



PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD AGENDA:

August 10, 2026
Courthouse
118 West High Street
Oxford, Ohio 45056
5:30 PM

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes from the July 20th, 2026 Meeting

Business

1. Review the Final Design for the Amtrak Platform Mural Project from Key Detail
2. Arts Advocacy Class Survey Committee
3. The Changemakers of Oxford, Civil Rights Mural - \$3k for Repair/Repainting Costs
4. Parking Garage Mural Update
5. Toni Morrison Update

Announcements

Adjournment



**MINUTES
OXFORD PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF OXFORD
COURTHOUSE
118 WEST HIGH STREET
OXFORD, OHIO 45056
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

Approval of Agenda

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

Talawanda School District Representative for the Amtrak Mural RFQ: Holli Hansel & Dr. Andrea Faulkner

Staff Liaison: Jessica Greene

Approval of Agenda:

First: Therese

Second: Carole

Approved

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes:

First: Harlan

Second: Therese

Approved

1. Minutes from the June 8th, 2026 Meeting

New Business

1. Review Three Semi-Finalist Design Concepts for the Amtrak Platform Mural Project
After review (see comments below), the committee voted:

Maksiov: 0
Mitchell: 1
Key Detail: 8

a. Alex Maksiov

The commission had questions about the choice of time period. Their proposal did not have as strong a community engagement aspect as the others did. Nothing reflected that it is a school building. There were concerns about the loss of light inside the building by darkening the windows. Nothing felt specific to Oxford.

b. Damien Mitchell

The image is nice, but the color palette is somewhat dark. Bob liked the palette, but the angles and details seemed off. The people are all male. The color palette feels too Southwest. The windows are distracting. The colors are nostalgic. The scale and color of the bus are off. High marks for this proposal on community engagement, though.

Public Comment: The windows are distracting, and the bus is weird. The proportions are strange. Agree with comments about accessibility. Nostalgia is good but shouldn't be in everything — let's look to the future.

c. Key Detail: Andrey & Julia Kravtsov

Fulfilled the elements of the call in a perfunctory way. This one is lighter and brighter than the others. This one says Oxford more than the others and the design is generally more pleasing. The train should be bigger. The color palette is nice, and the blue particularly matches Talawanda blue. Say's Oxford without literally saying Oxford. It's the least conservative of the three and the least like existing murals in Oxford.

Public comments: Looks more modern and less nostalgic.

2. Update on the Care and Maintenance of The Changemakers of Oxford, Civil Rights Mural

This mural needs to be repaired. Discussion has begun with the artists to transfer the mural to a more permanent backing.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn:

First: Bobbe

Second: Harlan

Approved



**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

