

A Plan for Increasing Arts Equity, Access, and Resources in East Portland, Oregon

ARTS EAST

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INTENT

Arts EAST is a product of Mayor Sam Adams' City Council and the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC)'s interest in ensuring that East Portland residents have equitable access to arts and culture in their own neighborhoods and across the city. While the East Portland Action Plan (EPAP, 2009)

and across the city. While the East Portland Action Plan (EPAP, 2009) addressed large-scale community planning and development priorities it did not have an arts and culture component. Arts EAST combines many of the goals and strategies present in the East Portland Action Plan, the Portland Plan (2012) and Act for Art (2009) the first master plan for the arts in Portland in over twenty years.

In June of 2012, Mayor Adams requested that a working group be formed to initiate arts and culture planning in East Portland, and that a framework be created for future cultural development in the area. This workgroup was tasked with creating Arts EAST: A plan for increasing arts equity, access, and resources in East Portland. Many of the residents of East Portland who participated in this process (see Appendix A) also participated in the development of the East Portland Action Plan (EPAP, adopted in 2009). The Arts EAST plan assists in implementing the EPAP through specifying how local arts and culture resources can be supported to meet key livability strategies. Each goal and strategy listed in this Arts EAST plan lists the EPAP action items that correlate to this strategy.

PROCESS

Developing a comprehensive arts and culture plan is an incredibly involved effort often taking several years. Our process was abbreviated and accomplished within existing budgets. To accomplish this, we developed plan priorities, established a vision statement and primary goals that outlined the deepest needs and concerns regarding growing arts and culture in East Portland, and prioritized strategies and actions that will help move arts and culture forward. Participating residents of East Portland (known as the East Portland Arts Collective) held eight evening work sessions between June and November, 2012, to develop this plan. Their charge was to outline a set of primary goals for arts and culture development and support in the area as well as recommendations for execution. Outreach for these work sessions, and this planning process, was organized through RACC, East Portland Neighborhood Office, Milepost 5, social media and word-of-mouth. **Tomi Anderson** from the Mayor's Office served as the primary process organizer and supported Bill Flood, cultural planner and facilitator, to guide the process, facilitate meetings and coordinate the drafting of the plan. Regional Arts & Culture Council staff provided key input and support. Katrina Ketchum, Masters candidate in Arts Management at the University of Oregon, provided leadership support for the planning and public input process with an emphasis in conducting a cultural inventory of East Portland.



We believe that grassroots community development only happens when local people are engaged in ways that speak directly to them. Culture is what we feel most strongly about -- our beliefs, traditions, the ways we structure our built and social environments, and ways that we create value and meaning. Throughout this plan we seek to engage people on this most meaningful level; we seek to be the sparks of community revitalization.

We define "arts" as an inclusive range of creative practices, including: visual, performing, literary, media, culinary, craft, and folk traditions of all kinds. By "artists" we mean people (paid, unpaid, professional, avocational) who participate in these creative and artistic practices.



Photo: Antoine Thomas, Rosewood Community Mural



Photo: East Portland Sunday Parkway

ABOUT EAST PORTLAND

East Portland is a place of great diversity and contrast, ranging from the beauty of the renowned Leach Botanical Gardens to an abundance of aging urban strip development. According to Portland's Dill Pickle Club, East Portland is also "home to at least 82 languages, to all five of our major religious traditions, and to all of the unrestrained optimism our city and nation of immigrants has always aspired to."

Current data (see Appendix E) tell us that East Portland has:

- ▶ a population increasing faster than the rest of Portland;
- a higher percentage of children and youth (and older adults aged 65+) than greater Portland;
- ▶ a higher poverty rate (18%) than greater Portland (8.3%);
- a greater proportion of non-English-speaking households than greater Portland;
- ➤ 1:3 East Portlanders identify as "something other than white", compared with 1:4 citywide.

Columbia River Parkrose Argay 1 - 84 Parkrose Woodland Russell Heights Hazelwood Glenfair Mill Park Centennial Powellhurst Gilbert Lents Pleasant Valley Area Shared by Adjacent Neighborhoods

A recent Willamette Week article noted that "according to census tracts, only the white population in East Portland decreased over the past decade. The Hispanic population grew 106 percent, more than three times as fast as the rest of the city. The black population grew 166 percent, while decreasing 13 percent in the rest of the city." These population disparities pose both challenge and opportunity. The creators of Arts EAST believe that **East Portland's greatest asset is its unique and rich range of cultures**. With these cultures come different ways of coming together and enormous entrepreneurial potential. In addition, the income disparities and history of underserved communities in East Portland highlight the necessity of this plan to create equity in services throughout the community. This plan focuses on utilizing arts and culture as one of the components in a larger strategy that can help East Portland retain existing residents while simultaneously attracting new populations and economies.

APPENDICIES IN THIS PLAN

Appendix C gives information on the process for developing this plan, Appendix D discusses development of the cultural inventory, Appendix E provides area demographic information. Appendix F outlines the project ideas generated by design students at Pacific Northwest College of Art and Appendix G lists acronyms that are used in this plan.

OUR VISION OF ARTS AND CULTURE IN EAST PORTLAND

We envision an East Portland that fully embraces and supports its unique cultures and artists as key elements of community development.

GOAL



Recognize and support our #1 asset --The unique and distinct blend of cultures in East Portland.

STRATEGY 0



CONDUCT COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH TO BETTER UNDERSTAND LOCAL CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

- Build relationships with and learn from the ethnic and other cultural groups of East Portland.
- ▶ Identify specific cultural traditions and resources that can be brought to the common table. Identify what is needed to support a variety of art forms and list specific ways to overcome barriers.
- Continually expand the cultural inventory (see Appendix D).

- Partner with schools to involve youth and their families in local research.
- ▶ Identify arts practices specific to the cultural communities in East Portland, and share this learning with local arts organizations, funders and government supporters.

EPAP Action Items: CB.1, CB.5

ACTIONS



- ▶ Encourage cultural exchange, build bridges and deepen relationships through special collaborative projects that focus on families and relationships, which are central to many cultural communities within East Portland.
- Encourage artists to partner with the wide range of community organizations: social service, neighborhood, community development, environmental, justice, education, etc.

EPAP Action Items: CB.3, CB.4, L.6

ACTIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Grow the human, organizational, physical, and financial infrastructure needed to support the arts in East Portland.

STRATEGY @

SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

- Acknowledge the worth and dignity of artists through consistent compensation; encourage the practice of compensating artists for their work.
- Provide needed technical assistance around marketing. Support business, fund and organizational development for small arts and culture businesses and organizations.
- Coordinate mentorships for artists around key opportunity areas such as public art.
- Link artists with local business associations, economic development resources, funds, and initiatives.
- ► Collaborate with RACC in siting professional development and grant writing workshops for artists and organizations in East Portland.

EPAP Action Items: EC.3, EC.4, EQ.1

STRATEGY ®



UTILIZE ARTISTS TO RE-ENVISION EXISTING SPACES AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ARTS

- Research the feasibility of a creative design district in East Portland commercial areas with more flexible code to allow unique or oversized signs and buildings, as a way to create an unforgettable cultural identity.
- Use abandoned or under-utilized spaces for event spaces, artists studios, and for public art, workshop, performance and studio space.
- Seek opportunities to create a critical mass (centers, districts, nodes) of arts and culture activities in-line with Neighborhood Prosperity and other initiatives.
- ► Engage arts students from relevant programs (PNCA's Collaborative Design MFA Program, PSU's Arts and Social Practice MFA Program, and Portland Community College) to organize projects and research.
- ► Develop and more fully utilize existing parks and community centers as arts activities sites.
- Use schools and libraries as arts centers.
- Organize a task force to explore the creation of a multicultural center in East Portland.

EPAP Action Items: CM.2, P.4, EC.3, CB.1,CB.3, CB.4, CM.1, CM.2, EQ.1, L.3, L.4, L.6

STRATEGY @

IDENTIFY NEEDED RESOURCES

- Collaboratively seek grants for arts and cultural organizations, projects, and enterprises that increase capacity, grow audiences and produce work that speaks to and for East Portland.
- Assist funders and grantmakers to understand culturally-sensitive practices in grantmaking and how to make the outreach needed to support East Portland artists.
- ► Create an Arts and Culture Subcommittee of the East Portland Action Plan to oversee implementation of this plan. Identify a staffing plan and resources required to back up implementation. The Subcommittee should identify key plan partners (especially schools) and closely work with them.

