



MINUTES
OXFORD PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD
OXFORD COURTHOUSE
118 WEST HIGH STREET
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members Present: Joe Squance, Bob Benson, Carole Katz, Bobbe Burke

Staff Liaison: Jessica Greene & Ashley Keeton

Approval of Agenda:

First: Bob

Second: Bobbe

Approved

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes:

First: Bob

Second: Carole

Approved

1. Minutes from the February 9th, 2026 Meeting

Public Participation

1. Presentation by the Miami University Policy & Advocacy in the Arts class

The presentation is attached at the end of the minutes. This is the first presentation from the class to show the findings of the Public Value of Oxford's Public Art Survey. They will also present to the City Council on April 21st.

New Business

1. Duke Mural Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Planning

Members were given dates that the Mural class was free to have a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the first half of the Duke substation mural. The landed on Thursday, May 14th at 11 AM to give the class as much time to finish up as possible.

Members requested to add a plaque discussion to a future meeting and to invite Miami staff to the conversation.

2. Amtrak Platform Project RFQ Review

Members received a draft of the Amtrak Platform Project Request for Qualifications. There was one minor change and members voted to accept the RFQ.

Motion to Accept the RFQ (as amended):

First: Bob

Second: Carole

Approved

3. PACO Vision Statement Review

The item was tabled for a future meeting.

4. Recruiting New PACO Members

Bob & Carole, whose terms are up in June, will reapply. All members will start recruiting for other open vacancy.

5. Toni Morrison Celebration Update

Two Calls for Art for this project should be going out soon for the Oxford Community Arts Center. One for a gallery exhibit in September and one for an art salon for other types of art (spoken word, live art, dance, etc).

Oxford Lane Library is having Sula be the community read, and they have received their copies.

6. Oxford Parking Garage Mural Update

No major updates. Waiting on the building permit to start planning the right-of-way for installation.

Announcements

Bob mentioned that the next Red Door Concert is on April 17th and that a piece he composed will be performed by the Miami University Chamber Singers.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 6:32 PM

First: Carole

Second: Joe
Approved



CCA308 Policy & Advocacy in the Arts, Institute for Innovation in Arts & Design

Public Value of Oxford's Public Art

April 21 @ Oxford City Council

Evaluating Public Art in Oxford

In partnership with PACO, we measured

1. Participation and access
 - Perceived value of the arts

2. Human outcomes
 - Critical Reflection
 - Empathy
 - Sense of Belonging

- Data collected through a public survey March-April

Assessing the Value of Public Art in Oxford

Study Title: Assessing the Value of Public Art in Oxford

Principal Investigator/Faculty Advisor: Dr. Youngaah Koh, Institute for Innovation in Arts & Design, Miami University

Research Team: Students of CCA 308: Policy & Advocacy in the Arts, and External Facilitator Angela Meleca, Meleca Creative Advisors

Introduction and Purpose: You are invited to participate in a research study assessing the impact and public value of the arts in Oxford, Ohio. This project is being conducted by a student research team from Miami University in partnership with the Public Arts Commission of Oxford. The purpose of this study is to understand how public art—such as murals, sculptures, and community arts events—shapes community connection, fosters empathy, and encourages personal and civic reflection.

Who Can Participate? To participate in this study, you must be 18 years of age or older and have some affiliation with the Oxford community (e.g., resident, student, local employee, or frequent visitor).

Procedures: If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a brief online survey. The survey will ask for basic demographic information and have you rate your experiences and perspectives regarding public art in Oxford. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Risks and Discomforts: There are no anticipated risks associated with participating in this study. The questions ask for your general opinions and experiences regarding public art and community belonging.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this study. However, your feedback will provide valuable data to the Public Arts Commission of Oxford, helping to inform their understanding of the arts' role in the community and measure the sustainability of local arts initiatives.

