In Portland 77% of local voters say that having opportunities to enjoy the arts and creative learning is essential to their families.

In Portland 70% of local voters stated that arts and cultural organizations need additional, dedicated funding.

The region’s last coordinated arts master plan was written in 1992.

Making art isn’t a get-rich-quick scheme, but artistic and cultural endeavors provide the city with clear economic benefit. Non-profit arts and cultural organizations are a $318 million industry in the Portland metro area, generating tax revenues and supporting the equivalent of more than 10,000 jobs. These organizations range from big to small, glitzy and glossy to grass roots and DIY. We lag in our public investment in the arts, however — regionally our arts organizations get 4% of their budget from public sources, compared to the national average of 9%.

Art enriches a city in countless ways, from adding the spark of new ideas and energy to providing thousands of jobs.