



ACTION AREA: Arts Culture Innovation

Did you know that Portland does not have a dedicated funding structure for arts and culture?

- library circulation • local arts groups & artists •
- arts education • infrastructure & venues •
- movie & museum ticket sales

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Cultural life plays a key role in creating and sustaining the city's distinctiveness, which is one of Portland's core values.

It is important that all Portlanders have access to arts and to arts education, and that the region invests in homegrown talent in addition to attracting talent from elsewhere in the country.

Empowering local arts groups to secure permanent, affordable work and performance space could create long-term arts and culture community anchors.

Arts and cultural activities introduce people to new ideas, ways to communicate and modes of thinking. Exposure to these things can generate creative thoughts in working and daily life.

Portland has a robust arts and culture scene. Maintaining, supporting and expanding Portland's arts and culture infrastructure, venues and public art space are critical to help Portland thrive.

Portland has a vibrant street fair, sports and public event scene.

Festivals with regional draws at Waterfront Park and street fairs along neighborhood business districts (like the Mississippi Street Fair) are regular events. Whether rooting for the Blazers, hiking in Forest Park or playing on a recreational soccer team, sports and active recreation are important elements of Portland's cultural life.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Library Circulation

In 2008-2009, Multnomah County residents checked out or renewed an average of 29.9 items per person. Among U.S. libraries serving fewer than 1 million residents, Multnomah County Library ranks first in annual circulation of books and other materials.

Sources: A "starred" ranking system for libraries has been generated from the Library Journal: <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6635248.html#OR>

National Data: Institute of Museum and Library Services The report below was generated from the following query: <http://harvester.census.gov/imls/compare/savedreport.asp?ReportId=177>

State Data at the County Level: Oregon's Library Development Services Contact: Ann Reed at ann.reed@state.or.us or (503)378-5027. The data come from the State of Oregon's Library Development Services website: <http://www.oregon.gov/OSL/LD/statsplOregon.shtml>

Participation in Parks and Recreation Classes

In 2007-08, there were about 567,000 recorded visits to Parks and Recreation facilities to participate in arts programs. Of these visits, about 14 percent consisted of registered participants, of which 64 percent were youth and 36 percent were adults.

Source: Portland Parks and Recreation, 2007-08.

Read more...
Portland Plan Background Reports
Arts and Culture

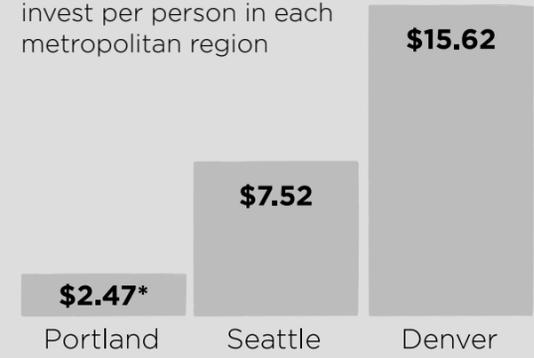
Related Reports and Projects
Act for Art: A Creative Action Plan for the Portland Metropolitan Region

Links to all listed reports and projects are provided at the end of this handbook.



ARTS SPENDING

Amounts local governments invest per person in each metropolitan region



*RACC currently receives \$4.2 million in public support from the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Clackamas County, Washington County and Metro.

Source: Americans for the Arts

Consider...

1 Should the City of Portland play a more active role in establishing more spaces for artists, musicians and other cultural professionals to develop their talents?

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2 What should be the City's role in promoting arts, culture and public events?

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3 What is your favorite form of art? Music? Films? Dance? Do you know if there are any organizations or venues that promote this form of art at your school, work or in your neighborhood?

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