



2008 Candidate Responses

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Position: Beaverton Mayor

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and Culture is at the center of a vibrant, healthy community. It is the heart and soul of a community. The role that arts and culture plays in the life a community is multi-faceted. The arts can contribute to the economy, they serve as a vehicle for cultural understanding in our diverse community, they can create a unique identity for a community, they can generate tourism, and provide a forum for people to come together in celebration and appreciation of their common values. The arts are important to the community because they touch our lives, bring us together, help us to express ourselves and understand other people's perspectives. They can shape and provide a positive identity for Beaverton, which is missing at the moment. They have the power to make us laugh or bring us to tears, while they add color and drama to our everyday lives.

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

I have made a personal commitment over the past 10 years to raise private-sector funding for the arts. I am the immediate past-President of the Westside Cultural Alliance an organization committed to raising visibility and funding for the arts in Washington County. And I serve on the Board of the Beaverton Arts Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises funding to support the activities of the Beaverton Arts Commission, our City's local art agency. Over this next year Foundation members and I will meet with community members to sit down with them and share with them about the important work of the Beaverton Arts Commission. I will establish a committee within the Foundation to begin seeking donors from the private sector to make an arts venue come to life in Beaverton, and support this critical project with leadership from the mayor's office. Fund-raising starts with awareness and



identifying shared values. From there a relationship builds and donors are cultivated.

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

I would support up to \$300,000 in additional funding in FY '10. Our city is completing a visioning process, and our citizens told us they wanted to create an identifiable downtown, they wanted to attend arts and cultural events in their own community and they wanted to celebrate their diversity. Many of these goals can be most effectively accomplished through arts programming.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I would be delighted to lead a community wide discussion on building the creative capacity of our city, county and region. I would invite community arts and business organizations to co-host this discussion to develop strategies to build our creative capacity. Nurturing a culture of creativity in our community would benefit our city's economy and stimulate innovation in our workforce. The City of Beaverton currently is a participant in the work-for-art, a program that allows individuals to make contributions to the arts through their employer. I would like to work with our local business community to expand this program to other employers in Beaverton. I support Arts Partners, a program to build collaboration between community arts organizations and the schools to enhance arts education. The fine arts are essential elements in a child's education. Just as the arts are an essential element to the developing a well-rounded and healthy community, arts in education helps to develop well-rounded individuals with exceptional creative thinking and problem-solving abilities. This is an active component of the work of the Beaverton Arts Commission, and as council liaison to that group I know it is making a difference in Beaverton schools. Most recently I have advocated for a small but extremely significant change to our City's development code. This change exempts public art from sign code regulations. This change will open the door for our local artists to create more public art in Beaverton.



Position: Beaverton Mayor

Rob Drake

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and culture represent many facets in the life of a city. Public art is for the artist to display their works and the public to enjoy. It is to entertain, provoke thought and share different viewpoints. The performing arts allow the participants to express their talents and feelings and for the audience to enjoy, be provoked and hear different viewpoints. The arts and culture also help young people learn to express themselves, their talents and feelings. Arts and culture also serve as a snapshot in time for the artist and society at the time it was created. The arts form a nucleus of communication, expression and sophistication in a community. When I first took elective office as a Beaverton City Councilor in 1987, I was politely supportive of the new Beaverton Arts Commission. I didn't fully understand and appreciate its value and how important the Commission would become to Beaverton and our cultural life and identity. Over the years (the last 15 as Mayor) I've become very supportive of the arts in our community. I have seen the outstanding work the Commission has done under the guidance of our Beaverton Arts Commission Executive Director Jayne Scott. The Board is a "working" board and they make all the difference in bringing to life the arts in Beaverton. I recognize that a city has many faces and needs - the arts help meet some of those needs and create a layer of expression and sense of place. Over the last decade or so, my wife and I have purchased no less than eleven framed paintings and photos being sold by the Arts Commission. I have one hanging in my office in City Hall and the rest are on display in my home both upstairs and down!

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

Early last fall a local artist approached me about our Code restrictions on public art on walls and buildings. Our Code viewed art on walls as "signs" and required a Variance process for approval. That process is difficult by design so



that the Code isn't easy to circumvent. In addition, some members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board that I started eight years ago have wanted to do some kind of public art in recent years and they've been unable to do so. In probing our City Attorney about modifying our Code, I learned that the City of Portland has a mural ordinance that allows public art on walls. Last fall, I instructed the City Attorney to prepare a draft ordinance for Planning Commission and City Council review/adoption to allow painting of murals. The Beaverton Arts Commission assisted in the drafting and review effort. I expect it to pass with flying colors very soon. I've asked Jayne Scott to add money to the Arts Commission draft budget to serve as matching grants for local arts and organizations who want to participate in the grant program. They don't need to seek matching funds to be able to add murals to walls, but can fund the project on their own with the property owner's approval. It must be "public art" and accessible to the public for viewing. This ordinance provides a legal way and venue for property owners to provide public art. The public art grant program needn't be just for murals. The City providing matching funds will spur private property owners and artists to invest in furthering public art. This first year we'll be recommending in the \$100,000+ funding range.

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

The City has provided Jayne Scott's salary and benefit package for two decades. In addition, we provide office space and other funding support. We do ask the Arts Commission to raise additional amounts for programs and matching grants. Though it is only a proposed amount, as mentioned above, I've asked Jayne to add \$100,000+ to her budget for matching funds grants and other public art expenditures. Before we are done with the internal budget review process the amount could grow with a more refined proposal from Jayne Scott.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.



I can only speak for Beaverton and not Portland, but would support innovative and well-grounded efforts to keep promoting advancement of the arts in the region. The Beaverton School District has a very innovative program in the magnet school at the Arts & Communications campus in the City of Beaverton. I will continue to support joint efforts between the Arts Commission, City and Beaverton School District. As a youngster in parochial school, I learned calligraphy from one of my nuns who also taught school. I still do some of it today. I took several summers of art education at Holy Child Academy and always remember it fondly. My children have taken art classes. In our recent Community Visioning process that began with 16 communitywide meetings last fall, we learned that Beaverton citizens like the existence of a Beaverton Arts Commission and support a public art component. Some recommended a performing arts facility, which might be possible as an add-on facility in a much-needed new City Hall. If we seek voter approval for a new City Hall, I would also recommend buying adjoining land to create the opportunity to fund a public/private partnership to raise the funds for such a facility.



Position: Clackamas County Commissioner #1

Lynn Peterson

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

A conversation. A surprise. A learning moment. A teaching moment. An opportunity. Our public places should be about more than large expanses of paved surface for people to meet. There is an opportunity in every sign, every paved surface, every water feature and every corner to place someone's interpretation of our world.

