

Portland City Council Agenda  
Written Testimony - Item 950

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 950	Noreen Murdock	Support	<p>On behalf of the Portland Youth Philharmonic (PYP), the country's longest running youth orchestra, I am writing to express our strong support the resolution to establish the Performing Arts Venues Workgroup to evaluate management of P'5 arts facilities. As an organization dedicated to nurturing young musicians and promoting diverse musical programming, PYP understands firsthand the vital role that performing arts venues play in fostering a vibrant cultural landscape. Access to high-quality, accessible venues allows us to bring powerful, cross-cultural performances to Portland audiences and support the development of thousands of young musicians annually. PYP has been a resident company at P'5 for decades, and the cost of performing at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall - one of the only venues in the metro area that has a stage big enough for our 100-member ensemble - keeps climbing at an alarming rate.</p> <p>This workgroup is a valuable step toward securing and enhancing the infrastructure needed to sustain and grow our local arts community. We urge your support of this resolution as a crucial investment in the future of Portland's performing arts and its young artists.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	No	10/28/24 3:53 PM
2 950	Robert Haley	Support	<p>I'm not saying this is the case, but it APPEARS that city and regional governments do not understand the importance to the broad community that the performing arts brings. They provide economic benefit to the downtown area, enrich the cultural environment which increases the attractiveness of recruiting people to the area, and it offers educational opportunities which the schools have trouble providing. Please create a system that allows the performing arts to thrive!</p>	No	10/30/24 7:56 PM
3 950	Portland Opera	Support		Yes	10/31/24 1:42 PM



October 31, 2024

Commissioners Gonzales, Mapps, and Ryan,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts today. At Portland Opera, we believe that the arts are essential to our community's identity. Our city's venues are more than just performance spaces; they are where stories come alive, diverse voices are heard, and meaningful connections are made. Within these walls, we experience the beauty of creativity and the depth of human emotion.

We recognize the challenges faced by our city-owned venues—issues of governance, maintenance, and funding can feel daunting. However, we also see great potential in exploring innovative operational models. Portland Opera remains committed to being a partner with the city, as we work towards a thriving arts ecosystem.

We support this resolution and are excited to be involved in developing the right operational model to ensure that the performing arts remain accessible to all and that our city's cultural fabric grows even stronger. Thank you for acknowledging the importance of the arts and for your commitment to keeping us involved in this vital conversation.

Sue Dixon  
General Director & CEO  
Portland Opera/Broadway in Portland

60<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



Thursday, October 31, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Verbal Testimony

Agenda Item	Name
950	Rich Jaffe
950	John Russell
950	Noreen Murdock
950	Walter Weyler
950	Mark McCrary