



ARTS EDUCATION & ACCESS FUND

**Arts Education and Access Fund
Citizen Oversight Committee**

**Fifth Annual Report for City Council
2019**



Arts Education and Access Fund Citizen Oversight Committee
Fifth Annual Report to City Council

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May 18, 2020

To the City Council and the Residents of Portland,

In November of 2012 the residents of Portland voted to impose a \$35 income tax on themselves to support art in their schools and community. This unique tax was established to provide arts teachers for all K-5 students in the City of Portland and to provide financial support to local arts organizations.

The ballot measure that established the tax also called for an oversight committee. As the members of that committee we are providing you with this, our fifth annual report.

We welcome your comments and reactions to the information contained herein. Please contact our committee through their Chair, Laura Streib. aeafpdx@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Arts Education & Access Fund Oversight Committee

Members 2019 Committee

Patrick Brown

Carmen Dennison

Bethany Cavanaugh

Jessy Friedt

Alison Chambers

Laura Streib - Chair

Michael Cummings

Don Pierce

2019 AEF Work & Recommendations

The Arts Education and Access Fund Oversight Committee observed the following successes:

- The most important elements of the ballot measure are being delivered; K-5 arts instruction and funding for arts organizations with 114 teachers employed over the 6 school districts with 101 FTE (this includes AEF funding as well as district added funding)
- Highest rate of compliance to date for citizens paying their arts tax (now over 75%)
- \$1,978,139 was disbursed in grant funding for organizations supporting programs and projects in Arts Education, Equity, and Access thanks to RACC's granting programs. These funds were disbursed between July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

What the committee worked on in 2019 :

- The AEF committee worked with a consultant to help us assess where we needed help from the city, how to best come up with standards for reporting and how to ensure the committee understands its role as an independent citizen oversight committee
- Standardizing reporting from all 6 school districts (# of students served, teachers employed, teacher/student ratio, which classes taught (art, music, theatre, dance) These standards and a calendar of implementation will be rolled out for reporting in 2020 and beyond.
- Clarifying Charter School AEF funding and implementation
- Clarifying annual reporting needs; including timing and format for RACC's distribution of AEF grant making.

Looking ahead in 2020 :

- The committee is looking forward to the changes implemented by RACC and our new standard reporting schedule to really dive in and make sure the AEF is serving the community in the way it was intended to support and grow equitable access to arts education across Portland.

With the tremendous impacts from COVID-19, the committee will be working even more closely with RACC to determine the best strategies to support arts teachers, their schools and the arts organizations that serve them as we move into the summer and the fall.

The AEF Committee has created a meeting and reporting schedule to streamline information flow from the school districts, RACC, and the City Department of Revenue. This schedule should increase efficiency, accountability and transparency for all parties. (COVID-19 may impact the schedule for this first year but it is our hope that we will be able to maintain this schedule moving forward)

AEAF quarterly meetings proposed annual calendar

Q1 - February - Check in meeting regarding progress of goals by all stakeholders

Q2 - April - working meeting - goals discussed

Q3 - June - Reports delivered to AEF by RACC, School Districts, City and Revenue Division.

Q3 – School District heads meet with the Commissioner in Charge of Arts to review current school year, opportunities and challenges.

Q4 - October - Draft of report to council discussed. Report to be delivered to council in November for prior school year's findings.

- Proposed Quantitative and Qualitative Standards can be found in **Appendix A**
- Rebranding the “Arts Tax” with its given name, the “Arts Education and Access Fund” that will include a new logo (to be designed in partnership with RACC and PNCA), and requirements that all schools districts, arts organizations and events that benefit from the AEF promote that they are benefitting from the AEF so the public can see their “arts tax dollars at work” much like ODOT highlights their projects so people see the benefits of their investment.
- The AOC asked to have more specific information regarding the process and systems in place to award RACC grants to individuals and organizations with AEF funding and would like RACC to allow K-12 schools to have access to project grant funding as stated in the contract. “The remainder of the funds, totaling no less than 5% of the funds RACC receives from the Arts Education and Access Fund shall be used by RACC to fund grants and programs to schools and nonprofit organizations that will

give access to high-quality arts experiences to Kindergarten through 12th grade students (“K-12”) and for grants and programs directed to communities who are underserved by local arts providers.” (Contract #30001790 Amendment No. 1 Paragraph A 16.b)