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

As a county commissioner I have supported your work in increasing private sector participation in the arts in the region. I think some of my ideas from last year still hold "For instance, we could create a presentation to take around to Chamber of Commerce meetings and Rotary/Lions/Kiwanis groups and provide information on cool programs, successes and needs. And then show the private folks how to get involved. Another idea would be to promote the in-house galleries that Mentor Graphics and Milwaukie Providence have and then, working with those businesses, create a tour by opening the galleries to the public once a year to raise money for the arts. I think the school districts within Clackamas County would benefit from a higher level of partnership with the private sector on arts. I bet there are more ways to display children's art in office buildings and/or restaurants like the Starbucks in Sellwood Neighborhood does with the Llewellyn Elementary School. Another program might be to ask the business sector to help with funding to bring artists to the classroom or to support specific existing programs that are in jeopardy of being lost due to budget cuts. As a musician, I think it would be great to take the next step from the recent Oregon City Chamber work to provide all the marching band members new uniforms for their recent performance in a



national parade. Why not ask the private sector to purchase specific instruments for kids starting in middle school to learn how to play."

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

I think we should look at dedicating a percent to the arts after we complete our jail.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

Well...since I don't want to step on any school district's toes as county commissioner...I am sure that there are opportunities for partnership that I am unaware of in terms of grants and other programs. I would happily discuss opportunities that do not significantly impact our general funds because, as you know, we are in a tough time between the loss of the timber receipts and the economy.



Position: Clackamas County Commissioner #4

Matthew Green-Hite, CPA
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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

I was born in Oregon, and raised in Clackamas County. But I also spent many years away from Oregon - in Dallas, TX (college); San Francisco (graduate school); Rome, Italy (college); and most of Europe. Coming from a liberal arts background anyway - my father was a musician and artist before he became a teacher - I have been fortunate in my cultural training and experiences. This has been reinforced through multiple visits in the last 10 years to England, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. Art, architecture, theatre, and music are an important part of my life. In return, I have tried to spend some of my life bringing an enjoyment of the arts to others. Willamette Falls Symphony - Board member 1998 - 2004 Friends of Milwaukie Center - Board member 1999 - 2008 (Art shows, quilt shows, Music in Park, etc)

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

I am already involved in private sector funding; participating in fundraising for the Friends of the Milwaukie Center endowment(501(c)(3))as well as several other non-profits. I'm particularly interested in private / public partnerships. Past projects I am proud of include the private design, funding, and building of two parks - the Sara Hite Memorial Rose Garden (Milwaukie) and Liberty Park (Oregon City). These parks were donated to the public when completed. Although these were group projects, I played key roles in the funding of each. This is the model I would like to see expanded - the best of public and private together. In addition, I am always excited by the use of economics in funding. The Oregon Cultural Trust is a prime example of a great system (no, I didn't have anything to do with that one!). Financial and tax incentives are a great way to generate current revenue streams; and of particular interest to a CPA.



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

Given current economic conditions, it is very doubtful that I would support an increase in arts and culture funding. If the library levy fails in Clackamas County this November, this very basic resource will be cut dramatically. I will do what I can to ease the pain. It will be very difficult in such an environment to maintain current levels; much less an increase. What I will do is reevaluate the current destination for funding; and reallocate to the best of my ability to the "highest and best use". The new chair of the Commission (Lynn Peterson) will be a valuable aid in the endeavor.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

Programs such as the Arts Partners is a great example of the types of programs I would support; bringing the knowledge and appreciation of art to young students. I have been very active in the past with the North Clackamas School District and the Gladstone School District; which I will continue to work with directly.



Position: Clackamas County Commissioner #4

Charlotte Lehan
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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

The quality of life for communities is greatly enhanced by a rich environment of the arts and cultural programming for all ages. The arts cover a wide variety of visual, auditory, and performance based arts expression. It also includes not just those arts produced by “professional artists”, but also the opportunity for children and adults to experience their own expression of the arts through participation.

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

There should be many opportunities to encourage the private sector to take an active role in bringing arts and culture programming to the community. Sponsorships for events that give high visibility can enhance the reputations and outreach of participating businesses. Community sculpture programs such as those at Lake Oswego and Wilsonville, allow businesses to host sculptures without a long term commitment to a particular piece. This popular program often results in businesses permanently acquiring their sculptures.

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

It is not possible to commit to a specific increase in any budget item in absence of knowing the needs for all the other budget items. However, I would look for opportunities to leverage funding for the arts wherever possible.

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 integrating



arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I would support a wide variety of programs to bring arts and culture to the public, from arts festivals to concerts in the park to art in public places. Doing everything we can to support strong arts programs and music in our public education system is also important.



Position: Clackamas County Commissioner #5

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

I have been a beneficiary of arts in the schools and it has meant a lot to me in my life. The county could become an arts partner in clackamas County and offer awards or recognition for arts partners who invest in arts in the schools in significant or creative ways. People understand the importance of the arts and would be willing to pay a little more to insure that students and adults both have access to the arts of music, drama, visuals arts, literary arts, and graphic design.

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

The county could offer a funding match to encourage art partners to develop. The county could encourage businesses to contribute to bringingback or keeping the arts in schools. Studies show that if given arts opportunities at a young age, students learn better and also become supporters and attenders of art events in their later years.

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

As a county commissioner, I would get to decide the amount of funding that annually goes to RACC for distribution to arts organizations and projects in Clackamas County. I would vote to keep and advocate for increasing the amount of funding. I would be an advocate for a higher per centage for public arts projects.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I would advocate increasing arts funding for schools, a % for art program in Clackamas County, a workplace giving program that would encourage a check-off for the arts in Clackamas County. I would support a regional funding effort, especially if it did not decrease funding for other priority services in the county.



Position: Clackamas County Commissioner #5

Jim Bernard

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

The role of Arts in our community started many years ago when I was the President of the Milwaukie Downtown Development Association. We brought local sculpture into the community for the first time and it really had an impact. Since that time it has always been my goal to somehow bring it back and just this week City Council created a Arts Committee we are very excited about, we already have 9 volunteers. The importance for me is that it starts the conversation and it stimulates interest in the community, it gives a certain value or values that I feel creates pride in the community which I find difficult to explain. Every piece is an expression of what we hold dear such as the salmon we have on our riverfront, the fountain at the library, and the metal sculptures we have at the North Main project. They each create a sense of place and peace that says "I am home". At City Hall we display local art which provides and opportunity to introduce talented people to our many visitors. I brought this program into City Hall with the support of the City Manager.

