

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: **Portland City Council Position 4**

Candidate Name: Fred Stewart

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Candidate Web Site: fredstewart.com

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: 02122016

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

I am seeking public office because I want to serve the people of Portland in a capacity that allows all of my unique talents and experiences to lead Portland to resolve the problems that face us today.

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

27

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

Over \$10,000

What endorsements have you received?

From many people that care about the future of Portland.

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?

Art is an important communication tool in our community. It is a form of expression that gives people comfort. My grandfather was an artist and he is someone we learn every day in how we treat others and support our community. His art communicates his love of us and Portland.

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?

I plan on working with the other City Commissioners, property owners and developers to open up the types of housing available in Portland. I hope to lead the City of Portland into including poor people and working poor people in all future urban planning. Urban Planning in Portland is not inclusive. It plans for the middle class and upper middle class and more. Very little attention is given to people that are not in high earning professions. The needs of the poor and working class must be part of all future planning for the City of Portland.

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

I hope to lead Portland into developing a Movie Studio location and a district that is dedicated to the arts in general. I would like to see more expression in Portland at all levels. The first step in making this happen comes with addressing how Portland can do its part to fund civic art projects that address the values, history and culture of our city.

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

I will be asking people in Portland that are sensitive to our lack of art in our public spaces how can we do better. That is where I will start. I plan on bringing back the Portland Youth Bureau and that will create an opportunity for the City of Portland to develop and or support after school programs that can expose our children to art.

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?

The biggest challenge is funding. Portland is not a city that supports art at the same level most of the top 25 Cities in the United States are doing at this time. The appreciate of art is growing and so is the support but for now the support is not where it should be. My hope is to see more support as the City of Portland instills more art in public places and expose our children to art or at the very least a wider range of art,

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

Creating the Portland Youth Bureau will allow the City of Portland to expose art to children. All mediums of art will be exposed to our children.

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?

No. I feel we can do better

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?

How I vote depends on the goals looking forward and the results of RACC. I want to work with RACC

and the Portland Youth Bureau to expose our children to art at an early age and develop a tradition that will motivate and inspire people to follow art and be invoked in the arts in general. I hope to have a long conversation with the members of RACC about this one day because I feel exposing our children to art is a responsibility we adults have to them.