# Who are you?

community advocate
queer female
designer
board treasurer
curator
movement artist
board president
clackamas county resident
musician advocate
filipinx
pata
indian
washington county
educator
head of accessibility
founder of a youth theatr
arts worker
musician
fundraising
aeaf oversight committee
white male/senior
theatre artist
theater
advocate
two spirit
arts administrator
mother
executive director
arts advisor
eastside
disabled
white
male
music composer
art historian
theatre maker
bora
marketing director
ceramic artist
theater manager
classical arts / new work
former arts administrator
woman
creative consultant
chicana
writer
queer
artist
portland
art appreciator
dancer
elder
neighbor
downtown
puerto rican
beaverton
arts consultant
arts lover
native oregonian
dad
singer
playwright
senior citizen
ecosystem builder
ed
art lover
photographer
deaf
performing art center
museum curator
woman of color
chamber music
milwaukie

# What worries you now?

Funding will decrease with the new changes

steady funding for the arts at least at the level as in the past.
organization(s) to continue the work that RACC has been doing beyond grant administration

Lack of funding

RFPs, especially compared to RACC's application processes, are so unintuitive and complex for an independent artist to tackle. They frequently require institutional backup re: operations or legality, and advantage established or wealthy artists over marginalized ones. It's disappointing to hear that arts and culture contracts are moving towards a process that better serves construction firms and contractors.

Confusion about where to seek funds during the transition period

Lack of a common "north star" for the arts community.

I fear that The deep relationships that RAAC has developed over many years with artists and companies and the larger community will be lost and I don't have confidence that a government entity can do what they do.

Funding

Staying in business and be able to be relevant to my community. Hoping to continue to find affordable space that I can showcase our programs and productions. Keeping our audiences in engaged and feel appreciated as they support our creative work.

limited use of the waterways
not much attention paid to city beautification
hard to know what arts events are happening

Who will hold responsibility and accountability for any plan?

That Portland will continue with the negative rhetoric and scarcity mindset around the health of the arts.

State government will continue to hold back arts funding.

affordable performance, rehearsal and teaching space.

Worries? Money, yeah, but I feel like overreach by bureaucrats is my greatest fear. I trust the community (public and creative) to drive decision-making in the most appropriate manner. Bureaucrats need to take their opinions and quashing of creative expression out of the equation

MultCo government will be slow to get up and running when the shift occurs July 1.

Government oversight of art processes. Government procurement is antithetical to creative process. The systems were engineered for white people with resources to be the most successful.

The arts will remain off of the high priority list for the city and region, even though the many benefits of the arts in communities is proven.

Delays in funding

Lack of interest in the arts by our elected representatives.

Losing existing general operating support for non profits.

Finacial resources for arts and culture organizations

I'm worried that instability and transition will impact the most financially vulnerable artists and nonprofits

I worry that there will not be transparency or proper ownership with the new plan

Having to learn a new process for accessing funding

City as subject matter expert

That the new processes and systems will exclude Deaf and Disabled artists and community members.

Confusion resulting in the community seeing arts as unstable.

I'm worried that any resources that are made available for artists in the region may not reach BIPOC artist communities who need it most
.

destabilization of the regional arts ecosystem | deep lack of faith the city will have programs, providers and rfps ready to go by July 2024

Arguing about structure and missing the need of more funding

Dan Ryan has no expertise in this area

The transition to whatever the new system is, so arts funding doesn't come to a screeching halt and we lose more arts orgs in the region.

that government bureaucracy will hinder innovation and equity work in service to the arts community

Does the city really understand what it's in for?

That separating from RACC is seen as not supporting the Arts when the intent is to acheive greater clarity about what needs funding and how to do it.

Safe spaces for audiences to return to
A lack of funding and support from our government, something that is more in line with other states support
Artists are leaving the space because they can no longer support themselves

Uncertainty and lack of clarity around what the process will be for funding to both individual artists and organizations.

Citizens will continue to dismiss the arts tax.

That the focus will be on the larger projects and players, and that smaller and more niche groups and individual artists will find it more difficult to receive funding and/or recognition.

Support of the arts in city schools

Grant opportunities for individual artists and nonprofit arts organizations.

Affordability.

This process

Funding will cease to be predictable year over year and will become subject to political considerations and city bureaucratic policy requirements

lack of advocacy with govt.
decrease in funding
access to affordable spaces
lack of opportunity

lack of sustained operational funding for small orgs.

My primary concern is that general operating support grants for arts organizations may be delayed due to administrative changes.

Accessible and affordable performance and rehearsal spaces

Less funding for the arts in general if the city is in full control

The loss of personal connection to grant program officers who care about artists and the work

leadership vacuum

BIPOC artists and small arts orgs have less access to funding

As an artist who does not reside in Portland proper I'm concerned about the consumption of resources in Portland. As a member of an artist association I am concerned that the these program changes will stretch our limited resources and thereby limit our outreach.

Adequate funding for our most important arts organizations.

Concern that the city won't consider equity a priority.

What worries me about the steering committee & the breakdown of the RACC contract is that there will be great effort to "make something better" but we will just be going through a large process that brings us back to the same square one. Additionally, who will be running all the programs that RACC had through the city? Will those be lost? Will this new entity or group of admin connected to arts funding be executing the same kinds of programs? How will the funding & programs be different or same?

Live Nation and other huge corporations entering our market and using unfair market practices that ruin the local independent music and arts scene.

The city's announcement worries me. There has been no public forum for questions. Who will take on which of the roles RACC currently take on moving ahead. Who maintains the public art for example. So much uncertainty and for what reason? Will the designated Arts Funding be the same? More? Less? Once budgeted for the arts what will protect it for being reallocated if it stays in the City of Portland's general fund?

That politics and personalities are turning people away from the struggle the arts are facing rather than drawing them in to support arts at this critical time.

# What worries you now?

resources...

Lack of public accountability for precious public arts dollars, and a lack of assurance to the public that they are being spent wisely.

I don't understand whether this plan is advisory or if the City of Portland has already agreed to implement the plan that comes out of this process.

People love the arts but think it should be free. It can't be free without more public investment.

Why does Portland spend such an outsized percentage of the regional arts dollars compared to local counties and cities?

That Washington and Clackamas County get the support and services they need when RACC will be severely limited in how much ground they can cover (and Mult. Co. outside of Portland).

That the city of Portland will not be able to deliver the level of services to artists and organizations that we are used to.

We will set up a more competitive dynamic between the counties which will not foster coalition and partnership thinking

Who is paying for this plan?

Who gets to be on the new committee or entity that is designating these new ways of releasing funding? How can we trust the city not to dismantle great programs for artists? There's a lot of sadness over the RACC situation and a lot of grief with city politics. That's a tall order and requires lots of faith from artists and admin... to be able to execute something good. Something that meets so many artist and nonprofit needs. Worried about the city having the ability to do that.

Artist/Makers are not being used to revive or activate our cities in this region, and Multnomah County will get the bulk- and mismanage any funds they do control. PDX is going through a huge gov't transition that will last longer than July 2024 , so who will be managing these RFPs, and get $$ and resources to the regional creatives?

Arts venues - there simply are not enough performance spaces. Particularly small and mid-sized. Will Keller remodel or reconstruction take up all the resources and focus?

That the community will hear and focus on the drama and not the art. That it hurts the reputation of artists and art orgs in our community.

City and local governments here still see the arts as a nicety, and not as critical business sector.

How will the city of Portland develop the necessary infrastructure and staff to support the arts and culture in our city? RACC has spent decades developing policies, platforms and staff to serve the cities arts needs. How will the city replace all that in less than a year

That there will be a lot of "casualties" ie. arts orgs who are unable to hold out long enough to survive all these changes.

Funding getting cut - esp for individual artists, performance and rehearsal venues shutting down, ongoing isolation and lack of mentorship for creatives. I am also concerned about ideological divides, censorship, and polarization taking root in arts, cultural, and grant-giving organizations. Another worry is the effects of AI on creative spheres, intellectual property, and artists getting compensated fairly for their work.

We need regional arts funding. But any regional funding should be accountable to the public and elected officials. Not an ideological approach.

That portland still doesnt enhance its strengths as an art hub and tends not to give useful support to high level cultural production. It seems allergic to ambition and innovation on the support level.

funding being swallowed up by Multnomah at the expense of Washington and Clackamas

How will the cities and counties in the tri-county area work together to create a plan that makes sense for all involved and not just Portland?

That BIPOC artists and community will be less supported.

We need a non divisive environment which promotes diverse views and equity.

So many arts organizations, particularly performing arts, are still very much struggling to recover from covid. The city and counties and state need to SHOW their investments and commitments to the arts with large, unrestricted funding opportunities so that each org can make the choices that is most needed for their survival.

I worry that communities do not see equal benefit for arts work.

the work of the cultural planning committee and new arts office being a trojan horse to reduce arts funding overall moving forward

Portland will be so focused on housing that they will build cheap and fast, and will influence affordable arts spaces.

# What opportunities do you see now?

more transparency

more leadership, although doubtful the City can provide that

Voting elected officials like several of the current city commissioners out of office to make room for more enlightenment

Opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration. More grassroots resource mapping and sharing across organizations.

more collaboration (possible, but not sure that's practical)

Getting artists and nonprofit arts organizations more involved in how the arts will impact their communities

Inviting a broader conversation, not just within the arts, but the greater community.

Transparency? or at least more inquiry and dialogue into how dollars are being spent and distributed.

As an artist my opportunity is only limited by my own resources in many ways. I see many peers struggling with basic needs and cannot help. There are very few openings that are inclusive and welcoming.

Opportunity to be more transparent and create easier to access pathways for support.

Potential short term increase in arts funding as City attempts to sell the transition as a net benefit (though I am not optimistic)

I have long been frustrated with how RACC has operated, so there is an opportunity to do it better this time. We need to make sure we have more transparency with the new organization

Opportunity for the city to do the right thing.

The arts are Portland's best recovery mechanism as the recent struggles have left us. Artists spin straw into gold but they are treated as castoffs.... highlight those who kick ***. Mayor should be handing out awards etc. use the arts a pride rallying cry and benchmark of civic vitality. Let artists re-enliven downtown... Ive actually done this and had ZERO help from funding.

Gathering spaces, events, and funding shared via word-of-mouth among various art communities

The arts actually being a city priority, rather than a sidecar pushed off to a separate organization.

opportunity for the arts to be central to the vibrancy of Portland

The City has an opportunity to create incentives for building owners and developers to use empty spaces for creative use. That is one way community will stay vibrant. - The City should be focused on growing resources, not just rearranging/redistributing them.

A reset - RACC just wasn't cutting it anymore. Very little support for arts organizations beyond administering the grants.

Downtowns need new uses to re-envigorate them, so it offers artists and makers a opportunity to shift in: To entertain, to educate and to live! ( If we're smart we'll give them a chance to make these places permanent homes through the right kind of llive/make housing.

Greater direct funding to arts organizations

I don't know because there's not enough transparency or enough of an action plan to know what to do with the future of arts funding...

New structure that will allow for better communication and collaboration and better distribution of local funds.

If the city decides to increase funding and streamline admin cost that could mean more funding for the arts in the longer term.

I know how to access the RACC and Oregon Arts Portals, but wonder how well disseminated those calls are, particularly in and for historically marginalized communities.

It can be a time of deep reflection and learning in order to reorganize how the arts are funded with more transparency, developing meaningful relationships with ALL artists, and making sure this new system is equitable across the board.

New and diverse audience members, and different funding models. We have an opportunity to reinvent the regional arts landscape.

The arts are receiving a great deal of attention, even in the RACC issue. We have had our heads down with Covid and social issues that have overwhelmed Portland. It is time to see the light of the arts for finding our mental health again.

Charter reform bringing more representative government. Investment in my quadrant (SE) as a cultural hub of its own. Electing someone on the larger council who actually knows about the arts.

I have no idea

More transparency

Conversations are happening and that's a good thing.

Hopefully, broader participation in the arts - especially among young people.

Potentially a more cohesive way of doing things if they have the right people building good relationships– and more opportunities for different players to handle the support of the regional arts community.

The City can pair their new arts granting plan with other strategic investments like Prosper Portland grants or Parks initiatives to build on specific outcomes for the community.

greater advocacy for the arts through better coordination, communication, and a more coherent vision across the region

Greater visibility and investment in the diversity of PDX-metro artists and orgs will hopefully spur the state legislature to do more so that we are no longer 41st in the nation for arts funding.

The change of government means we will have 13 new elected officials, and the arts community can ensure that support for the arts remain on the radar and we elect arts minded folk

RACC lost its way. Wrong leadership and Board. City is giving community time for a reboot, and this is great opportunity to make RACC stronger and hopefully make case to region and state for dedicated funding and accountability to elected officials. We need to take a breath and move forward with excitement, not grievance.

The office space real estate crisis presents real opportunities for smart landlords to offer artists affordable flex space

To create infrastructure to support venues for arts and culture across the counties

We should make sure artist housing is ingredient in affordable housing policy

More direct, active City and County involvement in the arts.

These changes could mean new and different artists/organizations will receive funding.

Opportunity for the city to intentionally center BIPOC, Queer, Deaf, and Disabled artists in leadership to ensure equitable funding and opportunities. This will also help gain trust and support from our diverse community.

Potential of a less complex and onerous application and funding process.

There is an urgency among elected leaders and businesses to make Portland feel safe again, and the opportunities for public activation, music, and art will be expansive, and potentially well funded.

All the empty spaces in Portland could be an opportunity for the arts if there was leadership to try to redevelop some of the empty spaces as affordable spaces for artists.

More transparency and public input/oversight. RACC couldn't/wouldn't share accurate data on how they were spending tax dollars and serving the community. I hope the city takes the need for transparency and community participation seriously so that moving forward we can have more confidence that tax dollars are going to artists/orgs instead of admin.

An aggressive plan for arts funding that engages all city departments and uses the subject area specialists you have in this city.

Offer empty office space and empty public buildings at below market rates to the artists and musicians

A fresh start.

Opportunity to integrate arts funding across multiple city bureaus (housing, transportation, etc)

Look at peer cities and match or exceed!

It feels too divided for this question to be asked right now, don't you think?

Advocacy

Building stronger and better coalitions.

There's an opportunity to shift, update, and evolve the Portland area arts culture and how it's seen beyond the tri-county area

Take a stand for public support of arts and culture. Rebrand the Arts Tax and try again. Look at places like Denver.

If the whole tri-county area says that designed arts funding should be increased, including residents outside Multnoman County that is a chance to try to get Washington and Clackamas counties to increase their arts funding. Historically Multnomah County and City of Portland have made up about 70% of the arts funding in the metro area. If residents of all counties value it this info might help lead to more arts funding regionally if someone in leadership could use the info effectively.

# What opportunities do you see now?

Fix the allergy to ambition at the funding and attention level from civic organs.

Creatives are excellent opportunity finders/problem-solvers. The city could benefit!

Greater public awareness about the critical lack of funding many arts orgs are facing

zero faith in this reorganization; I see opportunities being shut down, bureaucracy metastacizing; arts, artists, and our communities losing

Portland could use a better image right now - so center the arts again!

# Is there anything else that you feel the steering committee needs to know?

I don't have understanding of what they think they already know.

RACC was instrumental to building my arts career, and I will miss them

Where are the large philanthropic foundations in this plan? OCF and Meyer do very little arts funding relative to the amount of $$ they sit on. Where are they in elevating this conversation?

There's not enough information about what the city plans to do after the racc contract is up — while I understand that they may not know exactly, they need to have more public facing information that is *concrete* that people can understand in a timeline that makes sense to anyone. I don't feel like we have that. I don't feel that anyone has high faith in the government however localized it is to execute anything in the arts that helps the arts...

Please build a plan that proposes something sustainable, and remains relevant long after it's printed. We need to build infrastructure that supports music and the arts for a long time. That means strategic vision for what success looks like, and accountability to prove to the public that we're on our way, and where our dollars are being spent so we can justify asking for more money.

More public engagement in arts commissions.

how are other communities creating new ways to highlight and support the arts

...that it's time to try a more aggressive, hard nosed approach when negotiating with elected leaders: we've been playroom by commissioner Maps and others who were eager to get musicians' votes only to betray us once in office

we don't gather on a consistent basis as a community to talk about arts issues, that is important, and it should be welcoming to more voices at the table

I hope the committee takes a regional approach to the recommendation - Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties - the region is not defined by the decisions of the City of Portland.

If you can advocate for the City's arts & culture department takes this new cultural plan seriously, then they will have our collective input as well. Thank you for taking the time to hold all these conversations.

Reminding the public why art is a charitable purpose.

need a big vision project that many govt bureaus can be part of

Empty storefronts have been made accessible for arts groups during the pandemic. These are great opportunities and should be further explored as providing permanent spaces for art exhibitions.

There has been little notice of the Waterfront Blues Festival as the largest, most heavily attended art even in the area. Build on and around it, extend other arts from its nucleus. Use existing viable structure for building further. We don't have to start from ground level on everything.

Artist and the arts community need TLC-like RACC has been demonstrating. All boats do not rise when more money flow to the largest arts organizations, which Ryan said at his art talk. Trickle down doesn't work.

RACC's dissolution/re-org should be factored into the conversation, but not eclipse other important topics that concern communities, artists, and non-profits, like venues, audience development, diverse voices and accessibility.

the Portland I know east of the river is the most artistically rich place I've ever been in my life and even Dan Ryan cannot **** something like that up

Leadership is needed - not just good ideas, plans and reports. There has been no real leadership for our region's arts sector for a long time. Without champions and an organization that leads, we won't get anywhere.

individual artists need open ended resources like spaces etc

There needs to be an ecosystem, small, medium large organizations!

Continuous updates and meetings like this on how funding and opportunities are handled beyond the planning phase would be much appreciated.

I know you are smart and presume you are seeing the politics at play

We lack centralized marketing for the arts in town. How will the grants be advertised? How will the art, events, performances, and films be promoted?

The same set of conditions will bring the same levels of support or frustration with whomever is at the helm

Wgg he at percentage of funding has the City of Portland been contributing to RACC compared to METRO and the counties?

the Mile 5 apt/art studio project was gramd until it wasn't. How is this supporting the creative community? Is there an appeal going out for corporate partnerships... like Wieden and Kennedy?

We (artists and arts orgs) need SO much more money flowing in to the system to make sure we can make being an artist an affordable option in this region while keeping access affordable for patrons/community. Too many artists can't afford to live in the city anymore. We need a 30% increase in funding just to keep up with the inflation and rise in housing costs over the last several years.

Is film considered art or business? I produce film and events, and finding funding for these are tricky without a fiscal sponsor.

It would help to work with an accessibility consultant to plan access in advance and ensure everyone can access the information and spaces and participate actively. Ensuring "back end" operations are accessible also to open up leadership and employment opportunities for Deaf and Disabled art workers who have traditionally not had access to participate in these roles.

The RACC changes don't change the mission or need for a regional plan. Where the findings were leading you is still valid. RACC/City engagement might add additional information but the buzz of that change does not change the work we need out of the steering committee

Transparency matters. Are funds going to admin (and admin employees) or organizations? To individuals or supportive entities?

Fund venues! And subsidize rental rates for smaller artists/orgs so that diverse performers can get onto the best stages in the city!

Be bold in designing the plan.

I would like there to be a focus on funding those organizations who produce work created by local arts maker and employ artists who actually live in our communities. For example, if a theatre doesn't actually produce any work by the local playwright community, should the community actually be funding them? The same goes for a dance organization that is not producing work created by local choreographers and music organizations that are not producing work created by local musicians.

Pay artists!

housing is a massive issue, never forget this

One thing that should align all arts people is need for more money! We should focus on that AND work on a governance structure that does not devolve to social grievance. All views, old and new, should be embraced in new plan. Expand the money pie, and the landscape will perhaps not be so tribal and divisive.

Fund arts education so that schools can help cultivate the next generation of creatives who make this region such an awesome place.

Trust artists to tell you what is needed here. What they need to thrive. When they thrive, so does a region. All boats rise. Give them permanent housing, possibly to ownership, places to be entrepreneurs. Their products have a slower manufacturing process, so there is an opportunity to use them to teach and educate and entertain as they make in full view. We need to truly TRULY invest in giving them our destination places. I know of models and I am working with Eco Dev folks to work towards this

This group will only be successful if it focuses on one, max two tightly defined asks from our elected leaders

I think you know that the arts community in general has zero faith in the government.

Take a serious assessment of who and what organizations have been funded in the past and look for possible holes. This could provide opportunities for targeted outreach.

Unless key city and county leaders are vested in the arts, view arts and culture as a critical component of our economic competitiveness, and are willing to fund them significantly, the plan will be just that - another of many cultural plans that never come to fruition.

City has already made a decision while you are still doing analysis, hard to see how two entities are going to be able to work together or influence each other

Many of us do not live in Portland. The years of Portland being the center of the arts universe has and is changing. Many studios, schools, artists and communities are out in the counties now. Many of us are gravitating towards our county and local resources.

There definitely needs to be more funding for the arts across the board, especially for reimagining and rebuilding our downtown areas. And we also need better outreach for all the arts opportunities, events, calls, grants, etc. as well as promoting all the incredible work that is being made here.

The focus has mostly been on the Artists, which is good, but there are many arts professionals in our city and region. The organizations and businesses that support the arts and artists also need support to allow for access and advancement for arts professionals and artists alike. Most artists can't live off a few grants, then need galleries to show them and sell their work and arts organizations to commission new works. Its a whole ecosystem that needs supporting.

Can't really answer this question because I don't know what you know or don't know. I just know that the focus needs to be on the artists that create, not the politicians or RACC or whatever organization it ends up being. Whomever it is should be here just to serve the creation of art. Period

Potent art makes everyone a little uncomfortable but that's good. Stop picking that which looks like report fodder. I want granular and difficult details... not ... oh weve appeased this segment by using the most general catchphrase. Ask art to challenge and rally the civic body. Choose thoughtful agitators... Call it "Good Trouble"

without a centralized arts journal , how will anything be publicized so audiences can find the art?

Concern that this new plan is supposed to be region-wide but the city's announcement undermines that broader overview. Also worried that city funding will only benefit downtown interests.

A real focus on bringing young people into the world of the arts. More and more, they are focused on online offerings at the expense of local live art.

Portland has paid the overwhelming majority of the public arts funding in the last two decades, more than all other sources combined, which means Portland money is being spent in other communities. We need consistent support from other players.

tired of seeing many plans and conversations full of great ideas that never get enacted

We all what to know where we can find all this info at the end of the process. When and where will the full report be released? Have the City leaders (current commissioners) agree to review the report?

Include Codes of Conduct for art and media makers that require protocols for safety, consent, and intimacy, whether they are Union or Non-Union

If regional support for the arts tripled this year, it probably wouldn't be enough to stem the tide of program cancellations and company closures. Our ideas need to get dramatically more ambitious if we are going to secure the arts sector.

I really want to see accountability and follow-through on this plan. Who will hold the new entity accountable?

Less empty promises and more follow through

# Is there anything else that you feel the steering committee needs to know?

Not sure about "Trickle down"...but if the symphony goes under, then a whole community of musicians that play in smaller orgs will go away

We have so many creatives in this city. The fashion community is not always recognized as artists, and that is only one example. We can think out of the box to further economic development, coupled with the arts to create jobs that engage passion, and also can create revenue. Poverty is a hard fact in our region, and perhaps, we can engage diverse individuals when we throw open the door to wide ranging artistic creativity.