Overview of RACC’s Process for AEF Funded Awards

All applications (GOS and Arts Equity & Access) are reviewed by a panel made up of community representatives, RACC Board members, and RACC staff. Proposals are rated according to review criteria and recommendations are made to the Board of Directors for funding. The complete process for GOS partners can be found [here](https://racc.org/grants/general-operating-support-grants/) (<https://racc.org/grants/general-operating-support-grants/>) and the process for Arts Equity & Access can be found [here](https://racc.org/grants/project-grants/) (<https://racc.org/grants/project-grants/>).

In exchange for these funds, grant recipients must demonstrate how they are increasing service levels for youth and underserved communities in Portland. To fulfill RACC’s obligation to the voters and the oversight committee, RACC has new reporting requirements asking grant recipients for more detail on where their services were delivered, and who benefited. RACC will continue to evaluate arts organizations based on artistic programming, proven service to the community, administrative and fiscal competence and grant compliance.

In addition, arts organizations often use proceeds from the Arts Education & Access Fund to make their programs more affordable and accessible. For a summary of free and reduced cost admission opportunities to arts events in the Portland region, visit RACC’s new our [Access to Arts and Culture](#) page.

Due to the limited funding and to better align with RACC’s, the school district’s and the City’s Equity goals, RACC does not provide grants directly to schools as applicants. RACC found that schools with resources (and staff) were applying which was furthering inequities across the system. RACC’s current process of selecting and approving Arts Access & Equity awards ensures that artists and arts organizations who are committed to equity and access in our schools and to our community receive these awards.

- The committee also recommends that we hear more stories from teachers who have jobs due to the AEF - to hear their successes and challenges so we can better understand the value associated with the Arts Education and Access Fund.
- With increased funding, it would be good to see if there are ways to ensure teachers have the supplies, space and working conditions that are best to bring the best quality arts education for the students they work with.

History and Overview

The *Arts Education and Access Fund* was developed to provide funding to restore arts and music education in Portland schools and to help fund access to existing and new arts organizations in the area. Portland voters approved the Fund by passing *Measure 26-146* in 2012. The Measure created a \$35 individual income tax and specified the way in which the tax was to be spent.

The Arts Education and Access Fund is a collaboration between Portland's citizens, the city, the school districts, and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. The City assesses and collects the tax and distributes it to the school districts and the Regional Arts and Culture Council pursuant to the City Code and Administrative Rule provisions. The Arts Education & Access Fund Citizen Oversight Committee is charged with reviewing the expenditures, progress, and outcomes of the fund and reporting its findings to the City Council annually.

The Arts Education and Access Fund Oversight Committee

The city code stipulates that “the citizen oversight committee shall be representative of the city’s diverse communities, consist of a minimum of ten and a maximum of twenty members, including, if possible, a member of the Tax Supervising and Conservation Committee.” The Committee met regularly during the year and our work is summarized in the following section.

City Transition

This year proved to be a time of transition for leadership at the City and at RACC. The first City Arts Manager moved to New York for family reasons and the new City Arts Manager started in September 2019. RACC announced their new Executive Director in January 2019 and Madison has spent the first year listening and learning about the artistic needs of the city.

The AEAF committee stayed relatively constant with a couple members needing to step off the committee. As we were in a large time of transition and regrouping needs, priorities and what the committee was - we did not do any recruitment until we had our systems developed to have specific tasks for potential committee members to understand their role and what they were signing up for.

Now that the AEAF committee has a stronger structure and schedule, we feel we can now recruit new committee members with specific goals, tasks and action items for them to oversee. As several current members will be terming off in the next year, recruitment in 2020 is key to continuing the oversight of the AEAF committee.

Acknowledgments

From day one it has been the goal of the AEAF to establish a mutually respectful and collaborative relationship with all those involved in the many aspects of the huge undertaking of the arts fund.

