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487-2022

Report

Accept the Regional Arts & Culture Council 2021 Annual Report to Council

Accepted

See attached report

Documents and Exhibits

 [RACC FINAL 2021 Contract Report to City of Portland](#) (1.41 Mb)

 [RACC 2021 \(regional\) Annual Report](#) (4.12 Mb)

Impact Statement

Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information

- As part of its contract with the City of Portland, RACC presents an annual report to Portland City Council, describing how City funds were spent and identifying some of the challenges and opportunities facing the local arts community.
- This is the RACC's first report to council since 2018.
- RACC will report outcomes for their 2021 contract with the City.

Financial and Budgetary Impacts

- There are no new financial or budgetary impacts in accepting RACC's report.
- The report includes an accounting of FY2020-21 city revenues and expenditures. RACC received \$3,931,363 in Special Appropriations, \$3,215,001 from the Arts Education & Access Fund, \$174,433 from the Percent-for-Art ordinance, and \$2,688,957 from PDX CARES in FY2020-21.

Community Impacts and Community Involvement

- RACC's report discusses efforts to expand arts access for historically underserved communities, including residents of East Portland, communities of color and people with disabilities.

Introduced by

[Commissioner Carmen Rubio](#)

Contact

Stephan Herrera

Senior Policy Advisor, Office of
Commissioner Carmen Rubio

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☎ [503-865-6672](tel:503-865-6672)

8am -6pm Monday through
Friday

Requested Agenda Type

Time Certain

100% Renewable Goal

N/A

Agenda Items

484 Time Certain in [June 1-2, 2022 Council Agenda](#)

Rescheduled

Rescheduled to June 2, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Time Certain.

487 Time Certain in [June 1-2, 2022 Council Agenda](#)

Accepted

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

REGIONAL ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL | ADVANCING ARTS & CULTURE (ACC) REPORT TO THE
CITY OF PORTLAND FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 (R/ACC)
FOR CONTRACT #30007404

We are the Regional Arts & Culture Council. We are here for the community.

RACC remains focused and welcoming to artists and creatives—engaging our community at impactful levels, despite not anticipating that fiscal year 2021’s (FY2021) highlights would include continuing to support our community through a global pandemic and the largest social justice movement of the past generation. This report not only captures RACC’s many activities during FY2021 in service to our partnership and contract with the City of Portland, it also includes other ways that RACC responded to, advocated for, and supported artists, creatives, and arts organizations at this unprecedented moment.

RACC’S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2020-23

Throughout FY2021, the RACC team and board leadership devoted time and resources to evaluating our organization’s challenges, focusing on our strengths, and on what opportunities lay within our reach. This clarity arose through us intentionally working in service of our vision. As we continued to reflect on our work through the RACC team and board strategic planning process, RACC’s Strategic Framework emerged with the following high-level goals:

- **Goal 1: Build an equitable, innovative, and sustainable organization**
- **Goal 2: Increase Access**
- **Goal 3: Advocate for Arts & Culture**
- **Goal 4: Diversify & Increase Resources**
- **Goal 5: Drive Innovation & Partnership**

This guiding process launched us into an incredible year of responsiveness and deeper community engagement. Read on to see our shared highlights for FY2021 that are described in *Addendum A: Regional Arts & Culture Council Performance Measures for Contract No. 30007404*. Performance measures can be found, grouped in Addendum A of this document.

Example of RACC Contract Objectives

OBJECTIVE #1: Support a thriving arts and culture community including a diverse range of artists, arts organizations and arts providers in Portland.

- A) *Provide direct financial support to Portland-based arts organizations.*
 - B) *Provide direct financial support to Portland-based artists.*
 - C) *Support learning and capacity building for artists and arts organizations, with a focus on under-represented communities, including people who identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, homeless or houseless communities, and LGBTQIA+ people.*
- ~excerpt from RACC Contract #30007404*

ACCESS IS KEY TO OUR SUCCESS

RACC intentionally makes our programs and services accessible to all communities; with a focus on artists, creatives, students, teachers, and public audiences that have been marginalized by systems and institutions, and who are underrepresented within the arts and culture community. RACC’s adherence to leading with racial equity means that our grant-making and public art selection processes more thoroughly support the region’s vital arts and culture ecosystem equitably.

During FY2021, RACC created opportunities for our resilient and heavily-impacted community of artists and creatives to survive and thrive.

With the continued rapidly changing landscape due to COVID-19, RACC helped advocate for and create one-time and sustainable funding opportunities to keep local creatives able to meet their basic needs and fund creative expression.

Communities Served include:

Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, Pacific Islander, immigrants, refugees, homeless/houseless, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities

Total Grant Funding: In FY21, RACC distributed \$1,485,585 in grants with \$964,085 being distributed to 153 Portland-based organizations (not including funds from the Arts Education & Access Fund (AEAF)).

Additional Goals met:
68% of Portland-based organizations who have an eligible income below \$1 million (exceeded target goal of 40%) received funding.

75% of grantees are individuals and 35% of the total City grant funding went to Portland-based artists (exceeded goal of 45%)

284 Portland artists received grants (exceeded goal of 175)

To do this, RACC:

- Made a quick transition in spring 2020 to offer emergency grants to artists and creative workers from program asset allocations and individual giving. This fund is still active.
- Awarded multiple rounds of Emergency Grants of \$500 per individual; over \$200,000 in total including grants to over 300 individuals residing in the City of Portland. Over a third of those supported self-identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, and/or Pacific Islander.
- Increased the diversity of the community grant and public art panels; investing decision-making responsibilities in community, including participants who self-identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, Pacific Islander, and those with other backgrounds, and meeting the City of Portland’s goal.
- Secured Federal CARES funding, as well as new funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Oregon Arts Commission (OAC) and SeaChange while maintaining funding from Oregon Cultural Trust, and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation.

We used our grant making expertise and well-established systems to serve the community through CARES federal funding opportunities in the current fiscal year and early FY2021. As opportunities to leverage ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) federal funding appeared at the close of the fiscal year, RACC was poised to work with our local, state, and national government partners to ensure our creative community remains supported.

RAISING OUR EQUITY LENS – BRINGING THE COMMUNITY INTO FOCUS

In order to support learning and capacity building for artists and arts organizations, with a focus on underrepresented communities, including people who identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Indigenous/Native American, or Pacific Islander, immigrants and refugees, people

with disabilities, homeless or houseless communities, and LGBTQIA+ people, RACC was able to keep our lines of communication open during the unfolding pandemic to bring artists and creatives to the table for the engagement activities listed below. Their participation enabled us to meet, and exceed, our contracted metric responsibilities.

During FY2021, we exceeded the goal of 4 workshops, through the following **335 engagements with our community**:

1. **1 virtual 90 min info session for MLB + video lives on YouTube. 103 registrants, 399 views**
2. **2 Instagram LIVE presentations on MLB, Total views: 1367, Number of times users watched at least 3 seconds of this video. Likes: 120, Comments: 10, Shares: 13, Saved (i.e. bookmarked for later): 20**
3. **1 Implicit Bias training for Community Reviewers**
4. **1 DIY Accounting series (4, 2 hour long session)**
5. **1 Vanport purchase info session**
6. **1 Errol Heights park info session**
7. **1 Fresh Paint info session**
8. **1 Murals info session**
9. **203 documented technical assistance meetings related Rounds 1 and 2 of MLB, included: feedback on applications, draft review, concept analysis, grant writing support and encouragement.**
10. **CLP consulting (105 meetings, 158.5 hours, 24 participants)**
11. **CLP intervention (18 meetings, 36 hours, 13 participants)**

RACC conducted 335 artist and community-centered workshops and trainings in FY 2021.

We held 3 pivotal community conversations that centered on the voices of underrepresented artists. These included: 1) Capacity Building All-Group Cohort Conversation, 2) a Virtual Black Artists Community Conversation, and 3) a *Design as Protest* installation and community walk as part of the Vanport Festival.

Effective Change Starts from Within

Our continuing dedication to being inclusive means that RACC sets a table that is accessible for all of our creative community. To best serve this community, we need to reflect internally the qualities of our external stakeholders—we are a diverse team of creatives who lean into the role of equity and inclusion. We continue to center diversity in this effort. In fiscal Year 2021, 60% of our board identified as non-white, with 2 members reporting as “multiracial, non-White.” Our RACC Team member diversity was at 30% non-White, with 3 team members declining to answer.

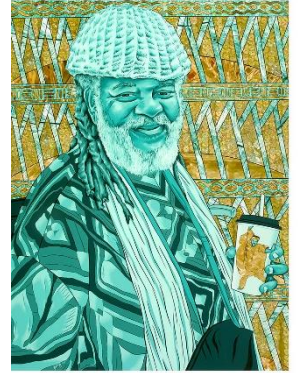
We ensure our Community Review panels are also diverse and inclusive. To meet and exceed the metric of having 50% of our grant panelists be self-identifying as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander, **we note that 86% of our panelists self-identify within this group. Our Public Art panelists also exceed a metric of 50% by being 72% self-identified within this group.**

Diversity Matters!

86% of RACC Community Review Panelists, and **72%** of our Public Art Panelists self-identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander. This exceeds contract metrics of 50% for each panel.

Public Art as an Investment in, and Reflection of, COMMUNITY

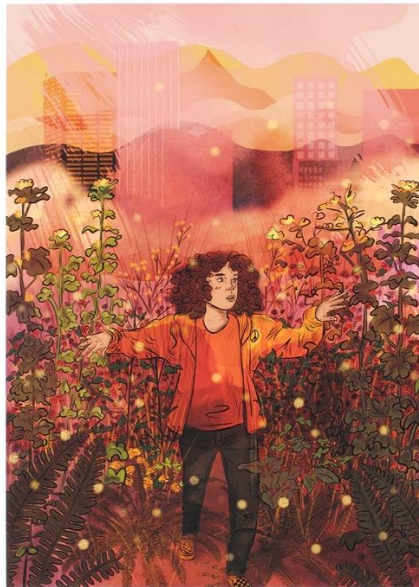
The City's 2% for Art objective was created to prioritize placing art within underserved neighborhoods. We met our FY2021 goal of 75% with the planning phase for Errol Heights (SE 45th and Harold) and Mill Park (SE 117 & Mill Court), several *Black Portland Matters Art & Placemaking Initiative* projects (SE 134, SE 78th, SE 122nd, and on NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.), and [Vanport Portable Works](#) purchase in central city with 88% of the artists identifying as BIPOC and receiving 88% of the funding from this resource.



Bobby by Melanie Stevens.
This inkjet work by Melanie Stevens is part of the Visual Chronicles collection.

Solitary (Taking Up Space)
by Kiana Kinchelow.

Solitary is an illustration for an essay by Mareshah "MJ" Jackson, "Taking Up Space." It is the story of Blackness in the outdoors and what it means for an individual in the age of a pandemic.



Public Art Program highlights

Building the collection of artworks for the [Portland Building](#) continued as RACC commissioned ten Indigenous artists for create artworks for the building. Installations will be completed in 2022. For the [Black Portland Matters Art & Placemaking Initiative](#), RACC's Public Art Team partnered with PBOT and six Black led community-based organizations, three in inner NE and three in East Portland to create murals using pooled Percent for Art funds. This initiative is ongoing. RACC also partnered with Home Forward on the monumental mural of Beatrice Morrow Cannady by artist [Mauricio Ramirez](#) for Shrunken Tower in St. Johns. The [Murals Program](#) flourished with eleven new murals commissioned in FY2021.

Additionally, in 2020, with funding from CARES, the public art team added 15 artists to our [Support Beam](#) project who created 20 artworks for the Portable Works collection. We brought in 37 works for the [Visual Chronicle of Portland](#), through [Capturing the Moment](#).

It was an extremely full year from a Public Art Collections management viewpoint. The impact of public art on the community was felt through the ongoing local and national discussions of the role historic monuments play in our public spaces. RACC dealt with felled monuments, and reviewed and updated policies through an anti-racist lens.

Through the Lens of Equity, RACC Speaks

RACC has worked diligently to advance Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access, both in relation to the stated goals of the City of Portland’s Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR), and our own defined criteria. As a separate, non-profit entity, we hold our own Racial Equity Lens and our Equity Statement as our guiding principles for engagement with our community and within our team. In answer to the contract goals, our work is more broad and encompassing than the city-based functionality of the goals presented by OEHR. RACC’s own Core Values and Goals around equity, diversity, inclusion, and access makes us better able to respond more fully and effectively for the community. We lead with equity. We not only embrace EDIA, we have also embedded this mindset and culture into the work we do within all of our partnerships and engagements and, most notably, with our grant recipients and in community.

OEHR Goals:

- 1. We will end racial disparities within city government, so there is fairness in hiring and promotions, greater opportunities in contracting, and equitable services to all residents.*
- 2. We will strengthen outreach, public engagement, and access to City services for communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities, and support or change existing services using racial equity best practices.*
- 3. We will collaborate with communities and institutions to eliminate racial inequity in all areas of government, including education, criminal justice, environmental justice, health, housing, transportation, and economic success.*

RACC has taken the innovative approach of centering who we are as an organization, our values, decision making, and how we operate to illuminate and embed equity, diversity, inclusion, and access. In FY2021, RACC maintained or initiated the following programs and processes:


1. Established an EDIA working group of five RACC board members who are fully-engaged through learning and supporting our organizational culture structure.
2. Initiated with six RACC team members Implicit Bias training as a value of our organization with our board, team, consultants, vendors and constituents.
3. Launched an organization-wide Access program as a value of our organization that is consistently present at RACC programmatic events. We continue turning over every stone to live, encapsulate, and share out our values-based commitments.
4. Provided, since 2017, RACC’s Capacity Building Program as financial and professional development support to arts organizations serving underrepresented populations and whose leadership is majority underrepresented individuals. Participants determine how best to spend their financial support in relationship to their community. Eighteen organizations have participated in the program and four have moved into RACC General Operating support.

ARTS EDUCATION AND THE ARTS EDUCATION & ACCESS FUND

The City of Portland partners with RACC to coordinate and work with Portland School districts as they provide high-quality arts and/or music education. In coordination with the Arts Oversight Committee (AOC), a City-appointed volunteer committee, we work with all six schools districts to ensure the provisions of the Arts Education & Access Income Tax Fund’s (AEAF) ordinance are carried out. In FY2021, we convened with the AOC the annual meeting on May 7, 2021. This was a well-attended meeting and Commissioner Rubio had in-meeting representation for this engagement. Due to COVID-19, wildfires, and other factors, the school district curriculum

directors did not meet in the fall of 2020. They did meet in 2021, when we held 3 well-attended meetings on January 14th, March 3rd, and June 3rd. Our AEAF arts specialist liaisons met their goal of four meetings in October 28, 2020, January 27, 2021, March 31, 2021, and June 23, 2021.

