

*"It opened the once lost wonder of my brain."
-HIP Student*

Dear Portland City Council:

We, the graduating class of Humanity in Perspective 2015-16 have learned and grown, opened and enlightened. For the last year, we've been meeting twice a week with five college instructors as part of the Humanity in Perspective program. HIP is a class made of a very diverse group of learners—people of different ages, races, backgrounds, sexual orientations, etc.. We all live under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. None of us have graduated from college (yet). And we want to pursue a higher education to help ourselves, our families, and our community to succeed. And, as we reach the end, we want you to know that this class is our first step towards giving back to the community.

Education is the most valuable thing that a person can have. Education is one of the surest ways out of poverty. This is even stronger when you are taught how to be a better person in your community. No matter your age, race, or religion. It gives a person confidence and the ability to problem-solve life without violence or anger. We did not agree on everything but at the end of class we were still friends. By studying the literature, visual culture, philosophy, and history together we get a greater sense of the interrelatedness of knowledge and arts as well as the community we live in. Our classmate Tim puts it this way: "I learned more in depth understandings on so many fascinating topics."

Listen to the words of three more of our classmates:

HIP broadened my somewhat narrow world view through discussing such things as justice in a very diverse setting. I feel that I have come away from this experience a more informed and involved member of the community.

HIP class gave me the confidence and hope to pursue higher education, this class has been extremely important for all my family because we are now inspired to pursue and hope for a better life.

This class allowed me to revisit topics and ideas that I truly thought I forgot or was not capable speaking about in an educated manner. I think attending this class has given me a voice!

We are writing to you to share our experience and to encourage you to support the growth of this program in Portland. In the grand scheme, such a program is a low-cost way to transform our lives and our city. A diverse enlightened citizenry produces an enlightened and informed city.

Sincerely,

The graduating class of Humanity in Perspective, 2015-16

Oregon Humanities

Kyle Weismann-Yee
921 SW Washington St., Suite 150
Portland, OR 97205
kyle@oregonhumanities.org
(503) 241-0543 or (800) 735-0543, ext. 112

Get together, share ideas, listen, think, grow

HIP is a free college humanities course for adults who do not have a college degree and who face financial barriers to continuing their education. Students read and discuss everything from Greek tragedies and philosophy to modern poetry and plays, experiencing new ideas and new ways of seeing themselves and the world. The course is taught by college faculty and meets twice a week in the evenings.

HIP in Portland

Oregon Humanities, in association with Bard College and Marylhurst University, presents a free public program to provide economically and educationally disadvantaged individuals in the Portland-metro area the opportunity to study the humanities in a two-semester, college-level course. Both organizations undertake this effort in the shared conviction that the humanities provide access to ideas and skills that in fact change people's lives. Through a rigorous encounter with great texts and ideas, the program hopes to foster the intellectual and personal growth of the participants, to further their engagement in civic and community life, and to make it possible for them to choose to continue their education. With a class schedule and support services designed to address their unique needs, the program will allow students to engage with a college-level curriculum without the burdens of financial constraints, child care, transportation costs, or interference with employment. Classes meet on Monday and Thursday evenings in downtown Portland, September through March

Program Goal

To increase civic participation and educational and economic opportunities for adults living on low incomes by removing barriers to the humanities and higher education.

Program History

Humanity in Perspective is based on the Bard College Clemente Course in the Humanities, an innovative program that began in New York City in 1995 and now operates in several cities nationwide and internationally, in Yucatan, Mexico. The HIP course at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton in partnership with Eastern Oregon University and Blue Mountain Community College. From 2009 to 2012, Oregon Humanities offered a HIP course in Salem in partnership with Willamette University.

Program Cost

There is no cost to students or community sponsors. Tuition, course materials, books, transportation, and a child care stipend are provided by OH. All of this would not be possible without the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals.

For more information, contact Program Coordinator Kyle Weismann-Yee at (503) 241-0543 or (800) 735-0543, ext. 112; or at kyle@oregonhumanities.org .

**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM**

Council Meeting Date: 6-1-16

Today's Date 5-13-16

AUDITOR 05/13/16 PM12:06

Name Fletcher WASH

Address 4925 SW Lombard

Telephone 503 957-1704 Email _____

Reason for the request:
Support for H.I.P. class



(signed)

- Give your request in writing to the Council Clerk's office to schedule a date for your Communication. Use this form or email the information to the Council Clerk at the email address below.
- You will be placed on the Wednesday official Council Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting. Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:
Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 130
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4086
email:
Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

Sue Parsons, Assistant Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 130
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4085
email:
Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

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Request of Fletcher Nash to address Council regarding support for H.i.P.
class (Communication)

JUN 01 2016

PLACED ON FILE

MAY 24 2016

Filed _____

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		