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Appoint Joaquin Lopez and Leila Haile as Creative Laureates for terms to expire June 30, 2023

Report

As Arts Commissioner, I request Council confirmation to appoint Joaquin Lopez and Leila Haile as our City's next Creative Laureates. They will serve a two year term starting July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Rubio

Commissioner

As Mayor and Commissioner of Finance & Administration, I request Council confirmation of the following appointments as our City's next Creative Laureates:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>
Joaquin Lopez	June 30, 2023
Leila Haile	June 30, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Wheeler

Mayor

Joaquin Lopez

Statement:

I am excited to be one of the next Creative Laureates for the City of Portland to promote creative expression, new ideas, and community healing. To accomplish this, I will integrate my lived experiences as an artist, entrepreneur, non-profit manager, and mental health counselor to call forth inspiration. This role will allow me to follow in the footsteps of Creative Laureates, Subashini Ganesan and Julie Keefe, to continue to broaden the conversation about the arts, social change, and culture in our city. Most importantly, as a gay Latino male who found solace in the arts and who forged his identity through creative expression, I want to inspire Portland's elder, middle aged, and young artists to express themselves and to follow their dreams. To transform a community, we must support, trust, and rely on the authentic expression of the artists who live in it. We, the people, have the power to develop new works of art, new ideas to share,

Introduced by

[Mayor Ted Wheeler](#)

[Commissioner Carmen Rubio](#)

Prepared by

Mona Schwartz

Date Prepared

June 21, 2021

Requested Council Date

June 30, 2021 12:00 pm

Requested Agenda Type

Time Certain

Confirmed Time Certain

Requested Start Time

10:40 am

Time Requested

25 minutes

and new products to fuel an economic and cultural exchange. As the Creative Laureate, I would like to reach out to our cultural storytellers and to our elders and youth. I believe we have a great deal to learn from listening to those who have walked before us, who stand to inherit our earth, who hold our stories, and who have paved the way.

Bio:

Joaquin Lopez is a counselor and performing artist whose work is grounded in personal transformation, self-expression, and Latino Queer identity. He holds a passion for producing cultural events that honor Latin American heritage and Latino Gay culture. In June of 2019, he released UNIVERSO, an electro-pop album that pays homage to his coming-of-age as a gay man. He is the oldest son of the Lopez family who for twenty years has run La Bonita Mexican restaurants in the Alberta Arts District, Overlook Neighborhood, and SE Division Neighborhood. Joaquin runs a counseling private practice specializing in men's issues, personal development, and the bicultural Latino experience. When not at the office, Joaquin spends time reading, walking, playing the guitar, singing, and writing poetry. He enjoys time with friends and family, especially his nieces and nephews who keep his spirit young.

Leila Haile**Statement:**

Art is our most powerful tool for disrupting the dominant hegemony responsible for driving oppression, this is why a strong, anti-racist cultural ecosystem is absolutely necessary for achieving equity, my driving motivation as an artist and the impetus behind my application. Having lived in Portland for the last 15 years, I've had the privilege of building creative communities across identity, practice and ability. As Co-founder and Co-Director for Ori Gallery, I've spent the last 4 years curating space for Black, Indigenous, Communities of Color, Queer and Trans communities to host exhibitions, arts programming, political education and direct action. As a Black Queer and Trans tattoo artist focusing on communities excluded from tattooing because of colonization, white supremacy, misogynoir and ableism I have a unique perspective on what Portland's creative landscape is like for marginalized artists and activists. I know that with increased access to resources, community outreach and institutional support, I will continue and build upon the work of previous laureates to connect, uplift and mobilize folks on our community towards a more equitable city.

Bio:

Leila is a community educator, organizer, dancer, and tattoo artist who has been in Portland for the last 15 years and spent the last four curating space for Queer, and Trans communities effected by white supremacy to host exhibitions, art programming, political education, and direct action through Ori Gallery. From their work with the All African People's Revolutionary Party to the Independent Publishing Resource Center, PNCA, Reed College, PSU, the City of Portland, Disability Arts and

Culture Project among others, they have organized across disciplines and ideologies to merge the liberatory with the creative. After running an independent tattoo practice for the past 6 years, they joined Constellation Tattoo Collective in the summer of 2020, focusing on communities excluded from tattooing because of colonization, misogynoir, and ableism.

Impact Statement

 [Impact Statement](#) (24.73 Kb)

Agenda Items

512 Time Certain in [June 30, 2021 Council Agenda](#)

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Mayor Ted Wheeler

General information

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City of Portland, Oregon



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IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Appoint Joaquin Lopez and Leila Haile as Creative Laureates for terms to expire June 30, 2023 (Report)

Contact name: Mona Schwartz

Contact phone: 503-865-6667

Presenter name: Mona Schwartz

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The Creative Laureate initiative was established in 2012 by former Mayor Sam Adams who sought to provide Portland with an official ambassador for the broader creative community. The role has evolved over the years and the Creative Laureate is now an active advocate for Portland's diverse arts and culture ecosystem. This year, Commissioner Rubio selected two Creative Laureates to address the significant need for supporting and engaging with our creative community as we heal and rebuild from the events of the past year. These two Creative Laureates will each serve a two year term, starting July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. The position is not eligible for reappointment. This report does not change City policies.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This action does not amend the budget and does not create or eliminate staff positions.

Community impacts and community involvement:

It is the role of the Creative Laureates to meaningfully engage and co-create with our City's Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, LGBTQ+, and disability artists and arts collectives. The application was open and public through the Commissioner's website, social media, and reported about in local outlets. A community panel composed of diverse members of Portland's creative community, along with current Creative Laureate Subashini Ganesan, reviewed applications and recommended finalists that were then interviewed by Commissioner Rubio. The two Creative Laureates selected bring lived experiences and deep relationships with community members the City seeks to serve as well as significant creative experience. During the presentation of the report we will hear from both of them, as well as current Creative Laureate Subashini Ganesan.

100% Renewable Goal: N/A

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
 NO: Skip this section