



UNIVERSITY OF  
OREGON

Campus  
Planning

July 10, 2025 MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Clare Kurth, Campus Planning  
Campus Planning and Facilities Management (CPFM)

Subject: **Record** of the June 24, 2025, Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Bob Choquette (Chair), Deborah Butler, Janell Cottam,  
Cheyenne Dickenson, Emily Eng, Norma Kehdi,  
Taliek Lopez-DuBoff, Kelly Pembleton, Hal Sadofsky

CPC Staff: Clare Kurth (Campus Planning)

Guests: Tim Allenbaugh (CPFM), Andrew Ducharme (Student),  
Lauren Meyer (CPFM), Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning),  
Matt Roberts (Communications), Benjamin Steingart (CPFM),  
Liz Thorstenson (Campus Planning)

## CPC Agenda

### 1. Heritage Project Exterior 1% for Art (Disappearing Urns) – Siting Review

Background: The purpose of this agenda item was to review the proposed exterior site for the “Disappearing Urns” 1% for Art project.

CPC Staff reviewed project history, relevant campus planning patterns and principles, and scope of CPC review.

Tim Allenbaugh (CPFM) reviewed the Heritage Project timeline, historical context, project scope, purpose for review, project location, materials, artist concepts, overview of each individual sculpture and placement, overview of required maintenance (pressure washing as needed), and safety considerations.

#### Discussion:

The following is a summary of questions and comments from committee members and guests with clarification comments from Allenbaugh, Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning), and Liz Thorstenson (Campus Planning):

Regarding the proposed art:

- Member: Has a plaque or signage been considered to explain the history of the original Villard Hall urns?
  - Allenbaugh: This may be considered as the project moves forward. An interior

display case is planned inside the buildings that will include historic elements which may be a suitable location for informational signage.

- Olsen: This could potentially be added to the existing Campus Planning self-guided art tour.
- Member: Interior interpretive signage may be more appropriate than exterior signage.

Regarding the art siting:

- Member: Does the artist's rendering accurately depict the proposed site plan, regarding the planned plaza and parking area?
  - Allenbaugh: Parking is a premium in this area of campus. Parking will not be eliminated but reconfigured to allow space for the pedestrian plaza. Parking striping and signage will be toned down to create a pedestrian focus.
  - Member: The types of parking present in the adjacent parking lot are primarily ADA, service, and fire turn around.
  - Thorstenson: The Heritage Project Site Selection and Schematic Design site elements were previously reviewed by the CPC in 2020 and 2021.
- Member: Have other locations been considered for the horizontal art piece?
  - Allenbaugh: Other locations have been considered and discussed with Campus Planning to find the best location.
  - Member: Consider there are potential liability concerns for non-furniture functioning as furniture when not intended to replace furniture. The art placement will continue to be refined.
  - Olsen: Siting art that functions as furniture along walkways poses maintenance challenges and requires skateboard deterrent considerations. The university is responsible for the maintenance of all public art installations. The exact location will continue to be refined while working with the artist.
  - Allenbaugh: Tree roots on site near the location of the horizontal sculpture and its base will need to be considered to ensure continued tree health of the adjacent trees.
- Member: Has swapping the placement of the vertical and horizontal pieces been considered?
  - Olsen: The vertical piece in the center location creates a focal point.
  - Allenbaugh: The horizontal piece's location creates a better nod to the artist's concept representing the urn falling off the building
- Guest: Is the horizontal piece the only sculpture (out of the three) with a gravel base rather than a concrete pedestal? Consider a curb (or similar edging) to separate the gravel from the lawn/landscaping for ease of maintenance.
  - Allenbaugh: The area surrounding the sculpture is landscaped, not lawn. Further landscaping and maintenance considerations will be coordinated with CPFM.

Regarding additional considerations:

- Member: What is the interaction/significance of the sculpture to the south (table like piece)?

- Member: The artist's proposal included that this piece could be used to set down a bag or object while using the space.
  - Thorstenson: The artist's concept was to have the art piece tie the courtyard space together, like a gallery walk to connect the path.
- Member: Are there any safety concerns that a cyclist or other campus user may hit the southern (table like) sculpture?
  - Allenbaugh/Olsen: Placement would be similar to other sculptures and furnishings on campus that are within or adjacent to walkways.
- Member: Is skateboarding a real concern for the maintenance of campus features?
  - Olsen: Skateboarding has caused considerable damage and maintenance issues on campus.

Action: With 8 in favor, the committee agreed that the **Heritage Project Exterior 1% for Art ("Disappearing Urns") Siting** is consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that it be approved.