



## **PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD AGENDA:**

June 8, 2026  
Courthouse  
118 West High Street  
Oxford, Ohio 45056  
5:30 PM

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes from the April 13th, 2026 Meeting
2. Minutes from the May 11th, 2026 Meeting

### **Business**

1. Review Amtrak Platform Project Mural Submissions & Select Three Semi-Finalists
2. Choose a Date for the Special Amtrak Mural Design Meeting in July

### **Announcements**

### **Adjournment**



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

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**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

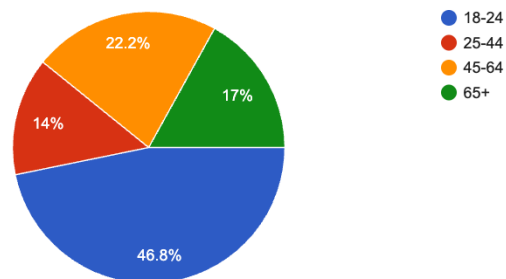
# Who Responded

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

## Demographics

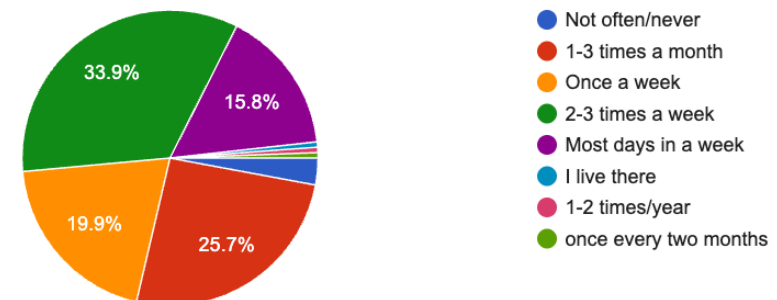
Choose your age group

171 responses



How often do you spend time in uptown Oxford?

