



## 2008 General Election Questionnaire

Please fill in your information and answer the four questions below. Return via email at [oregonartpac@yahoo.com](mailto:oregonartpac@yahoo.com). Those of you who answered these questions in the primary election have an opportunity to reconsider your responses.

Responses are due no later than September 18, 2008.

Follow up interviews will take place in the late afternoon of September 22, 2008 at the Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery, 929 NW Flanders Street. We will contact you regarding a specific time.

**Candidate:** Ron Adams

**Contest:** Clackamas County Commission, Position 5

**Date of Submittal:** September 17, 2008

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1. What role do arts and culture play in the life and economy of a region and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and culture are essential to the quality of life and to the economic vitality of the County and to the region. Our region is an international attraction for tourism and we need to work together to ensure that our cultural and arts assets increasingly attract visitors.

Arts and culture are also essential to the quality of life of our citizens. I would like to press for a "two way street" for arts and culture in our region. We have great cultural and arts centers in our major city, Portland, but we also have much to offer here in Clackamas County. We have arts galleries, public and private, and entertainment venues in our schools and other sites.

2. What steps will you take to help significantly increase *private sector* funding for local arts and cultural organizations so that the community's arts organizations can present more high quality arts programs for all citizens?

I am pleased that our county already supports such initiatives as workplace giving and I will be most willing to continue to talk that program up in venues where I appear. Additionally, we have our own arts commission, the Clackamas

County Arts Alliance, which works closely with the private sector to promote the arts and arts organizations. They encourage private business to support the arts through such means as awarding an annual award to businesses. They conduct classes and seminars to stimulate arts support and to help artists and arts organizations. I will continue to support the Alliance and its important work.

3. How much of an increase in ongoing arts and culture funding will you support for your jurisdiction? Please provide a specific amount.

Sorry, but I cannot commit to an exact dollar amount outside the budget process whereby our needs for services must compete for scarce resources. That said, I will make it a goal to increase the modest budget amount we now devote to the arts. One important aspect of our financial support of the arts is that it makes us a regional partner through the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC).

Another area of arts support is through capital construction. The County has allocated a modest amount of money from its capital budgets to enhance the esthetics of its buildings. I view this as an important way we can make our facilities attractive and inviting to our staff and to the public.

4. In addition to seeking more funding for arts and cultural endeavors, what other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of the region? Please include your thoughts about integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I serve on the Clackamas Community College board of directors and also have deep and long standing ties to our K-12 school systems. Each of these institutions has assets and needs. I believe deeply that we need to maintain partnerships with education. A current example lies in the development of the Harmony Campus, a mutli-agency area near the Clackamas Town Center. The County will be responsible for much of the infrastructure to support transportation and other needs. In doing so, the County must take into account connections to the natural environment and to esthetic considerations.

With respect to other policies, there are numerous small ways we can make a difference and I am willing to work for them. One example: In the building permit process we are often called upon for variances. One way of mitigating some of these variances is to ask for arts elements to be added.