

**Art PAC**  
**Clackamas County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire**  
**Lynn Peterson**  
August 10, 2006

**1. What steps would you take to help significantly increase private sector funding in Clackamas County for local arts organizations so that the community's arts organizations can present more high quality arts programs for all citizens?**

*I have some ideas of how to increase private sector interest but I am sure that I could learn more from the local Arts Foundations about what has worked to date, what they need help with and ideas that they might like to implement.*

*For instance, we could create a presentation to take around to Chamber of Commerce meetings and Rotary/Lions/Kiwanis groups and provide information on cool programs, successes and needs. And then show the private folks how to get involved.*

*Another idea would be to promote the in-house galleries that Mentor Graphics and Milwaukie Providence have and then, working with those businesses, create a tour by opening the galleries to the public once a year to raise money for the arts.*

*I think the school districts within Clackamas County would benefit from a higher level of partnership with the private sector on arts. I bet there are more ways to display children's art in office buildings and/or restaurants like the Starbucks in Sellwood Neighborhood does with the Llewellyn Elementary School. Another program might be to ask the business sector to help with funding to bring artists to the classroom or to support specific existing programs that are in jeopardy of being lost due to budget cuts.*

*As a musician, I think it would be great to take the next step from the recent Oregon City Chamber work to provide all the marching band members new uniforms for their recent performance in a national parade. Why not ask the private sector to purchase specific instruments for kids starting in middle school to learn how to play.*

**2. Clackamas County currently does not have a "Percent for Art Program". Would you support the institution of a 2% "Percent for Art Program" for Clackamas County?**

*Yes because I have seen the positive impacts the program has had in other communities including Portland and Lake Oswego: two cities that I have lived, worked and play in today. And I have seen the great ideas that have come out of the partnership with capital projects such as light rail construction projects.*

*There is room for discussion about the percentage and how it should be allocated. One and a half is more common and it might be a good place to start. In Lake Oswego we require this for public projects with the half percent going to administration and maintenance. We really need more for initial purchase.*

**3. In addition to seeking more funding for arts and cultural endeavors, what other public policies will you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of Clackamas County and the region?**

*Clackamas County has communities, businesses and individuals that are interested in improving the access to art. Estacada has a significant number of artists who have created a co-op in downtown and they have supported their unique mural art. Lake Oswego and Oregon City have created main streets that incorporate art work for sale, as well as for sale or purchased by the city.*

*I have been interested in allowing the unincorporated areas of Clackamas County to create "neighborhood plans". One of the elements of the plan could be to answer the question, "Do you have ideas of how to incorporate art into your place?" They might recommend supporting visual and/or performing arts in their own neighborhoods.*

*Milwaukie neighborhoods are set up to be the same boundaries as the elementary schools. And the city provides an annual grant to each neighborhood to implement projects in their neighborhood plans or a project at the elementary school to promote partnership with the school. I bet the unincorporated areas would love to have help with a plan and some sort of annual grant to implement the plan that would include an element of art.*

**4. How much of an increase in ongoing arts funding will you support for Clackamas County? Please provide a specific amount.**

*The Clackamas County Budget does not provide any information on how much they spend on the arts now. Nor does any document seem to indicate a trend of increase or decrease in funding for the arts.*

*It appears that there needs to be a coordinated vision for arts in Clackamas County that pulls together the private, not for profit and governmental programs to see where we are today, where we want to be and how to get there before I can give a number. I look forward to working with the Clackamas County Arts Action Alliance in order to determine the budgetary needs for a workable, sustainable arts program.*