

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

Date: September 10, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Columbia Square Building, 111 SW Columbia St, Suite 800, Portland
Attendees: AOC members: Oscar Arana, Jim Cox, Victoria Dinu, Erika Foin, Alina Harway, Carter MacNichol, Stanley Penkin, Senator Chip Shields, Mark Wubbold
City of Portland staff: Meghann Fertal, Commissioner Nick Fish, Mayor Charlie Hales, Dana Haynes, Jennifer Kalez, Thomas Lannom, Terri Williams
Public: Eloise Damrosch, Craig Gibons, Jeff Hawthorne, David McKay, Jessica Jarratt Miller, Carol Smith
Press: April Baer (OPB)
Did Not Attend: Yulia Arakelyan, Susan Denning, Juan Martinez, Cherie-Anne May, Steven Nance, Gwen Sullivan

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome and announcements by Stanley Penkin, Chair
 - Round table brief introductions.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Notes (June 25, 2013)

- Meeting notes from 06/25/13 were approved with no comments or objections.

3. Chair Report (Stan Penkin)

- Committee updates and activities since June 25:
 - Noah Siegel is no longer liaison to City Attorney's Office;
 - July 24 – City Council work session; options discussion is now moot;
 - Metrics with schools; follow-up from Metrics Sub-Committee to obtain FTE and enrollment information – four school districts have provided information to date (PPS, David Douglas, Centennial, Park Rose);
 - Four committee resignations – all from minority communities (Anita Yap, Alyssa Macy, Kevin Jones, Kimberly Howard). In order to maintain as diverse a committee as possible, the Executive Sub-committee will meet to discuss recruitment.
 - Need volunteers for Executive and all other sub-committees.

4. Arts Tax Options (Mayor Charlie Hales & Commissioner Nick Fish)

- Mayor Hales apologized that the media picked up the story before he could present his option decision to the committee. The Mayor believes that the passing of the tax binds the Council to a social contract with the voters; this leaves the tax as passed by voters and further modified by council.
 - If the Council ratifies the tax to create a progressive structure it would cause some citizens to pay more than \$35 which pushes the boundaries of the social contract though it brings opportunity to revenues where they were originally allotted.

- Commissioner Nick Fish presents that there is no consensus among any three Council members, so the tax cannot move beyond where it is now.
 - When Council goes to the voters on the ballot and voters show support (62%) it is up to the elected officials to be modest and cautious about what voters have approved and not break the trust of this social contract.
 - Though there have been small alterations, the initial intent of the tax needs to be upheld.
 - The City Council is relying heavily on the Oversight Committee to monitor how the incoming funds are spent.
 - The tax has been legally appropriate with some nips and tucks done by the Council. Hales believes that with these small alterations it will still produce around \$10 million for art in schools and the for the arts community.
- Question and answer portion held regarding: distribution of funds; future of merchant and convenience fees; anticipation of future alterations; metrics reports; administrative costs; and possible dates of when Oversight Committee should present to the Council. Hales and Fish indicated that the time to present a report to Council is flexible and dependent upon having more data after initial distributions – possibly January or February.

5. Status Update by Revenue Bureau (Director Thomas Lannom)

- Thomas Lannom, Revenue Bureau Director, provided an update of the Arts Tax Program through September 10, 2013 (see attached PowerPoint presentation); responded to questions regarding refunds, PERS and pensions, position hires, correspondence, second-language options, tax software and fund disbursement.

6. Metrics Sub Committee Report (Alina Harway)

- Members: Alina Harway (chair), Oscar Arana, Jim Cox, Stanley Penkin and Carol Smith
- Alina Harway gave an overview of the Metrics Sub-committee meeting held August 27, 2013 (see attached Metrics documents)
 - Gave overview and finalized the metrics on how to review arts distribution to schools and success.
 - Questions were asked of the sub-committee to speak on measuring backfill results, type of measurement (qualitative and quantitative), support from RACC with advocacy and outreach results, longitudinal baselines, results from districts, schools (both public and focus), and marginalization. RACC will work with the Committee to develop criteria for ultimately measuring outcomes in terms of student success.

7. Communications Sub Committee Report (Victoria Dinu)

- Victoria Dinu presented the Oversight Committee web option.
 - Unfortunately, the projector failed to work so Victoria will end the website with password to committee members for review, comments, suggestions and follow-up.

8. Next Meeting (TBD)

- Doodle Poll
 - Meetings in November and January
 - Perhaps another meeting space - suggestions are welcome.

9. Public Comment

- None

10. Adjourn

- 8:00pm