

Regional Arts and Culture Council:

Clear City goals aligned with strong Arts Council strategy will improve arts and culture services

Audit at a glance

Objectives



Findings



Recommendations



1 Does the City have clear goals for arts and culture?

The City does not have clear goals for arts and culture.

1. The Arts Commissioner and the Mayor work with the Arts Council, City leaders, City agencies involved with arts and culture, and community stakeholders to:

- a. Assess the state of arts and culture in Portland.
- b. Identify needs.
- c. Develop clear goals, vision, and strategy for arts and culture for City Council adoption.

2 Is the Arts Council providing services to meet City goals and contract obligations?

The Arts Council needs to articulate its strategy and regional role.

- The Arts Council lacks a strategic plan.
- The Arts Council is a regional organization, but is primarily funded by and focused on the City.
- The City's representation on the Arts Council's Board of Directors is less than what was originally intended.

2. The Arts Council conduct a strategic planning process to clarify the organization's mission, goals and vision for arts and culture. Update bylaws to reflect governing agreements.

3. City Council review the intergovernmental agreement with the Arts Council, and in conjunction with other jurisdictions party to it, recommend changes that reflect the appropriate level of board representation and funding from each jurisdiction.

The City contract with the Arts Council needs improvement.

- Elements of the contract are vague and hard to measure.
- Oversight and reporting responsibilities for arts education are unclear.
- There is a possible insurance risk because the City does not know the value of arts assets.
- The Arts Council is developing a proposal to restructure its largest grant program despite aspirational funding goal in contract.

4. The Arts Commissioner, Mayor, and the Arts Council's Executive Director update the contract, consistent with the City's goals for arts and culture.

3 Is City oversight of the Arts Council helping to ensure that City goals are met?

The City's oversight of the contract and spending needs improvement.

- There is no City contract administration or performance monitoring.
- The City is not thoroughly overseeing how the Arts Council spends money.
- The City is not tracking completely how it funds the Arts Council.

5. The Arts Commissioner and Mayor should appoint a contract administration professional to:

- a. Monitor compliance with the contract.
- b. Provide technical assistance on performance measurement and reporting to the Arts Council.
- c. Review the annual budget submitted by the Arts Council.
- d. Develop a consistent mechanism to track all City funding to the Arts Council.
- e. Develop procedures for the Art Council's reporting so that there is consistency over time.

*Visit Audit Services' website for the full report
or to watch the video from City Council's
discussion about the audit results.*



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