



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: _____ Tom Hughes _____

Contest: _____ Metro President _____

Date of Submittal: _____ Sept 16 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 would continue to do as President what I did as Mayor which was to use my office as an entre to the business community and to lend my influence to the ask by the art community. In this way we were able, during my two terms, to raise money from the private sector to refurbish an old church into the Walters Cultural Arts center, an old pizza parlor into a 99 seat community theater for Hillsboro Artists Regional Theater, an old furniture store into a gallery and working studio space for local artists, and an old movie theater into a theater and bistro for live performances. I also served on the committee which raised the funds necessary to bring the Portland Chamber Orchestra to Hillsboro as their westside venue while promoting the funding for the Hillsboro Symphony Orchestra. I also generated city funds for the Right Brain Initiative and created the Hillsboro Arts and Culture Council. An "art-active" mayor can assist in many ways reaching out to the business community, an "art-active" President can do the same for the region.

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?

I am very supportive of this measure. As a member of the governing board of The Right Brain Initiative I have witnessed the difficulty in keeping a program alive without reliable, sustainable financing. I would assist with the campaign in any way that I might be helpful, contributing money, contacting friends, speaking on behalf of the measure.

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 am not certain that Metro has arts funding in their budget. I think it would be appropriate to look at the possibilities of adding some funding to the budget particularly as a way of promoting public art in some of the open spaces which the agency owns around the region. I also think we should explore a % for arts concept in projects which receive Metro funding through the Transit Oriented Development program.

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 have been very committed to art in school with the Right Brain Initiative and, through them, what I have seen of Young Audiences. Currently the Right Brain Initiative receives funding from Counties and Cities but not from Metro. To spread this program throughout the region may require Metro to come to the table with funding. I am dedicated to making the Portland region competitive in the recruitment and retention of business and jobs and I believe that the creative capacity of the region is a vital link to making that happen. Just as, on a smaller scale, we used a growing and ever more vibrant arts culture as a way to convince companies that Hillsboro was a place where they would like to locate and expand, the same is true, on a larger scale, at the regional level.