



Arts Education & Access Fund  
Oversight Committee Public Meeting  
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 14 March 2024

**Location: Zoom**

**Attendees:**

AOC Members: Jenn Falco, Mark Wubbold, Hana Layson, Melanie A Hernandez, Suzy Root, , Ruth Wikler, Frank Medrano, Carlee Smith, Ilima Considine, Leah Faure

City of Portland Staff: Jeff Hawthorne, Darion Jones, Dawn Issacs, Barbra Rice

Members of the Public: Li Ezzell, Kristen Brayson, Stacy Michaelson, Rob Cullivan

AOC and City Absences: Ellen Thomas (excused), Dunja Jennings (excused), Jessica Lagunas (excused)

**Call to Order at 6:04pm**

**1. Greetings/Introductions**

- a. Jenn shared images promoting Portland Public Schools HeART of Portland event being held at the Portland Art Museum April 16-28 and encouraged committee members to attend. Jenn talked about the 2023 event and reminded the committee kids and art is what it's about.

**2. Public Comment**

- a. There was no public comment at the beginning of the meeting.
- b. The following public comment was given at the end of the meeting: Rob Cullivan from Play It Forward, which partners with three schools in PPS, expressed interest in information regarding summer programming and grants. Jeff Hawthorne to follow up with him.

**3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

- a. Mark noted the URL for the AEAF webpage is incorrect in the minutes. City staff will fix.

- b. Minutes unanimously approved with the change to the URL.

#### **4. Committee Organization**

- a. Vote to elect Hana Layson Interim Vice Chair: Unanimously Approved
- b. Vote to reelect Jenn Falco Chair: Unanimously Approved
- c. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Subcommittee Chairs compose the Executive Committee
- d. Clarification of subcommittee structure
  - i. Grants, Ellen Thomas Chair
  - ii. Onboarding and Training, Mark Wubbold Chair
  - iii. Education, Open Chair
  - iv. Member Engagement, Open Chair

#### **5. City Revenue Update**

- a. Revenue collections are similar to this time last year.
- b. Tax day is April 15<sup>th</sup> and payments are arriving.
- c. Everyone receives a tax letter, even if they already paid, because the letters are sent to addresses, not individual taxpayers.

#### **6. City Arts Program Update**

- a. Written update provided.
- b. The City intends to begin contract negotiations with RACC for Large-Scale grant administration services (to distribute \$1 million as small grants to artists and arts organizations) and will move three applicants in the Mid-Scale category to a finalist round before finalizing a selection to two applicants.
- c. The City Arts Program will host a student art show exhibiting a collaboration between Rieke Elementary students and Cleveland High School sculpture students. The exhibit opens April 4 and runs through June.
- d. Arts Education Coordinator shared data on David Douglas graduation rates demonstrating a higher graduation rate for students who engaged in the performing arts during high school.
- e. Arts Education Coordinator is meeting with and collecting data from charter schools.
- f. Districts are returning their 2023-24 State of the Arts reports.
  - i. Jenn noted the State of the Arts reports have been requested from the districts since at least the 2017/18 school year.
- g. City Arts Program is planning for branding and collateral for the AEF.
  - ii. Question: What is the plan for community input? Answer: We will engage stakeholders, including AOC members and students, in the process.
- h. Arts Education Coordinator reviewed PPS staffing update outlined in the written report.
  - iii. PPS FTE/Student district-wide ratio will remain below 500, but teacher caseloads will be in excess of 600.

#### **7. AEF Teacher Advisory Group (ATAG) Update**

- a. The advisory group recently met to give feedback on defining a quality arts education.
- b. Caseload levels are a key component of the definition.
- c. Best practices are typically caseloads in the 1:250-1:300-1:400 range.
- d. Advisory group members expressed concern that when caseloads are high, arts educators are unable to establish relationships with students, work effectively

across multiple schools, and provide a high-quality arts education experience for students.

## **9. Letter to the AOC from Portland Public Schools**

- a. Jenn collected questions from the committee to ask PPS and inform a response to the letter received from PPS Government Relations about changes to arts educator staffing levels in the district.
- b. The AOC had many questions centered around how the proposed changes compare to best practices, whether learning milestones can still be met, what the impact on individual teachers will be (e.g. commuting and prep time and multiple schools) and how the quality of the arts educational experience will be impacted.

## **10. Update from the Commissioner in Charge**

- a. Darion yielded the time to Stacy Michaelson, who works for Multnomah Education Service District as a lobbyist representing the eastern school districts (David Douglas, Reynolds, Parkrose and Centennial).
- b. Stacy made three points
  - i. The 1:500 funding formula does not work well for districts due to declining enrollment.
  - ii. Districts are facing budget cuts.
  - iii. It is challenging for teachers to be in split roles.

## **11. 2022-2023 AOC Report to Council**

- a. Jenn thanked City staff and AOC members who worked on the report.
- b. No questions/comments on the report.
- c. Unanimously approved moving the report to council.

## **12. Next Steps/Other Agenda Items**

- a. None

## **13. Close**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm