

Lead Agency: Non-Departmental - All

Program Contact: Julie Neburka

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) provides contract services to Multnomah County and its residents. Formerly a county bureau (the Metropolitan Arts Commission), RACC is now an independent 501(c)(3) organization that leverages significant support from other regional government partners and private donors before re-investing the County's allocation in programs and services that are creating vibrant neighborhoods, enhancing our children's education, and fueling a creative economy with measurable economic benefits. Although county funding for arts and culture has declined more than 76% since the high funding mark of \$603,096 in FY98-99, this request honors the County's directive to apply a 4% reduction over FY10.

Program Description

RACC plays a vital role in the county's economic and community development efforts. Specifically, RACC provides services in five key areas: (1) Through Advocacy, RACC helps build support and resource for arts and culture. (2) RACC Grants provide artists and arts organizations with the base financial support they need to continue serving our community. (3) RACC's nationally acclaimed Public Art program, including the Multnomah County 2% for Art Ordinance, integrates a wide range of art into public spaces. (4) RACC provides other Community Services including workshops for artists, consulting for arts organizations, and a variety of printed and electronic resources; and (5) RACC is developing comprehensive Arts Education solutions for our community.

Arts and culture activities add measurable value to our region's economy and to our quality of life. Artists and arts organizations bring residents together for shared cultural experiences that stimulate creativity which in turn supports more innovative businesses and a richer educational experience for our children. A vibrant arts community serves as a magnet for young creatives, and Multnomah County's investment in the arts contributes to the competitive advantage we have over other regions in the country that are all competing to attract sustainable businesses and a creative, well-educated workforce. Multnomah County is home to a vast majority of the region's artists and arts and culture organizations, which together generated more than \$318 million for the local economy last year.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Multnomah County children directly served	5,240	9,000	9,000	10,500
Outcome	Purchasing and payroll power of funded nonprofit arts organizations County	79,515,000	0	76,417,000	76,000,000
Input	Multnomah County dollars invested in arts & culture	187,831	165,291	165,291	161,060
Efficiency	Dollars leveraged by RACC from other public & private partners	5,452,000	7,611,000	6,818,000	7,000,000

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

County dollars help RACC develop strategic partnerships and build more support from public and private partners throughout the region. Last year, RACC secured more private funds for arts and culture than ever before, including \$349,000 in gifts from businesses and individuals through Work for Art, RACC's workplace giving program.

County investments last year helped build a coalition of school district superintendents, parents, teachers, artists, arts organizations, foundations, businesses, and other governments who are committed to a more equitable arts education delivery system, and leveraged \$750,000 from other public and private sources that will be used to serve 9,500 students in the region this year. The County's FY11 renewed investment will leverage an additional \$1 million from other sources to help RACC serve 10,500 students.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

None.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2010	2010	2011	2011
Contracts	\$165,291	\$0	\$161,060	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$165,291	\$0	\$161,060	\$0
Program Total:	\$165,291		\$161,060	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This is a General Fund program.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #72090, Regional Arts & Culture Council

In FY10, support from the County is being combined with City of Portland funds, Work for Art proceeds, and other sources to fund more than \$2 million in grants to 74 Multnomah County artists and 137 Multnomah County nonprofit organizations. In FY11, RACC will reduce the amount of Multnomah County funds allocated to grants by \$4,000, but our goal is to backfill those losses with additional proceeds from our Work for Art campaign. However, this is a step backwards in our community's objective to secure 5% of our arts organizations' budgets from local government funding sources. (We currently provide less than 1.5%.)

The County contracts with RACC to build and maintain its public art collection, and those programs are funded through a separate percent-for-art ordinance. (These dedicated revenues are not included in this request.)

RACC provides valuable resources to artists and arts organizations at no cost to them through the RACC website (www.racc.org), monthly newsletter (ArtNotes) and other information services. In addition, hundreds of artists and arts administrators are served each year through RACC workshops and other technical assistance programs.

Facing difficult budget cuts of their own, our public schools have been reducing or eliminating arts education programs. RACC is working to reverse this trend through "The Right Brain Initiative," a public/private collaboration to integrate arts education into the standard curriculum for every K-8 student in the region by 2015.

RACC's management and general expenses are a low 7%. This includes costs associated with our website, which is chock-full of resources for artists and arts advocates, receiving over 600,000 unique visits in 2009.