The AEAF acknowledges-with great appreciation the help, guidance and administrative support provided by the Revenue Division led by Thomas Lannom and his dedicated staff, Scott Karter, Tyler Wallace, and Amelia Hicks. The AEAF has been fortunate to have had the coordination and liaison efforts of PollyAnne Birge and now Hannah Holloway from Commissioner Eudaly's office. We would also like to thank former City Arts Manager David Huff for his support in helping us work with our consultant Tracy Smith, Inhance LLC, to solidify the committee's next steps. We also would like to welcome and thank the current City Arts Manager, Giyen Kim, for her support and dedication to the goals of the AEAF.

RACC has been an integral partner in our work and we wish to thank Madison Cario for their commitment to building a strong arts educational foundation in the city of Portland.

The AEAF is grateful for the collaboration of the six school districts with schools in the City of Portland (Reynolds, David Douglas, Riverdale, Portland, Parkrose, and Centennial).

The Data and Evaluations

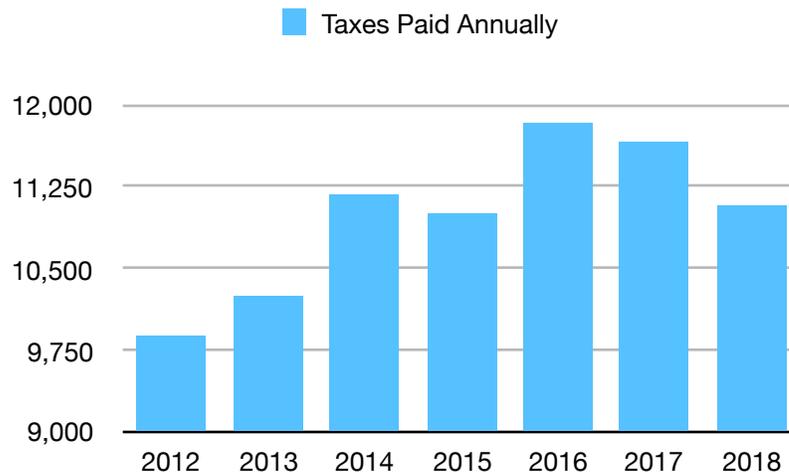
~ REVENUE DIVISION ~

The Revenue Division is a major source of information for the Committee. It provided updates on all aspects of the tax at every Committee meeting and as requested by Committee members.

TAX YEAR 2019 STATUS

The AEAF is administered on the same schedule as state and federal income tax. Payments are due by April 15th annually. The majority of the tax revenue is received by June 30th of each year. Currently for Tax Year 2018, AEAF funding net collections is at \$11.1 million. Collections for 2018 are still in progress.

AEAF Tax Info shown by year available on **Appendix B**



~ SCHOOLS ~

School Year 2018-19, was the sixth year of AEAF Tax support for the schools. The funding supported 68.0FTE positions which is an increase from the prior year at 64.3 FTE positions. Along with 24.4 FTE budgeted by school districts to supplement the AEAF there is a total of 100.9 FTE positions held by 114 teachers. This a great increase from the year before the AEAF was implemented and there were only 31 K-5 arts teachers reported in 2012-13. A total of 32,646 students received arts education in 2018-19.

With AEAF funding, the ratio of K-5 students to arts teacher has dropped from 997 in the base year (2012-13) to 356 in the year just ended (2019) achieving the numerical goal of the Arts Tax, one arts teacher for every 500 students.

The primary aspect of AEAF Funding is establishing and maintaining a maximum 500:1 K-5 student to Arts Teacher ratio. The authors of this Measure wanted this educational opportunity to be meaningful and continuing. Each school district has an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City that provides for the district to receive AEAF funding. The IGA includes this requirement:

“District must maintain an articulated, sequential course of study in arts and/or music education for student from Kindergarten through 12th grade.”

