



2010 General Election Questionnaire

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

Responses are due no later than September 16, 2010

Candidate: Bob Austin

Contest: Clackamas County Commission Position No. 2

Date of Submittal: September 1, 2010

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?

I believe that the Arts build strong communities and make them more diverse, creative and resilient to tough economic times. My local community of Estacada has had an active Arts Commission who have contributed greatly to the health of this area through increased awareness to the arts, funding school programs and by seeking both private and public funding support for an annual, and very popular, community arts and music summer celebration that has been ongoing for over 10 years.

I also think that the arts in any community need strong, credible and visible leadership to garner support, and to attract funding from both private and public sources.

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?

Yes I am supportive of a voter-approved tax measure for the arts. I have been following the Creative Advocacy Network (CAN) process since its inception and have been initially involved as a member of Mayor Adam's Creative Capacity Steering Committee.

I would be happy to lend my name as a supporter to a voter-approved measure and to actively support its passage.

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?

I have voted this year to keep Clackamas County's budget for the arts whole for the 2010-2011 budget cycle and will continue to be a strong and vocal advocate for public arts funding at both the county and regional levels. I'm quite sure that competition for public funding for most all programs including the arts will be great in the coming years. Only by continuing to voice the values of arts programs, with examples of proven successes, will future funding be supported and forthcoming.

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 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.

I would challenge and encourage every municipality to form an Arts Commission, relevant policies for acquisition and de-acquisition of public art and a percent for art amount for any public project in their community. I have observed where local arts entities, such as in Estacada, where arts programs (visiting

artist, artist in residence programs, etc.) have been enhanced in the public schools.

Clackamas County has been supportive of public art on its campus in Oregon City including places within its buildings for the displays of local artists, including young artists. We have been at times challenged by some of our citizens for the amount of our funding of the arts when economic times are tough and have remained stalwart in our defense of the importance of the arts as a vital component of healthy communities.