

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between Friends of the Sherwood Public Library
and Sherwood Public Library for Commissioned Artwork**

The following constitutes the agreement between the Friends of Sherwood Public Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (the "Friends"), and the City of Sherwood, a municipal corporation, acting by and through the Sherwood Public Library (the "Library"), in regard to a commissioned painting to honor the life of Virginia Hite, longtime library supporter (the "Artwork").

The Friends and the Library will cooperate in the planning process for the Artwork commission, including but not limited to such factors as the Artwork's size, scale, content, framing, hardware and value.

The Friends will be solely responsible for all expenses relating to the commission, creation, shipping and delivery of the Artwork. The Friends may fundraise separately for the Artwork. The amounts the Friends have pledged toward Library programming and the costs of other projects funded by the Friends will not be reduced as a result of the costs incurred by the Friends in relation to the Artwork.

The Friends will, upon delivery of the Artwork to the Library, provide the Library with a written declaration of the unconditional donation and transfer of ownership of the Artwork to the City of Sherwood, in a form acceptable to the Library. The Friends must, at the time of donation, have full ownership of the Artwork and have complete authority to make the donation to the City.

The Library will, upon delivery of the Artwork and the above-described declaration of transfer of ownership, issue a receipt and letter of thanks to the Friends and the Hite Family.


The Library will have full and complete ownership of the Artwork, without condition or restriction, subject only to any applicable public art policies and procedures of the City of Sherwood, as they may be amended by the City from time to time in the City's sole discretion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Library will, for a period of ten years from the date of donation, make a reasonable effort to notify the Friends in the event that the Library intends to deaccession the Artwork or remove the Artwork from public display. In the event of deaccession during this time period, the Friends will have a Right of First Offer.

FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE SHERWOOD
PUBLIC LIBRARY


Signature

Jeannette Voss, Friends of the Library President

Name and Title


Date

FOR THE SHERWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY


Signature

Adrienne Doman Calkins, Library Manager

Name and Title


Date


Friends of the Sherwood Public Library
P.O. Box 1181
Sherwood, Oregon 97140

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The Friends confirm in this written declaration the unconditional donation and transfer of ownership of the Artwork to the City of Sherwood, in a form acceptable to the Library. The Friends, at the time of donation, have full ownership of the Artwork and have complete authority to make the donation to the City.

The Library, upon accepting this donation, have full and complete ownership of the Artwork, without condition or restriction, subject only to any applicable public art policies and procedures of the City of Sherwood, as they may be amended by the City from time to time in the City's sole discretion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Library will, for a period of ten years from the date of donation, make a reasonable effort to notify the Friends in the event that the Library intends to deaccession the Artwork or remove the Artwork from public display. In the event of deaccession during this time period, the Friends will have a Right of First Offer.

FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE SHERWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

	<u>Jeannette Voss - President</u>	<u>April 15, 2022</u>
Signature	Name and Title	Date

FOR THE SHERWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

	<u>MORRIENNE DUMIN-CALKINS</u>	<u>7/25/22</u>
Signature	Name and Title	Date
	<u>LIBRARY MANAGER</u>	

ABOUT THE ART WORK AND THE ARTIST

This commemorative piece is entitled "In Memory of a Spirited Soul". It pays tribute to the City of Sherwood of the mid to late 20th century through themes and imagery of this era in time. The Spirited Soul is Virginia Hite. The motifs illustrated within the windows and door depict these themes, and enlighten us to aspects of Virginia's volunteerism, her life, and her interests.

Upon Virginia's passing in 2017, the Friends of the Sherwood Library began considering how her community contributions might be memorialized, consequently commissioning an original composition from one of Sherwood's own, artist Donald Laurent Dahlke. This commission for the work extended in November of 2019 was made possible through the Sherwood Public Library and contributions from the Friends' membership and supporters.

In 1949, Donald's grandfather Herb Dahlke acquired a Feed and Seed Store located in Sherwood on the west side of SW 1st Street opposite the Robin Hood Theater. Donald's family arrived in Sherwood the following year, and his father Don began partnership of the operation in this family business. Donald started first grade at Sherwood Grade School, and early on found satisfaction in expressing his creativity through drawing, painting, arts, and crafts. He graduated from Sherwood High School in 1968, and soon after began to employ his talent as a profession.

Donald attributes family's travels as having the greatest influence upon his work. In early years, the family lived in Greece, later in the West Indies, and then Mexico before returning to Oregon in 2011. These life experiences and his natural ability have enabled him to become a prominent and successful artist, displaying works in studios from the Caribbean to Hawaii.

The media of the piece is oil paint on gessoed linen canvas. Donald initially began painting this portal works theme of windows and doors when the family was living on St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands. In luminous and vibrant color, he imbues in his art the shadows of the local flora in powerful sunlight, painting objects within the room, the door and windows that have a special connection with the viewer. He describes himself as an Informed Visionary, and the works as Surreal/Realism.

ABOUT VIRGINIA HITE

Virginia Lee Willson was born September 20, 1921 in Raymond, WA, the only child of Clyde and Eva Willson. Her father's occupation as a shingle sawyer took her to various small timber towns in early childhood, settling last as a teenager in Portland. Upon graduation from Roosevelt High School in 1938 she was awarded a scholarship to the University of Oregon. She had life-long friendships with many of her high school classmates, and as teenagers they frequently attended ballroom dances in Sherwood. It was in Sherwood that she met a young pianist and vocalist named Don Hite, and his band leading brother Woody. A romance followed and Don proposed marriage in 1942.

