

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP]
[Date]

[Local Representative's Title and Full Name]
[Local Representative's Address]
[City, State, ZIP]

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Arts and Culture Support in our Community

Dear [Local Representative or Legislator's Name],

I am writing to you as an engaged member of our community to express my deep concerns regarding proposed changes to arts and culture support in our city. As a passionate advocate for the arts and someone who actively participates in the creative community, I strongly believe that these proposed changes made by the City Council may have unintended consequences that could undermine the vibrancy and inclusivity of our local arts scene.

I understand that the City of Portland has made the decision to establish its own Office of Arts & Culture, effectively altering the current partnership with the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) that has been in place since 1995. While I appreciate the City's efforts to promote arts and culture, I worry that this decision will jeopardize the progress made in advancing equity, inclusion, efficiency, and community-driven support within our arts ecosystem.

Another concern I share is the potential exclusion of RACC from future decision-making processes regarding arts and culture in Portland. RACC has been a valuable voice, working tirelessly to represent the interests of the creative community as well as collaborators with City employees and elected officials. It is essential that their expertise and deep understanding of our community's needs are considered while navigating any changes. Excluding RACC from these conversations would be a missed opportunity to harness their wealth of knowledge and experience.

Furthermore, I am troubled by the perception that these changes are premature before the completion of the ongoing community engagement sessions and analysis for the new regional cultural plan, "Our Creative Future." It is important that we base decisions about the future of our arts and culture landscape on a thorough understanding of the community's needs and aspirations. Rushing into conclusions without considering the outcomes of these essential planning efforts undermines the integrity and effectiveness of our arts and culture support. It also promotes exclusion rather than inclusion.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to consider sharing these concerns to the City Council and to actively engage with the creative community before finalizing any decisions regarding our arts and culture support. I believe in the power of collaboration, open

dialogue, and inclusivity, and it is through these principles that we can ensure a thriving arts ecosystem that benefits everyone in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I sincerely hope that you will advocate for the preservation of the valuable partnership between RACC and the City of Portland.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP]