

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: **Portland Mayor**

Candidate Name: Jules Bailey

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Candidate Web Site: JulesBailey.com

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: 2/12/16

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

Portland is at a turning point. I'm running for Mayor to make this city work for everyone, and to give all Portlanders a voice. #Together4PDX

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

328

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

\$45,681

What endorsements have you received?

Governor Barbara Roberts, Commissioner Loretta Smith, Senator Michael Dembrow, Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Representative Shemia Fagan, Representative Brent Barton, Portland Community College Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals- AFT- 2277

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 a part of who I am. I grew up acting and writing plays with Young Actors Forum, I took lessons at Echo Theater, and I played violin with Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Arts in many ways made me who I am. That's why I still play music, my wife and I have a season pass to PCS, and we frequently go to other shows and installations. My personal story is in some ways a microcosm of what arts and culture means to this region. Arts and culture give voice to community, and tell our collective narrative. Arts and culture helped make Portland and the region what it is today, and are a fundamental part of how we grow and prosper as a community. Arts and culture are not a "nice to have," they are part of who we are. That's why as State Representative, I spearheaded the renewal of the Cultural Trust tax credit. As Multnomah County Commissioner, I nearly doubled the County contribution to RACC. As Mayor, I will continue to be a champion for the arts.

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?

Affordability is a crisis in Portland. My wife and I were priced out of our neighborhood last year, despite having two good incomes. For artists building their careers and following their dreams, finding affordable housing and creative space can seem impossible. Quite simply, we need more housing. That means smart infill, like bringing duplexes, triplexes, and garden apartments back to neighborhood streets. It also means streamlined and fast-track permitting, and reduced fees, for housing that meets affordability standards. I've proposed just such a process for Portland. But we also need to preserve many of the creative spaces we have. We're not building new "Yale Unions" or "Milagro Theaters" - we need to keep the spaces that we have working for artists.

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

The creative economy thrives where talent and opportunity intersect. We need to support our talent with housing and space that is affordable, and with funding for the arts that ensures consistent work. More than that, the city should highlight and invest more in public art, partnerships with art organizations, and events that highlight the relationship between art and civic life. As we highlight art and artists, we help make Portland a place that is known for creativity, which helps creative entrepreneurs get capital, find talent, and market under the Portland brand.

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

I got involved in the arts as a kid in Portland not through major arts organizations, but through community theater and school music programs. School and neighborhood arts programs are a critical entry point into the arts. More than that, studies show that access and exposure to art helps all students, even those who do not participate in the arts later. I support the Arts Education and Access Fund, and the role it plays in schools. More than that, the City can help provide venues for the arts and partner in neighborhoods, particularly through the Parks Department. The City has a lot of capacity to promote neighborhood and school arts, and should use all the tools available.

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?

We need to create more opportunity by ensuring arts and culture are part of how underserved communities are able to express themselves. The creative economy can't thrive if artists and entrepreneurs only look like the majority population. We can grow a creative Portland based on inclusiveness, not just on privilege. The biggest barrier to this vision is ensuring that arts organizations that are of and serve specific populations get the support they need. Too often, donors and funding flow to organizations that are more mainstream. The City should view the arts as a fundamental part of service provision, and incorporate arts programs and arts equity in the planning for how we serve our

community.

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

As Mayor, I will make arts and culture front and center in my administration. I will have an arts liaison on my Mayoral staff to advise me and interface with the arts and culture community. I will also promote and make better use of the Creative Laureate position. If talented artists are going to give their time to the position, we should get the most out of it, and make sure that person has the ability to truly be an arts and culture ambassador for Portland.

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, I support the Arts Education and Access Fund, and I will commit to maintaining it. However, we need to do a better job of collection and enforcement to ensure voters are getting what they voted for. In the meantime, the City should look at backfilling lost revenue.

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?

In my last election, I committed to increasing RACC funding from Multnomah County. I made good on my promise, nearly doubling the funding to RACC. I have made a similar promise this election cycle, and will increase funding to RACC from the City.