

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** Accept the report titled “A Plan for Preserving and Expanding Affordable Arts Space in Portland” and Instruct Bureau Staff to Examine the Recommendations for Adoption. (Resolution)

**Contact name:** Jamie Dunphy, Office of Commissioner Nick Fish

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**Presenter name:** Jamie Dunphy, Office of Commissioner Nick Fish

### **Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

Accept a report on recommendations for preserving Portland’s creative economy, and instructing appropriate bureau staff to examine recommendations for adoption.

### **Financial and budgetary impacts:**

There are no financial or budgetary impacts.

### **Community impacts and community involvement:**

Increased rents, both for housing and commercial spaces, are making it impossible for many artists to live here. The displacement of artists and arts organizations puts the future of Portland’s creative economy at risk. This creative economy supports thousands of jobs, provides millions of dollars in economic activity, and drives our quality of life. Portland risks losing the soul of our city unless we take proactive steps to preserve and expand affordable arts spaces.

Extensive community outreach was done, including meetings with more than two dozen stakeholders, including artists, non-profit leaders, arts organizations, developers, building owners, advocates, community groups, neighborhood groups, and coalition leaders.

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet****Does this action change appropriations?**☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

37345

Fritz Amendment  
2/18/2018

**Proposed amendment to agenda item 203**

Be it further resolved, Portland Parks & Recreation will consider ways to integrate recommendations in this report in its long-range planning efforts, currently underway, to shape future services across the parks system.



37345

Commissioner Nick Fish  
City of Portland

**DATE:** 2/14/2018

**TO:** Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz

**FROM:** Commissioner Nick Fish

**SUBJECT:** Arts Affordability Resolution

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On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Council held a Work Session to discuss “A Plan to Preserve and Expand Affordable Art Spaces in Portland.” The report and recommendations represent a collaboration among my staff and staff from the offices of Commissioner Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler. It reflects input from dozens of community stakeholders, national best practices, and unique recommendations crafted specifically for Portland.

On February 28, Council will be asked to take two actions:

- 1) Formally accept the report, and
- 2) Approve the proposed implementation of the report’s action items, outlined in the attached Resolution.

This memo reflects feedback we gathered both during and following the Work Session from Council members, City staff, and community partners. Some of the feedback we received relates to specific recommendations, other is more general in nature.

The list below is intended to serve as a guide for City bureau staff as they begin to implement the report's recommendations.

- 1) Designated City bureau staff shall work with their Commissioner-in-Charge and other bureaus to review the recommendations that apply to their bureau.
- 2) When recommendations are ready for implementation, they should be brought to City Council for approval on the Regular agenda, providing an opportunity for public testimony and Council discussion.
- 3) Several of the recommendations are interconnected and are best implemented in a certain sequence. This sequencing should be kept in mind as work is prioritized.

- 4) The Portland Film Office, located in Prosper Portland, should be recognized as a pivotal partner in ensuring the continued health and growth of Portland TV and film industry, and should partner with the Arts Concierge to improve processes.
- 5) Recommendation 6, incentives for landlords: Commissioner Fish's office will pilot a project to allow arts groups to negotiate a rent reduction with a landlord, who could then consider the reduction an in-kind donation to the organization.
- 6) Recommendation 8, creation of a "Creative Space" definition in the zoning code: Based on conversations with staff, this recommendation is more appropriately structured as a building code modification. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will partner with the Bureau of Development Services, through the Arts Concierge, to develop detailed handouts about zoning code, building code, occupancy codes, and other information that will be helpful for artists and organizations.
- 7) Recommendation 9, exempting creative space from FAR and height: Based on feedback from Council, we will not pursue the recommendation to exempt creative space from FAR or height limits. This action would have significantly revised policies adopted following many years of work and public process,

including in master planning documents such as the Comprehensive Plan or the Central City 2035 plan. Instead, we will encourage further conversations around incentivizing additional creative space in developments without an FAR bonus. This could include considering creative space a “public benefit,” which would closely align with existing bonus structures.

- 8) Recommendation 14, creating a system of “art pods”:  
Prosper Portland is incorrectly identified as a permitting entity. The intention was to include them for their role as a property-owning bureau that may have real estate opportunities to include art pods at some point in the future.
- 9) Recommendation 18, prioritizing creation of culturally-specific creative space: In addition to Prosper Portland, the City of Portland should also be considered a lead entity responsible for identifying opportunities.
- 10) Recommendation 21, including affordable art space in district plans: This recommendation is meant to stimulate future discussions with developers and property owners, and is not intended as a directive or requirement. We have been encouraged by early conversations about how to more intentionally incorporate art in major development opportunities.

- 11) Recommendation 23, coordinating with other governmental partners: This list should include an effort to increase regional funding for RACC, ensuring that all communities which benefit from RACC's work are appropriately contributing to it.

Thank you for your continued support of the arts in Portland. I look forward to working with each of you and your staff to implement the report and recommendations.