

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: **Portland City Commissioner, Position 4**

Candidate Name: Shannon Estabrook

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Candidate Web Site: Shannon Estabrook (Facebook)

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: February 9, 2016

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

I am an Oregon native. I was born in Portland and live downtown. I have been a College Instructor, Elementary Teacher and Paid campaign staff for President Obama. I have much knowledge to offer. I love Portland, I am willing to work hard for this city.

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

None

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

None

What endorsements have you received?

I have asked only Emily's List so far, am waiting for reply

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?

My goodness, where to begin. The Portland Art Museum has been the focal point for both my students and my children. The historical Art of our government buildings, the Heathman secret passage ways, the stories of the Benson, the Mississippi area, south east Portland culture, The Asian and Latino influences of South East 82nd and countless community plays for both children and adults. Music, both large and small venues, not just symphony, also small clubs, thriving summer programs and local home grown bands. Poetry readings, political art, okay I could go on forever. Much (we need more).. My students and my neighborhood community have had many art and cultural experiences in Portland through school and even by accident! Just walking around town and self discovering.

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?

Much more focus needs to be placed on providing arts in an affordable way for both the artists and the audience. Mixed use age of building for example. Taxing developers is another good source for the Arts. Support of local artists at every level of education, Kindergarten through College

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

Many great programs exist and need to be expanded, showcasing local artists. However much more focus needs to be incorporating youth, the working poor and older folks.

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

Funding, funding and more funding. Our schools were famous in the 1980's And 1990's for support of the Arts, especially our High Schools. Much more importance and focus must be made. Many wonderful Instructors have talents and will always support and encourage the Arts, but their hands are being tied, due to lack of funding.

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?

Lack of education to the general public. No one could possibly be against the beauty of the arts. But the public needs to also realize the investment well spent in terms of successful outcomes.

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

Any policy that encourages and strengthens the creative capacity of ALL in our region.

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?

Absolutely. And yes I am committed to maintaining it. We need to make sure it is not punitive to the very poor and the elderly on limited incomes.

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?

Absolutely