

**Art PAC**  
**Multnomah County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire**  
**Lew Frederick**  
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?**

*The arts contribute to the richness of community life with or without economic benefit, but they are, or can be, an economic engine in their own right. The strength of the creative services industry, an industry that plays an important role in our region's participation in the global economy, is dependent on a rich cultural life in our community and a rich education in the arts for our youth. These are in turn dependent on the support and encouragement that local artists receive. Some parts of the business sector already know this, while others need to learn it. The growth of the creative services industry will be an essential part of my vision for the economic future of our community, and my message about that future. I also plan to be a visible participant in the artistic life of our community to raise awareness of the link between the arts and economic and cultural vitality. My background includes a BA in Drama, service on the Boards of Portland Cable Access (now Portland Community Media, past president), Oregon Public Broadcasting (Citizens Advisory Board), the National PTA and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as well as significant involvement in Do Jump Theater in connection with my daughter's membership in their youth performance troupe; please see my resume sent separately.*

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

*First, I think it is vital that elected officials be relentless in pointing out the falsity of the choices often presented to us. Budgets are not the weather, and budget crises are not natural disasters; budgets are created by human action and can be changed by human action. Instead of talking about what we can't do because of tight budgets, we should be talking about what we want our community to be and what it takes collectively to be that. That said, I am willing to make such an increase, but I am not willing to decrease support for health, safety or education in order to do it. We have to make this a larger conversation about the kind of community we want and need.*

- 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?**

*A high quality education includes the arts, and every child is entitled to a high quality education. I will continue to work to reverse the financial disinvestment in high quality education that has occurred over the past 16 years, and to make sure that the arts are included whenever we consider the content of a comprehensive education. More specifically, I will require that when the County supports schools or after-school programs, the arts must be part of the package. I will also champion county-wide wireless internet access, and recognition of the creative industry as an economic development cluster that represents enormous opportunity for the economic future of the region. I will insist that when we consider how we support the cultural life of the community with the County budget, we must work with the professionals who promote the arts now. That means that we must consult with those whose lives are devoted to artistic endeavors to find out what they need, and that we must consult with businesses that depend on creative talent to learn about their needs and priorities. The arts are not luxuries, and should not be subject to the whims of the marketplace or a particular generation or economic class. I want to build sustainable support, so that our arts organizations can have the stability to focus on what they do best*

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

*Again, I want to base that amount on the programs we believe we should have, not pull a number out of the air and then fit the programs into that. The County Board should be consulting with the professionals who provide the programs to learn what constitutes a realistic budget for what we want to accomplish. Within economic development, I would insist on a significant focus on creative industries. Within education and after-school programs, I would insist on the arts being an essential part of a comprehensive education. Within public works, I would like to see an increase in the percent devoted to art. In addition, I would like to propose a new initiative to insure that every sixth grader receives some significant exposure to arts education at the beginning of the middle school years. I would work with arts organizations to learn what it would take to create a program with a significant impact and a sustainable budget.*