



PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD AGENDA:

July 20, 2026
Courthouse
118 West High Street
Oxford, Ohio 45056
5:30 PM

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes from the June 8th, 2026 Meeting

New Business

1. Review Three Semi-Finalist Design Concepts for the Amtrak Platform Mural Project
 - a. Alex Maksiov
 - b. Damien Mitchell
 - c. Key Detail: Andrey & Julia Kravtsov
2. Update on the Care and Maintenance of The Changemakers of Oxford, Civil Rights Mural

Announcements

Adjournment



**MINUTES
OXFORD PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD
COURTHOUSE
118 WEST HIGH STREET
OXFORD, OHIO 45056
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

Approval of Agenda

Members Present: Amber Franklin, Carole Katz, Therese Ehrnschwender, Bob Benson, Joe Squance, Harlan Schottenstein

Staff Liaison: Jessica Greene & Ashley Keeton

Talawanda School District Representatives for the Amtrak Mural RFQ: Dr. Tom Bailey & Dr. Andrea Faulkner

Approval of Agenda:

First: Bob

Second: Therese

Approved

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes:

First: Joe

Second: Carole

Approved

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

Business

Before beginning the Amtrak review, our newest member, Harlan Schottenstein introduced himself, and the representatives from Talawanda who will be part of the review committee for the Amtrak Mural introduced themselves.

1. Review Amtrak Platform Project Mural Submissions & Select Three Semi-Finalists

PACO Members + Talawanda Reps reviewed 30 submissions that came in from artists all over the country (and world!). Before the meeting, each reviewer sent in their top five (unranked) artists.

Based on all votes, the top 8 artists were compiled onto a spreadsheet to discuss each artist. Here are the top 8 artists, along with some general feedback on the artists style or past projects for each one:

- Alex Maksiov: Love the use of 3D, the way people pop out of the murals, the way they incorporate the environment into the mural, as well as the preservation methods mentioned in the RFQ
- Phil Seth Creative: Love his engagement with the community and with children, loved the impact of his murals, but overall the committee did not love the color palette picked for the Amtrak mural
- Key Detail: Julia & Andrey Kravtsov: Love the way their murals look great from up close or from far away which is important for the Amtrak mural since folks will be walking right beside it, but it will also be visible from Chestnut Street. Overall, they love how dense their murals are without being chaotic, the way they work with the dimensions of the building, and the color palettes that they choose to use.
- Damien Mitchell: Love the use of the buildings, love the story that his murals tell and how realistic the people look.
- Anytown Mural & Sign: Michael Ferrarell: Overall, they loved how well executed his murals are, but found them not to be bold enough and each style too similar to each other. They did not see enough range when compared to other muralists in the top eight.
- CE Mitchell Design: Carly Mitchell: They found that while the talent was clearly there, that not all of the past murals were as well-executed as they could have been.
- Chelsea Hart: Love her past projects, but in comparison to other artists, decided not quite right for the Amtrak Mural. Is interested in her sidewalk art for future calls for art.
- The Art of Life: Charles Clear & Bonnie Turner: Overall loved their murals, beautiful, bold and very well executed. However they are quite a bit out of our proposed budget for this project.

After narrowing to four artists, they voted for their top three to advance to the next round:

1. Alex Maksiov
2. Key Detail: Julia & Andrey Kravtsov
3. Damien Mitchell

The review team has asked staff to include additional information for the 3 semi-finalists as they begin their preliminary design concept:

- To be sure to take into account both the character of our city and the school district. The Talawanda representatives want to make sure that they consider the fact that the mural is on a TSD-owned building into consideration in their design.
- To let them know that preference may be given to artists who include a description of how community engagement or participation could be incorporated into the project.

2. Choose a Date for the Special Amtrak Mural Design Meeting in July

It was decided not to hold a special meeting in July for the artist to meet with the review committee.

Announcements

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 6:31 PM

First: Bob

Second: Harlan

Approved

Amtrak Platform Mural – Concept Proposal

Artist: Alex Maksiov (original name Oleksii Voiskam)
Website: www.maksiov.com www.alexmaksiov.com
Email: alex@maksiov.com
8030 Fisher Glen Ln, Houston, TX 77072
+17133989691

Concept Statement

The mural transforms the building into the side of a moving passenger railcar, creating the illusion that a train is passing directly through the heart of Oxford. Motion blur across the train reinforces the sensation of speed, allowing viewers to experience the excitement of standing on a station platform as the train arrives or departs.

