



Arts Education & Access Fund Oversight Committee

Date: February 16, 2022

Time: 6pm-7:30pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees: AOC Members: Laura Streib, Michael Cummings, Joaquin Lopez, Jenn Falco, Eric Miller, Ellen Thomas, Hana Layson, Leah Faure, Margo Norton, Suzy Root, Carlee Smith, James Dixon, Antonio Lara, Sidra Morgan-Montaya, Walle Brown, Dunja Macrum, Stephanie Whitlock

City of Portland Staff: Tyler Wallace, Jason McKay, Angel James, Jeff Hawthorne, Stephen Herrera

RACC: Carol Tatch, Chanda Evans, Shahira Kamal, Mario Mesquita

PPS: Carolyn Hazel Drake, David Jaimes, Kristen Brayson,

Guests: David Flores, Katy Roberts, Pao Vang

Meeting Notes

- 1. Welcome & Committee Update (Laura Streib)** – Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting, referenced the agenda items and shared information about what the Arts Education and Access Fund (AEAF) is, how the oversight committee came to be and the roles and responsibilities of the committee and its members. Laura also explained how funds are disbursed to the six school districts first, then they are disbursed to RACC as operating support grants to provide education and access throughout the community.

This committee has talked about the balance between being public relations for this group and being oversight. The role of the AEAF is to look at the data from the school districts and Revenue and see how we can best use the funding that's available.

Newly formed subcommittees will be partnering with RACC to create a full report to share their findings with Commissioner Carmen Rubio and the six superintendents in our districts. This will be the first time that this report will be shared helping us to advocate for the current school year.

A full Arts Education and Access Fund (AEAF) committee is now in place as new members have been appointed and were introduced after recently being appointed by City Council Commissioners. The committee can officially get to work on items such as onboarding, strategic planning and the creation of sub committees.

2. Revenue Division Updates (Jason McKay)-

I. Jason shared a power point sharing updates regarding the upcoming tax season that included tax compliance rates between 2012-2020. He also shared the following information:

- Calls are increasing as we near the tax filing due date of **April 18th**.
- Email reminders went out the second week of February 2022
- Dear resident letters went out starting February 25th informing residents of their tax responsibility.

Eric Miller-Still seeing people who are receiving tax bill notices when they're no longer a Portland resident or saying they didn't pay when they already have. Can you talk about what you're hearing from people calling in about accuracy of administrative tracking happening on the back end?

Tyler: One of the things that's challenging is that people are moving in and out of the jurisdiction and they don't generally give notification of the move. We'll generally send notices until we hear from them. We previously didn't have social security numbers or good information to help us track residents, but the system is more up to date and these types of issues will generally be reduced as we move forward.

Laura: Is there a way to see if you've paid your taxes online? If you log into the system, does it show whether or not you still need to pay?

Tyler: If a taxpayer has registered with Portland Revenue online, they'll be able to see that. For the AEAF Tax, we've made it easy, so you don't necessarily have to be logged in to pay. **Jason**: There's a banner on the revenue website easily located on the page, where you can pay your AEAF Income Tax.

Visit: [Revenue Division | Portland.gov](https://revenue.portland.gov)

Michael C.: Seems that we're falling behind on our collection goal for the AEAF as a couple years ago we'd collected over \$12,000,000.00.

Tyler: We're not necessarily falling behind. There are a few different factors at hand right now. Previously, we had more time to collect on the funds and the pandemic has also been a contributing factor as well as moved due dates. In 2020 the income tax due date moved from April to July and in 2021 it was moved to May. We're still collecting on back years, so the amount will rise as compliance efforts continue.

James: Is address information updated when people change their address at the post office, or do you also have to change it at the Department of Revenue?

Jason M.: We receive information from the post office and essentially try and match the addresses. I believe the update is ran quarterly so that we can try and make sure that our system has the most up to date information.

Suzy: How does back funding get allocated?

Tyler: The first contractual dollars go to the school districts, and we've never had a year where the school district obligation was not met easily. The city gets their portion to administer the tax for a cost and the balance is dispensed to RACC. The disbursement takes place twice, once in December and once again in March. Any subsequent dollars for the back years go to RACC. Funds are still going to RACC from previous years.

Further conversation took place regarding the review and recommendations around the amount of the AEF Fund ask being \$35.00 and how sustainable it is to keep it at that amount while factoring in additional teacher/student needs, inflation, etc.

- II. Once funds are collected for the Art Tax, they are dispersed to schools based on a defined formula which includes teacher salaries and student enrollment. RACC then receives the remainder of funding after school and administrator costs.
- III. So far this year there's been about \$10,000,000 in gross tax collection for arts up to mid November 2021. It's been called the Arts Tax for over nine years, but Laura mentioned that with the logo change, and everything launched in May 2021, we really need to move back to its original name and start referring to the Arts Tax as the *Arts Education and Access Fund*.
3. **Contract Subcommittee (CS) Update (Margo Norton):** This subcommittee is made up of Margo Norton, Jenn Falco (Chair) Eric Miller and Alan Thomas. Margo spoke about what the subcommittee has been working on since they began meeting in December 2021 on a monthly basis.

The contract subcommittee has created a three-part report that was shared and based on the following items:

- How the subcommittee approaches its work
- Presentation of two work products that may have utility for the whole committee
- How the AEAF committee can assist the contract subcommittee in its next steps

The contract subcommittee began this work by reviewing the City Attorneys' January 2018 memo about the roles and responsibilities of the partners, which include the City of Portland, RACC, the school districts and the AEAF committee. This detailed memo was condensed into a one-page document that was mailed out prior to the meeting. The CS wanted to make sure they were working with the most current version and will add it to the AEAF google drive. The current contract is new and expires in 2024.

Laurie is creating a 2022 google drive folder that will hold all meeting materials and data gathered by the AEAF committee.

4. RACC Updates (Chanda Evans)-

- I. The Art Liaison and Curriculum Cohort quarter two meeting didn't take place due to covid. Quarter three meetings will take place 2/23 and 3/10.
- II. RACC is scheduled to have a third workshop for Trauma Informed Care for K-12 for all six districts on March 11th and April 8th. These sessions will be recorded and attended virtually.
- III. Finishing up Art Education Survey going out to all six districts at the beginning of March. Shout out to Suzy (AEAF member) and Nancy (former Chair). RACC excited to share the results with you all when received.
- IV. RACC is continuing to maintain the website as it's important that we share updated resources that are available to our community. We've also re-established our twitter feed as this is a great way to share bursts of information.
- V. Continued Engagement...Sending letters to all six district administrators to encourage them to add the logo to their websites and shared information.
- VI. Happy to have David Jaimes attend the meeting as part of the Reynolds school district as we're looking to bring arts to more equitable spaces.
- VII. Accomplishments-Excited about the redesigned AEAF tax insert being shared and revised data collection tools.
- VIII. News for your heart newsletter [January - March Edition Newsletter 2022 - Regional Arts and Culture Council \(racc.org\)](#)

Chanda answered questions asked during the meeting, but if anyone has additional questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Chanda Evans at cevans@racc.org.

- 5. Planning for Annual Report (Laura Streib):** This year's planning will include 20-21 and 21-22 data. Chanda has been getting all info from the school districts and all reports will be placed in the AEF committee working folder on Google drive and will be discussed at our April meeting in advance of the May meeting when we'll be joined by Commissioner Rubio. At the May meeting we'll be sharing our findings and making recommendations of what should and could happen within the school districts. When the report is finalized, it will be sent to Mayor Wheeler and all commissioners.

The information presented will include:

- Data collected from the schools
- Grant and revenue information

Walle Brown has volunteered to work on beautifying the data collection. It will be nice to have time to dive into the data collection so that we have a real thorough conversation in preparation of the meeting with Commissioner Rubio.

6. Communication as April rolls around (Laura Streib):

- I. Laura sent out information sharing out funding and how this impacts the six districts.
- II. Chanda has been working on getting Arts organizations to add the logo to their websites along with creating a short video that shares interviews with committee members, community members and students about how the funding of arts has impacted their lives. We want to show how important it is to invest in arts education.

- 7. Questions regarding AEF:** Laura opened the floor for all committee members and guests to ask questions about anything AEF. Any questions not answered during the meeting can be emailed to Laura and will be answered and addressed at the next meeting. Committee members have been encouraged to review the *AEF Orientation Guide* to gain better understanding regarding committee verbiage and Laura has offered to have additional Zoom meetings as well as meet with small groups over coffee for further discussion.

8. Other business-

Laura will send out links and additional docs for the AEF committee to review. Laura will touch base with Walle, Suzy and James to be on the Data Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm