



DATE May 31, 2019
TO Clackamas County Administrator Gary Schmidt
CC Danielle Cowan, Executive Director of Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Affairs
FROM Jeff Hawthorne, RACC Director of Community Engagement
RE Budget presentation follow-up information

Thank you for the opportunity to share more information about the Regional Arts & Culture Council following your May 29 budget presentation for Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

Using arts and culture as our tools, RACC and the Clackamas County Arts Alliance are working together to address key county priorities – including support for a vibrant economy and building healthy communities and safe neighborhoods. RACC’s unique role in this collaborative effort includes leveraging the county’s investment with funds from other public and private partners; providing grants and technical assistance for artists and arts organizations whose projects and audiences cross county lines; and improving student learning through an arts integration program known as The Right Brain Initiative. RACC also funds the Clackamas County Arts Alliance, a local hub for supporting, developing and promoting Clackamas County residents’ access to culture and the arts.

- **It all starts in an IGA.** In 1995 (and revised in 1999), five government partners – the City of Portland, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, Washington County and Metro – entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement supporting a new Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) that works to ensure strong and cohesive support of arts and culture in the tri-county region. As an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, RACC leverages these five jurisdictions’ investments with private sector contributions to support the region’s arts and culture goals.
- **Funding History:** Clackamas County has funded RACC since its inception:
 - 1995-97: \$35,000/year
 - 1998-2000: \$50,000/year
 - 2001: \$88,000
 - 2002-05: \$50,000/year
 - 2006-07: \$70,000/year
 - 2007-12: \$100,000/year
 - 2013-2017: \$80,000/year
 - 2018-today: \$100,000/year
- **Budgeting and Reporting:** RACC submits its annual budget request to the Executive Director of Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Affairs and to the Executive Director of the Clackamas

County Arts Alliance. RACC also produces annual reports that describe our services, share our audited financial statements, and list all of the investments we make in grants, technical assistance, public art purchases and arts education programs; reports for the last 8 years can be found at <http://annualreports.racc.org/>.

- **Liaisons:** As a nonprofit organization with regional representation on its board, RACC traditionally collaborates with Clackamas County officials to identify prospective board members. Two of our board members are currently designated as official liaisons to Clackamas County: Milwaukie resident [Octaviano Merencias-Cuevas](#) and Lake Oswego resident [Debbie Glaze](#). In addition, RACC's board secretary [Angela Hult](#) lives in Gladstone. We are always happy to collaborate with you on identifying more Clackamas County residents who can represent the County's interests on RACC's board.
- **How Clackamas County dollars are leveraged and spent:** The bulk of Clackamas County's allocation (\$47,000) supports grants to artists and arts organizations in Clackamas County. \$27,000 goes to RACC's arts integration program, The Right Brain Initiative, and \$20,000 to the Clackamas County Arts Alliance to support Youth Arts for Change and professional development services for Clackamas County artists. 6% of Clackamas County's allocation (\$6,000) supports RACC's management and general operations.
 - GRANTS: RACC leverages Clackamas County's investment of \$47,000 with funding from Metro, the City of Portland, the State of Oregon, workplace giving campaigns and other private donations to yield \$74,468 in cash grants for artists and arts organizations in Clackamas County. The following grants is a list of grants awarded last year:
 - Lakewood Center Theater, \$43,000
 - Art Gym at Marylhurst University, \$5,600
 - Artback in Eagle Creek, \$4,500
 - The Estacada Area Arts Commission, \$5,520
 - SoulPatch Music Productions in Milwaukie, \$5,600
 - Big Horn Brass in Woodburn, \$1,800
 - Portland Puppet Lab based in Damascus, \$4,170
 - Individual artists Ellen Lewis and Paul Sively, \$4,278 total
 - THE RIGHT BRAIN INITIATIVE: RACC raises money from local school districts (\$98,500), state and national agencies (\$50,000), and the private sector (\$145,074 from businesses foundations and individuals) to leverage the county's \$27,000 investment, resulting in more than \$320,000 in direct service and arts integrated learning for more than 5,000 students in 14 schools in the North Clackamas and Oregon Trail school districts.
 - ALL TOLD, RACC delivers a 395% return on the County's \$100,000 investment. RACC also provides a wide variety of technical assistance services and online resources that create additional value for Clackamas County artists and arts organizations.
- **Future Opportunities:** As discussed at our budget discussion on Wednesday, RACC would be interested in working with you to expand support for artists and arts organizations in Clackamas

County, and to deliver arts integration services in other parts of the County. When recruiting new schools into Right Brain, RACC now prioritizes schools with high populations of students of color, low-income students, English language learners, and schools in rural communities with limited access to the arts. (System-wide, 51% of our students are eligible for federal free/reduced lunch programs, 24% identify as English language learners, and 39 of our 72 schools are Title I.) We are eager to collaborate with you to identify schools with high need in Clackamas County, and to strategize on ways to fund those schools' participation in The Right Brain Initiative.

- For a review of the many ways that The Right Brain Initiative improves student learning, check out our 2017-18 progress report at https://therightbraininitiative.org/files/2019/02/2018_RightBrainProgressReport.pdf

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this additional information with you, and for your consideration re-investing \$100,000 in the Regional Arts & Culture Council next year. We are honored to be one of your partners in serving artists, arts organizations and students throughout Clackamas County. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or questions regarding this partnership.