest mural artists in the world.

As a Foundation, some of our goals are to promote and defend mural painting and public art in general which day after day becomes more important and transcendental.

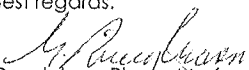
In 2004 me and my mother visited Portland on a book tour. She spoke on behalf of the effort of Portland Mural Defense to bring murals back to Portland. Two years later, in 2006, several muralists from Portland participated in the Mural Painting Encounter in Mexico City sponsored by the Fundación Diego Rivera.


This means that not only the people of Portland is aware of the mural situation but we, people from the Fundación Diego Rivera in Mexico are also aware of what is happening with murals in Portland.

As you know, art is an expression and nobody can avoid the impulse of that manifestation. It is an universal right, is our right of freedom expression. And it is essential to communicate you that we support and encourage this expression.

For all these reasons, Guadalupe Rivera Marín, daughter of Diego Rivera and myself Diego López Rivera, grandson of this great master, knowing the importance of mural painting and public art, demand the Portland City Council to pass the Original Art Murals Project Ordinance.

Best regards.


Guadalupe Rivera Marín
Chief Executive Office
Foundation Diego Rivera


Diego López Rivera
Chief Office
Foundation Diego Rivera

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:45 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: testimony for original art mural proposal

Another one

From: mark meltzer [mailto:saltines5@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 12:01 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: joe cotter
Subject: testimony for original art mural proposal

Greetings City Council and citizens,

My name is Mark Meltzer. I live at 200 NE Thompson Street in Portland. I first volunteered on a community mural in Portland in 1988, and have worked on over 30 murals since. I have worked on murals with youth from Outside In, Portland State University, Metropolitan Learning Center, Open Meadows, and Reynolds High School. I have worked with more local artists than i dare to name.

I am speaking today in favor of the Original Mural Arts Proposal and the removal of public arts murals from the existing sign code. I am testifying in favor of recognizing murals as a legal autonomous public form of expression. I am hopeful that this new proposal will encourage artists to create new public murals. Though I have my doubts. This proposal, like the RACC mural program, was borne looking over it's shoulder in fear of a Clear Channel lawsuit. The definition of public art as free speech in Oregon was always in question here, and remains in question. I do not believe it is in the best interests of artists to have the size and location of their public work regulated by the city, but under the circumstances i believe that this is the best that the city can do.

I am grateful to the city for at least trying to uphold their role as the guarantors of free speech under the the federal first amendment and article one section 8 of the Oregon Constitution.

Finally, an artform as ancient and varied as public painting on walls can hardly be defined with integrity in the face of a dominant commercial culture. Obviously, with or without the legal permission of the city, people will continue to paint on walls. Thank you for allowing this.

6/22/2009

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: I support the Original Art Murals Project

Another letter

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Farrell [mailto:susanf@acm.org]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 11:01 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: chameleons_garden@yahoo.com; portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com
Subject: I support the Original Art Murals Project

To the City Council of Portland and to whom it may concern,

I strongly support the Original Art Murals Project. It is shameful that Portland, a city so full of talented artists, for so long could not enjoy the benefit of its mural art community. Please join with us to support the new mural code/permit process. and also allow nonprofit organizations and community groups to waive the fees so that the barrier to entry is low enough for everyone to participate.

For too long we've had a situation that accidentally favored billboards over artwork. Let's end that era now.

Thank you for your support,

Susan Farrell
Markham / Capitol Hill
Portland OR

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Support Letter = Original Art Murals Project

I've got a few more of these letters of support coming your way. - Phil

From: SnowMgmt@aol.com [mailto:SnowMgmt@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:59 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: chameleons_garden@yahoo.com
Subject: Support Letter = Original Art Murals Project

Hello,

I have attached a letter in support of the art murals proposal to be considered at City Council on June 24.

Regards,
Cheryl Snow

=====
Cheryl Snow, Executive Director
CLACKAMAS COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 2181
Oregon City, OR 97045
www.clackamasartsalliance.org
office: 503.286.1496
mobile: 503.720.0662

An Excellent Credit Score is 750. See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!
(<http://pr.atwola.com/promoclk/100126575x1221823273x1201398689/aol?redir=http://www.freecreditreport.com/pm/default.aspx?sc=668072&hmpgID=62&bcd=JuneExcfooterNO62>)

182962



June 22, 2009

TO: Portland City Council

RE: Original Art Murals Project

For several years, I have closely followed the progress of Portland's mural controversy. I am very pleased that the issue is close to concluding with what I believe is a positive outcome: permission to allow art murals in the City of Portland. I strongly support the ordinance addressing this matter.

