

The State of Arts and Culture

I am passionate about arts and culture, and honored to serve as the City's Arts Commissioner.

This year we were reminded of the power of public art. The "Percent for Art" program turned 35. Former Mayor Bud Clark, Rose Highbear, the Chapman school choir, and Storm Large joined us for a 30th birthday bash for *Portlandia*, our copper goddess. As Mayor Clark pointed out, she has held up better than the Portland Building!

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) turned 20. RACC presented its "State of the Arts" report to Council in February, complete with a pop-up performance by Portland Opera and slam poetry by Bella Trent. And we declared November to be Public Art Month – and celebrated in style with a City Hall art exhibit and reception.

Arts education is making a big difference in the lives of our kids. As I explained in my *Artslandia* essay "Why Arts Education Matters," linking core subjects to the arts improves learning. And thanks to the Arts Education & Access Fund (Arts Tax), more than 30,000 children in six school districts across our community now have access to the arts in their classrooms.

Work for Art, the innovative workplace giving program, celebrated its 10th year. Companies like Portland General Electric, Burgerville, and The Standard lead the way. We have set an ambitious goal to raise \$1 million in 2016.

The creative economy continues to be important to shaping our future. Governor Brown and I cheered the cast and crew of Grimm on the 100th episode in Portland. The show has contributed \$250 million to the state's economy. PNCA, which opened its new home at the 511 Building, is training the next generation of creative leaders.

Closer to home, the arts continue to enrich my own life. Jazz at Jimmy Mak's. Northwest Dance Project, BodyVox, and White Bird. Disjecta and the Circus Project. Films at the Hollywood Theater. Lee Kelly sculpture. PHAME concerts. And so much more.

I am grateful to live in a community that values arts and culture, and to work with so many talented and passionate advocates.