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Dear City of Portland,

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Executive Summary

Michael O'Connor colab42@gmail.com 503-869-4923

Artists United

Artists United was formed in July, 2014 through a fundraiser on Alberta Street to establish a community-based solution for Last Thursday. This event attracts over 100,000 people to Alberta each year, is internationally recognized, and is a premier destination to experience Portland's unique creative culture. The objective of Artists United is to address all of the livability impacts Last Thursday has on the residents, build a balanced budget, fulfill the legal obligations with the City of Portland, and organize street vending and performances to exemplify our creative culture. Artists United's mission is to perpetuate the beautification, social fulfillment, and economic prosperity of our city's neighborhood system.

Event Coordination

Last Thursday's season runs May through September from 6 pm - 9 pm inside of a fifteen block street closure on Alberta Street. Artists United will be coordinating waste management, sanitation, traffic control, security, public agencies, volunteers, vendors, and performances for each event.

Operations

Artists United will sell event sponsorships and collect vending fees to cover the expenses of Last Thursday. The nonprofit will adhere to public agency recommendations, maintain stakeholder committees, manage financial and legal responsibilities, recruit volunteers, and develop its online capabilities. Additionally, Artists United will conduct research on Last Thursday's economic and livability impacts.

Future Development

Last Thursday has contributed to the prosperity of many local businesses and property owners by attracting thousands of people to Alberta Street each year. The event has grown steadily and could reach a maximum capacity soon. To maintain a safe capacity, Artists United will develop an expansion strategy to displace population growth.

Management

Founder and Executive Director Michael O'Connor brings significant community organizing and event production experience to this position. In February of 2010, he was a founding member of Friends of Last Thursday (FoLT). In 2012, Michael left FoLT to found Creative Collaborations, the nonprofit that was managing many community events including a four block monthly street fair in SE Portland called Hump Day. In the summer of 2014, Michael O'Connor stepped back into the negotiations over Last Thursday and founded Artist United to represent stakeholder interests. For the past five years Michael has immersed himself in Portland's creative culture, been continuously engaged with the city government, and is committed towards improving the quality of living in our neighborhoods.

Financials

The financial strategy of Artists United is to emphasize the economic development potential of continuous community events in neighborhood business districts. By balancing the financial responsibilities for Last Thursday among the stakeholders through sponsorships and fees, the nonprofit can sustain the event in a socially and environmentally responsible way. Through economic and social research, Artists United can assess the economic value and social benefits of regular community events in a given area. The City of Portland's expenses for Last Thursday have ranged from \$118,057 in 2010, to \$73,047 in 2013. The Alberta Street Fair is the most comparable event, which sold over \$25,000 in sponsorships in 2014. Artists United projected first year revenue, between sponsorships and fees, is \$100,000.

Measuring Impacts

Artists United will be conducting regular online surveys for the residential population, the vending and performance community, and local businesses. The nonprofit will collect information about the economic and livability impacts of Last Thursday. This information will be collected through quality assurance protocols that will verify the data's authenticity. The data is then presented to the stakeholder committees to be interpreted for Artists United's administrative and event production strategy.

Committees

Artists United will develop and maintain stakeholder committees that will analyze the nonprofit's impact data and shape the strategy for Last Thursday and future events. There are committees for businesses, residents, public safety, and vendors. In addition to stakeholder committees, an executive committee will write Artists United's operational strategy for stakeholder committee approval.

Stakeholder Committees

To ensure that the strategy for Artists United is maintaining the interests of all the stakeholders involved with Last Thursday, we will develop committees for the Alberta Business District, the neighborhood associations and residents, the street vending and performance community, and our government agencies. In addition to the stakeholder committees, there will be an executive committee that puts all stakeholder interests together into a single strategy that can be approved by the stakeholder committees.

The Business Committee will formulate the strategy for sponsorships and the creative vision for Last Thursday. Artists United will be conducting an economic impact analysis and the business committee will assist in interpreting economic data. Our goal will be to design Last Thursday's layout to best suit the local businesses.

The Vending Committee will formulate the strategy for the vending fees and the creative vision for Last Thursday. Artists United will be collecting economic data from the vendors and the committee will assist in interpreting the data. Our goal will be to design Last Thursday's layout to best suit the vendors and attendees.

The Residential Committee will formulate the strategy for addressing livability impacts and the creative vision for Last Thursday. Artists United will be measuring the social impacts that Last Thursday has on the residents and the committee will assist in interpreting the data. Our goal is to design Last Thursday's layout to best suit the residents and attendees.

The Public Safety Committee will formulate the strategy for addressing public safety concerns and livability impacts. This committee will consist of residents and representatives from government agencies. Artists United will be combining social impact data and city agency data for the committee to interpret. Our goal is to design Last Thursday's layout to best address the public safety concerns. There is a growing concern of Last Thursday reaching a maximum capacity, so an expansion strategy is a priority.

The Executive Committee is our Board of Directors. It will combine all stakeholder information and requests into a single strategy to be submitted to the stakeholder committees for approval. The Executive committee is comprised of a member from each stakeholder committee and Artists United Coordinators. The Executive committee will monitor the activity of Artists United to ensure the administration is executing the approved strategy.

Parsons, Susan

From:

Council Clerk - Testimony

To:

Michael O'Connor

Subject:

RE: Communication Request! April 29th confirmed

Hello Michael,

Thank you for your email. I see you are penciled in on the schedule for April 29th. With your email, I am confirming your request –April 29th at 9:30 am.

Here is further information for you on the Communications portion of the agenda:

- You will have three minutes to address the Council and may also submit written material (please provide seven copies).
- We start the meeting at 9:30 and Communications are the first item on the agenda.
- Please note communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.
- The Council meeting takes place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers.

Susan Parsons
Assistant Council Clerk
City of Portland
susan.parsons@portlandoregon.gov
503,823,4085

From: Michael O'Connor [mailto:colab42@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 3:37 PM

To: Council Clerk – Testimony **Subject:** Communication Request!

Dear Council,

I would like to schedule a communication for City Council in the next available time slot.

I am presenting Artists United's plan for Last Thursday on Alberta.

I would like the City of Portland to publicly state what requirements they have for an organization to take over the liability of Last Thursday.

Thank you.

Michael O'Connor

(503) 869 4923

Request of Michael O'Connor to address Council regarding Artists United's plan for Last Thursday on Alberta (Communication)

APR 29 2015

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 2 4 2015	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
MARY HULL CABALLERO		YEAS	NAYS
Auditor of the City of Portland	1. Fritz		
By	2. Fish		
Deputy	3. Saltzman		
	4. Novick		

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