

**Annual Report of the Norman Public Arts Board**  
**Report to the City of Norman**  
**March 2015**

Once again, it is my pleasure to provide the annual report of the activities of the Norman Public Arts Board for the past year. This Board, created by city ordinance in the fall of 2007, has experienced a busy year. This Board, though a civic entity, is mandated to additionally serve as a committee of the Norman Arts Council. 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:

Mayoral Appointees:

Jana Moring	2015
Cheryl Lockstone	2017
Jonathan Fowler (Vice Chair)	2016

Norman Gallery Association

Douglas Elder	2016
Ally Richardson	2017

Norman Convention Visitors Bureau

Taylor Mauldin (Secretary)	2016
----------------------------	------

Norman Arts and Humanities Roundtable

Larry Walker (Chair)	2015
----------------------	------

Ex-Officio Member

Jud Foster , Director of Parks and Recreation

This report covers the activities for the past year.

1. *CRE8nSK8*, an ongoing project with contemporary street art in Blake Baldwin Skate Park, had its annual refresh with new art in August of 2014. Our thanks go to Andy Jacobs who is the Project Coordinator. He has managed this project with artists, volunteers, and the Park and Recreation Department. The refresh incorporated designs and paintings by high school art students and professional artists.
2. The public arts map was revised and printed. This map details art in public places in Norman and it is available through the NCVB, Norman Arts Council and the Firehouse Art Center.
3. Two new sculptures were added to the City's collection. The sculptures are located at the southwest corner of Main/Porter and the southeast corner of the Norman Public Library on Grey Street. *Direction* by Oklahoma City artist Joe Slack and *On the Wind* by Oklahoma City artists Rick and Tracey Bewley are 10' sculptures that enhance the Downtown Arts District. The total budget for this project was \$32,000.
4. As of the date of this report, three additional 44" tall fiberglass ducks are being enhanced by local artists and will be installed in city parks this spring. This will then total sixteen parks which host a total of eighteen duck sculptures.
5. During the spring and summer, the second temporary installation of sculptures in Lion's Park on Flood was on display for five months. These sculptures were the works of students from the OU School of Art and Art History. They are the students of Professor Jonathan Hils. Their proposed sculptures were juried by individuals trained/experienced in public art projects. This highly successful project helped train artists interested in pursuing the placement of their pieces of

public art. Their pieces have been viewed and experienced by the large number of people who regularly utilize this park, attend Summer Breeze, and people visiting the Firehouse Art Center.

6. Fowler VW financially underwrote the second round of bicycle racks to be designed by artists and fabricated locally for placement in the Downtown area. The \$15,000 sponsorship included all costs, including honorariums for the selected artists. In addition, we had a local business underwrite an additional rack to be placed in front of their business. Thus, the total is now at thirteen. We had over 75 designs submitted and a total of eight were selected. We have worked with the City in determining all requirements and standards for these racks. In addition, Fowler VW has pledged to repeat this process for a third round. This process will begin with a new round of submissions in September of 2015.
7. In October 2014, the Oklahoma Arts Council held their annual state-wide conference in Norman at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The PAB prepared and executed a bus/walking tour of public art in Norman for about 50 conference attendees from all corners of the state. Funding for the bus tour was provided by Republic Bank of Norman. We were especially pleased when the Oklahoma Arts Council used graphic versions of four of our bicycle racks for the OAC Conference logo and promotional materials. Also, during the Conference, a total of seventeen individuals from Norman served on various panels covering a wide range of topics, from organizing festivals to funding sources such as the Norman Transient Guest Room Tax and the voluntary donations for public art through utility bills.
8. Four Year Strategic Plan – This past year, we have continued to work towards completing most of our scheduled goals. This fall, we will re-visit this plan and revise the goals as needed.

Finances continue to be the major controlling factor for the PAB when looking at additional projects. Currently, the donations through the utility bills generates between a little over \$900 dollars each month. Consequently, without major fund raising efforts, we must manage our available funds and work to expand the amount of public art in Norman as we can with available funds. Our goals for the past few years has been to complete multiple smaller projects until such time as we can mount campaigns to fund larger projects.

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 accomplished several projects and goals. We will strive 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, especially Shawn O'Leary, Jud Foster, James Briggs, and the City Attorney's office. The continuing support of the City and City Council is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry P. Walker, Chair  
Norman Public Arts Board