The foreground tells a quieter human story. Travelers dressed in the style of the 1950s and 1960s walk confidently along the platform carrying vintage suitcases, representing generations of passengers who shaped the history of American rail travel. Their calm movement contrasts with the rushing train, creating a dynamic balance between motion and memory.

A woman walking into the wind while holding her hat symbolizes courage, hope, and the anticipation of a new beginning. Nearby, a family with children reflects the timeless experience of travel shared across generations. Travelers from different backgrounds celebrate the diversity of communities connected by rail and emphasize that every journey brings people together.

Floating balloons carried by the wind strengthen the illusion of movement. They symbolize optimism, celebration, and the excitement of arriving somewhere new while visually reinforcing the speed of the passing train.

The existing building windows are intentionally incorporated into the painted passenger railcar. The real windows become the train's passenger windows, seamlessly merging architecture with artwork and transforming the building into a full-scale rail coach.

More than a historic scene, the mural connects Oxford's railroad heritage with its future as the home of a new Amtrak platform. It welcomes visitors arriving in Oxford while reminding residents that every destination begins with a journey.

Concept Rendering



Window Integration Diagram



Design Narrative

The composition relies on the contrast between motion and stillness. The blurred stainless-steel train creates energy, while sharply rendered passengers establish an emotional connection. This contrast naturally guides the viewer across the mural.

Relationship to Project Goals

The proposal celebrates transportation connectivity, reflects the history of passenger rail, creates a memorable gateway to the future platform, and reinforces Oxford's identity as a multi-modal transportation hub.

Integration with Existing Architecture

The four existing building windows are intentionally incorporated into the passenger coach. Instead of hiding the architecture, the design transforms it into one of the mural's defining features.

Color Palette

Brushed Stainless Steel • Deep Blue • Warm Beige • Charcoal • Sky Blue • White • Signal Red

Materials

- Professional exterior latex mural paints
- Masonry primer
- Projection layout
- UV protective coating
- Anti-graffiti coating
- Entire mural executed by hand

Installation Process

Surface preparation → Priming → Projection layout → Hand painting → Detail refinement → Protective coatings → Final inspection

Community Engagement

If selected, I would be happy to engage with the Oxford community during the installation process. Possible activities include:

Open studio hours where residents can observe the painting process.
Informal conversations with visitors about the mural and its inspiration.
Opportunities for students and community members to visit the site during installation.
Participation in the public unveiling and discussion of the completed artwork.

Phase	Estimated Duration
Final Design Approval	1 week
Surface Preparation	2 days
Layout & Projection	1 day
Mural Painting	10–15 days (if no rain)
Detail Refinement	2 days
Protective UV & Anti-Graffiti Coating	1 day
Final Inspection & Touch-Ups	1 day

Proposed Budget

Item	Cost
Artist Design & Painting	\$15,500
Materials	\$2,200
Surface Preparation & Layout	\$1,600
Equipment Rental	\$1,600
Travel & Accommodation	\$2,000
Protective Coatings	\$700
Insurance & Administration	\$480
Total	\$24,080



Contact

Damien Mitchell
Email: damienandrewmitchell@gmail.com
Website: DamienMitchell.com
Instagram: [@damien__mitchell](https://www.instagram.com/damien__mitchell)

Concept Proposal and Community Engagement.

This mural celebrates Oxford as a connected and accessible transportation hub, where rail, bus, and pedestrian networks converge to bring people together. Anchored by the iconic train, railway crossing sign, and signal lights, the composition highlights the city's multi-modal transportation vision while illustrating the constant movement of people through a vibrant urban landscape.

The scene captures a busy station precinct, with travelers stepping off buses and boarding trains, exchanging warm greetings and heartfelt farewells. Rising prominently in the background, the town's name serves as a proud landmark, framing a moment of movement and connection frozen in time. Together, these elements create a visual narrative of opportunity, transition, and community, reflecting Oxford's identity as both a welcoming gateway and a forward-looking destination.

The design has been carefully developed with bold shapes, strong outlines, and distinct areas of colour to ensure maximum visibility from a distance. This approach allows the imagery to retain its clarity and impact when viewed from afar or by passing pedestrians and motorists, creating a mural that is both engaging and highly legible within the public realm.

Community engagement will be an important component of the project, providing opportunities for residents and students to participate in both the creation and celebration of the mural. I welcome opportunities to work with students from the Talawanda School District through artist talks, presentations, and classroom visits that introduce the creative process behind large-scale public art, mural design, and professional artistic practice. These sessions can encourage students to explore their own creativity while developing a deeper connection to the project and its themes.