As a local arts agency in the tri-county area, we are well aware that Portland's decision on this matter will impact all arts advocates in the region. We welcome a decision which creates boundaries between commercial advertising and public art.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Snow

Cheryl Snow
Executive Director
Clackamas County Arts Alliance

Working in Partnership With



A Division of the Clackamas County Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

P.O. Box 2181
Oregon City, OR • 97045
503.655.0525
www.clackamasartsalliance.org

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:24 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Original Art Mural Project

This is the most recent letter on the murals project, but I do expect some more. - Phil

From: ppks@comcast.net [mailto:ppks@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 9:22 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: chameleons_garden@yahoo.com; portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com
Subject: Original Art Mural Project

Dear Mr. Nameny,

I am writing this letter to support the Original Art Murals Project and the new mural code/permit process. As an artist/educator and small business owner, i understand how important it's to include art in our city. New York is well known for its Broadway, Philadelphia is well known for its public art, San Francisco is well known for its ambiance, what do Portland has that make us stand out? We have artists here in Portland but if we can't allow artists to express and bring a sense of Portland pride and identity, who will? Do we want to be known for our sky scrapers or our art? What makes Portland beautiful anyway, the trees, the flowers, the people but without the art that's unique, we are no difference from any other towns. The art is the element that brings life and energy, and it sets us apart from other cities, it's what makes Portland, Portland. The identity of Portland lies within its residents, and their commitment to keep the pace and make it flourish is what matter to us. When we take care of our city and celebrate our uniqueness, only then others will see us as who we are.

I hope the city will reconsider and do the right thing.

Thank you.

sincerely,
Ping Khaw
503-502-2386
Pingkhaw.com

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:23 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: MURALS letter of support

Another letter attached - Phil

From: Gary Marschke [mailto:gmarschke@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2009 2:45 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: 'barbara'; joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com; chameleons_garden@yahoo.com; portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com
Subject: MURALS letter of support

Phil,

Please find attached a letter of support for the Original Art Mural Project.

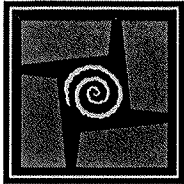
Gary

Gary Marschke
Vice Chair
North/Northeast Business Association
www.nnebapdx.org
(503) 284-9013
(503) 412-8520 Cell

"...it matters not how small the beginning may seem to be: what is once well done is done forever." Thoreau



Think Green! Please do not print this e-mail unless it is completely necessary.



NNEBA

Creating a Thriving and Livable Community

182962

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Environmental
Services
City of Portland
Office of
Commissioner
Sam Adams

**Office of
Neighborhood
Involvement**

Portland City Commissioners
City Hall
1221 SW Fourth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

June 21, 2009

Re: Original Art Mural Project

Dear City Commissioners:

I would like to ask that you support the **Original Art Mural Project**.

Such projects enhance the livability and commercial vitality of our community and therefore it is essential that mural programs like this be supported and available to our communities and your constituents.

I urge you to support the **Original Art Mural Project**.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Gary Marschke
Vice-Chair
North Northeast Business Association (NNEBA)
6027 NE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97211-7315
(503) 284-9013

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:23 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Original Art Murals proposal

I've got a few more testimony emails to forward, starting with this one. - Phil

From: Joanne Oleksiak [mailto:joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2009 6:10 AM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joe Cotter; Mark Meltzer; Tom Cramer
Subject: Fw: Original Art Murals proposal

To: Phil Nameny, City of Portland Planning Bureau, *Orginal Art Murals Project*
Please include this letter (below) in the packet to go to Portland City Council members.
Thank you,
Joanne Oleksiak
for *Portland Mural Defense*
portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com

--- On Sat, 6/20/09, Tom B Cramer <tbc@pacifier.com> wrote:

From: Tom B Cramer <tbc@pacifier.com>
Subject: letter for you to forward to city hall and others..
To: "Joanne Oleksiak" <joanneoleksiak@yahoo.com>
Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009, 11:25 AM

Dear Phil Nameny,

My name is Tom Cramer, and I am writing this letter in support of the legislation that Joanne Oleksiak, and Portland Mural defense is behind- the original art mural project. Both Joanne and PMD have been instrumental in saving and promoting the three murals Ive done in Portland. All three murals were done without government permits, approval or grants- and probably benifited from the libertarian spirit, free from regulation, whichI think should exist in all art.

