

**Annual Report of the Norman Public Arts Board
Report to the City of Norman
March 2016**

It is my pleasure to provide the annual report of the activities of the Norman Public Arts Board (PAB) for the past year. This Board, created by city ordinance in the fall of 2007, has experienced a productive year. The PAB, though a civic entity, is mandated to additionally serve as a committee of the Norman Arts Council (NAC). All activities of the PAB are therefore subject to the approval of the NAC in addition to working with the City.

The members of this Board, the entities they represent, and their terms (expiring in October each year) are:

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| <u>Mayoral Appointees:</u> | <u>Term Expires:</u> |
| Jana Moring | 2018 |
| Cheryl Lockstone | 2017 |
| Jonathan Fowler (Vice Chair) | 2016 |
| <u>Norman Gallery Association:</u> | |
| Douglas Elder | 2016 |
| Ally Richardson | 2017 |
| <u>Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau:</u> | |
| Taylor Mauldin (Secretary) | 2016 |
| <u>Norman Arts and Humanities Roundtable:</u> | |
| Larry Walker (Chair) | 2018 |
| <u>Ex-Officio Member:</u> | |
| Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation | |

This report covers the activities since the last annual report

1. Currently, the PAB is working with mosaic artist Laura Robbins of Las Placitas, New Mexico in the creation of a large mosaic piece for the east wall of the Lions' Park pavilion. The artist will be working with community volunteers to cast some of the pieces of the mosaic which we will install in May or early June.
2. Three new designs have been selected for artist enhanced duck sculptures for city parks. The latest designs will be installed in May. This will bring the total of duck sculptures to twenty-one ducks installed in nineteen parks throughout Norman.
3. April of each year, the Parks and Recreation department conducts an evaluation of the pieces of art held in the City's collection. This evaluation determines any repair or maintenance work needed. This past year, we had to repair two of the duck sculptures. Also, a team of OU students volunteered to assist in waxing some of the bronze sculptures in the collection.
4. Once again, Fowler Toyota has sponsored another round of bicycle racks to be designed by artists and fabricated locally for placement in Norman. The \$15,000 sponsorship includes all costs, including honorariums for the selected artists. In addition, the PAB worked with Fowler Toyota to secure a grant from Toyota's national office in the amount of \$10,000. These funds, plus an additional sponsorship from VisitNorman, allowed the PAB to commission 13 new artist designed racks, which will be installed in Downtown Norman and the Campus Corner area. Installation should be complete by mid-April. This will bring the total to 26 artist-designed racks in Norman.
5. The PAB and the Norman Arts Council are in negotiations with the City for the implementation of the 1 % for art portion of the Norman Forward projects. This is an exciting development that the PAB and NAC are honored to administer.

6. Four-year Strategic Plan – We continue to make progress in implementing the PAB’s strategic plan. We will continue to keep the plan at the forefront. However, we anticipate that the Norman Forward projects will have a role in updates to the plan.
7. We have continued with our goals of using limited finances to complete smaller projects, such as the duck sculptures, bicycle racks (sponsored), and smaller sculptures in Downtown Norman. Finances continue to be the major controlling factor for the PAB when looking at additional projects. The donations through the utility bills generate a little over \$900 dollars each month. This equates to an amount that does not finance larger projects. The NAC is also committed to allocating additional funds to help support larger visions so the PAB can expand the impact in the community.

All funds voluntarily donated through utility bills are transferred quarterly to the Art In Public Places Fund held and managed by the Norman Arts Council. In addition, when the NAC receives any donations designated for public art, they are placed in this account.

Summary

Since the creation of the Public Arts Board, we have strived to devise methods of securing funds while we build a broader base of volunteers and supporters. We need to extend our thanks to the staff and Board of the Norman Arts Council for their support, and the City’s staff for their assistance and support, especially Shawn O’Leary, Jud Foster, James Briggs, and the City Attorney’s office. The continuing support and collaboration of the City and City Council is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry P. Walker, Chair
Norman Public Arts Board