

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: **Portland Mayor**

Candidate Name: David Schor

Contest: Portland Mayor

Candidate Web Site: <http://portlandforschor.org>

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: 2/12/2016

In a 140-character “tweet” format, tell us why you are running for office.

Portland needs a mayor that can commit to solving the City's problems, who is willing to stand up to corporations and the wealthy, and for the people.

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

My campaign has received donations from 3 donors to date.

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

\$161, plus loans,

What endorsements have you received?

What role do the arts and culture play in the life of our region and what do the arts personally mean to you and your family?

Arts and culture are part of what makes this region an attractive place to live and work. The density of creative minds and spaces makes Portland a great place to make art, but the cost of living is making that tougher. I'm a musician, and the arts are an integral part of what makes living in Portland wonderful, for performers and for patrons.

How will you address the growing affordability crisis in our region for artists, arts organizations, and small arts businesses as it relates to housing and creative space?

My plan to create more affordable housing in Portland will help artists to remain in the city core where density is our greatest advantage. As mayor I will prioritize arts funding, with a focus on helping local arts businesses and organizations to secure appropriate spaces so they can continue contributing to the life of the City. Finding permanent homes for artists and their creative spaces is key to our community of creatives thriving.

How will you foster the growth of the creative economy in our region?

Creating a pipeline to train artists - from our public schools to our local colleges and into the arts industry - is part of the solution. There is also room for the City to be a better coordinator, and to help local businesses pool their resources to raise the profile of Portland as a creative hub. We also have the opportunity to create some basic infrastructure that is conducive to the modern creative economy by building a municipal fiber optic network - something that would benefit many digital artists. I will also seek out opportunities to create new public spaces for art.

How will you enhance the delivery of and support for arts education in school and neighborhood settings?

I support an expansion of arts funding as part of my plan to grow the City's revenue, and would have a liaison dedicated to ensuring that arts outreach is expanded. I will look for opportunities to match arts businesses with schools to create enhanced educational opportunities. Additional facilities will also be part of the East Portland infrastructure expansion.

How will you further the values of equity and access to the arts and culture? What do you see as the biggest challenges to progress in this area?

Income inequality is the biggest challenge. Making some events free for low income patrons will help keep them engaged in the community, and create paying customers for the future. We also need to expand outreach in lower income and minority neighborhoods. The cultural diversity of Portland needs to be recognized as a strength of our arts community going forward. It will be hard to overcome access issues without raising the incomes of Portland residents, but there is a lot we can do by simply taking events into neighborhoods.

What other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of our region?

I will seek to use the funding and financing power of the City to enhance the available resources for arts education, and would push the State to increase funding for arts education as well. I will seek to make arts funding more stable and predictable by allocating dedicated revenue, and to plan ahead for the future needs of our growing artistic community by making thoughtful infrastructure investments.

The following question is for candidates in City of Portland contests only. Do you support the voter-approved Arts Education and Access Fund and do you commit to maintaining it? What changes, if any, would you make to improve its administration?

I support the Fund. I commit to maintaining and preferably expanding this fund. As part of my City revenue plan, I intend to expand the collection and enforcement capacity of the City with regard to income taxes, and to restructure the Portland income tax to be more progressive. In this process, I hope

to also restructure the Arts Tax to ensure that it is a more progressive tax as well, while increasing overall funding.

The following question is for candidates in City of Portland, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, or Washington County contests only. Each year, you will have the opportunity to vote to approve a budget for arts funding through the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC). Do you commit to maintaining or increasing this budget allocation and funding level?

I intend to maintain or increase the budget allocation for the RACC.