I do think that Portlands government, including RACC, has contributed a lot to making Portland more livable- and I am for government regulation where appropriate. I do however- believe that there are places where government is best left out of the picture .I believe Art should never be selected or regulated by commitee- as this too often leads to the dumbing down and boring quality of so much government controlled public art .I also think the same problem exists for corporate controlled art.The best murals often emerge from the direct line from creator to final product without any design interference or censorship from anyone but the artist. This legislation achieves at least the partial victory to this end for Portlands murals- and I enthusiastically endorse the bill.

Portland, Oregon

Thanks, Tom Cramer June 20, 2009--

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 8:30 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW:

Another Mural Testimony Letter

From: marinomurals@aol.com [mailto:marinomurals@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2009 12:48 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject:

Dear Mr. Nameny,

Both my husband and myself are artists/muralists and are in favor of the "Original Mural Arts Project" ordinance. We have both witnessed the extraordinary work done on behalf of artistic expression, which is a constitutional requirement of freedom of expression, by Portland Mural Defense, and applaud Joe Cotter, Joanne Olekesiak and the other concerned citizens who have worked tirelessly amongst themselves and with city staff to reach this point. I know that I am not speaking just for myself and my husband, but for countless other art supporters and community members in Portland, that have been confused and outraged concerning the current restrictions on murals. To this end, we ask you to please pass this ordinance that will permit murals in Portland.

Sincerely,
Angelina Marino & Joel Heidel
(503) 452-9886

An Excellent Credit Score is 750. See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 8:30 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Support letter regarding passage of New Mural Code

Another letter of testimony for the murals (There are actually several that I'll be forwarding.) - Phil

From: rjdunitz@comcast.net [mailto:rjdunitz@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 9:42 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Cc: Joe Cotter; Joanne Oleksiak
Subject: Support letter regarding passage of New Mural Code

Hello Phil,
Please be sure that the City Council members see the attached support letter.
Thanks very much.
Sincerely,
Robin Dunitz

To the Portland City Council

RE: Original Art Murals Project

For the entire four years that I have lived in Portland, I have witnessed the legal battle over how to distinguish murals from commercial signs. I have seen the frustration and the anguish felt by the local mural-loving community. As someone who has written several books on murals and lived in other cities in which murals flourished, it has been hard for me to grasp why this is such a difficult problem here in Portland. It is in sharp contrast to the overall creative personality of the city, in which all kinds of artistic activities and events abound.

Public murals, especially those created with community participation, bring a visual vitality and a spirit of hope and inspiration to a neighborhood. In underserved communities--those with the most For Lease signs, the most dilapidated buildings, the highest unemployment, the least resources for youth programs, etc., a mural project can be a life preserver for a teen thinking of dropping out, an empowering and esteem-building experience for all involved. A finished mural brings pride and a sense of success in an otherwise not so positive environment.

Please pass the new mural code as soon as possible, so we can unleash our local artists to start developing mural projects all over town.

Sincerely,

Robin Dunitz

Mural historian and photographer

Author, *Street Gallery: Guide to Los Angeles Murals* and *Wall Art: Murals of Portland and Beyond*

Co-author, *Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride: African American Murals* and *Painting the Towns: Murals of California*

182962

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 8:28 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Mural Hearing

Karla & Susan,

Could you forward this as testimony on the Original Art Murals Project? Thanks. - Phil

From: Joe Cotter [mailto:chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2009 8:44 PM
To: Nameny, Phil (PLN)
Subject: Fw: RE: Mural Hearing

Phil,

Here's a letter for the record on the mural issue.
Thanks, Joe

--- On Sat, 6/20/09, James Prigoff <jprigoff12@comcast.net> wrote:

From: James Prigoff <jprigoff12@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Mural Hearing
To: "'Joe Cotter'" <chameleons_garden@yahoo.com>
Cc: rjdunitz@comcast.net
Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009, 5:30 PM

PLEASE FORWARD

Attention: Portland City Council

Subject: Murals

I have just returned from Rome where I waited three hours to again see the murals in the Sistine Chapel. I first saw them in 1966 and had not seen them since they have been refurbished. These were amongst the first murals that I ever took note of. In the 43 years that have passed I have

6/22/2009

traveled around the world documenting public murals, giving lectures and writing about public art..

Community murals are powerful expressions of public beauty, historical information, as well as a source for dealing with the important issues of our times. I have had the pleasure of documenting Portland's early murals and lecturing there. Naturally, I have followed the Portland "Mural Story" from the beginning and am delighted that Wednesday may open a new, sunny window on Portland's public space.

I drove hundreds of miles from Rome south and am surprised to say that there were no ugly billboards along the way trying to sell me something or other that I had no interest in buying.

Congratulations Portland for working through a difficult process.

James Prigoff

21st Century Mural documenter, author, and lecturer

Co-author with Robin J Dunitz:

Painting the Towns – Murals of California

Walls of Heritage – Walls of Pride – History of African American Murals

From: Joe Cotter [mailto:chameleons_garden@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 5:17 PM
To: chameleons_garden@yahoo.com
Subject: Mural Hearing

Hello Mural supporters,

This is it. The mural permitting proposal is going before the Portland City Council next Wednesday, June 24th at 2:00 p.m. If you could appear in person and testify it would be great. If you can't do that perhaps you could send a letter of support for the mural ordinance. It is called the Original Mural Arts Project and a letter from you would be really helpful. It doesn't have to be long, it could just be something to the fact that you have been aware of the Portland situation for many years now and you are happy to see that they are finally going to permit murals in Portland, something to that effect or anything you think will help. We have worked on this ordinance since we got the favorable opinion from Judge Marcus in the Clear Channel trial two years ago. Even though it is far from ideal, we really hope it will pass.

If you are able to write a letter of support you can address it to the Portland City Council, RE: Original Art Murals Project. You can send it to me and I'll forward it to the City or you can send it to:

pnameny@ci.portland.or.us

Please send me a copy if you send a letter directly to the City. If you have any questions you can call me at: 1-503-637-3381 or e-mail me here.

If you can attend in person that would be really helpful. It will be held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 1221 SW Fourth Ave., Portland at 2:00 on Wednesday.

I have attached the notice and a copy of the draft proposal the City Council is voting on next Wednesday. It would be great if I could have something by Monday.

If you have questions you can contact me here or at 503-637-3381 or

182962

Joanne Oleksiak at: portlandmuraldefense@yahoo.com

or

Phil Nameny, AICP

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

City of Portland

1900 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 7100

Portland, OR 97201

503-823-7709

Thanks again for your time, Joe Cotter

The Portland City Council
C/o The Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140
Portland, Oregon 97204

June 15, 2009

From: Joseph Cotter
31810 SE Wildcat Mt. Dr.
Eagle Creek, Oregon 97022
(503) 637-3381
chameleons_garden@yahoo.com

RECEIVED
2009 JUN 18 A 8:45
GARY BLACKMER, AUDITOR
CITY OF PORTLAND, OR
BY _____

RE: Original Art Murals Regulatory / Permit Process Improvement
To the Portland City Council,

It was clear last May, after being briefed on the proposed mural permitting process, that the Landmarks Commission has little if any interest in seeing exterior artwork painted on building walls in Conservation or Historic Districts. One gets the distinct impression that any blank wall, no matter how visually distressed, is preferable to any mural, no matter how masterfully crafted.

The Design Commission, the Planning Commission and the public at the murals open house in December did not agree with this sentiment and requested that non-contributing buildings in Historic and Conservation Districts be available for murals through this program.

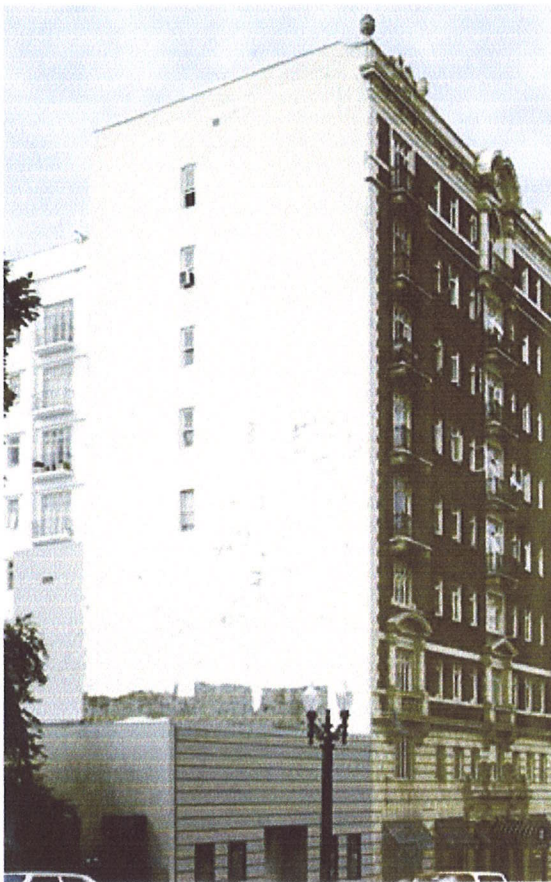
Historic and Conservation Districts are not monolithic and the composition may be a mix of commercial and residential zoning, contributing and non-contributing buildings and historic landmarks as well as buildings on the National Register. These districts may have a number of walls that would make exemplary mural walls but the primary fear seems to be the lack of control over content. There are ways in which the content could be influenced but it would take some vision and foresight on the part of the City to accomplish those ends and additional steps other than those contemplated in the proposal before you now.

