



THE TOADSTOOL

The Official Newsletter of Support
Portsmouth Public Art

JANUARY 2021

Like everyone else, SPPA had a crazy year. Due to Covid all of our famed fundraisers were canceled, and we had to rely on our generous donors and our bank account. However, we still managed to produce some of our most imaginative and participatory public art.

We have begun to produce a series of murals throughout Portsmouth. The first of three are located in the Olde Towne Business District. Sue Landerman, acclaimed artist and SPPA board member, created a 13-foot “Angel Wings” on PVC board, complete with relief and a fallen feather. This art piece was installed in front of the administrative office of Nancy Perry in the Middle Street mall.



Victoria Weiss, local artist from Virginia Beach, painted two more “Wings” murals: a whimsical biplane on the wall (facing Dinwiddie Street) of

Baron’s Pub and a colorful hummingbird for children also in the Middle Street mall outside of the Olde Towne Arts & Music shop.



The second of our interactive art is “Toads on High Street”, a scavenger hunt, in which citizens and visitors follow a story about our famed toad, Bufo, as he hunts for his friend, Ana, up and down High Street. A brochure has been produced to tell the adventure and is available in the 13 participating shops and restaurants, as well as the Portsmouth Hospitality Centers. We wish to thank our local artists who donated their talent and time to produce amazing interpretations of our story: Ellen Bible, Stephen Grunnet, Rebecca Myers, Dawn Richardson, and Ben & Carolyn Riley.



asked to “belong” to our organization. Stay tuned.

Our board is changing. Cheryl and Michael Stallings moved to St. Augustine, FL; we will deeply miss their enthusiasm and helping hands. We have 3 new members waiting in the wings for board approval, but they are already actively helping in our projects.

Our three Portsmouth musician murals were removed from the front of the Old Colony theater when a new tenant rented the building. They are safe in the warehouse until we find another site for them.

Future projects:

The Portsmouth Museum & Fine Arts Commission sent out applications for grant requests. We are presently discussing possible art projects to begin in July 2021.

We will continue the “Wings Project”. Future sites for additional wings murals include Port Norfolk, Mid-City, Hoffer Creek, and possibly Churchland.

More Art Frames have been requested by Paradise Creek Nature Park. The new ones will be now made from PVC for better durability.

The “Before I Die” boards will be refurbished and modified for the pavilion at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve.

The patio of the Churchland Branch Library remains a future location for art. The flower sculptures (Wonderland” by Abigail Cochran) are currently unavailable. 2 of the 3 Portsmouth native musician murals might fit comfortably there. Fundraising will start in late spring if Covid-19 precautions are lessened.



Another activity this year was the expensive but necessary maintenance and repair of the LOVE sculpture. We commissioned Mr. Irving Wolff, the original fabricator, to repair the cracks, paint, and further stabilize it. We paid him \$2400 when he completed his excellent work in July.

We have updated and revised our by-laws. One item that was added was membership. We are planning on developing an active membership and are discussing paid memberships and sponsorships. SPPA already has over 20 regular yearly donors, and many more people have