

**Appoint and reappoint members to the Arts Education and Access Fund
Oversight Committee for terms to expire December 31, 2027**

Biographies & Statements of Interest

Ilima Considine

Bio: Ilima is a musician, a filmmaker, and a queer Asian mom. In addition to her experience with community management and policy, she has experience as a grants recipient, a grant writer, and a grant panelist.

Statement of Interest: As a mother, Ilima deeply interested in the ways that arts keep students engaged and invested in their school experience, and in the life-changing results which result from this engagement.

Melanie A Hernandez

Bio: Melanie is a fashion designer, brand strategist and currently establishing herself as a practitioner in ancient wisdom. In large part due to the land back movement currently sweeping across America, Melanie recently learned of her indigenous heritage. She now focuses on re-indigenizing and ancestral healing through the integration of the sacred sciences, mystical arts, and great mystery studies. Melanie aspires to bring her accumulated professional experience and wisdom to the Arts Oversight Committee in support of kids and arts access.

Statement of Interest: Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, my early experiences in the performing arts provided me with a unique perspective on the transformative power of the local arts scene. As a proud member of the third graduating class of what evolved from a "startup" arts high school to the recently remodeled and well-funded Arts & Communication Magnet Academy, my journey there began with dancing on gravel—a formative experience that I like to brag, earned me my artistic grit and stripes. Following this foundational period, I pursued studies in modern dance and later transitioned to fashion design at an esteemed art institute in Los Angeles. This educational trajectory paved the way for a flourishing career across various industries within the traditionally commercial side of the arts. Looking back, I credit much of my success to the invaluable lessons learned during my early years in the vibrant Portland art scene. The enchantment of art and artists, coupled with the profound impact on cities and societies that actively nurture the arts, has been a constant source of inspiration throughout my life. Having had the privilege of living and working as an artist in Los Angeles for a decade, I have witnessed firsthand the undeniable economic force wielded by the arts on local, national, and global scales. As a

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prospective member of the AEF Arts Oversight Committee, I am eager to contribute my insights into the substantial economic impact of the arts. My unique journey—from a child artist to a seasoned professional—equips me with a nuanced understanding of the challenges inherent on the creative's path. I have navigated working environments that range from nurturing and growth-oriented to those fostering toxic competition and outright abuse. Recognizing the rigors of the artistic terrain, I have firsthand knowledge of what is needed at a foundational level for the inner creative channel to withstand challenges. I know where to find the essential tools and how to apply them, having undertaken a certain level of training in resilience and self-care—knowledge gained through personal experience. Now, I aspire to bring this accumulated wisdom to the Arts Oversight Committee, advocating for funding projects that prioritizes the child artists' humanity, consciousness, and resilience. I am passionate about encouraging an integrated approach to support the well-being of artists, promoting wellness, rest, restoration, and nervous system care techniques alongside access to art technique classes. My goal is to empower the child artist, ensuring they are tended to, nurtured, and less likely to lose themselves and their inherent gifts amidst the challenges of the artistic journey ahead. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the committee's mission and further the cause of support for children and art access in our communities.

Frank Medrano

Bio: Frank (he/him) is Senior Architect/ Project Manager at Gensler PDX. As an active NOMA member (National Organization of Minority Architects) and local DE+I champion, Frank promotes a commitment to Strategies to fight Racism while furthering efforts to address unique challenges within our region and community.

Statement of Interest: Through his professional work and community outreach, Frank has joined the mission to empower our youth to affect change in their communities through design. With enthusiasm, he looks forward to contributing to the AEF oversight committee in support of our local schools and community artists.

Ruth Juliet Wikler

Bio: Ruth Juliet Wikler is a nonprofit and performing arts leader passionate about ensuring that all Portlanders, of all ages, have access to the arts. Ruth founded the Portland arts nonprofit Boom Arts and curated and produced its first seven seasons, introducing Portland audiences to vital global and diverse US performing artists through performance

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programming and community engaged residencies. She recently returned to Portland from Montreal, where she served in a field-leading position for the global contemporary circus sector, and, as a PPS parent, she is excited to contribute to the success of the AEF.

