



Welcome to *Arts inFOCUS*, our rebranding of RACC's *Art Notes* newsletter! With the launch of *Arts inFOCUS*, we are lifting up new and reimagined engagements, and we invite you to share your stories and experiences as creatives, culture bearers, and community members.

The past two years have been a fascinating journey. Arts and culture as a sector has experienced a strong re-centering due to the pandemic and the ongoing need for social change and equity within our societal structures. Artists and creatives have kept the movement for brown and black lives vital—a testament to this industry's value and immediacy. As we respond to your requests for accessibility, visibility, and relevancy, know that we have heard your stories and are centering your needs as you are the most creative of creative problem solvers. Over this time, we have redirected our own internal funding and brought in external support to ensure our creative community has the resources to live and rebound. We ask that you continue to let us know what is needed and be assured that we will continue to advocate to fill the gaps and live into the opportunities that may come.

From the reimagined halls of a courthouse to the youth-inspired murals on a school campus, you will hear about, and be invited to engage in, the stories that build and rebuild our art-dependent communities. Let us know about the folks and creatives you want to hear from—the well of storytelling is deep and textured. Thank you for supporting nearly 50 years of creative endeavor in the Portland-Metro region. We look forward to keeping you in focus!

—Carol Tatch and Della Rae, Co-Executive Directors

## Introducing Going Public! A Mural Skill Building Intensive



# Calle Diez murals

### In the Community

## advocacy



Photo courtesy of [Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theater](#).

### We're hiring TWO Contractor Positions

We're hiring TWO contract positions to help facilitate the distribution of the [Arts & Economic Prosperity \(AEP6\) study](#). The positions available are AEP6 Contractor Associate Coordinator and AEP6 Contractor Associate.

Come help show the impact of arts and culture in Multnomah County by joining us for the National Arts and Economic Prosperity (AEP) study in partnership with Americans for the Arts. Ideal candidates are outgoing, organized, and self-starters with volunteer recruitment, coordination, and survey facilitation experience.

Applications Due: December 30, 2022, at noon.



## arts education



### Survey Results Now Available!

In March 2022, RACC conducted a survey of arts educators throughout the region for the purpose of learning about the climate of arts education and their current needs.

The resulting information informed the type of support RACC can provide and offered insight that will be shared with policymakers as RACC advocates for arts education. We would like to thank our consultant Chari Smith and *Evaluation into Action* for bringing this survey to life.

Follow the link to see the final results from our survey.



## grants



### RACC Distributes Urgency/Stability Funds

RACC, in partnership with the City of Portland awarded 196 artists \$450,000 through the Urgency/Stability Support for Artists grant program, a part of the American Rescue Plan: Investing in Portland initiative.

The Urgency/Stability program, led by Grants Specialist, Molly Gray was designed by the RACC Team members, with feedback from three community artists. The intention of the grant was to support artists and other creatives working in the arts who identify as under-served or under-represented, including Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander and People of Color; LGBTQIA+ artists; and artists with disabilities.

Grants between \$500-\$5,000 were made to support artists and other creatives working in the arts who live in the City of Portland, had lost income or opportunities due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and had an ongoing practice creating work and sharing it with the community.

Statements submitted by a grant recipient:

*"I broke out into tears when I learned I'd be a recipient of the Urgency/Stability grant. I've lost so much in the last 2 years – this money is life-sustaining. It will give me time and space to heal and invest in my artist practice."*

Learn more about the "American Rescue Plan: Investing in Portland" at the link below.



## public art



Photo courtesy of Sean Meagher, [The Oregonian](#).

### INDÍGENA's Installation Project: *We Are The Land*

The City of Portland Office of Tribal Relations initiated a project with artist Josué Rivas to install portraits of indigenous community members around the City in acknowledgement of Native American Heritage Month. Rivas is the visionary behind the project and the founder of [INDÍGENA](#), an Indigenous storytelling collective. He and Samantha Hanlin (also from INDÍGENA) created the portraits and were the leads on the wheat pastings. One of the installations is on the side of the building that houses the RACC office, 411 NW Park. RACC has been a co-sponsor and fiscal agent for this project along with the City Arts Program, Multnomah County, Metro, the City's Diverse Empowered Employees of Portland Program, and Northwest Natural. Oregon Live recently published an [article](#) about the project, which includes photos of the portraits at the various locations. OMSI has the biggest of the installations, and they also appear on several Multnomah County buildings. A map of the locations can be found [here](#).

The dedication on the installation at RACC reads:

**INTENTION**  
*WE ARE THE LAND IS A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT THAT AIMS TO SHARE THE DIGNITY, BEAUTY, AND STRENGTH OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY. THESE IMAGES CONNECT US TO THE LANDSCAPE OF THE CITY AND INCREASE OUR VISIBILITY. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE THRIVING HERE DESPITE COLONIZATION. WE HOPE TO OPEN YOUR HEARTS TO A CONVERSATION THAT CAN SERVE AS A VEHICLE FOR TRANSFORMATION, HEALING AND VISIONING.*

**WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS?**

Thank you Josué, Samantha, and all who helped to make this installation happen. Most of the installations will be up through the end of the year, with the exception of OMSI, which will have a longer run.

See a video of the installation on RACC's exterior wall at the link.



# Help support the arts in ways that matter most.

BECOME A DONOR

### Featured Instagram Posts



# Community Art & Lunch

facilitated by artists Lillyanne Pham & Paola De La Cruz

Saturday, December 17th  
11am to 1pm at Midland Library

Community Event: Saturday, December 17th

Participate in the Midland Library Canopy Design! Grab a hot meal on Saturday, December 17th and participate in art-making activities to design...



*In-Between* returns with *There's Magic in Dreams*

Traveling on the MAX down NE Holladay Street between the Oregon Convention Center and the Hyatt Hotel, I looked up at a banner on the median strip...



Jerome Sloan's *Fresh Paint* Mural

The current "Fresh Paint" mural is on view through March at [@Opensignalpdx](#) on their exterior wall facing NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. between...



Regional Arts & Culture Council

RACC is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all contributions to RACC are tax-deductible.

Our tax ID number is 93-1059037.

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Where to find us

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