



Eben Hoffer
MusicPortland Policy Council Member
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Distinguished members of City Council,

My name is Eben Hoffer; I'm speaking to you today on behalf of MusicPortland and our music policy council. I specifically want to draw attention to this meeting's action item #8, directing BPS to create character statements for area-specific plans within the design overlay zone.

We ask council to require that these character statements consider an area's live culture. Music and gathering places are part of the character and context of a neighborhood. We are a city of music and culture, of people meeting together to exchange ideas and see things in new ways, creating new futures. When we move to define the character of neighborhoods, these values-- this *character*-- should be included.

It's even more important that we remember culture when we're defining character in a land use context. Public assembly-- meeting together in actual space, if you can imagine that-- is conditioned on the built environment. Live events are impacted by the layout of public space, by transportation, and by acoustic standards of construction.

This is important in all areas of the design overlay zone, from the music venue rich central city to the burgeoning creative center of Gateway.

We say *build on context*. And for all sorts of reasons, that context usually means things that you see with your eyes. Strong work is being made to include what you feel with your hands, where you fit with your body, and even to some degree, as we think through the cultural meaning of architecture, what you feel in your heart. But we shouldn't forget about sound, about the ear. Togetherness is joyful, and joy makes sound. We should acknowledge this, and plan for it.

Should council today vote to direct BPS to create character statements for all area plans within the design overlay, we urge you to explicitly require the agency to consider live culture in all described areas.

Thank you.