Statement of Interest: As a nonprofit and performing arts professional passionate about ensuring that all Portlanders, of all ages, have access to the arts. Ruth founded the Portland arts nonprofit Boom Arts, whose mission is to ‘imagine new social and political possibilities through live performance.’ She curated and produced its first seven seasons, introducing Portland audiences to vital global and US artists including Kristina Wong, Adrienne Truscott, Silencio Blanco, Touretteshero, and Teatro Linea de Sombra, among many others through performances, community engagement residencies, and grassroots and institutional partnerships. From 2019-2023, Ruth served as Deputy Director of Programming for Montreal’s circus-focused venue TOHU and its Montréal Complètement Cirque Festival, where she spearheaded groundbreaking performance presentations from around the world, including TOHU’s first presentations from Africa and Asia; created the Laboratoires de cirque, a national artistic development program; and directed an online exhibit on circus with Digital Museums Canada. Most notably, as part of her work with TOHU Ruth directed five editions of the International Market for Contemporary Circus, a performing arts market bringing together venues and festivals and touring artists and agents from across the globe, dramatically expanding the North American touring market for independent global voices in this dynamic art form. Ruth previously served as Associate Director of Programs for the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center (The Graduate Center CUNY) in New York City and directed her own circus troupe there, Cirque Boom. The proud mom of two teens in PPS schools, Ruth was happy to return to Portland in August 2023. She currently serves as Director of Development and Partner Engagement at Clark College in Vancouver, WA and in a consulting role for the performing arts globally.

Mark Wubbold

Bio: Mark Currently serves as the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission's representative to the AEF. This is Mark's second term in this role. He served on the first Arts Tax oversight committee when Portland voters passed Oregon Ballot Measure 26-146 in November 2012. Currently retired, Mark spent 28 years in higher education beginning as an instructor of theater design and technology at Clackamas Community College and ending as the Senior Policy Analyst in the President's office at Portland State University. Mark and his wife Manya have three grown sons and four grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys woodturning, reading and the occasional round of golf.

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Statement of Interest: As a member of the AEF Citizen Oversight Committee I will be helping ensure our scarce public resources are being used as the taxpayers intended. Service on the AEF, is an extension of my work on the TSCC and a natural expression of my lifetime commitment to arts education.

Jenn Falco

Bio: Jenn is an arts lover with a Theater degree and an M.B.A. who wants to do her part bring the joy of the arts to all of Portland’s kids and our underserved communities.

Statement of Interest: Jenn is an accomplished strategist and business leader who has consulted to executives in major global corporations on business, brand, customer engagement and marketing strategies. Her professional experience coupled with her volunteer work with arts+kids non-profits led her to the AEF AOC two years ago. Ms. Falco’s personal passion is safe and happy children; she spent eight years as a CASA, leads public tours at the Japanese garden (preferably with a Totoro in hand for kids and teens) and enjoys watching her son dance on stage and in her living room.

Carlee Smith

Bio: Carlee is a Queers/Latinx woman of Indigenous descent, former downtown small business owner, arts producer/organizer, beginner weaver and has lived in Oregon since 2002. She believes wholly that exposure and experience with the arts is an important part of a child's overall development.

Statement of Interest: Since moving to Portland in 2006 she has held positions on the Board of Directors for Siren Nation, Artists Milepost, Signal Fire Arts and as a member of Art Workers for Equity. She has served on arts related grant panels for RACC, APANO and PICA-Precipice Fund. Carlee most recently worked as a Grants Associate with Oregon Community Foundation and a Grants Coordinator for the East Portland Community Office and the Office of Community and Civic Life. She has worked as a producer for Indigenous arts organizations First Nations Performing Arts and Knowledge of Wounds and devotes much of her production work to supporting Indigenous arts and artists. She believes wholly that exposure and experience with the arts is an important part of a child's overall development. Ensuring that all children in Portland have opportunities to experience the world and learn about themselves through art is a deeply held value.