

An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Regional Arts & Culture Council supports the creative economy in greater Portland by providing equitable funding and services to artists, creatives, and art organizations; managing and growing a diverse, nationally acclaimed public art program; and developing enduring public and private partnerships. Through advocacy and engagement, we are building community support for artists, creatives, arts-serving organizations, and arts educators, ensuring a thriving region for arts and culture.

VALUES

ACCESSIBILITY

Inclusion, simplicity, and ease

ADVOCACY

Visibility, resources, and impact

EQUITY

Racial justice and representation in services and investments

DIVERSITY

Of art forms and artistic traditions

COMMUNITY

For belonging, support, and connection

INNOVATION

Testing and adapting; finding new ways to deliver value



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@R_A_C_C



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racc.org

EQUITY STATEMENT

We believe that the arts have the power to change hearts and minds, and to inspire social change. Prejudice and privilege have created barriers that RACC must dismantle, systematically and strategically, until everyone in our community has equitable access to arts and culture.

We acknowledge that there is no one perfect way to achieve equity, but we are willing to take risks because there is much work to do. We are thoughtfully researching and implementing new methods of thinking within our organizational culture, starting with an in-depth assessment of our services, policies and procedures. We are seeking out and listening to voices that have not been heard, and fully engaging under-represented populations in dialogue that will help us improve.

We are committed to the full scope of this work and will hold ourselves accountable along the way—anything less would prove a disservice to ourselves and the communities we serve. RACC strives to be an organization that values and celebrates everyone's life experiences, their voices and their histories. By consistently bringing new perspectives to our decision-making table, forming new relationships and alliances, and finding new ways to support creativity, RACC will be a strong, equitable and relevant organization. Throughout this process, we commit to humility, optimism and respect.

RACIAL EQUITY LENS

Objective: By utilizing a racial equity lens, RACC aims to (a) provide a common vocabulary and protocol for evaluating policies, programs, practices, and decisions for racial equity and (b) produce policies, programs, practices, and decisions which result in more equitable outcomes.

For any policy, program, practice, or decision, consider the following questions:

1. Who are the racial/ethnic groups affected? What are the potential impacts on these groups?
2. Does this ignore or worsen existing disparities or produce other unintended consequences?
3. How have you intentionally involved stakeholders and shared decision-making with affected community members? Can you validate your assessments in (1) and (2)?
4. What are barriers to more equitable outcomes? (e.g. mandated, political, emotional, financial, programmatic, or managerial)
5. How will you (a) mitigate the negative impacts and (b) address the barriers identified above?
6. How will you communicate the decision that was made and seek evaluation from affected stakeholders?

PROGRAMS

Grants & Community Reinvestment

Supporting and guiding individuals, communities, and organizations throughout the Tri-County region to access funding opportunities

- Center creative and cultural communities in our processes as we remove barriers of access for all eligible art-makers, including individual artists and arts-based businesses
- Invest in arts and cultural organizations, including capacity building support for groups led by and serving primarily Communities of Color and other historically under-supported communities
- Respond, adapt and innovate our programming based on on-going community feedback
- Provide opportunities for the arts to acknowledge and transition from the impacts of this moment

Public Art

We manage and grow our diverse, nationally-acclaimed public art programs and collections

- Facilitate the integration of a wide range of art into public spaces that reflect a diversity of artistic disciplines and points of view
- Foster relationships with artists and regional arts partners for skill-building opportunities to create inclusive projects in underrepresented communities and neighborhoods
- Teach communities and policy-makers the positive, restorative, and interactive impact that arts and culture have in our communities
- Support the role of artists and the arts as a primary way for communities to preserve and celebrate culture and heritage

Arts Education

We envision an arts education that is rooted in equity, access, and inclusivity as we champion a well-rounded education for K-12 students

- Advocate for a core curriculum for all K-12 students: visual arts, music, dance, theater, and media arts
- Support arts educators, school districts, and the arts education community to provide resources and convening opportunities (artlook[®]oregon)
- Collaborate with arts/culture partner organizations, local, state, and national art leaders
- Work to reduce and eliminate barriers to access while promoting equity and inclusion (Arts for All program)

Advocacy & Engagement

Building and encouraging support for a strong arts and culture community and ecosystem. Embedded into RACC, we actively promote increased arts funding at all levels, encouraging more private sector giving; connecting artists to opportunities, and organizations to artists and creatives, through an equitable lens

- Reduce and eliminate barriers to access and promote equity in the arts and culture through support and promoting among city, state, and federal officials
- Encourage the expansion of the role of arts in community services, especially in health and recovery
- Foster, build, and grow partnerships and collaborations with community leadership in local, state, and national arts and culture councils, commissions, and committees
- Initiate and support calls to action including state and national legislative initiatives

Philanthropy in Arts & Culture

Supporting our artists and creatives is crucial to creating a landscape in which our communities can thrive. By leveraging philanthropic and earned incomes resources, RACC

- Provides crucial and impactful support to uplift underrepresented and marginalized communities
- Fosters opportunities for education, communication, and the transfer of knowledge and learned experience among funders and supporters
- Engages communities to support the arts at levels they can access to create the change they envision
- Understands that this is most effectively applied when those engaged bring their voices and perspective

Future Forward

- Promote public/private initiatives and joint projects through community engagement and strategic investments such as Public Canvas NW, Arts for All, Going Public! A Mural Intensive Program, and other programmatic efforts
- Expand equity in arts/culture education and access through arts/cultural database artlook®oregon
- Advocate for arts and culture policy, legislative initiatives, and STEAM education in our schools
- Provide opportunities for continuous professional development for creatives, arts educators, and awardees through DIY professional courses, mini grantee tutorials, and Trauma-Informed Care workshops
- Support and promote success through innovative social media campaigns, public resources, grants, public art projects, and joint initiatives with engaged stakeholder

PROGRAM UPDATES

Grants & Community Reinvestment Updates

Arts3C Grant Program

The RACC Grants Team supported applicants through the process through draft proposal review, concept assessment, technical support with the RACC Opportunity Portal and lots of email and phone Q&A through good old-fashioned customer service! The Arts3C Grant Program (Sept. 2022 cycle) closed in November with approximately 450 eligible proposals. 193 RACC Arts3C Grants were awarded in December 2022 for a total of \$745,000. *Interesting Statistic: 142 or 32% of the applicants selected Visual Arts as their Primary or secondary artistic discipline. Another interesting stat: Almost half of the requests are seeking the highest amount of \$5,000.*

Multnomah County Cultural Coalition (MCCC)

RACC is the fiscal sponsor for the MCCC. Our point person in grantmaking is Ingrid Carlson, Grants Officer. Ingrid works closely to manage the grantmaking process for our partners at MCCC. Their grant closed in October and their submissions were under review by their Board.

Public Art Updates

Calls to Artists

RACC commissioned and purchased new work. In the fall, we initiated an artist selection process for the Multnomah County Library Bond (5 total), Port of Portland PDX Next (2 total), and the Behavioral Health Resource Center. For each project, we conducted Instagram Live and Zoom info sessions as well as a steady stream of help to artists as they go through the application process. Some of the calls were RFQ's (Request for Qualifications), some were invitational and some were for the purchase of already created artworks. A social media campaign and eblasts accompanied both projects.

INDIGENA #WEARETHELAND

The City's Office of Tribal Relations initiated a project with artist Josue Rivas to install portraits of indigenous community members around the City in acknowledgement of Native American Heritage Month. As they stated in their press release, "These portraits will focus on connecting Portlanders to the spirit of local Native tribes and showcasing the vibrancy and diversity of the urban Native community. From moving portraits and diverse expressions, the project will emphasize visibility and focus on the joy that results from Native people taking up space." RACC has been a co-sponsor and fiscal agent for this project along with the City Arts Program, Multnomah County, Metro and Northwest Natural. These installations are currently on display at RACC, OMSI, and several Multnomah County buildings.

