I like to pay taxes. With them, I buy civilization.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

Grumbling about our taxes in April is practically an American tradition. Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society; but it can be hard to get too excited about bidding farewell to a chunk of your annual income when you can’t control how it’s spent or even see its impact.

But what if you could?

What if there was a concrete, measurable way to show you the real impact of your tax dollars? What if a little bit of money came out of your pockets and a little bit of...
money came out of my pockets and it joined together with a little bit of money from everybody else’s pockets and together we transformed an entire community?

If you paid your arts tax last year, that’s exactly what happened.

In 2012, 62% of Portlanders voted to pass ballot measure 26-146, the Arts Education and Access Fund (AEAF), as a way to stem the tide of a staggering decline in the quality of the city’s public school arts instruction. Before the tax, only 18% of Portland elementary schools provided any arts instruction, compared to a national average of 83%. So for the cost of $35 per eligible taxpayer, the City of Portland collects over $9 million to support schools and arts organizations.

“But I don’t have a kid in public school,” you might be asking, “so why should I care?”

Because arts education is crucial in stimulating creativity and academic achievement for every child. According to Americans for the Arts, students with early, regular access to arts in schools are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement than those who don’t. They have better attendance, lower dropout rates, higher confidence and stronger writing skills. They volunteer in their community and read for pleasure at astonishingly higher rates.

So yes, that $9 million matters. The question is – did it work?

According to Marna Stalcup, RACC’s arts education director, the answer is yes. And even better than expected.

The tax was created to fund one arts teacher per 500 students; the actual result has been better than promised, with a ratio of 1 to 398. Before the arts tax, there were 31 arts teachers in elementary schools in the whole Portland Metro area; now there are 91 teachers, of whom 80% are funded by the arts tax. “Voters got what they wanted and it’s a solid success,” Stalcup says. “It’s pretty exciting.” The arts tax even inspired Portland Public Schools to finally fill (on their own dime) a district-level arts coordinator position that sat vacant for years.

Arts organizations are feeling the impact, too. Artists Repertory Theatre Managing Director Sarah Horton says increased operating funds from RACC support a range of community outreach and accessibility programs. Pay-What-You-Can performances and the “Arts For All” program are offered for every season show, opening the doors to low-income audiences, while free student matinees impact over 1,500 students every year, including guests from the “I Have a Dream” program, New Avenues for Youth, and Outside In. And she says RACC’s funding has also helped Artists Rep continue to develop their ArtsHub program, providing affordable performance, rehearsal and administrative space to a host of smaller arts organizations.

The AEAF is also helping to get money in the hands of artists working in communities that haven’t previously been on RACC’s radar. The Arts Equity Grant program funnels AEAF money to organizations providing services in communities RACC hasn’t traditionally supported, opening the door to a diverse ecosystem of organizations serving an astoundingly broad range of often-underrepresented cultural communities. Watch for this year’s grant recipients to be announced in May.

“It really is because of the arts tax that schools, arts organizations and funders are all thinking as deeply as we are,” RACC Grants Officer Helen Daltoso says. “If everybody’s doing what they can, if everybody’s making an effort, we could see some amazing changes happen.”
ALL EVENTS FUNDED IN PART BY THE REGIONAL ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL (RACC)

TICKET DISCOUNTS, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY:

- Work for Art donors can use their Arts Card to get 2-for-1 tickets (work-for-art.org/artscard).

- Low-income Oregonians participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can access $5 tickets through the Arts for All program (racc.org/artsforall).

WIM WENDERS: PORTRAITS ALONG THE ROAD

THRU 4/3
Northwest Film Center
nwfilm.org, 503.221.1156

MUSIC THAT MAKES US

THRU 4/24
Disjecta
disjecta.org, 503.286.9449

2016 CONTEMPORARY NORTHWEST ART AWARDS

THRU 5/8
Portland Art Museum
portlandartmuseum.org
503.226.2811

22ND YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT! CONCERTO CONCERT

4/1
MetroArts, Inc.
metroartsinc.org, 503.245.4885

ART OF THE STORY

4/2-9
Washington County Cooperative Library
wccls.org, 503.846.3222

OUR FATES ARE CONNECTED

4/4-30
Prints by Michael Aiello
michaelaiellofineart.com
503.929.3095

RIGHT BRAIN INFORMATION SESSION

4/6
The Right Brain Initiative/RACC
therightbraininitiative.org
503.823.5111

NIGHT LIGHTS

4/7
Screenings presented by RACC & The Hollywood Theatre
racc.org
503.823.5111

PEARL DIVE PROJECT

4/7-23
BodyVox
bodyvox.com, 503.229.0627

BLUE DOOR

4/7-24
Profile Theatre
profiletheatre.org
503.242.0080

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMANDA HARMAN & PETER BROWN LEIGHTON