One wonderful aspect of the AEAF funding is that we are able to provide general Operating Support to arts-focused non-profits who are demonstrating artistic merit, provide a service to our community, provide a wide range of high-quality arts programs to the public, and who show administrative and fiscal competence. In FY2021, we distributed 91% of the net funds, exceeding the target of 80-90%. The percentage of net annual AEAF funds provided to RACC after education coordination that are distributed through equity-focused grants was 9% of an unnamed targeted goal. By comparison, we surpassed our prior year stated goals. Due to the increasing number of individual applicants for whom funds from the AEAF cannot be used, this number best represents current trends and opportunities.



"Art helps me ask questions and see things in a different way. I can get the feeling of what it's like to not be so sure."

- Teresa White, RACC Support Beam recipient

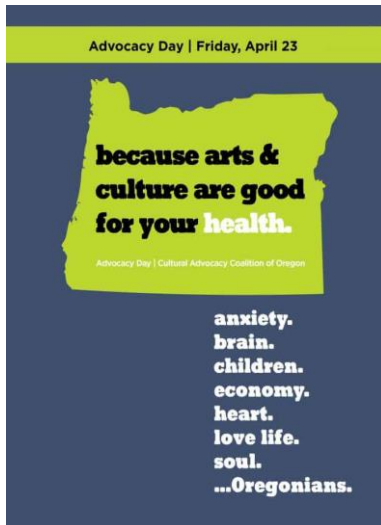
LEADING WITH INNOVATION; LEARNING THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

In order to meet our community of creatives where they were during the pandemic, RACC launched the **Make|Learn|Build** grant making program, specifically created to take into account the challenges being experienced by artists and creatives as a result of COVID-19. Our community has responded with record numbers of applications being submitted and vetted by our Community Reviewers. The flexibility that we have been able to exercise over this volatile period of time ensures our community is served at the highest level, at critical moments, and with the best opportunities and intentions for success.

In FY21, RACC added several key team members including director- and manager-level personnel for our HR/Operations, Development, Advocacy, and AEAF/Arts Education programs. The administration of nearly \$20 million in CARES funding redistribution, and the initiation of ARPA funding award management, required the addition of support team members for our Finance Team, who met the challenge with determination. We understand this level of fiscal engagement creates unimagined challenges for supporting our community's creatives. Ensuring this support was sustainable for the organization was our opportunity.

RACC's Arts Education program relaunched in FY2021 committed to serving the arts education needs of our community. Through it, we not only support AEAF, we are working closely with districts across the tri-county region to ensure equitable access to arts education, and providing social-emotional professional development opportunities for instructors and administrators. Through our legislative impacts outreach to local arts educators, the RACC Arts Education

program is connecting to build impact and social change. By expanding the *artlook*® online tool to link schools and community-based arts integration programs, we are revealing gaps and opportunities to address equity in our communities. Although COVID-19 has slowed this work on the school data-entry side, we continue to expand the reach and engagement that will enable us to see our region's true landscape of arts and culture. This will better support our schools and students, educators, families, arts organizations, and arts engagement providers.



RACC's Advocacy & Engagement program led our efforts to connect with community at the neighborhood and the state and national legislature levels. We created an Advocacy Day agenda that brought into focus the needs of our creatives and arts-serving organizations. By engaging with our county partners and Metro, RACC continues to center the needs of the Portland-area community and our region as a whole. Such partnerships enable us to leverage local dollars for community impact and improvement. Connect with us to join the efforts. Coming online in 2022 will be our Advocacy Hub – a community facing web engagement tool. RACC actively advocated for CARES funding for the arts sector, and, through the City of Portland, and the state of Oregon, we distributed nearly \$20 million to support the region's creatives. This was a critical influx of resources into the Portland-metro area.

For more information regarding our work, we invite our community to view our [Annual Report](#) online. This document is in a viewable PDF format with click-to options in the Table of Contents.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, FUNDRAISING, AND ADVOCACY

Volunteer Program

RACC's volunteer program is on hiatus until our offices re-open to the public. We were able to utilize volunteer support virtually for our *artlook*® updating, and in-person with folks who helped to weave the "Spring Garden Nest" in-community. In FY22 or FY23, we are looking forward to re-launching our volunteer program to also include internships for youths and seniors to engage in advocacy. Stay tuned to learn more about this program.

RACC Philanthropy in support of the Arts

By redirecting its general operations/unrestricted giving program, RACC activated a community of givers who chose to support this effort that distributed \$500 grants to artists in need. Our workplace giving program, the *Arts Impact Fund*, support RACC and nonprofit arts and culture organizations. Our support network includes state and out-of-state individuals, businesses, organizations, foundations; and local, regional, state, and national funders of the arts.

We understand that the opportunity to leverage local funding from government agencies to the good of our creative landscape is the best and most sustainable way we will reach our mission of enriching our communities through arts and culture and support the City of Portland and our regional intergovernmental agreement (IGA) partners. Our partnership and collaborations with the City of Portland to bring essential creative funding to the Portland community is critical for our artists and creatives, our families, and our neighborhoods.

FACETS OF RACC

The items below have been submitted for review of our contractual agreement. Within these documents you will find our complete lists of artists, nonprofit organizations, and other groups who have participated with RACC in the following ways:

1. Received Grants
2. Received Public Art commissions
3. Had Artwork purchased by RACC
4. Attended Workshop Presentations
5. Participated in community conversations, presentations, panels, workshops, and trainings

Also submitted for review:

6. Complete list of community members who served on grant panels
7. Complete list of community members who served on public art panels
8. City Public Art collection inventory (for City Risk Management to ensure proper insurance coverage. New purchases and commissions are highlighted.)

In addition, the following items are added as Addenda to this document:

- A. RACC City of Portland Contract Performance Measures chart
- B. [Link to Summary Fall 2020 Survey findings](#) (Click-through addendum item)

Links to RACC collateral sites:

- [2021 Annual Report](#)
- [NW Public Canvas \(RACC public art search\)](#)
- [artlook®](#) Oregon: Well-rounded Arts Education begins with access, equity, and inclusion.



Ruearashe Zanele Mutepfa, acrylic on canvas. A Portland Building installation by artist Sadé DuBoise.

From the artist: “I thought about Zanele when reflecting on the prompt “social diversity of Portland.” This piece is part of a series of 50 portraits of black women throughout Portland entitled “The Black Muses Project,” and is inspired by black women, Oregon landscapes, and traditional dress with African prints.”

RACC's mission is to enrich our communities through arts and culture.



RACC's vision is a thriving region, powered by creativity, with arts and culture in every neighborhood.

Addendum 1

FY20-21 Contract - Performance Measures	Goal	Actual	STATUS
GENERAL OBJECTIVE #1: Support a thriving arts and culture community including a diverse range of artists, arts organizations and arts providers in Portland.			
Total Grant Funding (not including funds from the Arts Education & Access Fund (AEAF) to organizations.	\$1,387,545	\$964,085	
Total Number of organizations receiving grants.	150	153 Unique Portland Based Organizations	
Percentage of total General Operating Support grant funding awarded to organizations with annual budgets of less than \$1 Million.	40% or more	68%	
Total amount Grant Funding to Portland-based artists (includes Emergency Funds)	\$400,000	\$775,500	
Total number of grants to Portland artists	175	284	
Total grant funding to Portland artists	40% or more	35%	
Total number of Professional development workshops and learning opportunities – includes Cultural Leadership Program (CLP), DIY Accounting, and RACC based opportunities and more	4 or more workshops	335 meetings/trainings: CLP consulting (105 mtgs, 158.5 hrs, 24 participants) CLP intervention (18 mtgs, 36 hs, 13 participants) 1 DIY Acct (4) Implicit Bias Training (1) MLB virtual info session (1) MLB Instagram Live event (2)	
Community conversations centering voices of marginalized artists (Capacity Building Cohort conversation, Black Artists Community Conversation, additional sponsored events, etc.)	4 or more events	3 Impacted by COVID	
GENERAL OBJECTIVE #2: ensure that decision-making is inclusive.			
Percent of board members self-identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander.	40%	60%	
Percent of team members self-identifying as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander	40%	30% with 3 declining to answer	
Percent of grant panelists self-identify as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander	50%	86%	
Percent of public art panelists self-identifying as Asian, Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Native American, or Pacific Islander	50%	72%	

