

Arts Education and Access Fund Citizen Oversight Committee (AOC) MEETING NOTES

Date: April 23, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Columbia Square Building, 111 SW Columbia St, Suite 800, Portland
Attendees: AOC members: Jim Cox, Victoria Dinu, Erika Foin, Alina Harway, Kimberly Howard, Steven Nance, Stanley Penkin, Gwen Sullivan, Mark Wubbold, Anita Yap
City of Portland staff: Thomas Lannom, Barbra Rice, Scott Moede, Terri Williams, Noah Siegel
Public: Scott Karter, Suzy Root, Jessica Jarratt Miller (CAN), Michael Jennings, Eloise Damrosch (RACC).
Did Not Attend: Yulia Arakelyan, Oscar Arana, Susan Denning, Kevin Jones, Carter MacNichol, Alyssa Macy, Juan Martinez, Cherie-Anne May, Sen. Chip Shields

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Welcome and announcements by Stanley Penkin, Co-Chair.
 - Requested that moving forward, meeting attendees wishing to be heard should turn their nameplates vertically to be recognized.
 - Announced resignation and read a written statement from Alyssa Macy. Alyssa is moving out of the area.
 - Round table brief introductions.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Notes

- Meeting notes from February 13, 2013 meeting were approved with no comments or objections.

3. Arts Tax Presentation by Revenue Bureau

- a. Thomas Lannom, Revenue Bureau Director, provided an update of the Arts Tax Program through March 13, 2013 (see attached PowerPoint presentation) and responded to a number of questions from the committee about potential modifications to the Arts Tax (see Resolution No. 37007).
 - 5% cap on Arts Tax administrative costs was discussed. If changes to the definition of income or the structure of the tax are made, it could impact the 5% cap. Penkin pointed out that the AOC is charged with monitoring the cap.
 - Anita Yap suggested that AOC and the Office of Equity be involved in the recommendations to City Council as well as vetting recommendations to the public before City Council adopts. Lannom advised that AOC can review the recommendations, but as an oversight committee, they may want to keep some arms-length so they can maintain an objective eye. Penkin agreed and also pointed out that the role of the AOC is to be objective.
 - Lannom responded to a member of the public who brought up convenience fees for credit and debit transactions. Thomas explained the rationale and noted that the convenience fee did not cover all expenses related to the transaction.

- Mark Wubbold asked about the feedback the Revenue Bureau has been receiving. Thomas Lannom said that the Revenue Bureau is taking difficult calls – many from senior citizens – but the feedback is not unexpected. A tally of the good calls vs. bad calls is not being kept, but he has been reviewing letters received from taxpayers.

4. **Arts Tax Presentation and Discussion with Jessica Jarratt Miller Creative Advocacy Network (CAN)**

- a. Jessica Jarratt Miller gave background and information about CAN's involvement in the Arts Education and Access Income Tax.
 - Former Mayor Sam Adams had identified a need for a funding stream for arts & arts education.
 - Originally it was expected to be regional, and had a regional steering committee comprised of people in the community.
 - Polling, surveying and outreach identified that the outcome needed to provide art education and support the arts.
 - CAN has a detailed zip code map that illustrates where there are holes in publicly funded arts programs.
 - Over time, it became clear that it wouldn't be regional and it wouldn't be a property tax, as a property tax would actually take funding away from other programs.
 - After voters passed the tax, CAN's role changed. No longer trying to pass the tax, now has a list of measurables to determine the impact on schools such as: how many arts teachers before and after the fund and what is the student to teacher ratio?
 - CAN has been tracking arts teachers in schools for two years. They can provide information on current measurements and is happy to share research and data.
 - Eloise Damrosch from RACC noted that the current Mayor is meeting monthly with the school Superintendents as is RACC. She also noted that schools are interested in sharing metrics.

5. **Sub Committees**

- a. Executive Sub Committee
 - Stanley Penkin and Anita Yap reported on the first meeting of the Executive Subcommittee. They also discussed having an individual get together with each full Committee member in order to better know each other.
 - Framework Document is now referred to as Working Agreement.
 - Yap raised her concern about public participation at Committee meetings and wanting those meetings to be as inclusionary as possible. Penkin was in agreement, but raised his concern about being able to maintain efficient and timely meetings. It was decided that each individual Sub Committee, since meetings are more informal, could decide how they want to best handle public input. It was further agreed that public participation at full Committee meetings would be a separate agenda item and generally be at the end of a meeting.

- AOC needs to create criteria for new members to recommend to City Council as two members have resigned. It was further suggested that a search for new members should include reviewing those who had previously applied for the AOC, but were not chosen.
- Attendance was discussed. If an AOC member misses two meetings in a row, a discussion should be had with the member to make sure they are still committed and able to be a member.
- Members of the Executive Sub Committee are Anita Yap, Stanley Penkin, Susan Denning, Mark Wubbold and Victoria Dinu.

b. Metrics Sub Committee

- Metrics Sub Committee is being formed. Members include Kimberley Howard, James Cox, Oscar Arana, Alina Harway and Mark Wubbold. Penkin asked this committee to reach out to each other as soon as possible to establish a first meeting as the development of the measurables and outcomes is critical to the future work of the AOC.
- Yap or Penkin will alternate as members of this Sub Committee as schedules permit.
- The Sub Committee should connect with Eloise Damrosch and/or Jessica Jarratt Miller as early as possible to help in the development of the metrics.
- Need to establish baselines.

c. Communications Sub Committee

- Victoria Dinu is leading this committee that will seek ways to best communicate the work of the AOC to the public at large

6. Future Meeting Times and Venues

- a. About every two months going forward and interim meetings as may be needed.
- b. Will Doodle poll again, but leaning toward June and September

7. Public Comment

- a. Question from the public about how arts teachers will be hired: about 70 teachers will be hired across the six school districts. RACC will have funding for an Arts Allocation Coordinator who will help structure hiring district wide. Clarification was made that an art teacher could be for music, art, dance, acting etc.
- b. Question from public about how much funding is allocated to RACC: schools will get funding first and then remaining funds to RACC.

8. Adjourn

- a. Adjourned at 8:10 pm.