Arts Education and Access Fund

Managing Bureau: Office of Management & Finance, Bureau of Revenue & Financial Services

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the fund is to receive gross revenues from the Arts Education and Access Income Tax and provide the net revenues to the school districts and to the Regional Arts and Culture Council solely for the purposes established in Chapter 5.73 of City Code. Net revenues are distributed from this fund to the six school districts located in the city (Portland Public, David Douglas, Centennial, Parkrose, Reynolds and Riverdale) and the Regional Arts and Culture Council, in accordance with their respective intergovernmental agreement or contract.

Funds distributed to the school districts are to be used to hire certified arts or music education teachers for kindergarten through 5th grade (K-5). Distribution is based on a ratio of one teacher for every 500 K-5 students or a pro rata basis for less than 500 students attending a school. Any funds remaining after distribution to the School Districts is distributed to the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC). Up to 95% of the funds distributed to RACC are for grants to support non-profit Portland arts organizations. A minimum of 5% of the funds distributed to RACC are for grants to schools and nonprofit organizations that give access to high-quality arts experiences to K-12th grade students with particular emphasis on programs directed to underserved communities.

Sources of Revenue: The Arts Education & Access Fund receives revenues from a tax of $35 imposed on each income-earning resident of the City of Portland who is at least 18 years old, has a $1,000 or more of annual income, and is in a household above the federal poverty level.

Contingency Requirements: Per Financial Policy 2.04, contingency funds should be used to address reasonable but unforeseen requirements within the fiscal year. There are no minimum or maximum contingency requirements for the fund.

Reserve Requirements: There are no reserve requirements for this fund.

Disposition of Funds: If the tax is sunset at a future date, all funds will be disbursed to the school districts, Regional Arts and Culture Council, and the Office of Management and Finance Revenue Bureau (for administrative expenses) as allowed under intergovernmental agreements and the expense cap approved by voters (Ordinance 185761).