

**From:** [shannon mcglothin](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: concerned citizen letter on vote #853  
**Date:** Monday, October 10, 2022 8:59:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to City Council- vote no on #853 City Council agenda for 10.12.2022.pdf](#)

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Hello, attached is a letter i wrote in reference to vote #853.

Thanks,

Shannon McGlothin

Date: October 10, 2022

To: Members of Portland City Council at [cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov)

From: S. McGlothlin, current resident of SE Portland ([smcglathin72@gmail.com](mailto:smcglathin72@gmail.com))

RE: City Council Agenda, October 12, 2022 #853 Amend Arts Education and Access Income Tax Code related to arts education coordination (amend Code Chapter 5.73)

As most Portlanders, I pay my taxes each year. I pay them on time and understand that often I may not see my tax dollars at work in my neighborhood. That being said, I know the Arts Education & Access Income tax is visible and I can see my dollars at work. Through community investment in the arts and in education, I see the benefits of the tax, as well as the pitfalls. The spirit of the measure had good intention. The reality is folk will always complain they do not get enough, it goes to programs they do not support, and the oversight is nonexistent. I know this is not the case with the AEAF. The money goes down two tracks- support of arts and culture in the city of Portland through grants and by distributing funds based on enrollment to the six districts within the borders of the city of Portland to fund one full time arts educator. A rather large percent of money does however, get funneled to the city for administration and that has always seemed high to me. The oversight of this measure as outlined in the ordinance, consists of a volunteer committee of folk passionate about arts education and arts and culture in Portland. To suggest that the city, after the measure has been progressing after 8 years, is now going to provide oversight to the same people they distribute money to on a yearly basis seems absurd, if not shortsighted. This is not equitable. How can reliable data be collected when the hand that feeds you is asking for the data? Why would anyone comply with reporting the truth? How can the oversight committee due its due diligence when the City is strong-arming how they believe arts education should be conducted in our schools? Is that not up to the curriculum directors? The school boards? Arts educators at their schools? The impetus for new forward thinking and a grounding of like-minded curiosity and support can enhance an existing program and provide clearer direction. As someone who has a child in the PPS system and had a visual arts teacher funded by the AEAF I know without this funding the school would not have had visual arts. If this position changes to .5, like PPS is doing with many k-5 and k-8 schools to enact their Master Arts Plan, by adding a .5 music and subtracting an FTE it does not make a community of engaged students or arts educators that can build a collaborative or robust arts education program. Is the city really going to consider these adjustments or are they simply going to say- here is your money... equity does not matter? Access is not important. The mental health of our educators is not crucial. What a school community needs are not important to the development of an arts education program. The Regional Arts & Culture Council has in their mission that these two things go hand in hand; equity, access, and inclusion. The Oversight Committee is working to ensure these exact aspects of the AEAF measure are upheld in collaboration with RACC. To take the coordination of arts education and place it in the arms of the City would be a huge mistake. I am not in support of this adjustment to the ordinance and encourage you to vote no on item number #853- Amend Arts Education and Access Income Tax Code related to arts education coordination (amend Code Chapter 5.73).

**From:** [Nancy Helmsworth](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** question #853  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:05:49 AM

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Mayor Wheeler:

Does the City of Portland have an Equity Statement/Policy that guides impacts of financial and other City decisions?

If so, at what point is it considered in a decision making process?

And how is the impact quantified? and by whom?

Does the City of Portland have an established timeline to allow financial due diligence for parties affected by City policy changes that are up for vote?

If so, what is the timeline for complete posting of information, meaning does the complete information need to be made available on a public platform 7 days in advance? Or?

And if it involves monies is it posted sooner?

Are there any obligations to alert the involved parties of all the changes within a timeline?

thank you

**From:** [Nancy Helmsworth](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** question about #853  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 8:02:21 PM

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Hi - Council Clerk

My question is to the RACC reps and to Comm Rubio's staff:

The 3% of the Arts education portion of the AEAF funding - which adds up to ~\$300,000.

RACC - how much of that do you spend on Arts Ed funding?

What do you do with the remainder of that \$300,000.?

How would this funding shift from RACC to CAP affect Equity Goals in your grant funding - or other uses for this money?

Commissioner Rubio/Mayor Wheeler -

The Arts Education funding has been reported in Comm Rubio's statement as about \$130,000.-160,000 expense.

Where is the remainder of the \$300,000?

Which should be about \$150,000, where will it go?

Or will the balance of \$150,000 continue to go to RACC for arts equity support/grants/organizations?

Commissioner Rubio/ Mayor Wheeler

Are you not concerned about the long term effect this might have on equity grants and equity resources for the arts within the City of Portland?

Thank you for your answers.

**From:** [Genevieve Stevens-Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Questions re: Portland City Council Agenda Item 853  
**Date:** Friday, October 14, 2022 3:48:29 PM

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Hello and thank you for your time,

My name is Genevieve Stevens-Johnson. I am a music educator, arts advocate, and parent of a PPS student.

I have some questions about Portland City Council Agenda Item 853.

Why was the citizen oversight committee and RACC not given more notification of this potential significant change in funds management?

Why was the citizen oversight committee and RACC not given more time to understand the proposed changes and have discussions with all stakeholders about them?

Why does it seem that of all the school districts who receive arts tax funds, only PPS has had a voice in this, and seems to be the only one supporting it?

Why won't the parties involved in the agenda item pause this vote until the oversight committee has presented their full report, which will come out in the next few weeks?

I do not have answers to these questions, and neither do you. Why would you vote yes on something that has not been vetted by the exact oversight it is supposed to have?

From the point of view of someone who pays the art tax willingly, whose job and income have the potential to be impacted by it, and who strongly believes in the importance of high quality arts education and equity, this looks like a blatant attempt to avoid oversight by the citizens who are tasked to do it. If that is not the case, then pause and allow the proper steps to be taken.

Also from my point of view, maneuvers like this are exactly the kind of fodder that those who oppose the arts tax are looking for. There are a large number of citizens who will happily vote to do away with it if examples of lack of transparency and due process like this exist. It is an abysmal breach of trust, lack of communication and transparency, and not the way the public whose children receive arts education, or educators who rely on it for jobs and professional development, expect the Arts Education and Access Fund to be managed.

I am happy to talk about this matter further if you are interested in doing so. Thank you,

Genevieve Stevens-Johnson

**City Council Meeting - Wednesday October 12, 2022 9:30 a.m.**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
853-01	Laura	Streib
853-02	Elizabeth	Stock
853-03	Jonathan	Garcia
853-04	Carol	Tatch
853-05	Nancy	Helmsworth