

COVER MEMO

Briefing Date/Time: July 14, 2025

Staff Contact/Title: Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, MikeR@PortOlympia.com, 360-764-5395

Subject: Olympia Artspace Alliance – Mural Project

Purpose: ☒ Information Only ☐ Decision Needed

Overview:

- Staff will be introducing Olympia Artspace Alliance and the proposed project of a mural on the Marine Terminal Warehouse.
- A large-scale mural on the Marine Terminal's 76,000 sq. ft. warehouse, located just 175 feet from the shores of West Bay in Budd Inlet next to the Port Plaza and Farmers Market. Both south and west side of the building is planned to be painted.
- Originally budgeted in 2025 to be painted for the first time since the warehouse was built in 1985, the Port saw an opportunity to do more than just refresh the building. With a strategic communications and marketing plan focused on community connection, the idea was born to bridge downtown Olympia's vibrant arts scene with the working waterfront — using art as the vessel.
- This mural will celebrate the industrial international trade operations of the Port, various tribal elements, history and Olympia's rich artistic heritage, blending them into a singular visual story. Visible to residents, visitors, and travelers arriving by land, air, or sea, the project will add a bold cultural landmark to the region. The Marine Terminal has been a cornerstone of Olympia's economy since 1922 — this mural will preserve that legacy while adding a new layer of beauty and community connection.
- Olympia Artspace Alliance has the stated mission to preserve, develop, and advocate for affordable live, work and exhibitions space for artists in Olympia which makes them a perfect partner for this project. They will be presenting their organization and plan for this effort.
- The Port of Olympia is partnering with the Olympia Artspace Alliance to create what is expected to become one of the largest murals on the West

Coast. The Port is not only providing the mural site but also essential equipment and support services — including power washing, forklifts, scissor lifts, lighting equipment, and more.

- Led by local artist Joe Seymour, alongside creative collaborators Mariella Luz, Executive Director of the Olympia Artspace Alliance and Daniell Ruse, Olympia Artspace Alliance Board member and co-owner of August Creative, the mural team will work closely with Port staff including Taber Lee, Senior Manager of Marketing & Communications, Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development and Marine Terminal team members, Afsin Yilmaz, Conley Booth, Dan Musser and Alexandra Shlitter.

Documents Attached:

Powerpoint Presentation

Summary & Financial Impact:

The project is slated to take two years to fully complete with an expense of \$24,000 in 2025 and \$36,000 in 2026.

Staff Recommendation:

Advisory only at this time. This will come back for action on a proposed contract with Artspace Alliance at a future date.

Next Steps/Timeframe:

The project is scheduled to begin in late summer 2025 and conclude in 2026. The timeline is subject to change based on weather, cargo operations, and terminal access governed by security protocols.