



**OFFICE OF MAYOR TED WHEELER  
CITY OF PORTLAND**

**DATE:** January 27, 2021

**TO:** Portland City Council  
Mary Hull Caballero, Auditor

**FROM:** Mayor Wheeler

**CC:** Council Clerk

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award (15 min)

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The Steve Lowenstein Trust Award was created to recognize individuals who make an extraordinary personal effort and sacrifice to improve the quality of life for distressed and vulnerable populations in the city of Portland.

**Presenters:**

Joe Hertzberg and Margie Harris

**Award Recipient:**

Jeremy Wilson

## 2020 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award

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After experiencing a medical crisis that required a series of heart surgeries, Jeremy – a former member of The Dharma Bums – felt blessed by the generosity of friends and fans who raised money to help him through his treatment and recovery. During this difficult time, he resolved to "pay it forward" and assist other Oregon musicians who find themselves in health-related crises.

He established the Jeremy Wilson Foundation (JWF) in 2010 and over more than a decade, he has devoted thousands of hours toward improving the lives of local musicians and their families in times of medical crisis. JWF provides both emergency financial assistance and the support of a volunteer social services team that connects musicians and their families with additional aid to help them navigate the complex healthcare system. To date, JWF has provided more than \$500,000 in assistance to more than 100 local musicians.

COVID-19 has had a stunning impact on the musical community due to venue closures and performance cancellations. JWF launched an emergency effort immediately after venues shut down and has distributed \$53,000 in direct assistance to 106 musicians and music industry workers plunged into financial distress by this global pandemic.

Ironically, fundraising became more difficult at exactly the time that funds were most needed. Historically, JWF has raised a majority of its revenue through benefit concerts and special events. But during the pandemic, JWF – like the musicians it serves – has experienced a complete disruption of its usual activities.

For more than a decade, Jeremy has been tirelessly dedicated to the work of JWF. Through his own health struggles, he learned the hard way that many artists are not only grievously underpaid and underinsured, but also live without any kind of safety net in the event of a crisis. He is an ardent believer in the power of community to assist and support artists. He cares deeply about providing support to musicians in a way that currently does not otherwise exist in the fabric of our society.

2020 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award  
(Presentation introduced by Mayor Wheeler)

January 27, 2021

Placed on File

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**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Keelan McClymont*  
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Rubio		
2. Ryan		
3. Hardesty		
4. Mapps		
Wheeler		