Confidentiality and Anonymity: Your participation in this survey is completely anonymous. We will not collect your name, email address, IP address, or any other directly identifying information. The anonymous data collected will be stored securely on a password

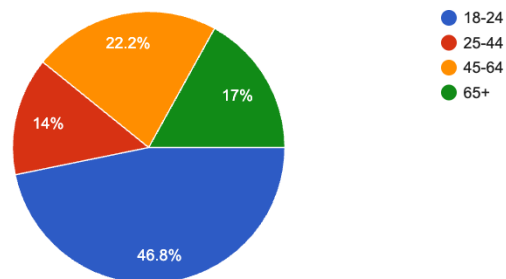
Who Responded

- 175 Oxford community responses (as of today)
- Broad age representation
- Majority Oxford-based
- Frequent uptown exposure

Demographics

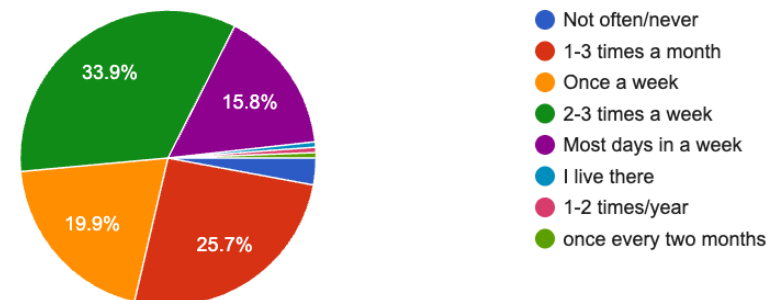
Choose your age group

171 responses



How often do you spend time in uptown Oxford?

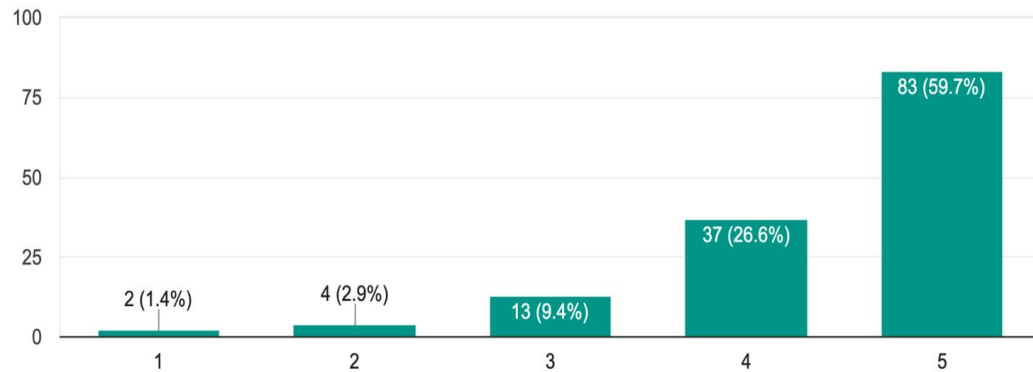
171 responses



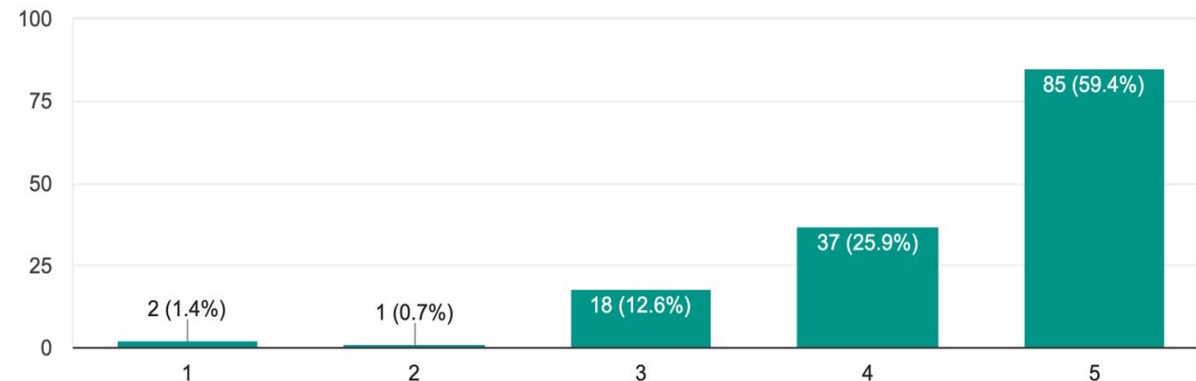
Perception of Public Art in Oxford

A overwhelming majority of survey participants agreed that public art has a positive impact on Oxford and its residents.