The mural design also lends itself to community painting days, allowing students and community members to contribute directly to selected sections of the artwork. Drawing on more than 20

years of experience leading public art workshops around the world, I utilize a paint-by-numbers approach that enables participants of all ages and skill levels to make meaningful contributions while ensuring the finished mural maintains a cohesive and professional appearance. My process begins by outlining the entire composition before community participation commences, allowing workshop participants to assist in the real-time creation of the mural. As the artwork gradually comes to life, participants gain a tangible sense of ownership, pride, and connection to the finished piece, strengthening the relationship between the mural and the Oxford community. The mural will transform the site into an engaging and memorable public space that residents and visitors can enjoy for years to come.

Materials and Installation Approach.

For this project, the mural will be produced using a combination of professional-grade spray paint and exterior acrylic paints. Spray paint will be used for large-scale coverage, gradients, and detailed line work, while acrylic paints will be applied to broader areas and layered finishes where additional depth and durability are required. All materials are selected for their proven longevity and suitability for long-term outdoor exposure.

Preparation of the wall will include thorough cleaning of the surface through pressure washing or dry cleaning methods to remove dust, dirt, and any loose material if required. Any minor repairs to the substrate will be carried out as required to ensure a sound painting surface. An exterior-grade primer will then be applied to support strong adhesion and extend the lifespan of the finished mural.

The artwork will be installed using a combination of spray systems, brushes, and rollers, selected according to the scale of each section and the level of detail required. The mural will be developed in staged layers, beginning with large-scale compositional blocking before progressing into detailed rendering and refinement. Appropriate access equipment, including ladders or elevated work platforms, will be used to safely complete all upper sections of the work.

If required, upon completion and once fully cured, the mural will be sealed with a clear protective coating. This will typically be a UV-stable, anti-graffiti varnish designed to protect the surface from weathering, sunlight exposure, and potential vandalism, ensuring the work maintains its integrity and visual quality over time in a public environment.

Budget:

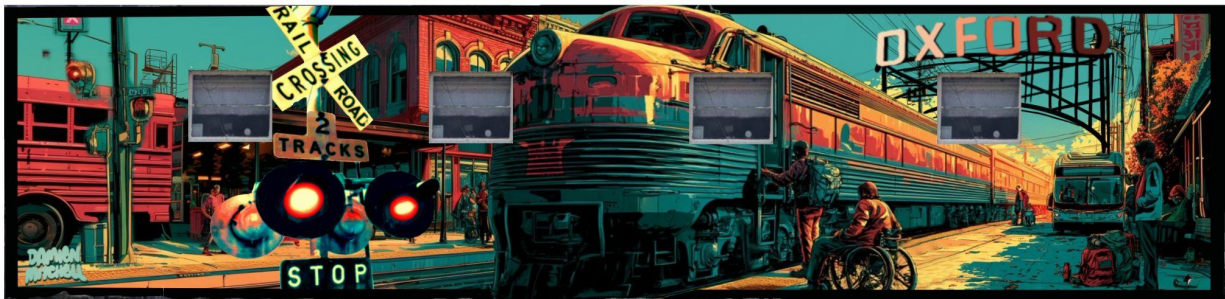
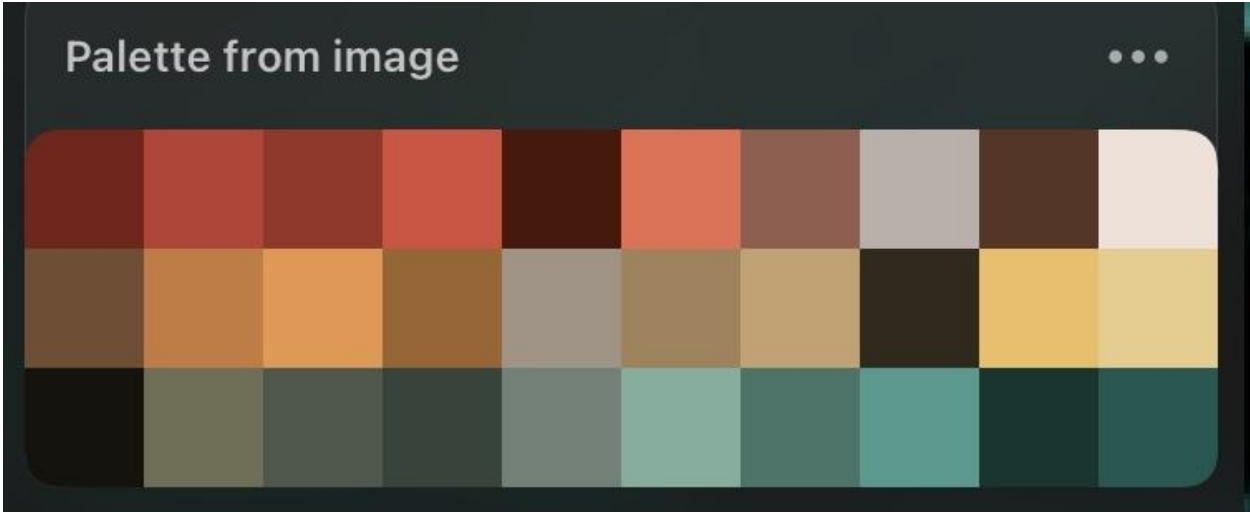
Mural Dimensions: 12' H x 50' W

