

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: **Portland Commissioner pos 4**

Candidate Name: Joseph Puckett

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Candidate Web Site: https://www.facebook.com/puckettcity/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: 2/11/2016

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

I am running in this election because I want to be the candidate I have always wanted to see in this town. I am a 3rd generation Portlander and I am tired of always being given the same two choices for a Candidate every year. This town deserves a better class of public servant, one that listens to the People and not Special interests. Portland needs someone to lead by example and not lead from behind anymore, it's time Portland becomes truly progressive and get our citizens cared for.

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

I am not accepting donations.

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

I am not raising money this election.

What endorsements have you received?

None yet, but I understand Portland politics, and will just have keep getting my message out there.

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?

I have kind of taken the arts for granted living here. Portland has always had an amazing art and culture community. I visit our museums, the Zoo, OMSI, the symphony, the Keller auditorium, and of course the stadiums. One can not go anywhere in this town and not experience the arts. For culture though, I would say OMSI had the biggest impact on my life, followed by the Oregon Symphony. OMSI gave me my love of science and fascination for nature. I would probably not be where I am currently if OMSI had not sparked my imagination as a child.

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?

One of the major crises we face in this town is income inequality. I know people who work two jobs to make ends meet, it leaves little time to be creative. Our people are fighting for a place to live let alone creative space. I have watched many of my artist friends lose their studios, apartments, and equipment at times all because they can no longer afford it. I am going to push for a corporate tax to help alleviate this problem, and push the city to build affordable housing its self.

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

By working with the local communities in town I think we can usher in the city of Portland we all want to see. Portland has one of the best food scenes in the world, as a former chef we sometimes overlook food as art. This is one art that is thriving here. But the biggest problem we face is to address the homeless and housing emergencies this city has endured. Just getting people off the streets and into affordable housing adds writers, painters, photographers, jewelry makers who up until then had no spaces to work. Not to mention Veterans, children, and families. Then we also tackle income inequality so that now we have people off the street with income to spend. Give people free time and a decent income, and I'll give you all the artists you want.

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

First we need to get that arts tax working right, and get that money to the schools. The administration of this tax has been a calamity. This tax has exceeded administrative costs and failed in collecting delinquent payments. This tax is supposed to exclude people below the poverty line, so I would assume that the people not paying it actually have the means to. We need to actually get this tax working so we can get the teachers and equipment to the school districts.

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?

Once again it is income inequality as a major problem. If the citizens in Portland are working two jobs to make the bills, what time do they have to engage in the pursuit of art, science, or education for that matter. Our progress has been stopped by greed plain and simple.

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

Portland needs to push for education, science, art, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. When we get the people the things they need, they have less stress, and more time for creativity.

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?

Yes, not only did I vote for and support the tax, but I am below the poverty line with no children and still pay it. I want this generation to be so educated that they make our generations look like cavemen by comparison. First I am not going to change this tax until we can get it under control. We need to get the administration costs back down under 5% and start getting people to comply with the tax, then we can go from there.

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?

As a citizen who knows the value of creativity, I will continue to support this current budget. I will also work to make sure that children especially can have art in their lives, since childhood is when we need it the most.