The following chart summarizes the data for 2017-18 school year. The data submissions for each district and the charter schools can be found in Appendix B1-B7

District	# of AEF Schools	Dance FTE	Music FTE	Theatre FTE	Visual Arts FTE	Total FTE	Number of students
Centennial	7		7			7	3,184
David Douglas	9		9			9	4,356
Parkrose	3		3			3	963
Portland	50	7	30.1	1.4	31.2	69.7	20,537
Reynolds	4		4		1	5	1,859
Riverdale	1		1		1	2	400
Charter Schools	5	0.4	2		2.8	5.2	1,347
Totals	79	7.4	56.1	1.4	36.0	100.9	32,646

Findings

- The total number of K-5 Arts Teachers in 2018-19 was 114 compared to 31 before the fund went into effect in 2013.
- Total FTE from AEF and school funding : 100.9 FTE equivalent positions
- The 2018-19 average ratio of FTE to K-5 students is 1:323, well below the 2013 level of 1:997 and below the 1:500 required by the City Code.

“State of the Arts” reports

The Committee would like to see each of the districts produce a state of the arts report. The Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) has encouraged various approaches, and offered support to the districts. The annual internal reporting helps each school district track their use and progress implementing the AEAF monies. Though the report takes effort, it summarizes information that helps each district comply with the IGA.

This past issue will remedy itself with our new recommendations of a solidified schedule and known due dates for reports, expectations and coordination between the AEAF, City Arts Manager and RACC.

To be commended, several districts have an arts presence at school board meetings through student performers, exhibits of artwork or acknowledgment of awards.

Charter Schools

This is the second year we looked at the Charter Schools information. We are concerned about the incomplete implementation at several schools. We have received some informal feedback that the amount disbursed as per their student population, is too little to hire a teacher, even a part-time specialist.

Question: Is it the school and district’s responsibility to guide the Charters, and gather feedback to problem solve their concerns? Or are the Charters independent enough that RACC’s Arts Education Liaison would be the correct contact for forming a Cadre of Charter Schools to look deeper at the unique needs of these Charter Schools?

~ REGIONAL ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL ~

The Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) receives AEAF funds only after all the school districts have received their annual allotments. RACC uses the funding for three things: general operating grants to arts organizations, Arts Access grants to underserved communities, and funding for arts education coordination.

Activities Required by the AEAF contact

1. RACC is required to meet with the school district superintendents and the Commissioner in charge of the AEAF annually
2. Provide ongoing arts education professional development
3. Support schools in the collection of baseline data to substantiate continuous arts learning opportunities (sequential offerings) including minutes of instruction in an arts discipline.
4. Support the School Districts in preparing a State of the Arts Report

RACC Grant Information

AEAF Grant Funding Distribution

Grant Funding from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Total : \$1,978,139
123 organizations & individuals

AEAF Grant Disbursement	FY 2018	
Arts Equity Grants	\$70,040	14 organizations
Capacity Building	\$160,000	4 organizations
Equity Investment	\$129,668	9 organizations
General Operating Support	\$1,384,850	52 organizations
Project Grants	\$233,581	44 organizations & individuals

Full List of Grants awarded in Appendix D

General Operating Support Grants funded by AEAF: The Ballot Measure creating AEAF specified that RACC would use the AEAF funding to provide grants to qualifying Portland-based nonprofit arts organizations that demonstrate artistic excellence, provide service to the community, show administrative and fiscal competence, and provide a wide range of high quality arts programs to the public. RACC’s mechanism for distributing these funds is through its preexisting General Operating Support grant program – unrestricted dollars for approximately 60 of the community’s arts organizations. Organizational partners in the GOS program range in size with general operating budgets from \$75,000 to over \$15 million. Once an organization receives GOS support from RACC, it must report out annually but the partners do not need to re-apply. Other organizations can apply to be part of the GOS program every year, but RACC’s ability to add organizations to the GOS pool is limited in part by the amount of funds that are available.

Arts Access, Capacity Building, Equity Investment and Project Grants: At least 5% of RACC’s allocation is set aside for grants that increase arts access for every Portland resident...“with particular emphasis on programs directed to communities who are underserved by local arts providers” (City code 2.73.030 B.2.)