EPAP Action Items: EQ.1, EC.4

GOAL



VISIBILITY

Expand visibility for local arts and culture in East Portland



STRATEGY © DEVELOP AND COORDINATE CENTRALIZED ARTS AND CULTURE INFORMATION RESOURCES AND DISTRIBUTION METHODS

- ► Maintain, update existing online cultural inventory as a valuable community resource.
- ▶ Develop and maintain (in close collaboration with other arts and cultural resource organizations) a comprehensive list of arts and culture media resources and freely share with arts and cultural groups.
- Train volunteers and staff to prepare and submit calendar and marketing information to existing calendar and event sites (such as those hosted by RACC and Travel Portland).

- Research the feasibility of developing a local arts calendar (both online and print).
- Develop and implement social media (and other web-based strategies) through the EPAP Arts and Culture Subcommittee, activating wide-spread communication of arts and culture happenings in East Portland.
- ▶ Utilize multiple languages when promoting the arts, and encourage this practice throughout the community. Make translation services available and affordable to all arts organizations and artists.

EPAP Action Items: CB.1, CB.3, EQ.1



STRATEGY BUILD LOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS THROUGH VISIBILITY

- Seek strategic partnerships with community and business partners to build visibility for existing arts and cultural events.
- Initiate a strategic marketing and communication plan that will increase visibility of upcoming arts and cultural events in East Portland.
- Fund and support highly visible projects (such as murals) which build community pride and identity.
- Strongly promote signature events such as East Portland EXPO which build visibility for the arts and culture in East Portland.

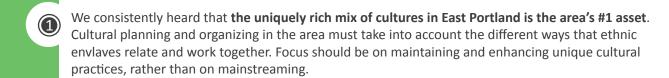
EPAP Action Items: CB.1, CB.3, L.2, L.6, EQ.1

ACTIONS

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations encompass all of the goals, strategies and actions of this plan.

They are key learnings and insights from this planning process that we consider essential to supporting arts and culture in East Portland.



Urban planning best practices commonly use artists in community revitalization; there is no shortage of arts-related urban development strategies that can apply to East Portland, especially as urban development is moving east from downtown Portland. However one priority was made clear through our process: any large-scale arts and culture development in East Portland must also guard against gentrification. Arts and culture do enliven communities and increase livability, but without solid planning initiatives to prevent gentrification such as set-asides, affordable housing creation, and tax relief programs, and create secure housing for existing residents, we risk displacing long-term and low-income residents.

Supporting existing arts programs in East Portland schools is critical; school/community partnerships are also key to meeting plan goals. East Portland schools have dynamic arts programs, particularly in the high schools, and supporting these students with a wider array of community arts funding is essential in times when arts education is repeatedly at risk due to budget cuts. Because this plan was developed primarily in summer months we did not work as closely as we would have liked with school districts to comprehensively understand the nexus between school and community programs. A closer relationship with the local education community in further development and execution of this plan is key, as is examining the implications of the creation of the Arts Education and Access Fund, which will restore arts education funding to East Portland and provide funds for arts access programs.

An Arts and Culture Subcommittee of the East Portland Action Plan initiative should be formed to oversee implementation of the recommendations, vision, goals, strategies, and actions of this report.

APPENDI)



PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ARTS EAST PLAN

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ARTS-RELATED STRATEGIES WITHIN EAST PORTLAND ACTION PLAN

EPAP BUILT STRATEGIES:

Commercial and Mixed Use

- CM.2 Promote vital and healthy multi-use commercial
- CM.2.4 Explore potential for an arts and entertainment facility or district to serve East Portland.
- CM.2.5 Develop and promote "international marketplace" concept for 82nd Avenue.
- CM.2.7 Develop public spaces and community uses in commercial areas.

EPAP ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES:

Parks and Open Space

- P.4 Develop new parks and community facilities in facility-deficient areas throughout East Portland.
- P.4.2 Study the need for an additional community center in East Portland.
- P.4.3 Develop a community facility and/or outdoor pool in East Portland.

EPAP **ECONOMIC STRATEGIES**:

- EC.3 Promote and support small and independent East Portland-based and owned businesses.
- EC.3.1 Identify and develop strategies to remove barriers to small business development in East Portland.
- EC.4 Increase and promote workforce training and employment opportunities for East Portland residents.

EPAP EQUITY STRATEGIES:

EQ.1 Foster an equitable distribution of public resources for East Portland.

EPAP LEARNING STRATEGIES:

- L.3 Strengthen stability and quality of East Portland K-12 schools.
- L.4 Increase the academic success of East Portland K-12 students.
- L.6 Increase partnerships among and with East Portland K-12 school districts.
- L.6.1 Explore opportunity to add community center
- programming in East Portland school facilities.