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

As stated above we just created a City Arts Committee and I would like to see the same in Clackamas County. I would like to see a fee as a percentage of all commercial or town center projects that would pay for some form of art program or pieces to be determined and reviewed by an Arts Committee. This fee would not necessarily need to be spent at the site but could accumulate for development of a County wide plan for creation of art projects.

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



I would propose a 1/4 a percent fee for any project exceeding \$500,000 where appropriate meaning commercial, town center, and main streets. This of course will depend on the current fiscal strength of the economy.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I would get involved in the process and support the process that Sam Adams has been making, moving arts and culture to the forefront. Milwaukie's theater group New Century Players has been successful in getting kids involved in the community and in outside activities such as the poetry series I supported at our Ledding Library. These programs provide a creative outlet for students and provide a variety of positive experiences I believe are important for childhood development. It is hard to imagine under the current system of no child left behind how we could incorporate this into the schools but there are outlets such as the program at Sabin for video production and those we provide in the community. I also run our Milwaukie Sunday Farmers Market and we provide music every Sunday in many forms. The music we provide draws citizens from throughout the region and provides an excellent opportunity to socialize and network with neighbors. All these forms of art create a sense of place and pride. Because of this there is less graffiti there is greater security and less negative impact. TriMet's Art Program has significantly reduced these problems because of the local artists worked with the community and created pieces that expressed the cultural diversity.



Position: Clackamas County Commissioner #5

Ron Adams

none

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

I'm sorry, I cannot give a specific amount as requested in Question number 3. I simply don't have a clue as to needs or possibilities. I support the arts, actively support the programs at Clackamas Community College - on the Board, and will be actively involved in those discussions if elected to position 5 on the expanded County Commission, but won't generate a number to get an endorsement.

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

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In addition to seeking more funding for arts and cultural endeavors, what



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Position: Multnomah County Commissioner - Dist 1

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

A strong arts and culture community is critical to a vibrant city. Portland has been successful attracting young people “the creative class” and creating a community that appreciates and welcomes artists. We can’t lose that focus and at the same time we also need to work on bringing arts and culture education back into our public schools. Arts and culture play a strong role in my life. My grandmother was an artist and she encouraged my interest in drawing and painting at an early age. In my adult life, I have had many opportunities to support arts and culture: a. As a State Representative from North/Northeast Portland (1999-2004), I was a strong supporter of the legislation that created the Oregon Cultural Trust. b. As a parent, I have been active in my son’s elementary school award winning parent-led art program. (Duniway Elementary School) c. As a private citizen, I have had the privilege to take advantage of the many activities our great city has to offer.

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

I think a first step is to increase public participation in the Oregon Cultural Trust. Despite an admirable campaign to educate citizens to its existence, I think the Trust is still not well known. Letting folks know that they can donate to the Trust and get the money back is a strong message that can’t be told too many times. I strongly believe in the importance of art and culture in our community. As Commissioner Rojo de Steffey, the current County liaison to RACC is retiring this year, I will request to be appointed in her position. I would use that position to be a loud and vocal advocate to encourage private sector participation in funding for the arts.



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

Unfortunately, the amount Multnomah County allocates to arts and culture is woefully inadequate. And due to an \$18 million budget shortfall this year, the commissioners are unlikely to increase that amount any time soon. If elected, I will support various measures to increase the resources available to the County and ultimately, support an increase to the amount the county spends on arts and culture. I think a funding level of \$250,000 should be do-able during these lean times.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

One of the deterrents to more artists and creative people staying in the Portland region is the lack of affordable housing. Keeping housing affordable and creating new affordable housing is one of my campaign priorities. I believe that arts and culture should be a part of every student's school experience. My son attends Duniway Elementary School which has an award winning parent-led art program.

I have been a volunteer with this program and would share our school's experience with others so we could be a model for other schools. I realize that there are many schools that would need additional partners to assist with this type of volunteer program and I would be available to encourage artists, business community members and other arts supporters to join this effort.



Position: Multnomah County Commissioner - Dist 3

Rob Milesnick

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

What remains of great societies is often art, and through the passing on of that art, and of cultural values, remnants of those societies pervade. Art and culture give us insight into the past and future of a city. We look to museums, statues, novels, and photographs to see what our city was before, and to galleries, public art installations, schools, and countless other venues and displays to give us a glimpse into our city's future. One of the platforms of my campaign is to make Multnomah County a healthier county, and, essential to that goal, is the strong and vibrant presence of art and music in our community. Participation in the arts has been proven to increase the educational success and contribute to the overall well-being of our children. Art installments and programs encourage and highlight the multiculturalism and diversity of our neighborhoods and can bring people together, rather than dividing them. For me, art, culture, and music has been one of most self defining, and important aspects of me as a person, and I have benefited immensely from publicly-funded art and performance programs. In grade school I participated in the Gifted and Talented art programs of Boise, Idaho, I have been a card carrying member of the International Thespian Society (for drama and performance art) for 15 years, and I have played the acoustic guitar for the past 10 years. We need a sincere and real commitment at the County level to fund and promote art, music, and culture. It is a commitment that I promise to fulfill with action.

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

Multnomah County is facing an \$18-million dollar budget deficit, and, as such, private funding for the arts will be imperative in the coming years, to ensure that local arts and culture organizations can continue to provide arts programs for citizens. To increase private funding I propose:

- Encouraging local



businesses to participate in matching funds programs with their employees, wherein each employee contribution is matched (or doubled) by the employer.

- Soliciting support from business organizations such as the Portland Business Alliance, the Oregon Business Network and the Sustainable Business Network to incentivize and encourage donations to the arts from member businesses.
- Encouraging private developers to include a “Percent for Art” aspect in the budget of private building projects.
- Furthering the plan put forward by Commissioner Jeff Cogen to develop local tax incentives for donations to the arts, similar to the state tax credit available through the Oregon Cultural Trust.

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

In 1998-99, the Regional Arts and Culture Council was allocated over \$600,000 in the Multnomah County budget. By combining donations from private supporters and other local governments, the RACC can maximize the reach of Multnomah County’s investment. Realizing that we are currently facing a budget crisis, I feel that by using priority-based budgeting to focus on program results, rather than line-item cuts, we can at least double the current funding provided to \$376,000, opening the door to incremented increases from year-to-year until we reach and surpass the funding level of a decade ago. Further, I would encourage the incorporation of “arts and culture” elements into the budgets of other county departments. The City of Portland has taken a lead in providing funding for the arts, and Multnomah County is lagging behind. I would propose that Multnomah County increase the “Percent for Art” ordinance from 1% (established in 1980) to 2%, to match the City of Portland requirement.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region’s educational system.