Public art in Oxford demonstrates the positive way the arts improve Oxford's health and well-being.
139 responses



Public art in Oxford demonstrates how the arts bring Oxford together in meaningful ways.
143 responses

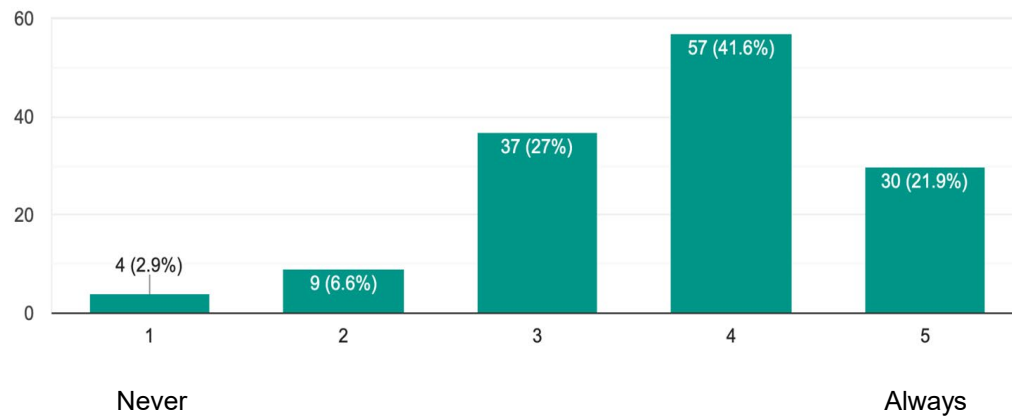


Sense of Belonging

- High levels of belonging and sense of community
- Distinction between being **in** a community versus being **part of** a community

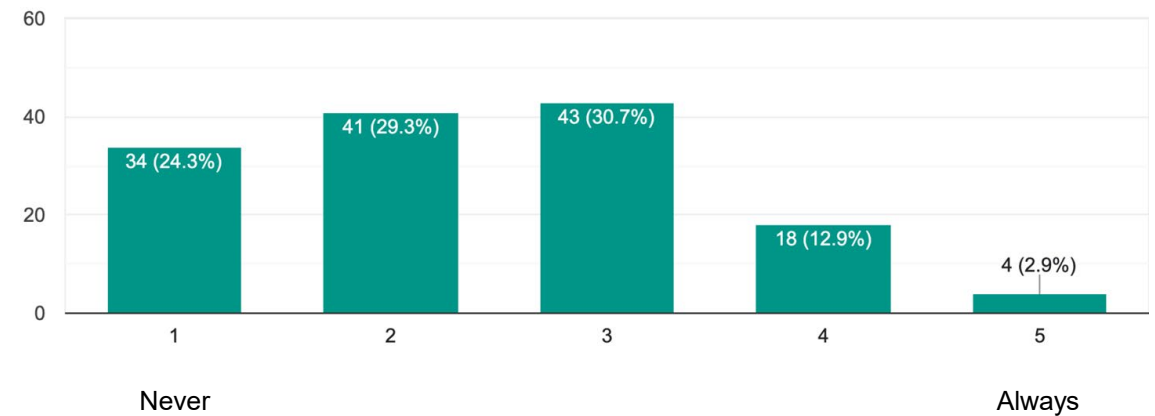
How often do you feel a strong sense of belonging in Oxford?