EPAP SOCIAL STRATEGIES:

Community Building

- CB.1 Increase interaction among culturally and geographically diverse neighborhoods.
- CB.1.2 Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide translation/language services to remove barriers; improve messaging and invitations.
- CB.1.3 Create an annual event to celebrate the ethnic cultures of East Portland.
- CB.3 Involve East Portland residents in community projects that build community identity.
- CB.4 Create community gathering places in East Portland to increase community identity and pride.
- CB.4.1 Develop areas that are a source of community pride and identity: foster an 'eastside downtown' and community gathering areas and/or farmers markets.
- CB.5 Foster and market East Portland's positive attributes.
- CB.5.3 Inventory East Portland's unique assets and create a long-term marketing/media campaign to publicize; include websites.
- CB.6 Strengthen and increase participation in neighborhood services.



SCHEDULE AND PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THIS ARTS EAST PLAN

MONTH	ACTIVITY
JUNE 2012	Assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges
JULY	Visioning the arts environment for East Portland
AUG	Development of cultural inventory: Existing cultural assets and cultural strengths
SEPT	Identification of gaps, barriers, and issues. Draft goals, strategies, and actions *Public Review at East Portland Sunday Parkways
OCT	Clarification of goals, strategies, and actions **Public review via electronic survey
NOV 2012	Plan completion

^{*} Approximately 300 attendees at the September 30 East Portland Sunday Parkways reviewed draft goals, strategies and actions. Feedback confirmed that East Portlanders were supportive of all plan goals.

^{**} In early November, a brief 10 question electronic survey was mailed to approximately 500 East Portland residents and community stakeholders. People were glad to know about the plan; however, little feedback was gained.





DEVELOPMENT OF EAST PORTLAND CULTURAL INVENTORY

The cultural inventory (both a map and lists of resources) developed through this planning process can be found at http://goo.gl/maps/pKWc0. The cultural inventory was developed in a format to be stored online and continually updated as new resources emerge. The inventory was conducted to identify and build on existing cultural assets and strengths of East Portland. Plan strategies and actions reference the cultural inventory.

Katrina Ketchum, Masters candidate in Arts Management at the University of Oregon, led the cultural inventory process. The process of developing the cultural inventory involved brainstorming cultural resources with the East Portland Arts Collective, connecting with key informants in East Portland neighborhoods, sharing the inventory at the East Portland Sunday Parkways public review, and conducting extensive online research.

The Regional Arts & Culture Council also contracted with Americans for the Arts to provide current data (from Dun and Bradstreet) on arts-related businesses in the six primary East Portland zip codes. Categories include arts schools and services, design and publishing, film/radio/tv, museums and collections, performing arts, and visual arts/photography. As of January, 2012, 381 arts-related businesses with 1,490 employees existed within the area.

What does the cultural inventory tell us?

The majority of cultural resources are located near the main transportation corridors, especially North to South on I-205, and near populated districts. Cultural activities are clustered around neighborhood centers and the western portion of East Portland, and appear least prevalent in lower income neighborhoods.

Major cultural assets in East Portland:

- ► Most ethnically diverse area in Oregon with people speaking over 80 languages;
- ► 120 places of worship, 49 parks and gardens, 64 public and private schools;
- ► A high number of cultural businesses and a trend toward entrepreneurship in the area;
- ► A strong mix of organizations and businesses representing the area's cultural groups, including 12 ethnic, international, and/or farmers markets;
- ► Limited but growing funding of arts-related projects by the Regional Arts & Culture Council;
- ► No other service organizations for artists other than RACC;
- ► Fewer arts organizations (only 25) compared to other areas of Portland;
- ➤ Several significant community assets in the East Portland area, including, but not limited to, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) and the East Portland Community Center;
- ► The majority of the 32 public art pieces are on or near TriMet lines;
- ► The East Portland EXPO, the largest annual event that celebrates the cultures represented in East Portland.

We would like to recognize the following cultural inventory contributors:

Kim Breckel, Vice-Chair, Wilkes Community Neighborhood Association Kristin Calhoun, Public Art Manager, Regional Arts and Culture Council Deborah Edward, Executive Director, Business for Culture and the Arts Jerome Funchess, Urban Planner, East Portland Resident

Peggy Kendellen, Public Art Manager, Regional Arts and Culture Council Joshua Kingsley, Music Performer and Educator, Portland Chamber Music Scott Rose, Principal, DLR Group

Michelle Traver, Public Art Coordinator, Trimet
Mark White, President, Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association
Lore Wintergreen, East Portland Action Plan Advocate



EAST PORTLAND DEMOGRAPHICS

The following information is from East Portland in Motion, A Five-Year Implementation Strategy for Active Transportation (2012) and gives a good demographic overview of the area.

Children, Youth and Older Adults:

East Portland has a greater proportion of children and youth (aged 17 and younger) and older adults (aged 65 and over) than Portland as a whole. In fact, East Portland is home to:

37% of Portland's children and youth,

38% of Portland's K-12 students, and

33% of its older adults.

Languages:

Diversity of language is particularly apparent in schools. David Douglas School District reports that 24% of its students are English Language Learners, and that 67 different languages are spoken by its students. East Portland has a greater proportion of non-English speaking households than the whole of Portland, and this is true for all four of the language groups tracked by the Census. The most prevalent foreign language in East Portland is Spanish, the primary language for 9% of households. Asian languages (such as Vietnamese and Mandarin Chinese) and other Indo-European languages (including Russian and Ukrainian) are not far behind, representing 8% and 7% of households, respectively.

Population and Households:

East Portland contains 164,679 residents, or 28% of Portland's population. The most densely populated areas are in the Glenfair neighborhood, Powellhurst-Gilbert, and Centennial.

Poverty:

East Portland has an 18% poverty rate - higher than in Portland (8.3%) overall. Among the areas with the lowest poverty are neighborhoods with widespread single family housing, including Parkrose Heights, Russell and Wilkes neighborhoods along I-84 east of I-205. In East Portland, eligibility for free and reduced lunch during the 2010-2011 school year was:

78.5% of students in David Douglas School District

75.0% of students in Parkrose School District

64.3% of students in Centennial School District

Race and Ethnicity:

East Portland is more ethnically and racially diverse compared to Portland as a whole, with a full third of the East Portland population identifying as something other than "white" verses a quarter citywide. Specifically:

- 15% of East Portland residents identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino;
- 12% are of Asian descent (including significant Vietnamese and Chinese populations);
- 9% are Hawaiian or Pacific Islander;
- 7% consider themselves Black/African American;
- 1% are Native American or Native Alaskan;
- 13% are either multiracial or classify their race/ethnicity as "other."

The area has a significant Eastern European population including first-generation Russian, Ukrainian, and other Eastern European immigrants.



PROJECT PROFILES: PACIFIC NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF ART

Students in the Collaborative Design MFA program at PNCA researched East Portland's urban infrastructure and were given the challenge to develop project proposals that demonstrated affordable, creative, interest-generating solutions to urban problems. The students also designed participatory activities to solicit community feedback in the public review at the September 30, 2012 East Portland Sunday Parkways event.



Living Lents addresses the lack of connectivity and community space in the thriving, Multicultural Lents Town Center. By facilitating improved connectivity and utilizing existing space, Living Lents will provide a viable re-design of the inner vacant spaces of Lents Town Center. The design will strive to turn Lents Town Center in on itself, creating a pedestrian friendly, sustainable space for Lents residents to enjoy.



Boundless Books will consist of several custom-built boxes around East Portland which will hold books that are free for community use. These book boxes will be connected with the "Little Free Library" network (littlefreelibrary.org). Books will be donated from individuals, community groups and organizations. Boundless Books has involved Portland Enrichment, Green Lents, Rose CDC and over 20 community members. Danielle Olson, MFA Collaborative Design student, has acted as facilitator and will continue to be a resource as the project transitions into the hands of the neighborhood.



Pouring Art into the Streets is a project focused on East Portland and uses strategies from the East Portland Action Plan to strengthen community, make transportation routes more visible and produce momentum for future projects within the community through street painting. Street painting is when a community comes together, visions a design and paints and intersection in a low traffic neighborhood. Street painting brings neighbors together from children to adults to create a unified artistic vision of what they want the future of their neighborhood to look like.

APPENDIX



ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PLAN

EPAP -- East Portland Action Plan

EPAC -- East Portland Arts Collective

PNCA -- Pacific Northwest College of Art

RACC -- Regional Arts and Culture Council

PSU -- Portland State University

CIO -- Center for Intercultural Organizing
PDC -- Portland Development Commission

IRCO -- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization

NPI -- Neighborhood Prosperity Initiatives