

Art PAC
Multnomah County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire
Jeff Cogen
August 10, 2006

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

Our community needs to increase both public and private sector funding for the arts. Three actions I would take to increase private sector funding are:

- a. Be more aggressive in publicizing the tax credits available through the Oregon Cultural Trust;*
- b. Explore the development of locally based tax credits from the city and county income tax for businesses contributing to the arts;*
- c. Maintain and grow public support for art including using the "bully pulpit" to talk about the value of art to our community.*

- 2. Are you willing to increase to 2% the "Percent for Art" Program in Multnomah County? Please explain your answer.**

Yes. Public Art is highly valuable for increasing the public's awareness and appreciation of art as well as providing work for local artists. The City of Portland increased their "percentage to art" program to 2%. The County should follow suit.

- 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 Multnomah County and the region?**

First, I will explore ways to make Multnomah County a better, more supportive place for artists to work. Three things that could greatly improve the working environment for artists:

- Work to increase the availability and affordability of live-work housing*
 - Explore the use of surplus county buildings as affordable artist studios*
 - A review of local tax policies to make them better support artists*
- Secondly, I want to make sure that we have a vibrant, diverse economy so that creative people that come here can find jobs and have customers for their work.*

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

The county's funding for the arts is primarily through the Regional Arts and Culture Council. I'd support the County providing RACC funding of \$500,000 as a start, increasing from there if the overall county budget allows. While this is considerably more than last year's budget, it is the same as it was 10 years ago and should be viewed as a floor in our funding for the arts.