137 responses



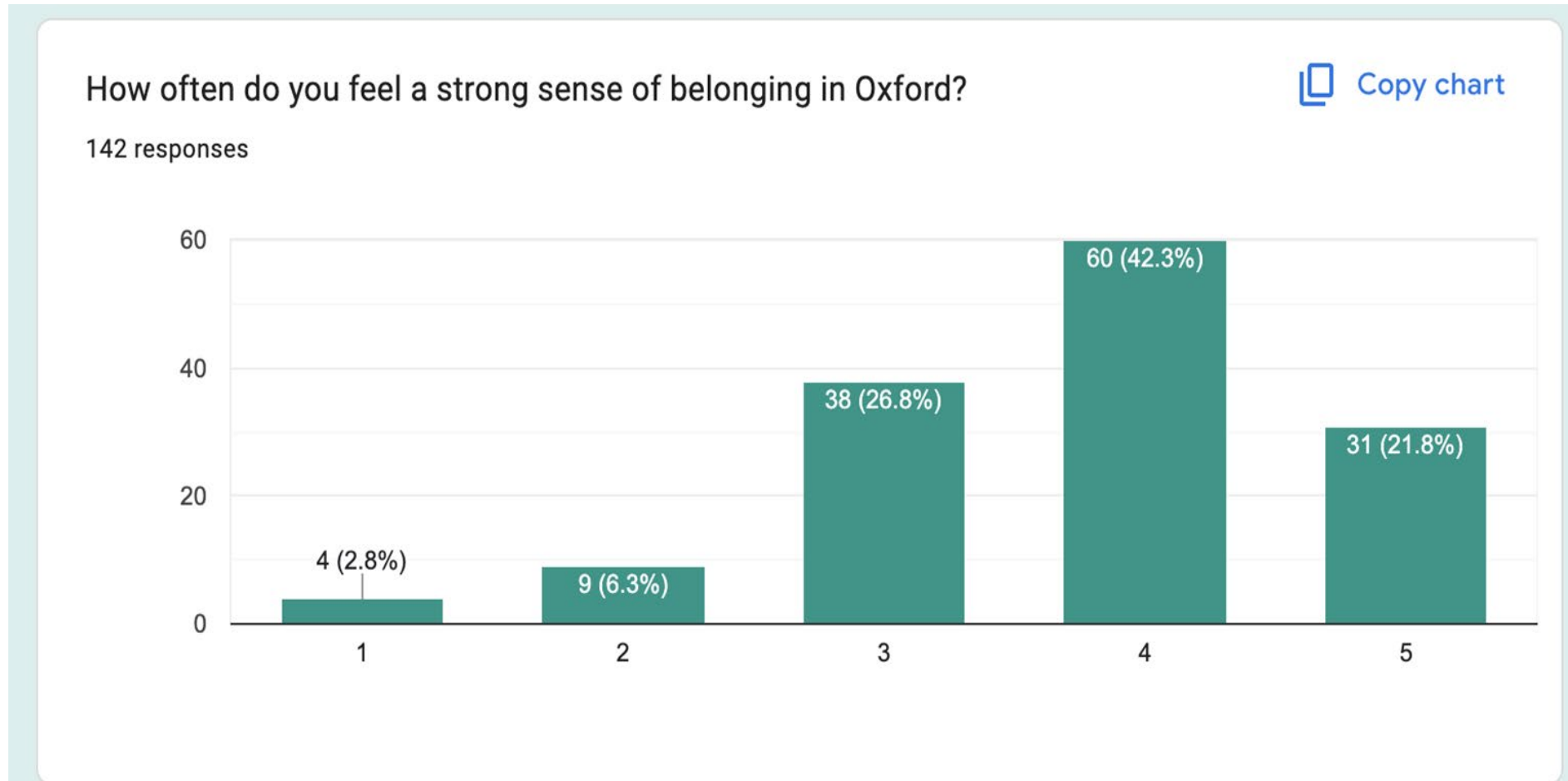
How often do you feel that people in Oxford are around you, but not with you?

