KEEP JON IN THE PICTURE / ASTORIA, OREGON

A starting point for preservation discussion

Prepared September 30, 2026. An independent campaign briefing for an initial documentation or conservation-scope conversation. It is not a condition assessment or a treatment plan.

The request

Keep the original Riverwalk mural in place, with special care for the portrait of **Jon Ogren**. Explore documentation and professional conservation with the artist, the responsible property parties and the community.

The wall and the people

Location: Riverwalk-facing rear of Sisu, the former Sears building, at 1152 Marine Drive, Astoria. The state historic inventory gives the building range as 1136-1156 Marine Drive.

Artist: Published accounts credit **Jo Lumpkin Brown (Jo Brown)**. Jon is a person depicted, not the mural artist. The organizer identifies his portrait as the smiling figure in a blue-green vest with both hands raised.

Neighbor: Wet Dog / Astoria Brewing is next door and is not responsible for the mural.



Historical view of other painted figures; this photograph does not show Jon's portrait. Image courtesy of Tangly Cottage Gardening. Published December 26, 2013; capture date unconfirmed. Reproduced with permission, without cropping or retouching.

Current information and open questions

The signed August 18 order approves EX26-04. Planning confirms the report was adopted as presented; it proposes mural removal. Work date, condition, materials, access, costs and funding remain unresolved. No retention or conservation agreement secured. Read the city report.

Public petition, portrait identification and source notes: stillinthepicture.org

Evidence and questions

A chronology of sources

Reference	What it establishes
2009 Daily Photo	Published view of the rear Sears mural and artist credit. It does not establish commissioning or completion dates.
2011 Daily Photo	February 11 post with a January 31 caption. A right-edge figure visually matches the organizer-identified Jon portrait; the caption does not name him. Capture date is not independently verified.
2013 Tangly Cottage	December 26 diary and multiple wall views. The transcribed summer 2001 painting date is provisional and needs corroboration; it is not used here as a confirmed completion date.
2018 Library of Congress Second view	Catalog records date two Carol M. Highsmith photographs May 23, 2018. They show other panels, rather than Jon's portrait.
State building record 33427	Mason-Ehrman & Company / Sears, built 1936, contributing to the listed Astoria Downtown Historic District. The inventory predates the mural; mural protection or grant eligibility is unconfirmed.

Questions for a qualified exterior-mural conservator

1. Does this wall fit your exterior-mural assessment expertise, or is another specialist better suited?
2. What records, current photographs and property-party permissions are needed before a visit?
3. What would an initial survey investigate, and how would its scope, access and cost be agreed?
4. How should artist knowledge, historical views and community identifications be documented before decisions?

Preparing a useful record

From a permitted public vantage, retain unedited originals and record photographer, actual capture date, panel and fixed architectural reference points. Photograph the full wall, Jon's panel and the artist-credit area when safely visible. Separate visible observations from conclusions about cause, material or treatment.

Permission and next steps

Public access to a photograph is not permission to reproduce it. Keep source, credit and reuse limits with each image. The Tangly Cottage photo above is approved for the petition and preservation outreach; permission for other privately supplied or linked photographs remains separate. No cleaning, coating, repair or repainting is proposed in this brief.

General documentation and professional-consultation reference: Canadian Conservation Institute, Caring for an existing mural. This is general guidance, not an assessment of the Astoria wall or a campaign endorsement.

Source links are clickable. Public campaign: stillinthepicture.org