Approximate Size: 564 sq ft

Estimated Production Timeline: 6–9 Days

Budget Item	Description	Cost (USD)
Artist Fee	Project coordination and mural execution (\$30/sq.ft.)	\$16,920
Materials & Fabrication	Exterior-grade spray paints, acrylics, primers, masking supplies, brushes, rollers, and consumables	\$2,400
Access Equipment Rental	Scaffolding or ladders depending on availability	\$1,500
Surface Preparation & Installation	Wall cleaning, pressure washing, patching, priming, setup, and installation labor	\$2,200
Anti-Graffiti Coating	UV-protective anti-graffiti clear coat application	\$1,100
Travel from NYC	Flights or mileage, accommodation, local transportation, and per diem	\$3,400
Insurance	General liability and project insurance coverage	\$850

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$25,070 - \$28,370 USD (Please note, price variation is due to the amount of surface preparation needed and type of clear sealant used)



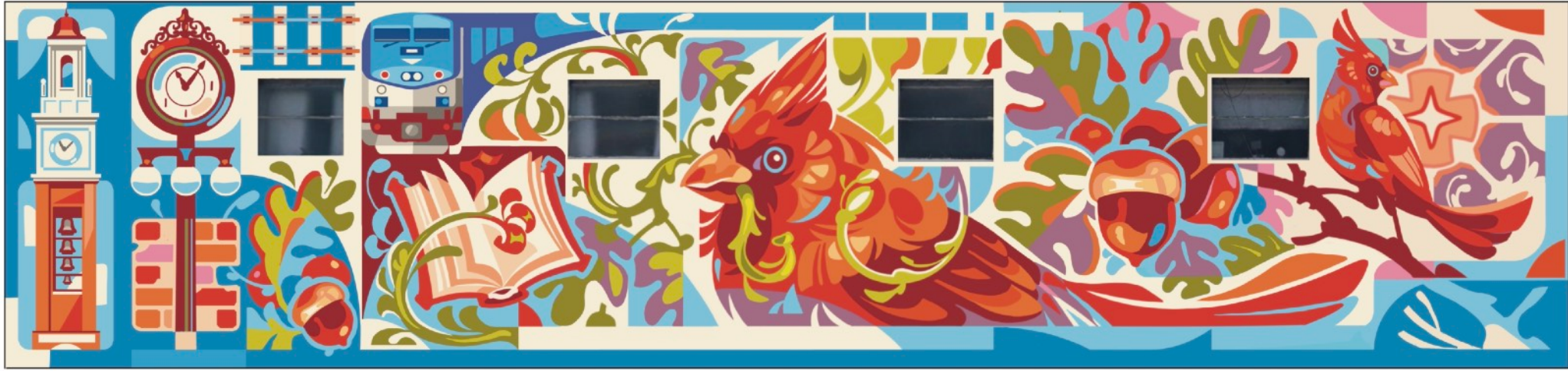




ANDREY KRAVTSOV
JULIA KRAVTSOV

MURAL PROPOSAL
AMTRAK PLATFORM PROJECT
THE CITY OF OXFORD, OH





MURAL PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Our concept transforms the pedestrian corridor connecting Main Street to the new Amtrak platform into a vibrant and welcoming gateway to Oxford. The mural celebrates the city's identity through a playful, colorful, and dynamic composition that invites travelers and residents to pause, explore, and discover the community's unique character.