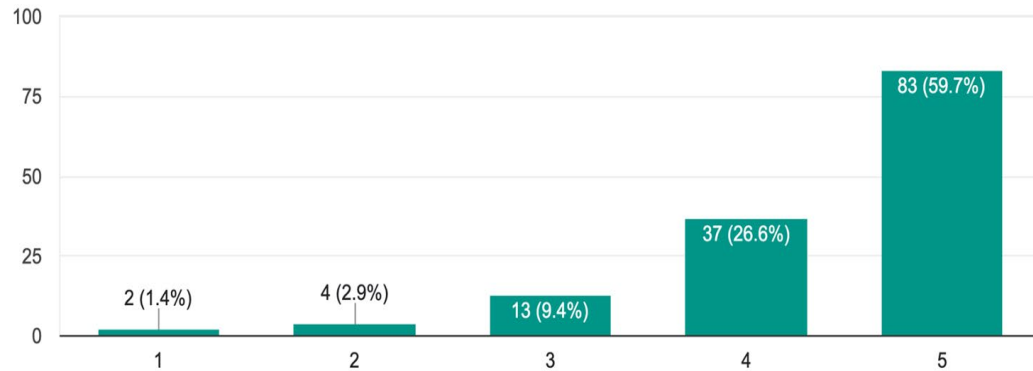
171 responses



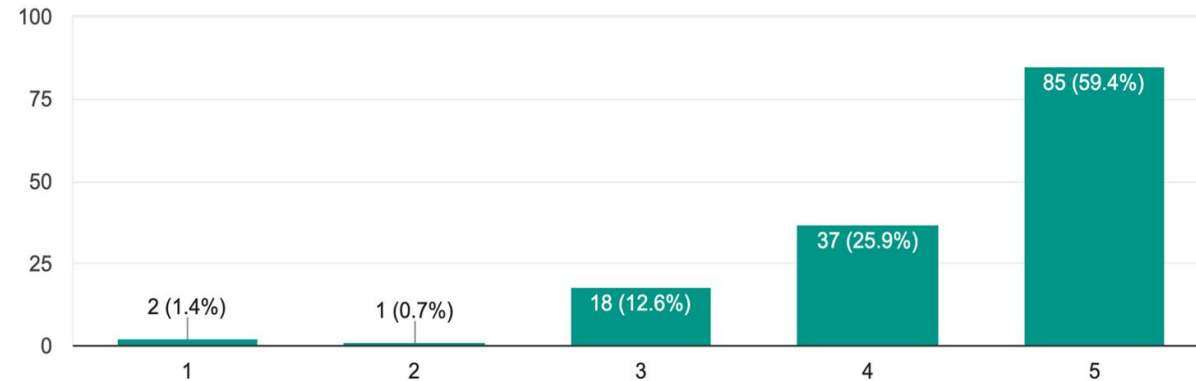
# Perception of Public Art in Oxford

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

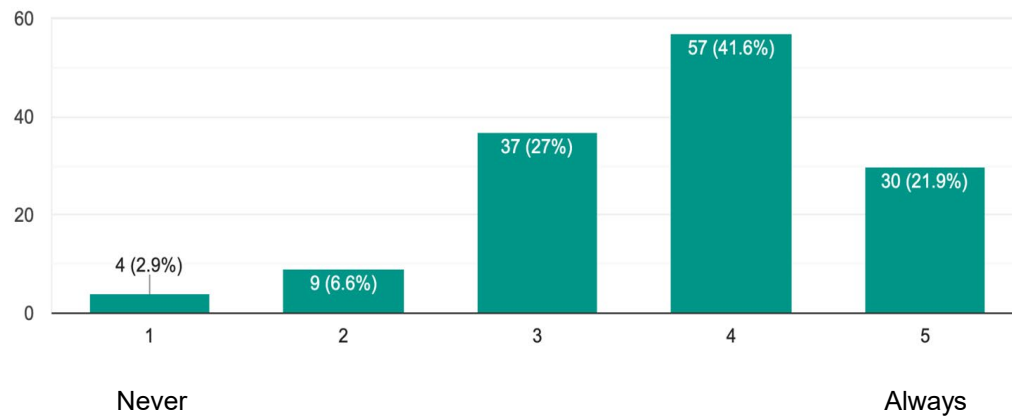


# Sense of Belonging

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

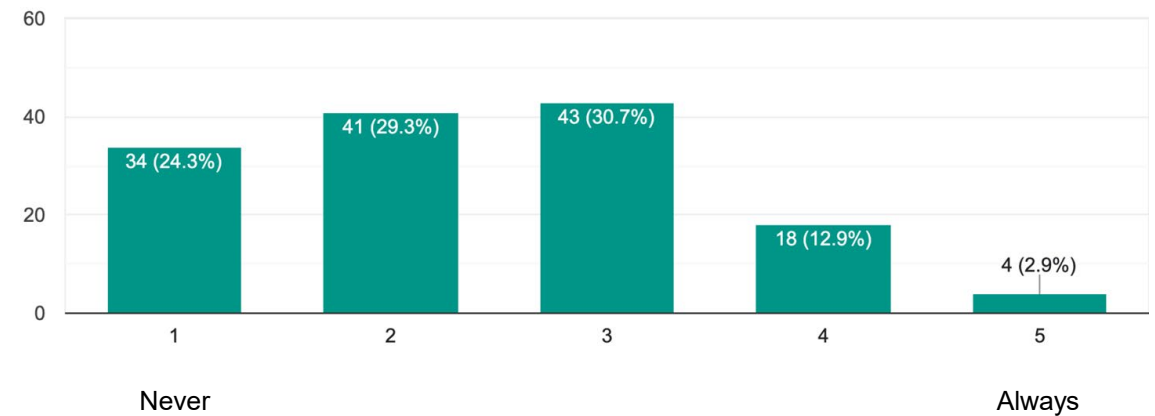
How often do you feel a strong sense of belonging in Oxford?

