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The chance to vote for Lake Oswego's 2024 People's Choice Award has begun!

Lake Oswego, Oregon—The limitless creative possibilities of metal are beautifully captured by this year's People's Choice nominees, presented by the Arts Council of Lake Oswego and the City of Lake Oswego.

Each year, a public committee of city leaders, artists, board members, and residents nominate five artworks for consideration for the People's Choice award from works currently in the Gallery Without Walls rotating exhibition. The City of Lake Oswego then purchases the award winner's artwork, making it a permanent part of its outdoor collection. Anyone who resides or works in Lake Oswego is eligible to vote.

Norah Crean, Public Art and Collections Manager at the Arts Council of Lake Oswego, explained why the award is crucial to the nominated artists: "We're excited to be able to offer this award and purchase opportunity to artists; it's important that communities continue to support the career growth of the artists they exhibit."

This year's nominees are:

Serene color and bold contrasts radiate from the collaborative work **LandDance 1** by artists Jennifer Kapnek and Mike Suri. Both describe the work as a collaboration between artists and materials. For Kapneck, *LandDance 1* reflects her love of color and simplification. Suri is known for creating boundary-pushing metal creations. Visit the corner of 3rd Street and A Avenue to view *LandDance 1*, sponsored by KeyBank.

The contemplative expression of **The Watcher** is part of a series of watchers by sculptor and custom fabricator Scott Foster. Foster is known for fabricating everything from stop-motion

animation puppets for local animation studios like Laika to welded steel and ceramic sculptures. Sponsored by the Cartwright family, the artwork is at the corner of 4th Street and A Avenue.

Walkabout, by Joel Heidel, was inspired by his work as Chief Engineer in the tugboat industry. Heidel began to salvage metal from the basins along Washington and Oregon rivers and fabricated them in his barge studio. We see his deep understanding of metal in *Walkabout*. Sponsored by Chuck & Patt DeRousie, *Walkabout* is at 101 A Avenue.

Ben Dye's latest sculpture in the Gallery Without Walls is **Puro Corde**. Dye described the piece as originating from his exploration of blacksmithing and the foundational applications of metalworking. From there, he became fascinated with the history of sword-making. The Cartwright Family also generously sponsored *Puro Corde*. You'll find it on A Avenue, between 3rd and 4th Street.

Sharon Warman Agnor was inspired to create **In the Mystery** by the incredible images captured by NASA's Hubble telescope. In the sculpture's kaleidoscopic colored glass and rocket-shaped frame, Agnor describes "Looking beyond what is known and pondering the mysteries of creation." Sponsored by Geisler Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, you can visit *In the Mystery* on 2nd Street, between A and B Avenue.

On **September 21, 2024**, the annual Gallery Without Walls Celebration will honor the People's Choice award winner.

Votes can be cast in person, by mail, and online. Voting concludes **on Friday, June 14, at 5:00 p.m.** Paper ballots are available at City Hall, the Arts Council of Lake Oswego office, the Adult Community Center, and the Lake Oswego Public Library. To vote online, visit artscouncillo.org.

Partnerships with City agencies, local businesses, community members, and the many exceptional artists who participate make Gallery Without Walls possible.

The Arts Council of Lake Oswego (ACLO) is a local nonprofit that manages the City's public art collections and programs. For more information, visit artscouncillo.org.

Media included: Caption: Artist & titles listed below. All photos taken by Mario Gallucci

Print quality & Web versions

1. (file name: LandDance-1-suri-kapnek.tif & jpg) M. Kapnek, M. Suri, *LandDance 1*
2. (file name: watcher-foster.tif & jpg) Scott Foster, *The Watcher*
3. (file name: walkabout-heidel.tif & jpg) Joel A. Heidel, *Walkabout*
4. (file name: puro-corde-dye.tif & jpg) Ben Dye, *Puro Corde*
5. (file name: in-the-mystery-agnor.tif & jpg) Sharon Warman Agnor, *In the Mystery*



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