2% FOR ART OBJECTIVE #1: Prioritize placing art in and with underserved neighborhoods/communities			
Percent of Public Art projects that include a recommendation from RACC to site works outside of Central City districts and prioritizing underserved communities.	75% of projects	100%	
AEAF OBJECTIVE #1: Coordinate and work with Portland School Districts in the provision of high-quality arts and/or music education.			
Number of meetings with Commissioner	1	1	
Meetings with curriculum directors (Missed one due to wildfires in East Multnomah County)	4	3	
Meetings with AEAF liaisons	4	4	
AEAF OBJECTIVE #2: Use AEAF funds to support nonprofit organizations.			
Percentage of net annual AEAF funds provided to RACC (after education coordination) distributed through General Operating Support grants.	80-90%	94%	
Percentage of net annual Arts Education and Access Funding distributed through equity-focused grants	10-20% is the goal for 19-20 (no goal for 20-21)	9%	
REPORTING OBJECTIVE #1			
Annual reporting of all proposed and ongoing arts and culture projects and services	N/A	Provided	
Summary of financial activities, with links to audited financial statements	N/A	Provided	
Summary of financial activities and status of other government funding partners	N/A	See Annual Report ; link provided	
Summary of financial activities and status of other government funding partners	N/A	Provided	
Summary of efforts to advance Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access as they relate to the stated goals of the City OEHR	N/A	Provided	
Significant Program Changes Reported to the Arts Commissioner	N/A	Reported to Commissioner	
Complete lists of artists, nonprofit organizations, and other groups	N/A	Provided	
Perspectives from artists and organizations regarding the state of the arts in Portland	N/A	On Hiatus due to COVID	
Complete lists of Community members, volunteers, and donors	N/A	Provided	
Inventory highlighting new acquisitions in City's Public Art for insurance purposes	N/A	submitted separately	

Legend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark Green=Met • Light Green=On track to meet; COVID impacted • Yellow=Just missed; monitor • Red=Did not meet



Regional Arts &
Culture Council

Annual Report 2021



“Art helps me ask questions and see things in a different way. I can get the feeling of what it’s like to not be so sure.”

- Teresa White, RACC Support Beam recipient



Front cover: Nico Inzerella, *Mi Pueblo Mi Gente Mi Vida*, purchased 2020 for the Public Art Portable Works Collection; funding from the Vanport Building, Southwest Fifth Ave., Portland, OR.

This page: Terrance Burton, *A Seat at the Table*, purchased in 2020 for the Public Art Portables Collection with funding from the Vanport Building, Southwest Fifth Ave., Portland, OR.

RACC in the community

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Reflecting on the Year Together

Over the past year, art wove our lives together and brought much into focus for the City, the community and for RACC. Despite the challenges, art was present in people's daily lives in a way we've not seen in decades. Murals popped up. Monuments toppled. Artists claimed new space – coming into our living rooms through virtual platforms and into our neighborhoods with public art and pop-up performances on our streets, parks, and buildings.

Through this difficult year, we've sought your input and responded to the needs expressed by artists, creatives, arts organizations, partners, and our broader community. We focused on collaborative action to:

- ensure the survival and vitality of artists and art organizations across the state of Oregon
- center racial equity and social justice, and support funders and partners in doing the same
- pivot our services online to virtual formats to increase accessibility.

We witnessed people coming together on their own, without the usual suspects – institutions, companies, and venues – structuring their interactions. We watched as entrenched systems were forced to change – in ways we never thought possible on a grand scale. We observed and participated in collaborations that yielded the sharing of responsibilities, aid, and distributed leadership. None of these things are new, generally, but they are new to us – and to many of those we partner with and support. Our job now is to continue this forward movement and stay constant in our commitment to the art makers: those who disrupt, challenge, move, and heal us.

As we look to the future, let us continue to act together. We must expand and leverage our impact and ensure that the fabric woven in our community continues to hold. Together we can inspire, deepen, and expand support for art and artists. We continue to center artists' power. We hope you will join us.

Madison Cario

Madison Cario
Executive Director (FY 21)

Nathan Rix

Nathan Rix
Board Chair

Leaning into Shared Leadership

We are so excited for the opportunity to serve RACC and the community as co-leaders following Executive Director Madison Cario's departure for a position in the Bay Area. Because we are already part of the leadership team, we have a unique ability to ensure smooth operations and continuity of programs and services at RACC.

Madison brought great vision and organizational capability to RACC, allowing us to be responsive, focus on equity, and strengthen our work with key stakeholders and funders. In this report, you can learn about the accomplishments of the past year and how well the organization is positioned to lead and support Portland's ever-evolving and growing arts community.

As we continue to center art, culture, advocacy, and education within our work and in our community, we are inspired by our talented RACC Team, our dedicated Board, and our creative community at large. We will lean in to learn, and lead, in ways that lift up voices not heard and inspire actions not taken. We ask that you lean in with us to fulfill our mission to enrich our communities through art and culture.

RACC's future is bright and we look to the year ahead with hope and joy!



Carol Tatch
Director of Philanthropic Innovation (FY 21)
Chief of External Operations (FY 22)



Della Rae
Director of Culture, Operations & Technology (FY 21)
Chief of Internal Operations (FY 22)

Mission & Vision

We provide artists and arts organizations financial support through operating support, project grants, and commissions.

Our nationally acclaimed public art program integrates a wide range of art in public places. RACC manages Percent for Art programs for the City of Portland and Multnomah county.

We provide community services, including education programs and workshops, professional development opportunities, and a community hub of online resources.

Our arts education program supports arts educators through direct advocacy, professional development, resources, and coordination to help ensure all K-12 students enjoy the benefits of a well-rounded education that includes arts, culture, and creativity.

We connect artists and creatives to opportunity and access.

An independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Regional Arts & Culture Council supports the creative economy in greater Portland by equitably providing funding and services to artists and art organizations; managing and growing a diverse, nationally acclaimed public art program; and developing enduring public and private partnerships. Through advocacy and engagement, we are building support for our community of artists, arts education, and arts and culture.



Images from top left: Artist at work at North Pole Studios; Renegade Opera performance; Renegade Opera outdoor performance; *Aspirations for Justice*, a public mural created by Multnomah County youth; Limei Lai's mural, *Together*; Daren Todd, *The Art Marathon: Finished Line*; Eddie Melendrez, *A Thousand Lonely Prayers From a Thousand Lonely Hearts*; Sarah Farahat, *Huddle*.

Public Art Purchases and Commissions

Many projects moved forward in real life despite the constraints of a mostly virtual work environment. Here are some of the highlights from the year. [Read about all of our recent and current projects here.](#)

- The new Multnomah County Courthouse opened downtown October 2020 with no fanfare due to state of emergency orders protecting public health and in response to the global pandemic. The building houses an **expansive new collection** of public art that reflects the deep connections selected artists have to their community, identity, and history. On the building's exterior, you can still find the temporary mural designed by local youth focusing on their vision of justice. The collaboration was inspired by Melvin Oden-Orr, a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge who works in the building.
- In East Portland, youth and artists collaborated with local community-based and youth-serving organizations on a series of murals and art installations. These Black-led art projects were supported through a multi-year initiative of RACC and Portland's Bureau of Transportation called the Black Portland Matters Art & Placemaking Initiative.
- In the interior hallways and meeting rooms inside the Multnomah County Department of Justice East Campus, the artist team Blue and Michael Stevenson, Jr., conceived and curated Gallery Blue, featuring work by currently or formerly incarcerated artists.