137 responses



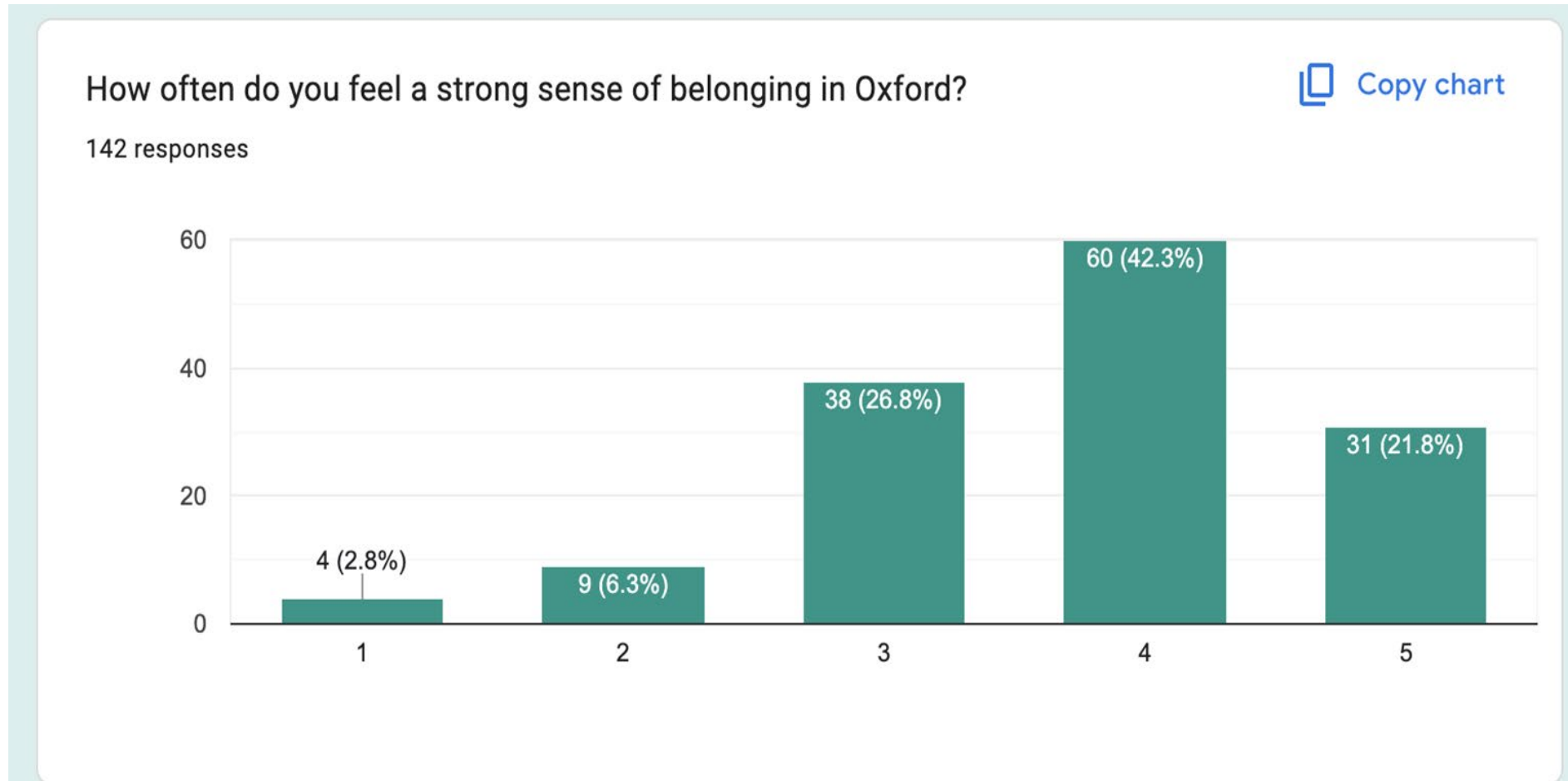
How often do you feel that people in Oxford are around you, but not with you?

140 responses



# Empathy

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

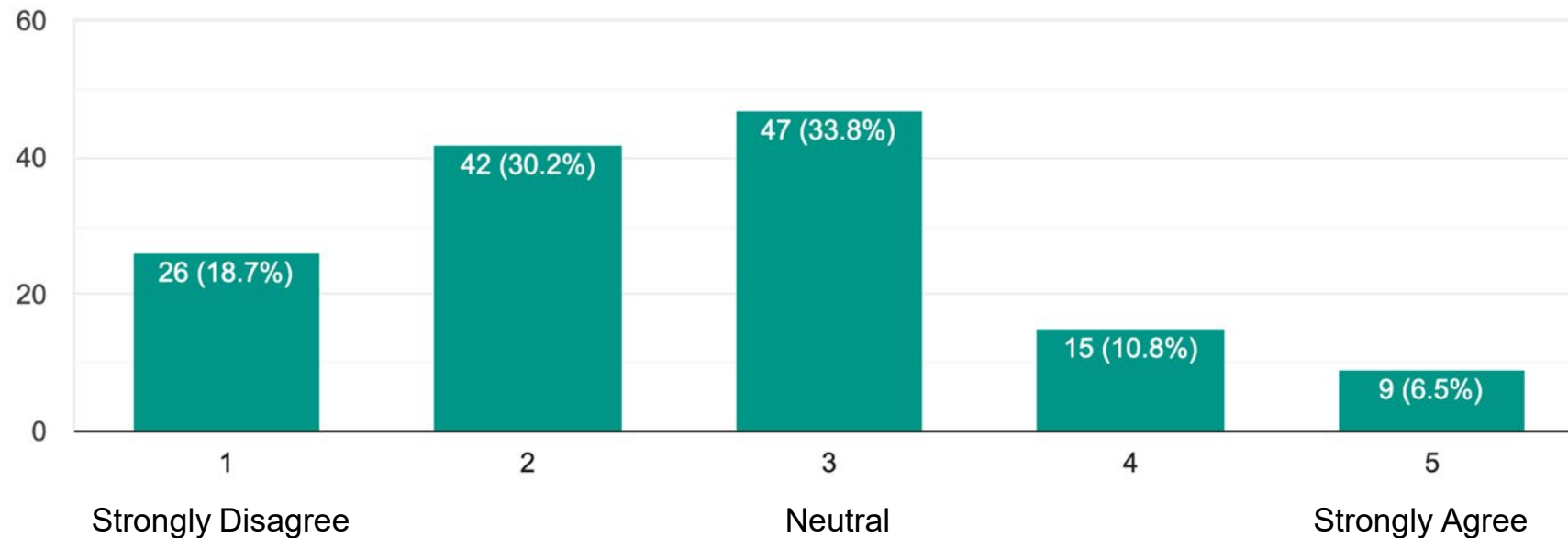


# Critical Reflection

- 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?**



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD**  
**OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE**  
**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

**Members Present:** Amber Franklin, Carole Katz, Therese Ehrnschwender, Joe Squance, Bobbe Burke

**Staff Liaison:** Jessica Greene

**Approval of Agenda:**

First: Joe

Second: Carole

Approved

**Approval of Minutes**

This item was tabled for the next meeting; minutes were mistakenly not attached to the meeting's agenda.

1. Minutes from the April 13th, 2026 Meeting

**Business**

1. Funding Request for Toni Morrison Celebration - America 250

Commission members discussed a funding request for the Toni Morrison celebration in partnership with OCAC. Amber Franklin motioned to donate \$250 toward the Toni Morrison celebration for food and art supplies. Seconded by Bobbe Burke. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Council Goals Review & Recommendation

- 2027 Research Items
  - Develop art along the bike trail
  - Explore the possibility of pavement art to improve public safety

Commission members discussed the Council research items of pavement art and art along the bike trail. After discussion, Carole motioned that the Oxford City Council designate \$50K in 2027 toward three potential art projects:

- Pavement art at the intersection of Sycamore and Locust St.
- Kinetic sculpture art along the Oxford Area Trail
- Panel art installation on the new public restroom.

Seconded: Amber Franklin

The commission aims to explore these art concepts for implementation in 2027. Amber shared the Bloomberg pavement art guide and case studies: <https://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs/asphalt-art-guide>

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Final Review of Duke Substation Mural Ribbon-Cutting Celebration

### 4. Updates on Parking Garage Mural & Installation Timeline

Jessica shared that the garage mural should be completed by the end of May. She discussed the goal of creating a decal to be placed at the “sweet spot viewing area”. The commission reminded Jessica that an artist plaque was also needed.

### 5. Review of Timeline & Upcoming Dates Regarding the Amtrak Platform Project Mural

Jessica shared the active RFQ for the Amtrak mural and Talawanda’s request for 2 reviewers from TSD on the committee. This was generally well received, and Jessica is drafting an art agreement for the TSD property. She hopes to bring this to the TSD June board meeting and the 2nd June City Council meeting.

## Announcements

Amber reminded the commission that she wanted to redraft the PACO position statement. Joe Squance will attempt to create a first draft for commissioners to review.

Jessica reminded members to reapply to the PACO Commission.

Therese shared that the Lane Library is hosting a viewing of the Toni Morrison documentary on May 18th. This documentary is also available on Netflix.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn at 6:25 PM**

First: Joe

Second: Carole

Approved