One of the primary ways in which we can encourage the development of the arts in Multnomah County is through our children. The County has the most influence in the SUN Community School Program, and I would propose focusing on that program and finding ways in which creative programs can be



incorporated into it. The now-famous Rock and Roll Camp for Girls has been highly successful in motivating and inspiring young musicians by introducing them to the “real thing”, and I believe that local artists and musicians can be brought into SUN School Programs to conduct similar workshops and classes. Beyond our schools, and public buildings, I believe that we can foster the development of local businesses that provide incentives for the establishment of jobs in the creative sector. This is will improve economic viability for artists to move to our area. One way in which we can do this is by increasing live-work space and the development of mixed-use buildings, thereby creating an environment that is conducive to the needs of the artistic community.



Position: Multnomah County Commissioner - Dist 3

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and culture elevate a city from a place where people work and exist to a place where people live. Whether we're talking about private or public efforts, or professional companies or amateurs, all of the arts and humanities invite people to stretch their minds and play. Arts and culture are what separates pushes any city from a decent place to live up to a truly great city. The arts are a vibrant reflection of our lives and our community, and enhancement of the arts enhances the well-being of our community. In my mind, aesthetic enjoyment lies at the core what makes human beings unique among animals. Appreciating the beauty in music, theater, design, film, dance, and all the other arts is part of what makes us human. Understanding the basic cultural threads through all the humanities - such as literature, religion, history, philosophy, and the performing arts - allows all of us to better understand each other through shared thoughts and experiences. I am a strong supporter of arts and culture programs in Multnomah County, and I would continue to be a strong supporter if I am elected County Commissioner. Not to do so would be a disservice to my community.

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

Personally, I favor the advice offered in the proceedings from the October 2006 meeting of the Americans for the Arts National Arts Policy Roundtable (held at the Sundance Preserve in Utah). I think this report provides a comprehensive review of how private sector funding for local arts and culture organizations has shifted dramatically over the past several years, and I'm in close agreement with the report's recommendations for responding to these changes through new advocacy approaches. I think the three-fold approach presented in the report provides an excellent approach to increasing private



sector funding: (1) remind everyone that a society is defined by its arts and culture, so we need to reaffirm the public value of the arts; (2) portray the arts not as in competition with other social goals, but as a necessary part of any strategy to create healthy, vibrant communities; and (3) strongly emphasize that arts education is a critical part of children's' educations, particularly as shifts in our local and national economy cause greater demands for more "right-brained" workers. I agree with almost all the particular recommendations in this report, and I would be happy to work with arts advocates in Multnomah County in implementing them.

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

I've reviewed the RACC's budget request for FY 2009, and I would gladly support it if I currently served as a Multnomah County Commissioner. I would like to see more arts and culture funding in all government budgets in the region, but when Multnomah County is facing an \$18 million budget shortfall, it may be difficult to argue that arts funding is more important than funding for public health or safety. However, if I'm elected, I will do everything I can to at least maintain the current level of funding for arts and culture programs in the Multnomah County budget. And when the county faces a brighter funding picture, I'll do my best to ensure that budgets for arts and culture programs are among the first budgets restored, since they've traditionally been among the first budgets cut in lean years. If Multnomah County cannot restore RACC's funding to the level it was ten years ago, I'd at least like to see funding restored to half that - somewhere around \$300,000 per year.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I think Multnomah County should continue supporting and advancing the Portland/Vancouver metro area as a "mecca" for creative industries, notably architecture and design, computer software, music, and advertising. Encouraging economic development in creative industries will attract companies and workers devoted to arts and cultural endeavors. For example,



Multnomah County could work with individual city governments and the Portland Development Commission to provide tax incentives to businesses - and particularly small businesses - in creative industries, just as the county (and neighboring counties) offered tax incentives to semiconductor manufacturers twenty years ago. I see many opportunities for integrating arts and culture into various school systems within the county. The county could ensure that aspects of arts and culture education are strengthened in the few educational programs within the county's purview, such as Touchstone and the SUN Schools program. We could also partner with public schools systems to supplement their arts and culture education programs. For example, if the county did offer tax breaks and incentives to creative companies, part of the requirement for receiving those benefits could be involvement in public schools - such as providing mentoring programs for students or sending company representatives into the classroom. Or we could require companies to specifically underwrite public school art or theater programs as a condition for receiving the tax incentives.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #1

John Branam

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

The arts and culture play a critical role in the life of a city. Both literally and figuratively, they are important threads that run through us, connect us, define us, and inspire us. They are, in a nutshell, both who we are, and who we aspire to be. The arts, and our multiplicity of cultures, provide us with opportunities to both collaborate and have conversations. The arts challenge what we think we believe, while also helping us to form our beliefs. They give us pause, encourage us to be tolerant, confuse us, and help us dream. Our cultures, both as expressed through the arts and as they stand independently, give us a similar set of experiences, but they also give us the metaphorical language to communicate with each other. Our cultures defines us, proposing to us the rules for engaging with one another, while also challenging us, both individually and collectively, to break those rules and, in doing so, become a member of the developers of a new and different culture. In my personal life I very much consider myself an artist. While I can't sing, dance, paint or draw worth a damn, I absolutely consider my daily actions to be the living strokes of color I'm painting on my life's canvas. My strokes and metaphorical color selections are not perfect, and yet they are. My imperfections, poor choices, breakthroughs, relationships, setbacks and successes are the constructs of my artistic life. This, to me, is the very essence of a life lived artistically.

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

For the last two and a half years, as the Director of Development for Portland Public Schools, I have been instrumental in raising money for our kids and our programs. Further, I served in a similar capacity in the Peace Corps in South Africa. Raising money for efforts I believe in is simply a joy to me. Fortunately, because I value strongly the role the arts and culture play in our community, I would be only too happy to work to significantly increase private



sector funding for local arts and cultural organizations. In terms of specific steps, I would happily work with RACC and Arts Partners, using the cache of my role as a City Commissioner, to encourage private sector support of our community arts organizations. I would also gladly participate in the arts organizations' fundraisers both as a guest host and as someone who encourages people to give. Again, I feel very comfortable in these roles.