At the heart of the design is a striking red cardinal, inspired by the historic Cardinal Line. As Oxford welcomes its new Amtrak stop, the cardinal symbolizes movement, connection, and the city's exciting new chapter in passenger rail. The bird gracefully carries a plant, representing the railroad paths that connect people, landscapes, and communities.

A speeding train moves through the composition, expressing the energy, accessibility, and opportunity that rail travel brings to Oxford. Native oak branch with acorns celebrate one of the region's iconic trees, emphasizing the city's natural beauty and resilience.

Education, one of Oxford's defining values, is represented by an open book, referencing the Talawanda School District and the community's strong commitment to learning and lifelong curiosity. Above the windows, a fragment of stylized railroad track ties the composition together. The mural also incorporates recognizable Oxford landmarks, including the historic Brown Street Clock and the Pulley Bell Tower, creating a strong sense of place and welcoming visitors with familiar local icons.

Together, these elements create an engaging visual narrative that reflects the history, education, natural environment, and future of Oxford.

CLOSE-UP FRAGMENT



CLOSE-UP FRAGMENT



Note:

If needed, we can modify colors, add or remove elements, adjust details, or adapt parts of the composition based on feedback and discussion. Our goal is to create a mural that the city and community feel excited about and connected to, so we are always open to thoughtful changes and adjustments during the process.

Timeline:

Flexible timing; the mural will take about 7-10 days.

Team responsibilities:

Julia: Management of the project, including logistics, sourcing materials, and documentation.

Andrey: Lead artist responsible for painting.

List of proposed project materials:

- Spray paint / Montana Black and Gold 400ML (The Nitro-Combination based formula ensures a high coverage, matte finish, perfect control and handling. Weather and winter-proof)
- MuralShield™ Preservation Coating / UV Innovation, designed for the conservation of fine art murals. It provides UV protection, consolidation, and weatherproofing. The coating is flexible, completely clear, and produces a lustrous to glossy finish.
- MuralShield™ World's Best Graffiti Coating / is a *sacrificial top coating* applied over MuralShield. It's meant to take the damage / vandalism, so graffiti can be removed without harming the underlying mural. After removal, WBGC is reapplied where needed.

Information Regarding Fabrication, Application, and Installation Methods

The mural will be painted directly on the exterior wall using professional spray paints designed for outdoor use. The design will be transferred to the wall using a grid method to ensure accuracy at a large scale.

The mural will be installed using a ladder.

After completion and full drying time, a protective coating, MuralShield™ World's Best Graffiti Coating, will be applied in two layers on the mural surface. The coating will be applied using sprayers to ensure even coverage and will help protect the artwork from UV light, weather, and graffiti.

Community engagement

We have led workshops with elementary school students in China, worked with high school students in Battle Ground, Indiana, and involved community members of all ages in public art projects in Loveland, Colorado.

For this project, we would be happy to offer a community workshop to encourage public participation and youth involvement. We will introduce participants to the basics of spray painting and show them how large-scale murals are created. Participants can help paint selected parts of the mural under our guidance, or create artwork on pre-primed wooden panels.

We are open to an artist talk or other community events. We are also open to working with a videographer or photographer.

BUDGET

Name of Applicant: Andrey Kravtsov and Julia Kravtsov				
Category	Description of Work	Estimated Costs	Notes	
Artist Fees	Payment for artist(s) to create and install the artwork. Include hourly/ daily rates, flat fees, or milestone payments.	\$10,000.00		
Materials	Costs of materials that are needed to create the project. Include shipping or special-order material costs if applicable.	\$1,500.00	List of proposed project materials: • Spray paint / Montana Black and Gold 400ML (The Nitro-Combination based formula ensures a high coverage, matte finish, perfect control and handling. Weather and winter-proof) \$1000 • MuralShieldTM Preservation Coating / UV Innovation, designed for the conservation of fine art murals. It provides UV protection, consolidation, and weatherproofing. The coating is flexible, completely clear, and produces a lustrous to glossy finish. \$500	
Installation	Equipment needed to install the artwork (ladder)	\$600.00	The mural will take approximately two weeks to complete. \$300/week+delivery	
Transportation	Costs for transporting materials to the site.	\$200.00	Hazmat / shipping fees MuralShieldTM	
Travel expenses		\$1,500.00		
Accommodation		\$1,700.00		
Contingency	Extra budget for unexpected expenses	\$500.00		
TOTAL		\$16000.00		





THANK YOU!