

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Maidson Cario
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) provides contract services to Multnomah County and its residents. Formerly a County bureau (the Metropolitan Arts Commission), RACC became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1995 in order to leverage support from other regional government partners and private donors, ultimately investing much more in arts and culture than the County alone can afford. These investments create vibrant neighborhoods, enhance our children’s education, and fuel the creative economy with measurable economic benefits for Multnomah County.

Program Summary

RACC plays a vital role in the County’s economic and community development efforts. Specifically, RACC provides services in six key areas: (1) Through Advocacy, RACC helps build support & resource for arts and culture. (2) Grants provide artists & arts organizations with base financial support they need to continue serving our community. (3) Nationally acclaimed Public Art program, including the Multnomah County 2% for Art Ordinance, integrates a wide range of art into public spaces. (4) Other Community Services including workshops for artists, consulting for arts organizations, and a variety of printed and electronic resources; (5) RACC works with arts education specialists supporting the integration of arts into the standard curriculum by providing direct support to art and music teachers funded by Portland’s arts tax; and (6) RACC invests in arts-related programming that supports vulnerable populations and marginalized communities in Multnomah County, including low- income Oregonians, veterans, East County, seniors & people experiencing homelessness.

Arts and culture activities add measurable value to our region’s economy and to our quality of life. Artists and arts organizations bring residents together for shared cultural experiences that stimulate creativity which in turn supports more innovative businesses and a richer educational experience for our children. A vibrant arts community serves as a magnet for young creatives, and Multnomah County’s investment in the arts contributes to the competitive advantage we have over other regions competing to attract sustainable businesses and an innovative, well-educated workforce. Multnomah County is home to the vast majority of the region’s artists and arts and culture organizations, which pre-COVID-19, together generated more than \$294 million for the local economy and \$12.5 million for local government coffers every year.

FY 2022 County funding supports: \$257,500 for grants and technical assistance services for artists and arts organizations, \$7,500 for arts education and assessment, \$15,000 for advocacy programs, and \$20,000 for general management and sustaining services such as accounting and information technology/web services. RACC receives separate funding from Multnomah County’s 2%-for-art to fund public art projects.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | FY20 Actual | FY21 Budgeted | FY21 Estimate | FY22 Offer |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Output | Dollars leveraged from other sources (FY21 includes CARES State funding) | \$12 million | \$11 million | \$21 million | \$8 million |
| Outcome | Multnomah County children engaged in creative learning (Comprehensive Distance Learning) | 9,750 | 9,750 | 27,633 | 35,000 |
| Output | Direct Investment in artists & arts & culture organizations (excluding \$13.2M in State CARES) | N/A | \$4.3 million | \$5.9 million | \$5.4 million |
| Output | RACC-funded artists who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and/or reside in East County | N/A | N/A | N/A | 40% |

Performance Measures Descriptions

RACC will work closely with arts educators to create social-emotional-learning based metrics to measure impact as standard measures of minutes of instruction have been difficult with distance-based platforms. For direct investments, RACC will continue to focus on bringing resources to historically under-served communities, artists, and arts & culture organizations with the goal to increase support for these individuals and communities to represent at least 40%.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

RACC operates as a steward of Multnomah County investments in arts and culture via contract #440000704.

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds | Requested General Fund | Requested Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2021 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Contractual Services | \$300,000 | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$300,000 | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$300,000 | | \$300,000 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 10020 Regional Arts & Culture Council

In FY 2021, RACC pivoted to streamline granting opportunities to provide more grants and services for artists & arts organizations in underrepresented communities including East County, communities of color, low-income Oregonians, and other marginalized populations. In FY21, RACC adopted a new Strategic Framework 2020-22 to guide our work, the plan outlines five high-level goals: Goal 1: Build an equitable, innovative, sustainable organization, Goal 2: Increase access, Goal 3: Advocate for arts & culture, Goal 4: Diversify & increase resources, Goal 5: Drive innovation & partnership. All of these goals are centered on equity and our decision-making process is guided by our Racial Equity Lens. Responding to the impacts of COVID-19, RACC also advocated for funding opportunities resulting in: State and Federal CARES funding for performance venues (\$13.2M for Multnomah County-based organizations), \$3M in statewide pooled funding grants to arts organizations, administered with an equity lens by the Oregon Community Foundation; and direct support to artists and creatives with three rounds of Emergency Grants to Artists and Creative Workers.