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

The Portland metropolitan area lags behind the national average in public funding of the arts per capita. This is ironic and unfortunate considering the degree to which Portland is known for being an "artsy" town. Among many competing priorities, it is important for the arts and culture to be near the top. As both national and local studies have shown, our city's investment in the arts return significant dividends. Further, a vibrant arts community makes Portland a much more livable community! Deciding how much public funding is appropriate for the arts and culture is not an easy task. Presently RACC receives approximately \$3.6 million from the city's general fund (including \$424,000 from the Percent for Arts Program.) In contrast, investing \$15 million per year would put us in the top ten among major American cities in terms of per capita spending for the arts. Obviously it would be difficult for us to allocate such an immediate and significant increase in funding, but knowing where the bar is remains useful. While the goal, and my commitment, would be to make modest but meaningful increases each year towards joining the top ten, it seems clear we'll have to identify alternative dedicated sources of funding to augment the city's general fund support. As someone who believes strongly in the value of the arts, I would work actively to both support such increases, and to acquire alternative dedicated sources of funding for the arts.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

As the Director of Development for Portland Public Schools, I have been deeply involved with the Arts Partners collaboration. More than one year ago I was



one of six Portlanders who visited Dallas, TX to explore the Arts Partners model. Despite stiff competition from more than fifteen other cities, our collaborative effort convinced the Dallas to adopt Portland as the city they would mentor. Since then I have spent countless hours trying to make the Arts Partners model here in Portland a reality. If elected I will continue to work diligently to support equitable access to arts education in our schools and the full integration of arts into our children's classrooms. In particular, if elected, I will continue my strong support of the Arts Partners initiative. Arts Partners represents an essential step forward for helping Portland's children have equitable access to the arts. Presently the arts are not taught widely in Portland's schools. In most cases the presence of arts and music, and the degree to which the arts are integrated into "core" classes, parallels the socio-economic standing of the schools (our wealthier ones have greater access.) This trend, which is not unlike that of other cities, is particularly disconcerting, however, because studies show that the arts are highly effective at helping to close the achievement gap between white students, and kids of color. In an era of relentless pressure on student achievement and in a world that is becoming less forgiving of those who fall below benchmarks, investments in arts education and in arts integration are proving to be particularly smart. In addition to being good for our kids, the inclusion and expansion of the arts in our schools is also good for Portland's economy. Portland needs leaders who understand this connection, and I believe I've demonstrated that I am distinguished in this respect. Clear evidence has emerged that the ability to be creative within the workplace is not only a skill employers value highly, but it is one of the few qualities that distinguishes an employee as one who is "highly valued." As we in Portland continues to position ourselves as a mecca for the creative industries, ensuring that we're home-growing our talent makes sense. After all, what a tragedy and how unsustainable it would be if we relied (or continued to do so) on the outside world for our creative talent. Developing a pipeline of young Portlanders who are themselves creative and innovative is essential to the sustainable growth of our creative industries. Ensuring all of our kids, regardless of the color of their skin or the names of their neighborhood schools, have access to the arts is the primary, and most critical, step forward. And let's not forget, developing talents in the arts does not happen by accident. Few, if any, "artists," are born prodigies. Developing such talent takes time. Portlanders value the rich and ever-growing array of artistic offerings around town, but those offerings do not happen accidentally. in contrast they're rooted in those early finger painting, clay making, recorder classes and elementary school plays. Fast-forwarding to adulthood, on any given evening our city is full of concerts, plays, exhibits, etc. that are offered by artists who likely had robust childhood experiences with the arts. Their



home city, and schools, supported the arts. So too must we. As a "founding" member of the Arts Partners collaboration, I have already committed significant time and money to this effort. If elected, I will continue to provide visionary leadership and an meaningful level of resources both by serving both as an ambassador for the program as it works with the school districts, the counties, the philanthropic community and the private sector to raise additional dollars, and by advocating strongly for funding by our city. Doing so will be a distinct pleasure as we work to make sure we're living up to our mantra of being a city that is passionate about the arts, passionate about our kids' education, and passionate about the belief that ALL of our kids should have access to meaningful artistic experiences. In terms of supporting and growing our creative class industries, I see this as an important part of building on Portland's natural strengths. For better or worse I spend a great deal of time with "creative classers" and thus their value to our city is clear to me. In my economic development platform I've shared more about my commitment to supporting small and medium-sized businesses, as well as the entrepreneurial among us. Not only is the City's making a more significant commitment to these efforts good for jobs, but again, it builds on our strengths. Frankly, I am bullish on leading Portland straight top of the those city's most well known for their creative, artistic, entrepreneurial and innovative spirit!



Position: Portland City Commissioner #1

Chris Smith

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

A city is not just a collection of bricks and mortar, but a living community, and arts and culture are the soul of that community. This is not just a platitude for me, but my perspective from direct experience. My first significant community service in Oregon was on the board of Artists Repertory Theatre (chairing it for several years) during a period when we built up our audience and attained financial stability in preparation for the capital campaign for the space that A.R.T. has not only developed as its home for the last 10 years, but which is now owned outright by the company. This is one of my proudest accomplishments and in my own estimation one of the greatest contributions I've made to the community.

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

As Commissioner I'll be a vocal proponent for the arts, making the case not just for the educational and cultural benefits, but also for the economic benefits. The arts provide a direct economic benefit to our community of almost \$20 spent locally (above and beyond ticket prices) by every attendee to an arts event (double that for an out-of-town visitor). But more importantly, the only sustainable competitive advantage for our region in the long run is our creativity and innovation, and the arts are one of the sustaining wellsprings of this creativity.

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

While serving on the board of Artists Repertory Theatre in the mid-90's; I had the opportunity to participate in the development of Arts Plan 2000, so I know



how badly Oregon lags the rest of the nation in both public and private support for the arts. The Oregon Progress Board report from 2005 put us at 49th in the nation for state arts funding and indicates we were not making progress. So I would very much like to name a specific and generous amount for increases in arts funding from the City of Portland. But it appears that the next few years will be challenging economically and City revenues are uncertain. Nonetheless, to the extent possible, I will work to sustain and if I can, increase, Portland funding for the arts.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I fully embrace the “Arts Partners” strategy to create a clearer connection between the arts and education in our region. As Commissioner I will be a vocal champion for the approach and will prioritize City investments in the arts in alignment with this strategy, just as I intend to prioritize City investments in parks, transportation and housing in ways that support our schools.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #1

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

The arts and culture play many roles in contributing to the livability of a city. The artistic community provides a crucial sector of the economy. Last year, the arts non-profit I founded, Ethos Music Center, employed 78 people. The arts and culture community also attracts people to our city. People choose to live in Portland because they can easily access cultural centers such as concert venues, museums and art galleries. I believe the most important thing arts and culture can contribute to our city is in aiding the development of our children. Numerous studies have shown the tremendous benefits of a music education. I believe that all children should be able to share in these benefits. When budget cuts threatened to destroy music education programs in Portland Public Schools, I stepped in and found a solution. I slept on a friend's couch for a year and started Ethos Music Center on my credit card. Ethos has grown from a tiny program into a nationally recognized non-profit that serves over 2,200 children in the Portland area every year. The arts played a major role in my childhood. I am happy to be able to contribute to the artistic community here in Portland and am proud to have been able to share an arts education with thousands of Portland youth over the past decade.

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

When I started Ethos Music Center, I was sleeping on a friend's couch and I put all the early expenses on my credit card. What started as a volunteer driven organization with borrowed classrooms from the University of Portland now has state-of-the-art facilities and a budget approaching \$1 million a year. I am the only candidate in this race who has run a non-profit arts organization. I also serve on the board of the Western States Arts Federation. I have built strong relationships with a number of private individuals and foundations who have



been great partners with Ethos and other local arts organizations. When I am on City Council, I will continue to work with these funders and more to fund grassroots arts programs that benefit everyone in our community.

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

The Portland region ranks 24th in the nation in terms of per capita funding for the arts. This is unacceptable. I support the goal of artPAC to bring the Portland region into the top 10 nationally. However, this will need to be a collaborative effort. Currently, the City of Portland contributes almost \$4 million dollars a year to RACC. In comparison, the funding coming from Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties is incredibly low. When I am on City Council, I will fight to ensure that more money comes from City Hall to support the arts, as well as from all governmental bodies in the region. While the majority of the funding from the City of Portland for arts projects goes through RACC, I would like to explore opportunities to directly empower small and medium sized arts organizations. Ethos has been able to efficiently use its funding to reach 2,200 underserved children a year in the region and employ 78 people. We also produce "Ethos Live", a weekly concert series which is broadcast on cable access that showcases up and coming groups and musicians. Ethos has done a great service to the arts community with limited funding. I would love to use my position on the City Council to empower small and medium sized organizations to do the same.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

It's disgraceful that only half of the schools in Portland have certified music instructors. We need to look at policies at all levels of government that have decimated Portland Public School's funding base. This includes reexamining our use of Urban Renewal Areas and finding ways to allow working and middle class families to buy and rent homes in Portland. Over the past decade we've seen a mass migration of families moving out of Portland. Our schools have lost 11,000 children and \$60 million in funding. Inevitably, the first programs to be cut are physical education and the arts. The artistic community in Portland



will not continue to thrive unless the next generation of artists is given the resources to develop their talents. Artists also feel the affordable housing crunch. In many cities across the country we've seen artists forced out of their communities by escalating housing prices. If Portland is going to continue to be a thriving cultural center we need to make sure the men and women who contribute to it can afford to stay here. We are proposing a "Homestead Program" that would give first time homeowners a \$10,000 down payment from the city if the homeowners agree to stay in the home for 5 years. As a City Commissioner, I would much rather give \$10,000,000 to a thousand families and individuals to purchase their own homes than to write a single check to a wealthy developer who would build more million dollar condos. It's frankly "development" that most people in Portland cannot afford.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #2

Harold Williams II

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

It is one of the things that makes a city unique. Art is the narrator of life... See I went to JEFF.

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

What steps would YOU take?

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

How would do we have now? Where would we get it from? We all have to answer these questions first.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

What would you do? As far integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system I'm all for it "Let's do it..." SHOW ME HOW.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #2

Nick Fish

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

I am passionate about the arts and culture. Through my service on the board of directors of the Oregon Cultural Trust, I am working to increase funding for innovative arts, culture and heritage organizations state-wide. I am strongly committed to the values that arts and culture should be accessible and available to all Portland citizens, and that arts education should be restored in our schools. Arts and culture are a “core value,” part of the essential infrastructure of Portland. Arts and culture play a critical role in our community, broadening and enriching our perspective, creating deeper connections to people and place, inspiring us, and challenging our assumptions. Arts and culture also contribute significantly to our local economy. Portland’s reputation as a livable city, and as a magnet for the “creative class,” is directly linked to our rich and developing arts and culture scene. I am proud of the endorsements I have received from arts leaders in Portland, including Eloise Damrosch, Virginia Willard, Al Solheim, Peg Malloy, Bob Gerding, David Bragdon and many others. A complete list is posted at www.Nickfish2008.com

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

The private sector should do more to support local arts organizations. And arts and culture must be accessible to all our citizens. I commit to playing a leadership role in a number of areas. First, through my service on the board of the Oregon Cultural Trust, I will continue to advocate for increased funding for arts, cultural and heritage organizations state-wide. Second, as a City Commissioner, I will partner with Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts (NWBCA) to advocate for increased business support for the arts. I will encourage people to participate in Work for Art, and private donors to



support Arts Partners. Finally, my family will continue to support local arts organizations with our own resources.

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

In 2004, I supported an increase in the “Percent for Art Programs” in Portland to 2%. I commend Commissioner Adams for his leadership in this area. I will advocate for significant increases in funding for RACC in FY 08-09, as follows: (1) \$3.2 million in ongoing programs. (2) \$200,000 in one-time discretionary funds. (3) Up to \$900,000 in “Add packages” to develop infrastructure, restore arts education, and provide access to the arts for all Portland citizens.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region’s educational system.

As previously mentioned, I will work to restore arts education in our schools. That is why I support the innovative Arts Partners initiative and will work to partner non-profits, donors, and our school districts to enhance the educational experience of our children. In addition, I will continue to be a vocal advocate for arts and culture, a visible patron, and a strong supporter of the important work done by RACC, NWBCA, and others. Finally, since I believe that the arts are a core value, I will work with other advocates on City Council and on County Commission to make Portland a national leader in support for the arts and culture.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #2

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Too often, elected leaders in America—from the federal government all the way down to city level—treat the arts a luxury, as something we can “get around to” if ever we are blessed with extra resources. That, I believe, is a tragic approach that has predictably led to a situation where arts are woefully neglected, especially as compared with our counterparts in many other parts of the world. I believe wholeheartedly that arts and culture are not mere luxuries, but are, in fact, vital to the health of any community, and must be considered as priorities on par with others that we take for granted, like education, roads, and public services. Specific to Portland, the arts have arguably contributed heavily to our status as a destination city, especially for those coveted young creative professionals. Portland’s reputation as a creative haven brings in not just people who work in creative endeavors, but also those people for whom access to arts is crucial when deciding where to live. This is great for local businesses, since we are attracting a creative, talented, engaged workforce. And local private spending on arts and cultural events is a substantial part of the city’s economy that we need to not only maintain, but help to grow. I also believe that people who are engaged in the arts—as creatives or as consumers—are more engaged and committed to the community at large than people who aren’t. Less tangibly, arts and culture enrich our lives (mine included) and the collective life of the city in ways that can’t be met by anything else. Humans have been creating art since before we organized into societies because, I believe, the impulse to create—and to interpret the world around us—is a crucial and natural component of consciousness. To put it more simply, I can’t imagine living in a Portland that didn’t have a vibrant arts and culture community.

