

**2010 Questionnaire
Multnomah County Supplemental Primary**

Please fill in your information and answer the five questions below. Return via email at oregonartpac@yahoo.com

Responses are due no later than March 21, 2010

Candidate: Paul van Orden _____

Contest: ___Multnomah County Commission Seat 2_____

Date of Submittal: __March 21,2010_____

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

A: I have an extensive network of a decade and a half working with every major arts organization and music festival in Portland since 1996 on their permits and plans as the City of Portland's Noise Control Officer. In my professional capacity I have expanded the ability of organizations to use outdoor and warehouse spaces to hold essential fund raising events.

I will draw on this major network, along with experience working directly with every single City Commissioner and Mayor over this same period to help focus money and support on the arts and garner further private sector funding. I also have direct ties to all the best fund-raisers for almost every single major non profit and for profit organization in Portland. This is an asset that NO OTHER candidate in my race can honestly say they have in their camp.

2. As you know, there is a movement afoot to create a new dedicated annual stream of **public funding** for the arts that will likely be established through a voter-approved tax measure. Can you commit to supporting this effort and if so, in what way?

A: I will be a visible supporter of any well organized movement to support this effort and will work to get attention in a variety of areas for the effort. I have networked extensively not only in the sector that Big Brother in the Big Brother and Sisters program. I believe funding for the Arts will necessitate a key connection to the loss of arts programs for inner City youth and all children across Portland. I will be a champion in that role, as well as drawing on my extensive network that already supports the arts.

3. Each year, you may have the opportunity to vote to approve an arts funding budget for the region. Will you commit to maintaining or increasing this funding level?

A: I will commit maintaining and expanding funding for the arts. I am an artist and musician myself. One can turn to my past efforts to find creative ways to help arts groups or performance groups navigate complex city governmental barriers. This has enabled a 200% increase in Portland events happening in warehouses and parks since I took over as the Noise Control Officer in 1996 and worked with partners in all City agencies ranging from fellow sworn officers, to Fire Marshals, and Parks Bureau staff. This help is vital and could have been a stumbling block to many arts groups. The ability to navigate all these agencies and stakeholders in a respectful and mediator like manner has created a win-win for the organizations involved and the community that wants their livability treated seriously.

4. To increase regional funding for the arts through a ballot measure, there are several approaches that can be undertaken – a partnership with the Metro Council, a ballot measure proposed in all three counties in their entirety or the establishment of a new Metropolitan Arts District with the authority to tax the region, voted on county by county. Which of these approaches do you support and why?

A: I would support all ballot measures that focus on the arts and specifically musical arts, which are a major part of my own life.

I support my own fairly unique approach that no City Commissioner or County Commissioner would have the background to know how to accomplish.

Specifically, I have been a touring musician in the past and have extensive knowledge and connections in that industry to develop a new pattern of interfacing public parks and property to expand exposure to the arts.

I was a public radio DJ in the Atlantic City area for 5 years. I have a number of ideas of effectively working with the new "music/arts only" public radio station that is close to being up and running. This connection and my endorsement from the stations founder will allow the Art PAC to network with this new vibrant music and arts focused station to expand funding to local arts programs. I am also endorsed by arts leaders such as Jim Brunberg, from the now famous Mississippi Studios on N. Mississippi Avenue. These direct connections are vital to the art expansion plans I will undertake as a County Commissioner.

5. In addition to seeking more funding for arts and cultural endeavors, what other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of

Portland and the region? Please include your thoughts about how you and your board, council or commission could enhance the delivery of and support for arts education in the region's schools.

A: I have been surprised for the 14 years that I have held public hearings for noise variances for use of Waterfront Park that the Parks Bureau has . Tom McCall helped ensure this space was available for future generations. Now we need to respect his efforts and expand the presence of the art in our most visible park.

I have also been focused on the fact that no one in Parks has seen the potential of the Eastbank Esplanade/ Vera Katz plaza area of the walkway. This is a wonderful area here that is covered by the bridges. I have worked with leading Acoustical Engineers to develop a few technical solutions to quiet the noise from the highway above and create a new covered area to hold arts events. More effective use of the Eastbank would help continue to revitalize the existing art community in the warehouses and spaces in the East side industrial area.

I will make this a goal of my County Commission service to be able to step out of my role in Law Enforcement and step more visibly back into my role as a musician. I will be able to capitalize on my knowledge of our available resources to expand the presence of art in the Waterfront and the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade plaza.