4/7-30
Blue Sky Gallery
blueskygallery.org, 503.225.0210

OREGON STORIES

4/8
Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble
http://bit.ly/1PZdk9y

THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM

4/8-30
Third Rail Repertory Theatre
thirdrailrep.com, 503.235.1101

URBAN TELLERS

4/9
PlayWrite & Portland Story Theater
pdxstorytheater.org
503.284.2226

MURRAY PERAHIA

4/10
Portland Piano International
portlandpiano.org
503.228.1388

29TH ANNUAL OREGON BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY

4/11
Literary Arts
literary-arts.org, 503.227.2583

HARLEM QUARTET

4/14
Friends of Chamber Music
focm.org, 503.224.9842

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RACC.ORG

RACC News

Imagine This! from June 21-23

WRITING WORKSHOPS AT HOTLIPS PIZZA
4/24, 6/26, 7/31, 8/28
Write Around Portland
writearound.org, 503.796.9224

SPRING PREVIEW CONCERT ☒
4/25
Portland Youth Philharmonic
portlandyouthphil.org
503.223.5939

NORTH BY NORTHWEST ☒
4/25
Hollywood Theatre
hollywoodtheatre.org
503.493.1128

INSTALLATION BY LARRY YES ☒
4/25-5/20
RACC, Portland Building
Installation Space
racc.org, 503.823.5111

INTO THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH ☒
4/28-5/28
Miracle Theatre
milagro.org, 503.222.2190

AMERICAN INNOVATIONS ☒
4/29-5/1
Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra
columbiasymp.org
503.234.4077

JOY SPRING: CELEBRATING CLIFFORD BROWN ☒
4/14
PDX Jazz, pdxjazz.com

BEAUTIFUL DECAY ☒
4/14-23
Oregon Ballet Theatre
obt.org, 503.222.5538

CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES ☒
4/14-5/15
Broadway Rose Theatre Co.
broadwayrose.org
503.603.9862

LIMINAL SPACE ☒
4/15-16
Echo Theater Company
echotheaterpdx.org, 503.231.1232

DESIGN WEEK PORTLAND ☒
4/15-23
Design Week Portland
designweekportland.com

CAPTURING GRACE ☒
4/16
Documentary presented by Dance for Parkinson's Oregon
danceforparkinsons.org
503.789.4575

COYOTE TALES ☒
4/16-17
Tears of Joy
toj.org, 503.248.0557

TIMBER! ☒
4/19-20
White Bird
whitebird.org, 503.245.1600

LIVE WIRE! ☒
4/20
Live Wire Radio
livewireradio.org, 503.548.4920

ART SPARK ☒
4/21
Featuring RACC's Arts Education Programs
portlandartspark.com
503.823.5111

MIND OF EVAN ☒
4/21-22
Third Angle New Music
thirdangle.org, 503.331.0301

THE WORLD IS A CIRCUS ☒
4/22-24
Pendulum Aerial Arts
pendulummaerialarts.org
503.319.5486

LAMSMMA PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY ☒
4/23-25
Oregon Symphony
orsymphony.org, 503.228.1353

SNOW WHITE ☒
4/23-5/22
NW Children's Theatre & School
nwcts.org, 503.222.2190

WRITE A CHILD OF OUR TIME ☒
5/11
Portland Symphonic Choir
pschoir.org, 503.223.1217

BATTLE OF THE BANDS ☒
5/12
Work for Art/RACC
workforart.org/battle-of-the-bands, 503.823.5111

NORTHWEST HORN ORCHESTRA 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE
Jen Harrison
nwhornorchestra.org
RACC Project Grant
FUNDING / RESIDENCIES

TWO RESIDENCIES OPEN AT SITKA CENTER.
1) Artist and environmental scientist residencies provide visual artists, musicians, writers, and naturalists with lodging and a studio. http://bit.ly/1R86zOr.