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



There are a number of approaches I will take, and a number of improvements on existing programs that the city council can encourage—or require. On an individual level of private arts funding, the city and state have existing programs like RACC’s Work For Art program that are great at encouraging employees to participate in workplace giving to the arts. Unfortunately, I don’t know how many people actually know about these programs, so I would work with my council colleagues to secure funds for RACC to market this program to more employees. This would be an investment on our part—I believe that any money we dedicate to getting the word out about workplace giving will result in a substantial return. We also need to do a better job at letting people know about the tax deductions they can make when they donate to arts organizations. And, though it’s not technically private sector funding, I believe the city needs to find ways to increase the Work For Art matching funds cap that is currently in place. We partner with two other counties and other sources, and the best we can come up with is a \$230,000 match? I know we can do better, we just need to find the political will. More importantly, Portlanders who care about the arts need to make sure that they’ve got dedicated people—like me—on city council ready to fight for these funding issues. On a macro level, we need to encourage a greater spirit of corporate cultural philanthropy in Portland. Businesses know that a vibrant arts scene in a city attracts and keeps quality employees. What we need to do is give businesses every nudge we can in order for them to see their role in fostering arts and culture. One thing is clear: To get funding from large and small businesses in Portland, nonprofit arts organizations may have to become more comfortable asking for that support. I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that people in the for-profit corporate world and the non-profit arts world frequently speak different languages. I believe there’s a role for the city to play in helping bridge that gap, perhaps by encouraging partners—like the Portland Business Alliance—to help bring the two sides together. And, obviously, RACC partners with the Northwest Business for the Arts in a similar capacity that I think can be expanded.

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

In the beginnings of his Creative Capacity campaign a year ago, Commissioner



Adams revealed some figures that I think are just startling: When it comes to public funding for the arts, Portland is sadly well behind most other cities our size or larger. That's troubling by itself, but even more so considering Portland's reputation (deserved or not) as a world-class arts city. I'd like to fix that. Since the city's budget is a zero-sum game, it can be difficult to talk about exact figures, but I'd start with a stepped increase in the city's Percent for Arts program, leading to 3 percent or more in the next five to ten years. I don't know that 3 percent is an adequate figure, but the current 2 percent isn't. I'd also support a levy that would provide funding for the arts. In order for this to happen, the city's creative community will need to figure out how to come together as a relatively unified political body—something that will take organization and leadership. I would assist them in any way possible. I also believe that we can't talk about arts funding as if it exists in a vacuum. I've heard from the arts community that one of the most important things the city can do is to build and maintain the affordable housing stock in the central city. I'm proud to have worked as chief of staff to Erik Sten, who championed the 30 percent set-aside for affordable housing. As a city commissioner, I would fight to make sure that the Portland Development Commission is meeting—or exceeding—this requirement in every urban renewal area. By the same token, I'm committed to advancing Erik's Schools, Families, Housing Initiative, which ties together affordable housing and the health of our schools, so that artists who have families and children don't have to flee to the suburbs in order to afford to live. The Initiative also provides grants to neighborhoods for improvement projects chosen by the neighbors—I would find ways to connect them to local artists for aesthetic improvement projects. We also need to find the money to export our talent as much as possible. We already have great ambassadors in people like Gus Van Sant, Todd Haynes, Chuck Palahniuk, The Decemberists, Storm Large, etc. We need to become better at telling the rest of the world about the richness of talent we have in this fair city.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.



As I mentioned above, I will fight to build and maintain the stock of affordable housing in the central city, both through the 30 percent tax increment financing set-aside and through the Schools, Families, Housing Initiative. This may be the single most important thing we can do to keep and strengthen the creative community in Portland. I also know how important it is for artists to have affordable work spaces. Currently—and historically—the central eastside industrial area is home to many artists because it’s one of the last places in the city to find affordable live/work spaces, and artists don’t have to worry about close-by neighbors. With development encroaching on that neighborhood, there will be enormous pressure to change that district into something that’s more retail friendly. Luckily, the Portland Plan is undergoing review in the next couple of years, and I will fight to make sure those spaces are preserved and, where possible, to expand. Portland has become a haven for artists—rather than places like San Francisco and New York—because they can still afford to live and work here. We can’t let that change. If possible, I’d like to identify empty city-owned buildings and turn them into live/work spaces with affordable rents. In exchange for the cheap living, artists would be expected to give back to the community by way of volunteering to teach their field to Portland school children. (I unabashedly stole this idea from Sam Adams’ 2004 campaign. I’m not ashamed—it’s a great idea.) There are also a couple of issues that don’t directly pertain to city policy, but that need a strong bully pulpit reaction from the city council. First, we need to strongly encourage the OLCC to amend its rules about minors in event spaces that happen to serve alcohol. OLCC staff and music advocates have worked for months on a proposal that will allow minors into concerts at places that serve alcohol as long as there are appropriate control plans in place. This keeps kids safe, while also giving them a chance to witness the life-changing force of live music. It’s good for the kids, for musicians, for local businesses, and for the city. Now we just need the OLCC commissioners to vote yes. Second, we need to strongly encourage the Oregon Employment Division to amend its archaic—if rarely enforced—rules on how musicians should be treated when they perform at local venues. Currently, they are considered “employees” of those venues, even if they only perform there once. This puts venues on the hook for employment taxes for those performers—in the recent case of Mississippi Studios, the fine was thousands of dollars. This rule is utterly contrary to the reality of performances at music venues, and could greatly hinder the ability of small venues to host shows, and that’s exactly the wrong direction for us to go. I would continue and expand the good work Adams’ office has done with connecting the local arts community to city hall. First Thursdays and the ongoing art exhibits in the building are a good start, as are the PDX Pop Now showcases in front of the building that were held last summer. There’s no



reason why we can't have those performances there more often. I'd also work with the Parks Commissioner to make sure that city facilities are being used as much as possible for performances. As for increasing the interaction with Portland schools, I think there's a very clear tie-in with the frequently discussed, but still theoretical, arts levy. A component of the levy could be grants to individual artists or arts organizations, but in exchange, they'd give their services as art teachers to local schools. Second, as previously mentioned, I'd like to find ways to bring local artists more fully into the Schools, Families, Housing Initiative. Lastly, as city commissioner, I'd like to explore the possibility of a city-sponsored all ages performance venue/community space. The idea would be that the city would help find and acquire a venue (or convert one that's already in the city's or PDC's portfolio), and then turn it over to a non-profit to manage. In exchange for some operating funding, the city would appoint a board to oversee the booking, to make sure that diverse tastes are satisfied. If we find the right location, we could also include a recording facility, which could record live shows and other sessions, which could then be marketed out a la Austin City Limits, or broadcast live on local media. The location could also serve as a teaching center, where local musicians would volunteer their time to give lessons to aspiring musicians.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #4

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and culture play a huge role in Portland. Portland is seen as a hub for alternative, independent, and green culture. This is also due to the art we have here. In Portland we have numerous theatres, museums, and galleries. We even have a gallery that has art done completely by homeless youth. Art in Portland plays a role in identity for Portland. Without the enormous amount of art and culture, Portland would be some other city in that one state. In my life arts have played a vital role. If it wasn't for music in High School, I wouldn't have graduated. If it wasn't for my love for African and Brazilian Dance, I wouldn't have stayed in Middle School. If it wasn't for being raised in a family of art, I would not be who I am today. With art in your life, you are truly able to live.

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

There needs to be a connection between employee retention and the health benefit of arts in the work place. Once this is realized, I believe private funders will come flowing in with money to help keep their employees happy and working hard.

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

I am not sure the current amount given. I would definitely like to increase the funding. I would have to know the current amount, assess what is being done with the funds and if I think the current funds are being utilized well but are proving to be too little to expand arts and culture to every community, I will work to make sure that the plan and funding are in motion to do so.



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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

When I was in Middle School, I enrolled late. Because I did so, I missed out on enrolling into dance and theatre. That was the last year Hosford Middle School had those programs throughout my three years there. I would like to see other programs suffers as much as the arts have suffered in our educational system. Math, Science, and English are important but they are valued so much that we cut the important art programs that keep our young people in school. If we keep and expand the amount of art students are exposed to throughout their schooling career, I guarantee an increase in school retention rates. I will support any policy that dictate and put in motion the above statements.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #4

Martha Perez

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

The City of Portland is expecting in the next twenty years, an influx of over an additional million residents. The arts can be an effective and creative way of sustaining equity, thru development of entrepreneurial, creative-class and sustainable business industries, respectively. As a private citizen, I have taken many art courses and enjoy drawing people. As a civil servant, I've volunteered on extra-curricular projects that exemplified multi-cultural, artistic, endeavors. As a former college student, I am honored to have played a volunteer role in bringing resources to create & build the now-functioning Native American Student & Community Center at Portland State University. As an advocate, I've also assisted in bringing instructor resources to the Native American Youth Association's high school, here in Portland. I am also excited to mention that the Portland Art Museum is now bringing in a new curator of Native American art and I look at this as a sign of progress. In addition, I am a proud single parent of a teenage daughter (named Martha Jr) who is already a highly talented artistic photographer. In addition, her artwork is on display at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, DC, courtesy of the Oregon College of Arts & Craft (OCAC). We have also participated in family summer programs sponsored by Pacific NW College of Arts (PNCA). On a more personal note, I wish to mention that I am philosophically opposed to war and see art as an attractive solution/conflict alternative. Art has also been scientifically proven to be therapeutic and healing. We have yet to examine the potential for healthcare-based art therapy for patients, elderly, chronically ill, mentally ill and victims of trauma/violence, etc.

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

To significantly increase private sector funding, I would be open to working



with a range of supporters and different types/levels of funding. I am concerned that funding for school-based arts in the public sector have declined. I would be in support of those policies that could generate funding, but I realize at the same time, that taxpayers are wary of new tax burdens placed on their shoulders, especially during a recession; however, with careful planning, I believe that we can bring in more resources to support the vision, mission and goals of our united efforts. If elected, for example, I will support the Portland Childrens' Investment Fund and would approve of future budget increases for this (& related) projects.

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

Having visited great cities such as Washington, DC, Chicago, IL, San Francisco, CA and Santa Fe, NM, where there has been much art/cultural investment made, I agree that Portland could definitely use a boost, not only in terms of increasing funding for the arts, but developing a cottage industry that employs and provides numerous opportunities for artists and/both organizations that deliver art-based services & products (which the city of Santa Fe has already done). I think that art can also be viewed as being compatible with this region's desire to be environmentally sustainable. Combining the two, therefore, continues to evolve; however, in order for this to occur, funding should increase at least double of what we're investing now.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

I would create a system of art that is accessible and affordable for every resident of the City of Portland. Museums would be financially able to offer either free or reduced-prices for artistic programming. The reasons for why this must be a priority, is because it is either financially difficult or impossible for low-income adults and/both children of school age to be able to enjoy this recreation without direct support. Although many organizations already offer some sort of needs-based scholarship for children/adults to participate in programs, what I propose, is that if we are able to expand our ability to offer free programming, then more citizens will become directly involved in wanting



to support the endeavors of the artistic communities. We need to increase the number of those who are stake-holders. First Thursdays may very well become a daily occurrence, rather than weekly. In addition, the number of curators should increase, in order to manage the growing portfolios of our art houses and museums. We can create a model to the rest of the nation, to demonstrate that cities must embrace art, if its citizens are to truly thrive and learn, while benefitting the bottom line, at the same time.



Position: Portland City Commissioner #4

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and culture are an integral part of life in Portland. I am a huge fan of the music scene in Portland...especially Blues and Jazz. I have led efforts to donate money from the City of Portland to both the Portland Blues Festival and the Portland Jazz Festival.

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

I am proud to have supported gifting city general fund dollars to the Regional Arts Council in a greater amount than at any other time in Portland's history.

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

The Portland City Council is in the process of developing our budget to be effective July 1, 2008. In order to protect the integrity of our budget process I am not prepared to give a specific dollar increase at this point. However, our contribution to RAC plus other specific art projects in Portland is unparalleled in our region. I will support the largest increase the city can afford. However, I did secure a \$100,000 grant to the Portland Jazz Festival (over and above our other arts funding) in the current budget year.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.



I have been an active participant in First Thursday's at Portland's city hall. I host a different artist every month and invite citizens into my office all month long to view my current displays. I am supportive of efforts to expand art education in Portland's K-12 schools as well.



Position: Washington County Commissioner - Dist 3

Eric Squires

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What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?

Arts and Culture: "The fabric of our lives" The arts meant income to me in the role of a salesperson on Portland. It means entertainment and is a measure of quality of life to me.

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

The position sought is minimal in leverage to accomplish this directly. Indirectly, a Commission Member in Washington County may gently move this agenda along. I already do that with my personal affairs pertaining to arts and culture.

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

See answer above. I decline to address a specific amount.

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 integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.

The position sought appears very independent of the educational system. Addressing fairness in taxes, and system development charges for new construction to provide start up funding for new schools allows voters to direct school districts the way they want. I do support arts and culture in schools.