140 responses



Empathy

- Empathy through art leads to **stronger community connection** which leads to **higher community engagement socially and economically.**

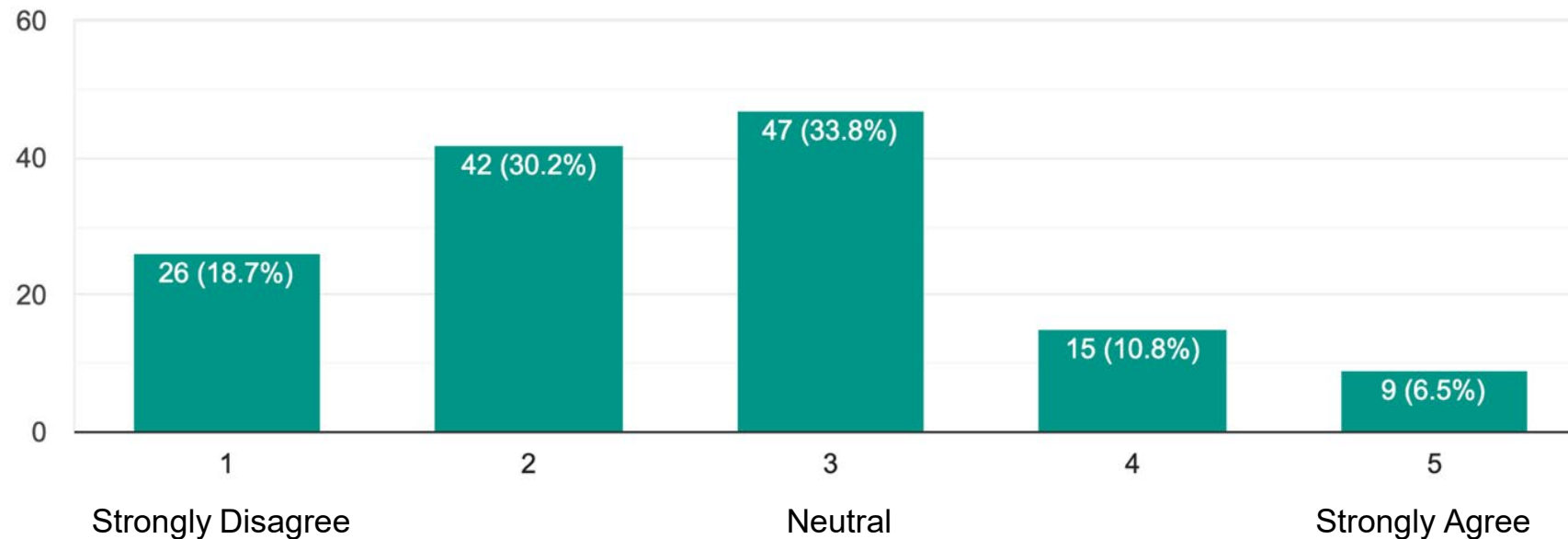


Critical Reflection

- The arts are not having **moral impact** on people
- Public art gives the opportunity to see things through different perspectives

An Oxford event/program has challenged some of my firmly held ideas.

139 responses



What the data tells us

<u><i>What we currently feel</i></u>	<u><i>What could be</i></u>
Arts are valued, but not fully leveraged.	There is a opportunity to create more and new public art.
There is a misunderstanding between art and how it can help residents feel integrated into the community.	This gives a great opportunity to shift the perspectives of residents and allows residents to add their own definition as to why art matters.
Public art in the community lacks the potential for shifts in personal thoughts or beliefs.	Creating more public art introduces residents to the opportunity to expand their beliefs and thoughts. Thus a deeper understanding between Miami student body residents and non-student residents.



What the community is asking for

Make public art an inclusive process

Art that creates conversation

More public art!

Why this matters

Our community thrives on **trust** and **connection** within our **shared life** in
Oxford

Community connection is strengthened through shared experiences.
The data shows that public art significantly supports this.

Public art is civic infrastructure

Ideas to Consider

- More public live arts events, like the bee festival
- Engage space at Miami University where residents and students are welcomed through Miami-led events
- Pop-up Arts Initiatives within empty retail spaces
- Student PACO liaison or member to coordinate partnership



Thank you!

Questions? Comments?