Following their engagement and the advent of World War II, Virginia travelled with Don's mother and sister by train to Anniston, Alabama, where Don and she married on February 13, 1943. Eight months later Don deployed to the Pacific Theater, while Virginia began working in Portland for the federal Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Upon Don's return from active duty in January of 1946, the newlyweds settled in Sherwood into the first of two homes constructed on the Hite family farmstead off of SW Sherwood Blvd. Virginia and Don had two children, Suzie born in 1947 and Randy in 1950.

In the 1950s Virginia served as the first secretary to the original Robin Hood Festival Association, helping to organize what would become an annual celebration, including the tradition of international competition between the archers of Sherwood versus those of Nottingham, England. She continued participation in various festival capacities over the years, and had the distinction of being honored twice as a Co-Grand Marshall of the Robin Hood Festival Parade.

This early association with the Sherwood community also facilitated her future employment. In a career lasting nearly 30 years, Virginia began working in 1956 at the Sherwood Medical Clinic as bookkeeper and receptionist for the local doctors Merle Pennington, Tom Stern, and later Charles Mansfield. As receptionist, Virginia became acquainted with many in the community and knew everyone by name and face. She was well known for a welcoming and friendly greeting.

Virginia was also involved in other community activities. She was a member of the Swimming Pool Fundraising Committee in the 1960s and 1970s. With construction of a community pool seeming to appear less likely, these funds were eventually re-directed to the Library Fundraising effort, which she supported wholeheartedly. Virginia was an avid reader and worked tirelessly with other community activists to ultimately bring a dedicated branch of the Washington County Library to Sherwood. The success of these efforts was realized in 1982 when the Sherwood Public Library officially opened their new structure on Sherwood Blvd. With this facility erected on a parcel of the Hite Family Farm, the situation for Virginia could not have been better. It was a mere walk across the garden from her home.

Virginia continued her volunteer work at the Library for many more years. In 1998, she was awarded Volunteer of the Year by the Oregon Library Association. In time, the Library leadership came to the realization that an even larger facility would be desirable to satisfy the needs of the growing community. In 2005 the facility on Sherwood Blvd was closed and the Library operations moved to a newly dedicated building shared with the City Administrative offices at the present location on Pine Street.

At the age of 95 before her passing on February 28, 2017, Virginia lived to see her dream of not one, but two, beautiful library buildings built in Sherwood,

THE IMAGERY of IN MEMORY OF A SPIRITED SOUL

The Books: Books populate the entire work, representing Sherwood resident Virginia Hite's passion for reading and as tribute to the Sherwood Public Library and its mission.

Woody Hite Big Band: Woody and his brother Don were raised in Sherwood and played music their entire lives. From duets/trios to 19-piece dance bands, their venues broadened from Sherwood's own Martin Ballroom to the dance halls of Portland and on to the Oregon Coast, including live radio broadcasts from Portland's Uptown Ballroom and summer performances at Washington Park. Virginia first met Don at a dance in Sherwood in 1937, leading to their marriage in 1943.

Arrow and Robin Hood Cap: a tribute to the Robin Hood Festival established in 1954 and the international archery shoot tournament begun in 1956 with Nottingham, England. Virginia was a member of the organizing committee.

The Medical Clinic: in the distance beyond the left window is the Sherwood Medical clinic where Dr's Pennington and Stern practiced. The structure still stands on Sherwood Blvd, opposite what was the High School from 1938 to 1968. Both doctors participated in the initial efforts to organize the first of Sherwood's Robin Hood Festivals, and in 1956 these doctors hired Virginia as a bookkeeper and receptionist.

The Chair: Virginia and Don engaged a Russian Immigrant in the 1950s to build for them a sofa and two chairs. As a frequent visitor to the Hite household, Dahlke vividly recalls the two of them sitting in these chairs, conversing, and reading. Virginia still had both chairs in 2017 when she passed.

Carnegie Library: The framed art above the chair is in tribute to the thousands of public libraries established throughout the United States.

The White Church: In the distance beyond the middle window is the first Catholic church built in Sherwood in 1953. The structure still stands as a house of worship on Oregon Street. Virginia was devout in her religion, and in this work represents those of all faiths, denominations, persuasions, and beliefs.

Flower in Vase: At the forefront of the Hite residence and clearly visible from Sherwood Blvd was a flowerbed of pink, white, and rose-colored peonies, all of which burst into bloom every summer. Dahlke memorializes this through the still life image of a single peony bloom placed in a glass vase.

Piggy Bank: preceding the opening of Sherwood's first public library structure in 1982, there was an earlier effort begun in the 1960s to plan for and build a public swimming pool. Virginia was an advocate, and assisted in fund raising. A decision was made in the mid 1970s to abandon the pool in favor of a library. The pool fund was rededicated to this purpose.

Portland Canning Co and Railroad Depot: In the distance beyond the right window are two prominent structures that occupied the length of the railroad tracks along Railroad Street and opposite the present City Hall and Library building. The depot was decommissioned in the early 1930s. The cannery was operational for over fifty years, forever closing in 1971. It provided year-round employment for many Sherwood residents, and seasonal jobs to thousands of young people while in high school and college.

