

Arts Education & Access Fund Oversight Committee Public Meeting

Date: May 7th, 2021

Time: 10:30am-12:00pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees: AOC Members: Laura Streib, Michael Cummings, Patrick Browne

City of Portland Staff: Commissioner Carmen Rubio, Amelia Hicks, Tyler Wallace, Jayden Dotson, Thomas Lannom, Liz Colie Gadberry, Cynthia Castro, Will Howell

RACC: Carol Tatch, Chanda Evans, Mario Mesquita, Molly G., Heather Nelson Kent, Octaviano Merecias, Cindy Knapp

PPS: Laura Arthur, Kristen Brayson, Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero, Dr. Sarah Davis, Indigo Corwin, Carolyn Drake, Courtney Westling, Pao Vang, Edison Clark and parents, Eleanor LeClair

Riverdale School District: Liz Randall,

David Douglas School District: Brooke O'Neill

Reynolds School District: Steve Padilla

Portland Art Museum: Hana Layson

Echo Theater Co.: Bianca McCarthy

1. Welcome:

Welcome from Commissioner Carmen Rubio.

2. Introductions:

- a. Personal introduction and Arts education memories from each attendant.

3. A Celebration of Arts Education in our Schools & Community

- a. Presentation by Chanda Evans:
 - i. Overview of Regional Arts & Culture Council and the selection of a new AEF Logo.
 - ii. Through a competition open to students in grades K-8 at the six AEF school districts a new logo was chosen.
 - iii. Wanted to increase visibility and highlight students who benefit from the AEF.
 - iv. Judges included members of higher education institutions, community leaders, and Arts organizations.
 - v. Introduction of finalists Caitlin, Edison, Vincente and their art teachers.
 - vi. Reveal of winning entry by 3rd grader Vincente, titled "The Rose Waterfall".
 - vii. Koin 6 news story about local art teachers who are benefitting from the Arts Tax featured.

- b. Presentation by Octaviano Merecias, RACC Board member and Chair of the Arts Ed Committee:
 - i. The Future as we look Forward.
 - ii. Art has the ability to create change and to promote healing, wellness and health
 - iii. How do we tell the stories of the Arts Tax promoting healing, wellness, and health through art?
 - iv. Recruiting new members for committees through RACC
 - v. Working closely with supporters of art.
 - vi. Thanking all of the teachers for Teacher appreciation week.

4. 2020 AOC Report

- a. New calendar of events and schedule for reports.
 - i. Trying to speed up the timeline so that reports are more current.
 - ii. Report will show highlights of previous school year.
 - iii. Goal will be to release reports in the Fall.
- b. Working on recruitment of new members
 - i. Office of Civic Life has been doing some active recruiting.
 - ii. We're working on connecting and onboarding potential members who have shown interest.
 - iii. Goal is to have members from all school district areas that receive AEAF funds and large and small arts organizations that receive funding.
- c. Revenue Division Update by Tyler Wallace, Tax Division Manager, City of Portland:
 - i. Due to pandemic 2020 revenue collection was affected.
 - ii. Due dates changed for 2020 and 2021 to May.
 - iii. Deferred collections on the Arts Tax has affected the total amount collected so far for 2020.
 - iv. In 2020 Revenue Div. went live with new Tax Collection System to replace outdated software.
 - v. Arts Tax is now integrated with other City taxes within the system and a customer web portal was created to help with better online experience for tax payers.
 - vi. Future will include e-filing of the Arts Tax.
- d. Carol Tatch, Director of Philanthropic Innovation: The Role of the Regional Arts & Culture Council
 - i. RACC's vision is to enrich the community through arts and culture.
 - ii. The AEAF fund helps to keep kids engaged with the Arts, and instructors employed and supported. We want to connect artists with ways to engage with the community.
 - iii. Invested in partnerships, including the Kennedy Center.
 - iv. Also looking at opportunities to bring in partners from other areas to create space where everyone is welcome and how we can best serve the community.
- e. Report details from Laura Streib
 - i. 2019 report from August meeting: Teacher- student ratio was 323:1
 - ii. 2020 Teacher-Student ratio: 258:1
 - iii. Before AEAF was created. Teacher-Student ratio: 997:1
 - iv. RACC Grant funding: 4.3 million went to organizations

- v. Due to pandemic, surplus funds RACC had been holding in reserve were used to help organizations keep open longer through the pandemic.

5. Open Discussion & Action Items

- a. Carmen Rubio: Here to listen and learn more. Happy to engage further and learn how her office can offer more support. Cynthia Castro is liaison from Comm. Rubio's office and is available to connect with everyone.
- b. Guadalupe Guerrero, PPS: Appreciative of what the Arts Tax provides. Would have liked to have had a more coordinated role with RACC and had an Arts Education capacity within RACC and focus during the pandemic and distance learning to coordinate what the curriculum could look like. A more coordinated approach from districts and RACC could have been helpful. Would also like to see a more proactive role. Would like to look at the tax rate for the future.
- c. Chanda Evans, RACC: It's true that RACC was not present for the educators during the time before she arrived. Plan is to focus on advocacy and for moving forward and healing through the pandemic. Working on a series from Trauma Informed Oregon of workshops to offer for educators to support them on emotional needs as teachers and how to work with students through the trauma of recent events. We want to let people know we are here and listening, and how Arts Education can benefit them. And we want to acknowledge what we haven't done and how we can do better. It helps us move forward. We're focusing on equity and access. RACC is also working on addressing on the needs of our arts partners, and keeping their doors open.
- d. Carolyn Drake, PPS: 2018 and prior we were able to coordinate with RACC for professional development for the arts educators funded by AEAF. PPS was able to design the PD and the other specialists from the other ARTS Tax funded districts could join and it was an opportunity for all arts educators to collaborate. It's a missing piece now that we would love to see come back and was highly valued by the teachers.
- e. Dr. Sarah Davis: One highlight of distance learning during the pandemic is the ability for connections across buildings and deep collaboration, that wouldn't normally happen. We've seen a lovely growth of cross collaboration through Zoom.
- f. Michael Cummings: We see what goes on with K-5 as AEAF committee members, but we don't see a solid look at Middle School-High School. How is the arts program integrated through upper grades and how is it being developed so the investment we are making with the arts tax is being continued on through to graduation?
- g. Kristen Brayson, PPS: We are developing a strategic plan for arts education and what that considers is how we are making k-12 pathways for access to the arts. Our first phase of implementation is in the Roosevelt and Jefferson clusters. Prioritized that because they've been historically underserved. Next year we are expanding to Madison and other title 1 schools. We will be expanding over time over the next 5 years.
- h. Laura Streib: That is one of our "asks" in our report this year that we get a state of the arts report from each district so we can see the larger picture through k-12. I'd also like to let everyone know that our quarterly meetings are always open to all, and we are seeking more members to contribute. My goal is that 10-15 years from now we are seeing committee members that have benefitted from the AEAF personally as students and are perpetuating it for their children.

6. Close

- a. Thank you for attending and participating.