Going Public!

During the summer, RACC's Public Art Murals Program launched Going Public! A Murals Skill-Building Intensive, an immersive, hands-on professional development opportunity for emerging BIPOC visual artists, illustrators, painters and other creatives interested in working in the public realm creating murals. The program consists of a cohort of 5 artists new to mural-making that received mentorship from experienced muralists, attended 4 mural-making workshops, and presented their mural designs to a panel for review. The artists painted their designs in the fall at various sites in the Portland metro area. The cohort of artists painting are: Nabil de la Rosa, Abdiel Flores Ubaldo, Saphya Lones, Rebecca Rodela, and Tim Tran (an additional mural will be painted by William Hernandez, who is participating as a mentor in the project). To make this project possible, we partnered with key stakeholders like the City of Hillsboro, TriMet, Miller Paint, and Zidell Yards. In early October, a few press outlets interviewed Abdiel and William to discuss the program and their process.

Newly purchased 2-D Artworks for the Portable Works Collection

Our recent "Mega-Purchase" yielded 144 new 2-D artworks from 123 artists for display in City and County facilities. Artworks have been selected by a community panel to reflect qualities of Community, Craft, and Place. *The panel was comprised of: Walle Brown, B Boy & Data Analyst; Danita Campbell, Customer Service Analyst at the Multnomah County Central Court; Timme Lu, Designer & Printer; Lusi Lukova, Writer & Curator; Laura Camilla Medina, Artist; and Mami Takahashi, Artist & Artist Administrator.* This opportunity prioritized artists who identify as members of historically underserved and underrepresented communities including Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and people of color, LGBTQIA+, and artists with disabilities.

- The new additions to the Portable Works Collection, which consists of almost 1,600 works on paper, paintings, prints and textiles, as well as the Visual Chronicle of Portland Collection, which consists of over 300 works on paper and offers eclectic views of social and urban life in Portland.
- **In-Between- Richard Brown & Renée Watson**
Along the median strip on NE Holladay Street, between the Oregon Convention Center and the Hyatt Hotel and parking structure, the temporary public art project that began in 2019, In-Between returns. Author Renée Watson has responded with poetry to the photographs of Richard Brown. Eight unique ten-foot banners displayed along the Max tracks convey Black children's dream of their possible futures. Richard Brown is a photographer and a Black Portlander who has spent decades working to bridge the divide between the police and the Black community. Through his art and activism, Brown has been an advocate for Portland's Black communities for over 40 years. The banners will appear on four posts along NE Holladay Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and 1st Avenue through June 30, 2023.

Black Portland Matters Art & Placemaking Initiative, Northeast Health Center featuring Richard Brown

Continuing up NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard from the In-Between banners, Richard Brown's series of photographs "Keepers Of OurStory" installed mid-November on the exterior of the Walnut Park Complex at Multnomah County Northeast Health Center (5329 NE MLK Jr Blvd, Portland, Oregon). Made in 1988, these studio and environmental portraits of Black Portland elders were created to encourage the community to value the Black elders in their lives. "Keepers Of OurStory" sits alongside the 1998 mural work of celebrated Portland artist Adriene Cruz, who coincidentally was also born in Harlem. This project was curated by local artist Intisar Abioto.

Black Portland Matters Art & Placemaking Initiative, SACOO

Artist Mario DeLeon has created a new painting working with youth from SACOO (Somali American Council of Oregon). The painting will be on long term loan to SACOO and the artist has also created a companion piece for the front of the building in the form of a window film.

Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC)

Multnomah County's Behavioral Health Division renovated a building at the corner of SW Oak & SW Park Ave in downtown Portland. This site is a comprehensive behavioral health resource center that will offer immediate basic services for people experiencing houselessness, substance use and/or mental health challenges. Managing the art plan for the center, RACC led an artist selection process last year that resulted in the selection of three artists to create artworks at three different locations at the center. The artists are Damon Smyth, Amirah Chatman and Salomee Souag. Installation of the artworks was completed in December. A call for portable works was concluded at the end of 2022.