These projects demonstrate the ways we are expanding our definition of public art. We are integrating different art media and a diversity of perspectives into public spaces in every community.



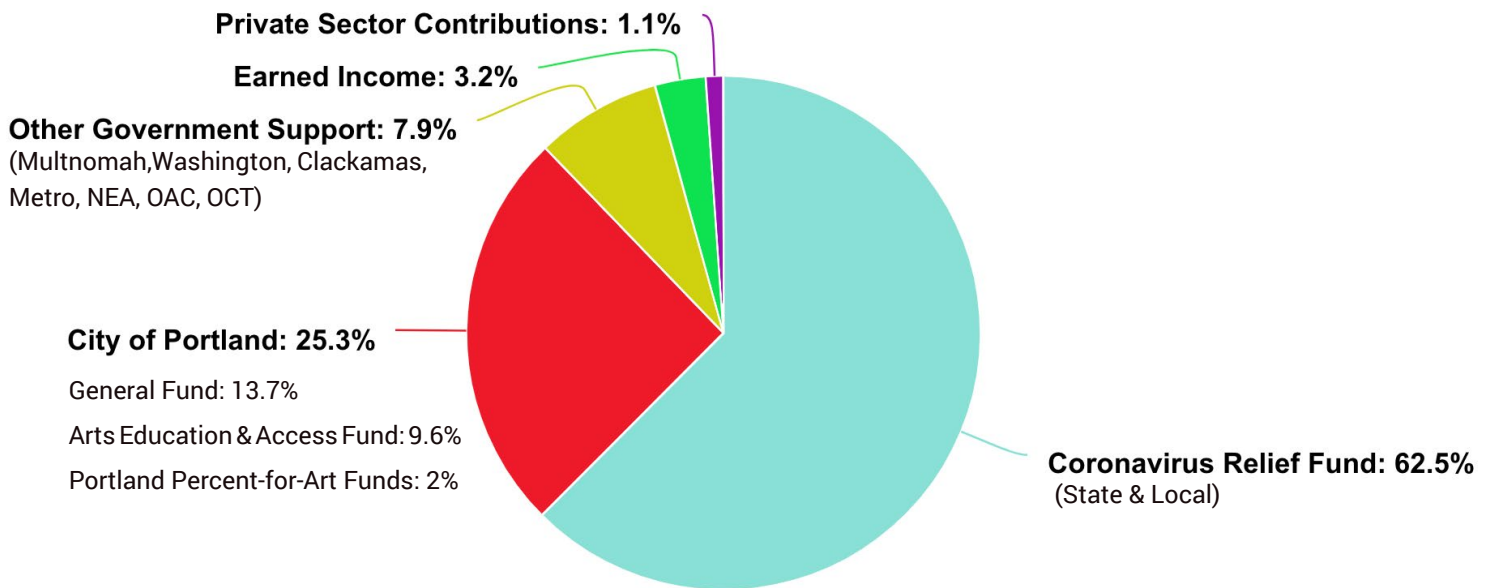
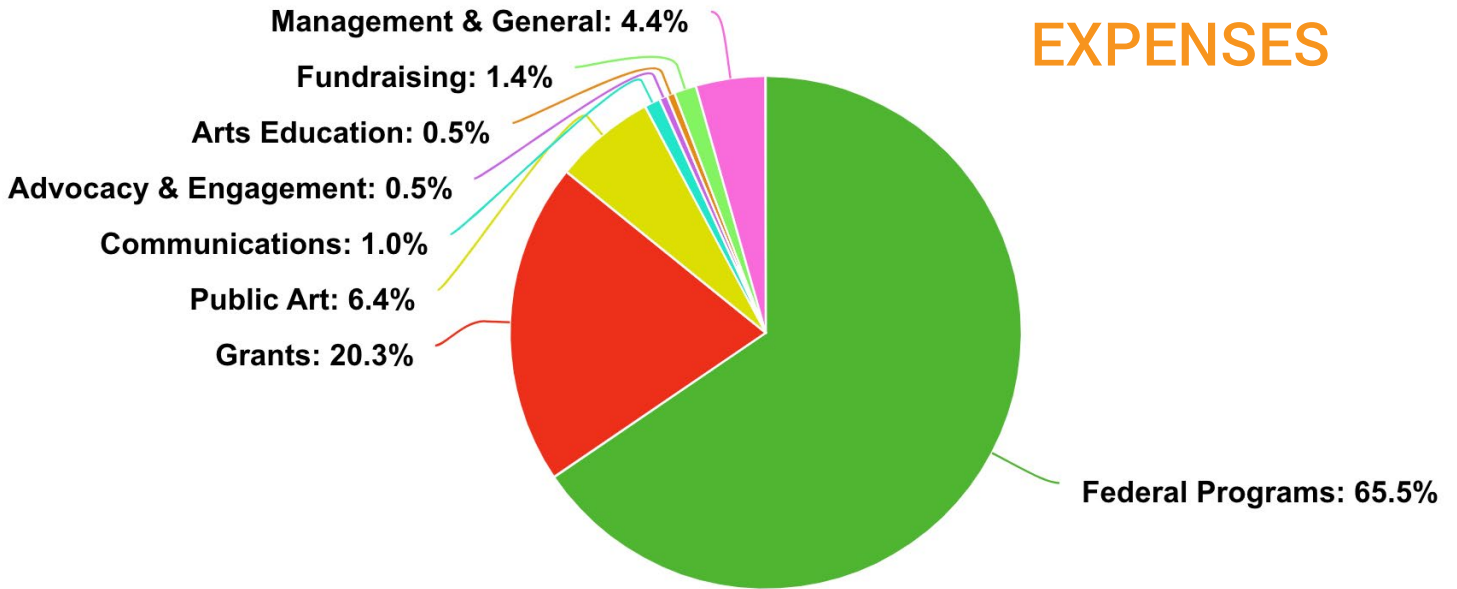
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"The World is Beautiful, and Dangerous too"

Humaira Abid

Credit: Humaira Abid, *The World is Beautiful and Dangerous Too*, purchased in 2020 for the Public Art Portable Works Collection with funding from the Vanport Building, Southwest Fifth Ave., Portland, OR.

RACC Audited Financial Statement FY 20-21



Funding Support for Artists and Art Organizations

Our grantmaking took another pivot, adapting to meet the needs we heard from our community during the pandemic. Make|Learn|Build grants filled in gaps for artists and art organizations from around our tri-county service area. We deepened engagement with a cohort of artists

and arts professionals hired as Community Panel Reviewers. Contracted as “seasonal workers,” they received better compensation for their time and expertise, along with implicit bias training that was part of preparing them to participate in this collective decision-making process.

Private Fundraising

This fiscal year individuals, foundations, and corporate donors contributed \$176,342 to our programs and services.

We worked with and supported the City of Portland, Prosper Portland, Multnomah County Cultural Coalition, Oregon Cultural Trust, and Oregon Film, moving public resources allocated by the CARES Act to artists, organizations, and performance venues for projects, purchase of works, and small-business support. Altogether RACC was tasked by our partners to move more than \$15M in CARES funding into the community in FY 21-22. This is nearly three times the amount we typically grant in a year.