DEADLINES: 4/18/16

OREGON CULTURAL TRUST’S CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS recognize and support significant Oregon cultural programs and projects through 4 application categories: access; preservation; creativity; and capacity. http://bit.ly/1LdfRX7.

DEADLINE: 4/22/16

LELAND IRON WORKS RESIDENCY (Oregon City). Only visual artists who are Oregon residents may apply for stipend supported residencies. http://bit.ly/1RRNBZh.

DEADLINE: 4/30/16

RACC OPPORTUNITY: INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS IN MEDIA ARTS. RACC recognizes individual artistic achievement and excellence through this award to 2 tri-county artists. Guidelines & applications available @ 4/11 at http://bit.ly/1QJ9Su4. INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE: 7/6/16


CALLS TO ARTISTS

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION. Congresswoman Bonamici’s office is currently soliciting work from students who reside or attend school in Oregon’s First Congressional District. http://bit.ly/1SWTbfk.

DEADLINE: 4/15/16

CALL FOR ENTRIES: 6X6X2016 from Rochester Contemporary Art Center. This will be an exhibition of thousands of artworks made and donated by celebrities, international & local artists, designers, students and more. http://bit.ly/1UfO75t.

DEADLINE: 4/17/16

CALL FOR 525,600 MINS. Show how creative people think about time and place. This could mean the passing of time – displaying how people and things age. The measurement of time and/or the tools used to do just that. http://bit.ly/1TMw8oS.

DEADLINE: 4/20/16
SAN YSIDRO BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT. San Diego is seeking artists to design, fabricate and transport permanent, site-specific artwork for the Library. http://bit.ly/1TV2sFM. DEADLINE: 4/22/16

AFFORDABLE ART FOR EVERYONE 2016 invites artists to apply for the 9/24/16 art show at the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro, OR. http://bit.ly/1RAAZ6a. DEADLINE: 4/30/16

CALL FOR ANNUAL ART ADOPTION. Village Gallery is seeking artists for its 7th Annual Art Adoption. This show features hundreds of 6" x 6" x 1.5" canvases. http://bit.ly/1YyHDix. DEADLINE: 4/30/16

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE CASCADE CALL FOR ARTISTS. Arts & Accessibility showcase event series at CymaSpace is now accepting proposals for paid artists and collaborating participants. http://bit.ly/1RT4uTl. DEADLINE: 5/1/16

2016 GRESHAM ARTS FESTIVAL will be held on 7/16. It’s a day filled with “Look at that!” art, music, food and fun, turning the city’s historic downtown into a giant art gallery. http://bit.ly/1YCBdyZ. DEADLINE: 5/1/16

CITY OF TUALATIN’S ARTSPLASH ART SHOW AND SALE. The goal is to encourage and promote Northwest artists, expose the community to a wide range of artistic experience, and endorse interaction between artists and the community. http://bit.ly/1RDWTeN. DEADLINE: 5/3/16


CALL FOR POLITICAL ART IN A POLITICAL TIME. Gallery 114 invites artists to submit art relating to the political themes about which you feel passionate. http://bit.ly/1LeS3SD. DEADLINE: 5/6/16

CALL FOR CONTEMPORARY PORTRAITURE: FRESH! An exhibit that demonstrates an artistic approach and interpretation through the presentation of portraits of self, people, animals, or objects. http://bit.ly/1QHuLne. DEADLINE: 5/12/16

PATTERNS. Open to all mediums, sizes & concepts that relate to, or include, a pattern. Consider zebra stripes, the family tartan, flight patterns, nautilus shell curves, quilts, etc. http://bit.ly/1UhP7Yv. DEADLINE: 5/13/16


SEEKING 3-D ARTISTS for Sequoia Gallery + Studios. This can be sculpture, fiberarts, pottery/ceramics and many other forms. http://bit.ly/1QKAGcs. DEADLINE: 5/20/16

SEEKING LARGE SCALE MURALIST for large representational depictions of historical...
people and events in Troutdale and Columbia Gorge. [URL]

**CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR INTERFAITH MUSE.** Emerging or established artists in all media and writers in all genres and writers whose work engages spiritual questions. [URL]

**THE OPEN SHOW** (Non-juried) at Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts is one of the largest shows of its kind in the Pacific NW. [URL]

**CALL FOR NORTH PORTLAND UNKNOWN FILM FESTIVAL.** A variety of creative film work from around the world as well as a 2-minute film festival that is dedicated more solely to the local/regional community. [URL]

**BOOK SUBMISSIONS FOR 2016 WORDSTOCK FESTIVAL.** Literary Arts is looking for authors publishing this year in the genres of fiction, narrative nonfiction, poetry, children’s literature, art and architecture, and food writing. [URL]

**ENTRIES FOR THE 43RD NORTHWEST FILMMAKERS’ FESTIVAL,** which brings NW moving image artists together to share ideas, discover resources available to them, inspire, and be inspired. [URL]

**CALL FOR MONTHLY SHOWS** for Multnomah Arts Center Gallery 2017. Experienced and emerging artists living in Oregon or Washington (in the vicinity of Portland) are invited to submit group and solo proposals for shows. [URL]

**SUMMER ART CAMP POSITIONS** at Oregon College of Art and Craft. Now hiring for full and part-time summer positions for Art Adventures Summer Camps. [URL]

**GENERAL MANAGER** sought by Eugene Symphony to be sure all orchestra events (concerts, rehearsals, tours, run-outs, and special events) run smoothly, effectively, and in a financially responsible manner. [URL]

**INSTRUCTOR/DEISGNER, THEATRE & DANCE** sought by Pacific University. Responsibilities include teaching an introductory course in theatre technology; designing scenery and lighting for theatre production and dance concert; and department technical direction duties. [URL]

**OFFICE MANAGER** sought by Hoffman Academy with strong people skills and excellent attention to detail. Candidate must be able to multi-task and provide friendly, professional support to clients and employees. [URL]

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** sought by OMSI. Bring OMSI’s identity to life with projects that are ready and waiting for a creative, innovative and informed designer. [URL]

**OFFICE MANAGER** sought by Young Audiences, responsible for ensuring that the workplace is fully supplied, served and organized. [URL]

**PROGRAM MANAGER (P/T)** sought by SW Music School to provide administrative support to the Board, to the parents and students and the contracted teachers. [URL]

**4/23 RACC WORKSHOP: HOW TO BE A SOCIAL MEDIA ROCK STAR.** Learn to enchant, delight, and create authentic social media messages. [URL]

**5/9 WHY Aren’t THERE More BLACK PEOPLE in Oregon?** Profile Theatre presents Walidah Imarisha who will lead participants through a timeline of Black history in Oregon that speaks to the history of race, identity, and power in this state and the nation. [URL]

**5/10 RACC WORKSHOP: BE A CONTRACT KILLER.** Learn how to write and read contracts with an eye for the bottom line. [URL]

**5/12 RACC WORKSHOP: UNDERSTANDING COPYRIGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.** Laws about intellectual property can impact what can be done with the things you make. [URL]

**5/21-22 LINEWORK NW: Illustration & Comic Festival.** Drawing upon a wealth of talent from the Pacific Northwest and beyond, Linework NW seeks to cultivate a vibrant cultural experience for creators, readers, art lovers, and collectors alike. [URL]

**5/24 RACC WORKSHOP: THE END MATTERS.** Covers estate planning for visual artists and collectors. [URL]

**ARTIST STUDIO FOR RENT.** NE 33rd and Alberta: Space 12′ X 20′; shared common area includes work sink, lavatory, bike storage. $400.00/mo. [URL]

**VOLUNTEERS** are sought by Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre/Northwest: development associate intern & marketing assistant. [URL]

**C3: INITIATIVE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING PROGRAMMING.** Volunteers greet gallery guests, engage with them about the exhibition, and help with general gallery operations. [URL]

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WILSONVILLE FESTIVAL OF ARTS.** Participate in the 17th annual Wilsonville Festival of Arts on June 4th and 5th. [URL]
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

A celebration of employee creativity

A benefit for Work for Art

THURSDAY
MAY 12TH

7PM / $10

CRYSTAL BALLROOM

workforart.org/battle-of-the-bands