

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:**

Appoint Garry "Don" Vallaster to the Portland Design Commission for a 4-year term to expire August 14, 2019 (Report)

**Contact name:** Tim Heron, Bureau of Development Services, Land Use Section

**Contact phone:** 503-823-7726, [tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov)

**Presenter name:** Tim Heron

**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

The appointment of these Commissioners is required by Portland City Code [Title 33] to fulfill quorum requirements for Type 2 and Type 3 Land Use Reviews.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The Commissioner appointments are citizen-volunteer positions, so no revenue or expenses are incurred by these positions.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

The Bureau of Development Services continually advertises positions for the Commission through its webpage, public phone calls to the Commission Clerk and Staff, and as needed Media Announcements of upcoming positions. These Media Announces are widely circulated in the design, development and neighborhood community news outlets and web pages.

### Budgetary Impact Worksheet

**Does this action change appropriations?**

☐ YES: Please complete the information below.

☒ NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Dan Saltzman, Commissioner**  
1221 S.W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 230  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Telephone: (503) 823-4151  
Fax: (503) 823-3036  
dan@portlandoregon.gov

August 5, 2015

To: Mayor Charlie Hales

From: Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner of Public Affairs

Cc: Commissioners Nick Fish, Amanda Fritz, Steve Novick

Subject: Appointment to the Design Commission

**1) Appointment**

This appointment replaces the extended position currently filled by Gwen Millius in the "design, engineering, financing, construction or management of buildings, and land development" category. Land Use Senior Planner Tim Heron worked directly with Design Commission Chair David Wark [RACC position] and developed a rationale to rank interested applicants for the positions.

**2) Current Membership.**

The current Design Commission all have at least two to six plus years' experience, and have been fully engaged in development review since 2011 during this powerful growth of the City and the long economic recovery we have been experiencing since that time.

The Commission just recently completed their *State of the City Design Report* to City Council, scheduled on April 8, 2015 at 9:30AM. This report highlighted the positive impacts the Commission has on our urban environment these past three years, and what challenges they are prepared to help tackle as the City grows.

**3) New Design Commissioner candidate rationale.**

**Garry "Don" Vallaster**, an architect, has been practicing in Portland for over 30 years. His award winning firm has built several downtown residential and mixed use projects that have been applauded by the Design Commission and neighborhoods alike. Of particular note, and specifically helpful during these busy times, is that Don's firm works well with the Land Use process and soliciting neighborhood feedback. Land Use applications by his firm in the past couple years have aligned very quickly with the direction of the Commission, and concerns of neighbors, yielding high quality urban design proposals, often needing only one or two hearings to be approved.

This type of "leadership by example" can be a helpful perspective to add to the Design Commission compliment and impress upon future customers of the Land Use process to work with the Commission to complete projects faster *and* better, minimizing the number of hearings, while yielding high quality compatible designs.

Don would be the second of two "architect" positions for the Design Commission.  
**Therefore, I am recommending Garry "Don" Vallaster to the Design Commissioner.**  
**His term will be from August 15, 2015 to expire on August 14, 2019.**

With this proposed appointment, the Design Commission will have one upcoming vacancy in the "design, engineering, financing, construction or management of buildings, and land development" category