Shifts to a more equitable funding model for our regular grantmaking, including General Operating Support, are showing results. The total number of organizations receiving this reliable but limited support, increased to 66. We selected a cohort of six new organizations for Capacity Building and expanded our support into Washington County. Three new organizations were added to General Operating

Support this year, including two who were part of Capacity Building. Seeing and feeling the impact of the pandemic on working artists, RACC’s Public Art Program created Support Beam, an initiative providing direct financial support to strengthen artists working in all media towards a long-term re-imagination and activation of their creativity. Selected artists contributed virtual share-outs of work-in-progress through RACC’s web and social media platforms. At the conclusion, one art piece was acquired into the Public Art Portable Works Collection.

City of Portland federal CARES that financially supported local Black, Indigenous, Latinex, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other artists of color were conceived and strengthened. This provided the resources for a second round of funding for Support Beam, as well as acquisitions through our Capturing the Moment initiative, and Project Grants.



What Do You Need Now? Survey and Focus Groups

In July 2020, RACC launched an engagement effort reaching into our creative community to find out what services, support, advocacy, and resources artists and arts organizations most needed as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded. We asked artists and members of arts organizations to answer a simple question in their own words: “What do you need now?”

Nearly 400 individuals filled out the online survey. The answers provided valuable insight into what challenges and opportunities existed for our community.

In addition to the survey, RACC also contracted with local small business owner Ashnie Butler, of Inner Work, Outer Play, to facilitate a series of focus groups with artists and arts administrators asking similar questions.

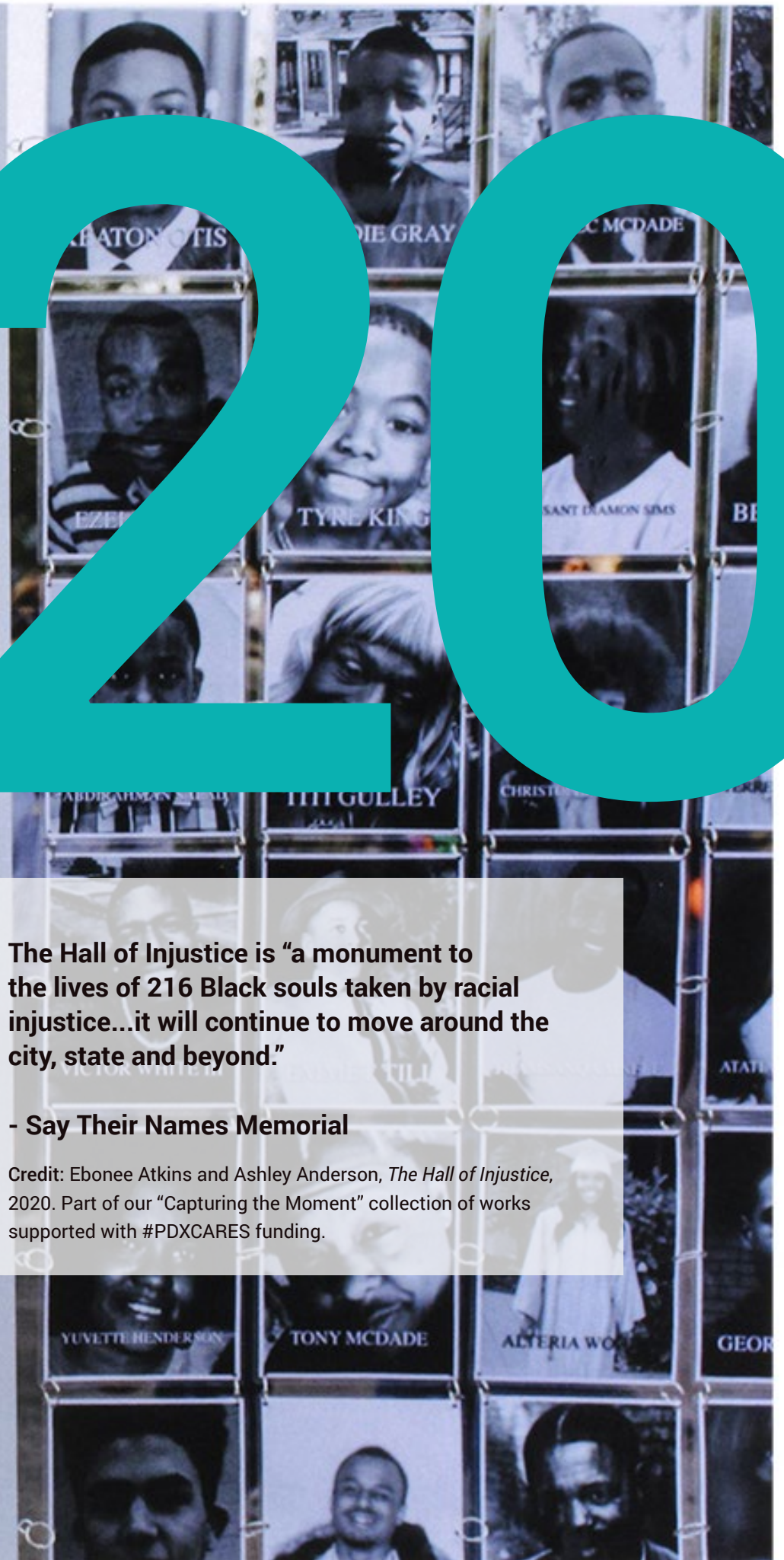


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The Hall of Injustice is “a monument to the lives of 216 Black souls taken by racial injustice...it will continue to move around the city, state and beyond.”

- Say Their Names Memorial

Credit: Ebonee Atkins and Ashley Anderson, *The Hall of Injustice*, 2020. Part of our “Capturing the Moment” collection of works supported with #PDXCARES funding.

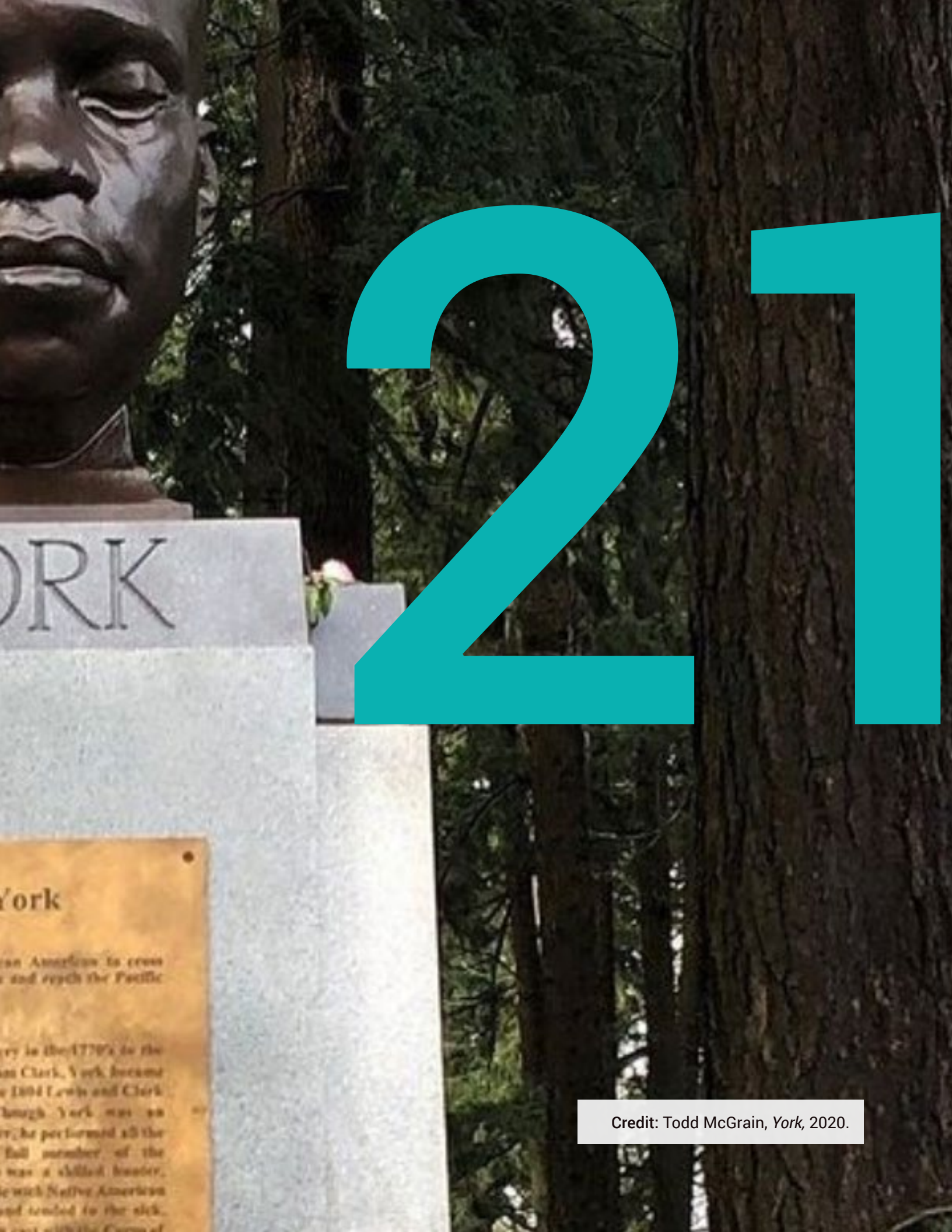




What Kind of Public Art Do We Want Now?

Monuments are symbolic and reflect our community values. Today, many Portlanders are seeing the harm caused when so few of the contributions of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other Oregonians are recognized and celebrated in our public spaces. While some people prefer the return of heroic statues removed or toppled in protest in 2020, many others are clamoring for public art that reflects new stories and different narratives. When a statue of York mysteriously appeared on the top of Mt. Tabor earlier this

year, there was an outpouring of support for the artwork and the story it brought to light. By following RACC's recommendations, taking time for a public conversation, and consulting with communities that have been most impacted, we can meet this moment and ensure our City's valuable public art program reflects our community values and helps Portland in making systemic change. Follow this [link](#) to be involved in the conversation.



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Credit: Todd McGrain, York, 2020.



Community Support for Arts & Culture

Contributions of dollars and time enable us to be a strong and productive organization, empowering our artists and creatives to dream big and share their talents. Thank you to everyone who has ensured RACC's success. You have kept our community thriving during this time.

We wish to thank the following corporate, business, and organization partners for their support in FY2021.

AHS Foundation	Nike Inc.
Amazon	North Clackamas School District
Bora Architects	NW Documentary Arts & Media
Bullivant Houser Bailey PC	NW Natural
Business Oregon	Oregon Health & Science University
Cambia Health Solutions	Oregon Historical Society
City of Beaverton	PGE Foundation
City of Lake Oswego	Port of Portland
City of Portland	Portland Art Museum
City of Portland Office of Management & Finance	Portland General Electric
Clackamas County	Portland Opera Association
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Portland Public Schools
Doris Duke Management Foundation	Schwab Charitable
DuBois Charitable Lead Trust	SeaChange Capital Partners
Erath Winery	SERA Architects
Fidelity Charitable	Social and Emotional Learning Fund
Fred Meyer Stores	State of Oregon
Gary McGee & Co. LLP	Stoel Rives
Geffen Mesher CPAs, Consultants & Business Advisors	Swinerton
Hampton Affiliates	The Oregon Community Foundation
Hampton Lumber	The Standard
Impact Assets	Trimet
Intel	Umpqua Bank
Kaiser Permanente Community Fund	US Bank
Metro	Vernier Software & Technology
Moda Health (Delta Dental)	Washington County
Multnomah County	Wells Fargo
National Endowment for the Arts	Wyss Foundation
	Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

David Flores' large outdoor mural, *Helping Hand*, located on the Century Building in downtown Portland, 1201 SW 12th Ave. The mural faces Outside In directly and can be seen clearly from the I-405 freeway. Mural supported by RACC.

Focus Brings Innovation and Opportunity

In our reflection, fiscal year 2021, while presenting many challenges, also offered up incredible opportunities for RACC to lean in and support our artist and creative community. During this year we reallocated more than \$17 million to ensure that the Portland Metro area economy stayed vibrant and engaged with the sights and sounds of a thriving community.

With your support, RACC keeps artists and creatives working and thriving in our community. Donate to RACC to create a better today and tomorrow!

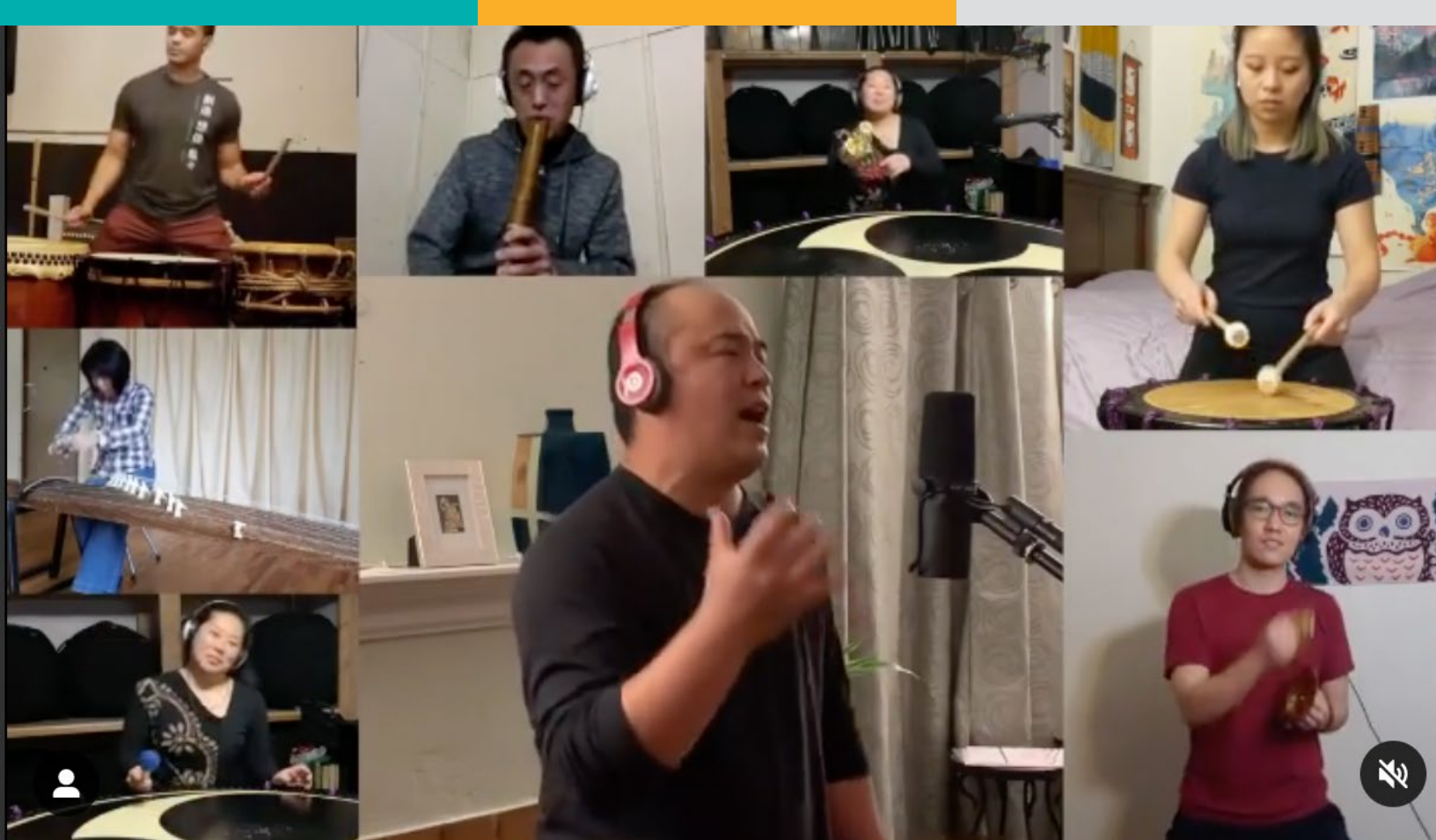
[Donate Today](#)

We are devoted to making sure that our communities are thriving hubs of arts and culture. By ensuring access to arts from age 2 to age 102 we are ensuring that our communities stay stronger and are healthier through good and bad times. We are committed to using our resources, and those of our community, to enhance and create a landscape that holds creativity as a human right and access to culturally-representative art a mandate.

In FY21 we did that. By focusing our efforts and energies on equity and inclusion, we were able to bring innovative and new opportunities to creatives throughout the Portland Metro area. By centering the community, we created opportunities and leveraged funding from national, state, and local funders to keep our community thriving.

In the midst of great upheaval and irrefutable change is art...capable of creating social upheaval and myriad change. We have learned the most supportive ways to approach and foster the arts in our community, by caring for the artists and creatives who draw from the currents of time and imagination to interpret a way through to joy, meaning, and understanding. Art uplifts in ways that inspire us, devastate us, and ask us to be more, do more, create more. Support each other more.

Over the past year, the RACC team has refocused our creative energies to promote, support, and engage with creatives and artists throughout the region. We have recommitted to being a sounding board for new ideas, a promoter of social change, and a supporter of equity-based community engagement. We have asked for – and received – guidance from those most affected by recent fires, the pandemic, and the impact of racial injustice in our community. We have deepened our commitment to fulfilling our mission to enrich our communities through arts and culture. We are here for you.



Zoom screen image top: Michelle Fujii, *Sayonara Mata Ashita*, 2020, Part of our "Capturing the Moment" collection of works supported with #PDXCARES funding.

Bottom: Renegade Opera, *Orfeo in Underland*.

Your Advocacy Makes the Difference

Through advocacy and engagement, we help build support for a strong arts and culture community. The creative economy is big business in Oregon. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis, the creative sector is among the most heavily impacted nationally and locally. As many as 63% of creative workers experienced unemployment in 2020, translating to over 2 million Americans. Direct investments in the arts not only improve the health and recovery of our communities, but the broader economy as

well – boosting tourism, travel, and spending at hotels, local businesses, and restaurants.

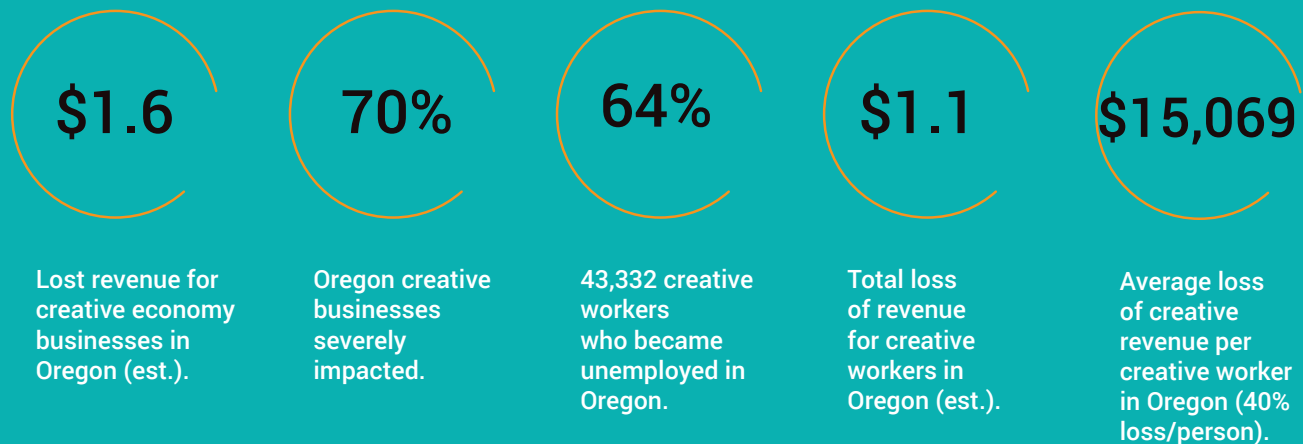
In partnership with for-profit and non-profit partners, RACC helped secure some of the largest investments of federal CARES Act funding in the country for our arts and culture economy, sustaining many of our state’s most beloved cultural institutions.

Source: Americans for the Arts

OREGON’S CREATIVE ECONOMY 2020



COVID-19 DEVASTATED OREGON’S CREATIVE ECONOMY IN 2020





In 2020-21, a joint project saw the launch of a student competition for a redesign of the AEF logo. Arts education continued this past year despite the challenges of virtual instruction, social distancing, and masks. Clockwise from top left: Portland Youth Philharmonic students perform; summer program for students at the Portland Art Museum; painting by an artist from North Pole Studios; new AEF logo design by Vincente, Rose City Park 3rd Grader.

Arts Education

Our **Arts Education Program** continues to evolve as we work to ensure equitable access for K-12 schools across the region and throughout the State of Oregon.

This past year we've focused on coordinating services and supporting the collaboration of arts educators, curriculum specialists, and school superintendents, with a special focus on the districts funded by the city of Portland's Arts Education & Access Fund: Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, Portland Public, Reynolds, and Riverdale.

We support all of our arts educators in music, visual arts, media arts, drama, and dance. Below, read a few highlights or visit [our website](#) for a deep dive into our advocacy for equitable arts education in Oregon.

- Convened quarterly meetings for our six district Art Liaisons (arts educators) and Curriculum Cohorts (Directors of Curriculum).
- Launched a four-part series in partnership with Trauma Informed Oregon/Portland State University to offer trauma-informed workshops to all K-12 arts educators in our six districts.
- Launched artlook® in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties with our partners at Ingenuity (Chicago) and the Kennedy Center. It is part of a 3-year pilot to provide real-time data about arts and culture resources at the local level with a goal of increasing equity. This arts education resource is supported by more than 200 partners and two school districts, Portland Public and Parkrose.
- Curated an extensive **Arts Educators Resource** guide and enhanced our arts education website with highlights from the districts, resources, and information for K-12 arts educators.
- In coordination with the AEF Oversight Committee, RACC created a new data collection template for our six districts to better address barriers in arts education and improve other measurable outcomes to increase equity in arts education.

In partnership with the AEF Oversight Committee, RACC launched a student design competition for our six AEF school districts students to re-imagine the AEF logo. We thank the students, arts educators, and judges from Portland State University, Reed College, Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA), University of Portland, the City of Portland, Portland Art Museum, and Echo Theatre Company.



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Council Annual Report FY 20-21

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Back Cover: Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theater is one of the arts organizations that began receiving Capacity Building Support from RACC in 2021.