Lynn Yarne's Mural Commission at the Portland Building

Multimedia artist Lynn Yarne's commission for the Portland Building was completed and installed at the end of the year. Her expansive art installation will combine vinyl collage, augmented reality, historic photos, and sculptural relief. This work commemorates the first Chinese American female pilot, Leah Hing, who was raised in Portland. Lynn has collected stories with residents and individuals with long-time relationships to Hing's family and/or Portland's Chinatown.

Lincoln High School Mural

In collaboration with Portland Public Schools (PPS), RACC led a call to artists in which two local artists Lynn Yarne and Shu-Ju Wang were selected to produce a design to draw on the school's wall at the intersection of SW 18th Ave and SW Main St. Final design was submitted in December and painting of the mural is being led by PPS, slated to be completed by the end of the 22-23 school year.

Port of Portland

RACC has continued its work with the Port of Portland and had two Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) in circulation for the PDX Airport Terminal Redevelopment project last year. These RFQs would result in the design and installation of permanently installed public artworks displayed in the stunning new PRX Airport terminal core. One of these is for two 56' long glass art walls near the new TSA security line. The second RFQ was for two suspended from the ceiling artworks in a pre-security area. The budgets for these projects are both in the \$900,000 range and represent a significant investment in public art for our region. Five more RFQ will be issued in 2023, totalling over five million dollars in public arts investment.

Installation Space

The Installation Space's inaugural art exhibition in the newly renovated Portland Building included a selection of ephemera from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Museum of Art (KSMoCA), an art museum within an elementary school in Northeast Portland. This display included a selection of previous artworks and comments by Lomarion, a fifth-grader at the school on the Student Curatorial Committee, and a selection of new pieces from the KSMoCA Mentorship Program. The exhibition was on view: July 1, 2022 – November 11, 2022. About Installation Space– The Installation Space is an art gallery with an almost 30-year legacy located on the second floor of the Portland Building. The gallery is managed by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and its mission is to present conceptually rigorous, site-specific and experimental media installations. The Installation Space gallery program began in 1994 and was on hold for years due to the building's extensive, multi-year renovation and pandemic closures. This exhibition marks the relaunch of the art program. Currently, RACC is preparing materials and establishing the timeline for the upcoming Call for Proposals

Arts Education Updates

- The expansion of artlook®oregon continues with letters sent to the remaining school districts in Multnomah County and additional arts organizations added. The URL for artlook®oregon will be completed in early 2023.
- In October, RACC held our first coordinating meeting for our Professional Development Consortium. Our intention is to offer a robust professional development learning and networking opportunity for K-12 arts educators in Multnomah County.
- Co-organized an interview with the City of Hillsboro which was conducted by the Oregonian for Going Public!
- Increased traffic to our social media posts- video content. Recent video from our internal art exhibit-Uprooted featured over 4280 views on Instagram. Expanded our Communications team.
- Will launch new social media platform engagement opportunities at the start of 2023. The intention is to better showcase the behind the scenes of artists and RACC's collaboration.
- Launched in September 2021, our back to school #newsforyourheART 5 latest edition was well received with multiple interviews from AEAF Committee Members. RACC will continue to engage with our K-12 arts education community and expand our scope to include more live interviews.
- RACC will continue to advocate for the Arts Education for All Act (HR5581) if reintroduced, and other relevant policy and legislation initiatives.

Advocacy & Engagement Updates

- RACC is the lead partner in Multnomah County in partnership with Americans for the Arts to participate in their Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP6) individual and organizational surveys. To date, we have been to several important cultural live events including Portland's Literary Arts Festival, screenings of the Latin American Film Festival hosted at the Hollywood theater, and holiday concerts at the Schnitzer and surrounding venues. We will continue to contact venues, events, and volunteers to facilitate the survey across Multnomah County. Completion is set for late April 2023. Results will be available and compiled by the American for the Arts.
- RACC leadership met with Cultural Planning Group (CPG) (based in San Diego, in collaboration with the local Metropolitan Group) in November and identified and confirmed members to serve on the Regional Cultural Plan's Project Steering Committee from recommendations from members of the Project Management Team.

Organizational UPDATES

Canadian Consulate

We have solidified relationships between the Consulate and two arts organizations poised to provide bi-national support and engagement for artists and creatives (U.S. and Canada). Consideration of coming opportunities in 2023 were explored and planning is underway.

Albina Visioning Committee convening at the Soul Restoration Center

Ongoing community and funder conversations to imagine the next iteration of the Albina Arts Center. Currently, by Department of Justice mandate, the lease is being held by Oregon Community Foundation(OCF). OCF is looking to find the next partner to take on the future of this space that is critical to Portland's African American and Black community.

Regional Cultural Plan

Cultural Planning Group and (CPG) Metropolitan Group (MG) at RACC, We met with this combined consultancy that is working with the City Arts Program to bring forth a Regional Cultural Plan for the City of Portland and region through

some connections with our regional partners. The concern remains that there is not full participation from our county partners who may have not been fully briefed on the opportunity for engagement and participation. We have sat with commissioners from Clackamas and Washington Counties (working with Raziah Roshan, ED of Tualatin Valley Creates in WC) in an effort to help communicate the goals, processes, and possibilities for participation and collaboration. The RACC Team and Program Leads had the opportunity to meet with CPG/MG on November 3rd at RACC Offices to ask questions and respond to questions from these groups. This is the first of several planned engagements with RACC as they continue their baseline assessments and plan for the community engagement phase of this process, starting with a January 11th meeting with the Project Management Team. Mario Mesquita, Manager of Advocacy & Engagement participates and sits on this team. In November, GPG/MG pledged to reach out to our local Cultural Coalition partners who they were unaware of prior to our share out. We are collaborators with them and will engage as we are invited to. While this is a very different engagement that was imagined and planned for RACC in summer 2021, we are optimistic of a thorough engagement and an assurance of community voices and placemaking being forefront in the process.

Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO)

RACC is a member of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon which has several processes underway, including a fundraising drive as CACO now has a (c)(3), non-profit organization to support their work. RACC's membership fees for members will be rising as an aspect of this process. As this advocacy groups represents the interests of the arts and culture community as a whole, as serves as our lobbying agent, it is hoped that they can increase membership to be fully representational of our diverse statewide arts and culture community.

City of Hillsboro/Going Public Murals Intensive

In October, Team members Salvador Mayoral IV, Public Art Project Manager and Leadership along with RACC board member and Treasurer Debby Garman in Hillsboro on engaging with representatives from Hillsboro, Washington County, The Oregonian, and Pamplin Media to highlight RACC's Going Public! Murals Intensive program. We have "across the street" murals nearly complete on the Calle Diez in Hillsboro. These were completed by veteran artist and mentor for the program, William Hernandez, and his mentee, Abdiel Flores Ubaldo-course participant. The article is here. Portland based artists are participating in this program and we look forward to expanding the program this upcoming year.

RACC team members met with Congresswoman Bonamici and NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson

The visit included conversation about RACC's \$500,000 funding initiative for Washington and Clackamas Counties at Bag&Baggage (one of the recipients of this NEA funding and a partner for this project's advocacy). This was followed up by a roundtable conversation at Portland Center Stage (on set for "The Water, the Ripple, That Carried Me Home") introducing and seeking support for the CREATIVE Act (Capital, Repairs, and Employment for Art Talent to Improve Visibility Everywhere). Chief of External Operations, Carol Tatch, was joined on stage by several Oregon-based nonprofit leaders for a very robust conversation. Maria Jackson was invited to return for a more centered conversation regarding the NEA and funding opportunities for our local arts landscape (artists, creatives, and organizations) including the Division Midway Our Town NEA funded project in East Portland. Over the past year, and in recent months, we have endorsed, and brought to our local county partners the opportunity to endorse Bonamici's Arts Education for All Act and the Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA).