New public art installed in the Portland Building adds a glow to the renovated architectural icon. The building has always doubled as a venue to showcase public art and that role has grown with the reconstruction, which includes new pieces commissioned and purchased through the Regional Arts & Culture Council. A local panel of artists, curators, community members, and city staff worked to select artworks from a variety of artists and in a variety of mediums to meet the City’s 2% for Art requirement. The artwork was selected to represent qualities that are summarized by a key list of concepts: resonant with Portland’s many communities, complex and multi-faceted, integrative, confluent, flexible, regenerative, and educational.

Selection panel: Grace Kook Anderson, Yoonhee Choi, Nan Curtis, Ivy Dunlap, Michelle Ladd, Linda McGeady, Michael Reed, Dawn Uchiyama, Lisa Watt, Carla Weinheimer, Kristin Wells

Native Cohort selection panel: Aja Blair, Laura John, Michelle Ladd, Lillian Pitt, Loretta Seaman, Lisa Watt

Regional Arts & Culture Council acquires and cares for the public art collections owned by Multnomah County and the City of Portland. An independent nonprofit organization, RACC supports the creative economy in greater Portland by equitably providing funding and services to artists and art organizations; managing and growing a diverse, nationally acclaimed, public art program; and developing enduring public and private partnerships.

RACC team members Kristin Calhoun, Salvador Mayoral IV, and former member William Rihel led the process of acquiring this collection for the Portland Building.

Front image: Hellebore and Pieris Japonica in Winter, Deb Stoner, 2016 (detail)

About

Floor 1

Coming Fall 2022
Leah Hing Room
Art by Lynn Yarno

Scan this QR code to learn more about the artwork featured in this collection, or visit raccpublicart.org

Portland Building
Public Art
April 2022
Floor 1

**We’ve Been Here**, Kayin Talton Davis
The primary focus of this piece is activist and organizer Lizzie Weeks, along with other important, but overlooked, Black women living in Portland in the early 1900s.

**Carver**, Bobby Mercier (Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde)
This Chinookan-style carving is a marker for a headman, or tribal leader. It identifies the Portland Building as place of importance and leadership, and it also serves as a connection to the Willamette River and former villages in the area.

**Neither Here Nor There**, Crystal Schenk and Shelby Davis
History and memory create connections to the place we live in. These benches and sculptures allow visitors to explore the places of significance in their lives.

**Confluence**, Adam Sorensen
The artist’s unique perspective paired with inspiration from physical and cultural landscapes creates an imagined terrain made of the convergence of tributaries.

**Data Crystal: Portland**, Refik Anadol
This 3D printed sculpture was created using artificial intelligence (AI) which analysed data drawn from 9-million publicly available photographs representing Portland’s civic, institutional, and daily memories. The crystallization of data into sculpture asks us, how does what is invisible connect us to each other and our larger society?

Floor 2

**Installation Space**
Coming in Summer 2022: The inaugural exhibition in the building’s new Installation Space includes a selection of ephemera from the King School Museum of Contemporary Art’s archives (KSMoCA).

**Native Cohort**
Additional installations are coming soon that center on the work of Native Americans and on the story of Native people in the Portland region from past to present. The exhibition will present artworks of Native artists who have multigenerational ties to Portland.

**Cityscapes (selected works)**
Curatorial focus: artworks that focus on the built environment and spatial relationships.
Artists: Michelle Muldrow, Akihiko Miyoshi, Elena Thomas, Avantika Bawa, Ivonne Saed, Avantika Bawa, Marie Watt, Gabe Fernandez, Ruth Lantz, Loren Nelson, Rory O’Neal, James Allen

**Coliseum, Red Sky**, Avantika Bawa
Avantika Bawa has focused a body of her work on the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. In this series, Bawa combines her long-held interest in architecture and geometry with a focus on this modernist building of the International Style.

**From the Bridge**, Elena Thomas
This photograph provides a glimpse of Portland that is familiar to many, and it brings the focus to an ordinary concrete pillar. My work encourages people to reclaim their sense of wonder in that which has become commonplace.

**Social Landscape (selected works)**
Curatorial focus: artworks that focus on the people, cultures, and uniqueness of our residents.
Artists: Jo Hamilton, Emma Gergiscott, Ralph Pugay, Samantha Wall, Sabina Haque, Orquidia Violeta, Stuart Allen Levy, Katherine Ace, Rebecca Rodela, Hsin-Yi Huang, Deb Stoner, Sadé DuBoise

**Ruwarashe Zanele Muteapa Rhone**, Sadé DuBoise
I thought about Zanele when reflecting on the prompt “social diversity of Portland.” This piece is part of a series of 50 portraits entitled The Black Muses Project, and is inspired by black women, Oregon landscapes, and traditional dress with African prints.

**Abuelito y yo reunidos**, Rebecca Rodela
This painting is part of a series entitled “Migración” (Migration) that encapsulates the cultural experiences that occur for immigrants and people of color as they move into a new community and place.