

= Vera Katz (sculpture) =

Vera Katz , also known as Mayor , Vera Katz , is an outdoor bronze sculpture depicting Vera Katz created by American artist Bill Bane . Unveiled in 2006 , it is located along the Eastbank Esplanade in Portland , Oregon . Katz , a former mayor of the city between 1993 and 2005 , supported arts and culture during her tenure and established Oregon 's Percent for Art program . She was also instrumental in developing the Eastbank Esplanade , which is named after her . The sculpture has received a mostly positive reception and has inspired people to adorn it with clothing , flowers and makeup .

= = Description and history = =

The statue was financed by a " group of generous Portlanders " and its commission was managed by the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) with assistance from members of Katz 's former staff . It was unveiled on June 2 , 2006 , on the plaza at the south end of the Esplanade , just north of the Hawthorne Bridge and Main Street marker . It measures 53 inches (130 cm) x 18 inches (46 cm) x 18 inches (46 cm) and rests on an orange triangular base . Portland State University 's Daily Vanguard described Katz as : " leaning close to a small body with legs crossed and hands in , squeezed together in her lap as if she 's cold , too . The teeth are also bared and unusually straight , creating the impression that Katz might snap at passers @-@ by . But overall , the face is open and the hair is particularly lifelike . " She is depicted wearing a Portland rose on her lapel . According to The Oregonian , the sculpture provides a lap on which children can pose and sometimes frightens passersby at night . It is part of the collection of the Regional Arts & Culture Council . The organization has said : " it seems fitting that [Katz 's] political leadership and love for the arts should come together in a public tribute to her " .

Katz attended the statue 's surprise unveiling during an event organized by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and funded by friends . Also in attendance were Mayor Tom Potter , three city commissioners , Bill Bane , friends , and former staff members . Wearing a lei brought by her son , Katz said the statue looked " far more beautiful than [her] " and encouraged city officials to continue expanding the Eastbank Esplanade south .

The statue went missing temporarily in October 2013 , prompting an investigation by then Mayor Sam Adams . In 2013 , RACC 's public art collections manager said the work has received mostly " positive attention " and has been outfitted with hats , flowers and " yarn @-@ bombed " sweaters . It has also attracted books , hats , lipstick , paint and even a " mohawk of cake frosting " .

Bane 's study for the sculpture , called Vera , is a bronze bust measuring 18 inches (46 cm) x 11 inches (28 cm) . The bust is part of a private collection .

= = Reception = =

In 2006 , Willamette Week included the sculpture in its annual " Best of Portland " list , under the category " Best Mayoral Monument " . According to the paper :

... Bane managed to capture much of the ex @-@ mayor 's character : Her eyes are friendly and her hair as wild as ever . But Katz 's signature grin is a little stiff , a little too aggressive . Leaning forward , she looks as if she might take a bite out of the next passerby . Which by the way , seems appropriate when you look back on her days behind the mayoral desk . Maybe monochromatic bronze just isn 't the right medium for a woman as colorful as ol ' Vera . Where 's the red blazer ? Our suggestion : Get this lady some accessories ! The right hat or scarf could make that brown pantsuit really work .

Daily Vanguard 's Celina Monte called the sculpture " fabulously strange " and said it illustrated the " straightforward , tactile and symmetrical properties " of some of Bane 's other work . The work has been included in at least one published walking tour of Portland , which noted its function as a meeting location for bicyclists and pedestrians .