



For immediate release:

March 11, 2014

Oregon artPAC met in early March and endorsed ten candidates running for office in the May 20 Primary Election.

"artPAC is about arts and culture action and accountability: The ongoing work of artPAC helped build the foundation of support that passed the Portland ballot measure that rehired arts and music teachers back into local elementary schools." – Sam Adams, Former Portland Mayor, Oregon artPAC Endorsement Advisory Council.

Oregon artPAC invited twenty candidates in the Portland metropolitan region to meet for face to face interviews at The Gerding Theater in Portland. Oregon artPAC evaluated the sixteen responders and made the following endorsements encouraging all voters who value the role of arts and culture in our communities to support these candidates with both their votes and dollars:

- Nick Fish (Portland City Council)
- Dan Saltzman (Portland City Council)
- Deborah Kafoury (Multnomah County Chair)
- Jim Francesconi (Multnomah County Chair)
- Jules Bailey (Multnomah County Commissioner)
- Allen Amabisca (Washington County Chair)
- Elizabeth Furse (Washington County Commissioner)
- Greg Malinowski (Washington County Commissioner)
- Jim Bernard (Clackamas County Commissioner)
- Paul Savas (Clackamas County Commissioner)

Oregon artPAC is a volunteer-powered effort founded in 2006 by several local arts advocates who were seeking another avenue to help promote public funding for the arts. Oregon artPAC supports those candidates for public office who commit to increase public funding and who will commit to supporting the arts in the region. Oregon artPAC recognizes that the funding of arts and culture is crucial to preserving and advancing the vibrancy of the region and all of Oregon by the many benefits it provides:

- Stimulating economic development
- Promoting cultural tourism
- Expanding access to the arts for all
- Improving overall quality of life
- Encouraging and developing creativity
- Creating a unique community character and identification
- Attracting talent
- Fostering education and enhancing academic performance
- Promoting critical thinking

Portland area voters believe that arts education is vital to our children's future success. In 2012 the electorate overwhelmingly passed the Arts Education and Access Fund ballot measure to help restore arts and music education to every Portland elementary school and improve access to the

arts in every classroom and community. artPAC fully supported this initiative and continues to advocate for public funding to support arts education, artists and arts and culture institutions.

“In 2006 Oregon artPAC made its first two endorsements followed by numerous endorsements in the subsequent election years. I am pleased with the progress we’ve made as candidates have taken notice and seek out our endorsement. We look forward to working with the growing number of elected officials in recognizing the critical importance of arts funding for our children and for our communities throughout the region.” - Stanley Penkin, Co-founder and Treasurer, Oregon artPAC.

More information about Oregon artPAC can be found at www.oregonartpac.com.

Oregon artPAC Endorsement Advisory Council

Sam Adams
Gwyneth Gamble Booth
Mark Edlen
Diana Gerding
Judie Hammerstad
Vera Katz
Thomas Lauderdale
Josie Mendoza
Dan Wieden

Oregon artPAC Board of Directors

Mary Ann Deffenbaugh
Kirk Mouser
Linda Peters
Fred Ross, Co-founder
Stanley Penkin, Co-founder and Treasurer