1. The City could take an active interest in the urban visual landscape and devote some staff time and resources toward locating and securing certain high profile walls for exterior artwork.
2. The City could then determine what subject or subjects would be appropriate for a particular wall.
3. The City could then solicit concepts and/or designs based on that subject matter.
4. The City could choose the best design to be painted.

5. The funding could include public and private funds. There would have to be a formal process adopted to solicit funds and coordinate the program.

Theoretically RACC could fulfill this process but it seems to be the case that RACC does not initiate these types of projects. That does not preclude initiating mural projects by other means.

We have seen many examples of successful murals on historic buildings in historic cities over the last several months. Most of these murals were chosen for their historic relevance and need look no further than the 1989 Richard Haas Mural on the Oregon Historic Society Building as a prime local example:



Before



After

If the blank wall is preferable, then there is no problem because the Haas mural could not be painted in Portland if it were proposed today. The building on which it is painted, the former Sovereign Hotel, is on the National Register and is also listed as a local historic landmark. There is no process in place that would let one paint a mural on any building in a Conservation or Historic District or on a landmark at this time.

The fact is that there are many walls on noncontributing buildings within Historic and Conservation Districts that could benefit from artwork and it has been proposed that those walls be available for this permitting process. Furthermore, the contributing buildings and Historic Landmarks should be available on a case by case basis through the existing RACC program. In addition, If the City were really serious about the visual appearance of the walls in Historic and Conservation Districts, there are many other walls on which quality artwork, commissioned by the City, could be painted. The city of Philadelphia for instance produces over 200 murals a year through a City run program.

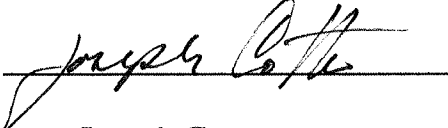
We have the example of the Depression era murals commissioned by the Federal Government as both an employment project and a means to bring artwork to the public. There are several surviving examples of this art scattered throughout Oregon including at least 2 in Portland. The East Portland Branch Post Office. Mural entitled "Post Rider" painted in 1936 by Paul Grellert and two other murals in Saint Johns painted in 1936 by John Ballator (Eric Lamade and Louis DeMott Bunce, assistants)"Development of St. Johns" and composite of activities significant in the development of the area. Source: *Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal* by Marlene Park & Gerald E. Markowitz

There has been an active movement for several years now to preserve these New Deal murals as part of our heritage. Of course Portland also has the Lovejoy columns painted by Tom Stefopolous in the 1940's. The point is that a work of art often becomes iconic when it survives long enough to become a landmark. Very few survive over long periods of time but you can't have any future survivors unless you produce some now.

The RACC mural process was passed over four years ago with the mission to work out some method to situate murals in Conservation and Historic Districts with the Landmarks Commission. At this writing there is no method in sight. I would urge the Portland City Council to approve the Recommended Draft Proposal before you now in its entirety and request that RACC and the Landmarks Commission conclude an agreement for situating exterior artwork on contributing buildings and landmarks in Historic and Conservation Districts as soon as possible.

Once again I would like to thank the folks in the stakeholders group, the murals work group, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, the Bureau of Development Services, The Design Commission, The Planning Commission, The Landmarks Commission, RACC, the Portland City Council and City Council staff, the neighborhood associations, other interested community groups the mural community and art supporters for their interest and dedication in making this process possible.

Thanks again for your consideration.

Sincerely, 
Joseph Cotter