

ORDINANCE No. 180629

Amend the Business License Law to allow businesses to donate to the Work for Art program
(Ordinance; add Code Section 7.02.830)

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. In 1973, the City of Portland co-founded the Metropolitan Arts Commission (MAC) to support the development of the arts and increase their availability to the public. Due to the increasing regional scope, MAC was transitioned to a regional non-profit organization, the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC);
2. Since 1995, the City has empowered RACC as Council's designated administrator of, and grantor for, area arts and culture programs with the responsibility of comprehensive support for, and communication with, the city's vibrant and diverse arts and culture community;
3. The City of Portland adopted the Arts Plan 2000+ (resolution #34949) and an Arts Funding Policy (resolution #35313) in the early 1990s which demonstrate the City's long-term commitment to providing and sustaining increased arts funding and to the health and vitality of the arts in Portland;
4. Local governments have an important role in encouraging the arts, using modest public investment to leverage other resources as well as promoting access, inclusion and excellence in the arts and enhancing the contribution of the arts to economic vitality, educational opportunities, neighborhood and community revitalization, social harmony, regional growth management and overall quality of life;
5. City Council budget note in the Adopted Budget 2006/07 directs RACC to “develop a report to Council on the year-to-year needs of arts and culture nonprofits and identify options beyond existing City resources for supporting them;”
6. RACC's campaign, WORK FOR ART, responds to this directive by promoting private funding to support art in the region;
7. To further WORK FOR ART and the contribution of the arts to the economic vitality of Portland, the City of Portland's Business License Law should be amended to allow businesses to make a contribution to WORK FOR ART in addition to their business license fee due or donate some or all of any refund receivable to WORK FOR ART on their annual combined report for (City/County business tax return);
8. The City of Portland has pledged to match each dollar contributed to WORK FOR ART by June 30, 2007, up to \$200,000;
9. The Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program does not currently support any organizations directly supporting the arts.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

a. Portland City Code Section 7.02.830 is added as follows:

7.02.830 Collection and Remittance of Donations to “Work for Art,” a program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council. The Revenue Bureau is authorized to collect and remit donations from taxpayers to “Work for Art,” a program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council.

A. Taxpayers may donate to “Work for Art” by either

1. paying a sum above what is owed for their City Business License fees, or
2. by designating that all or some of any refund due to them be instead donated to “Work for Art.”

B. To indicate a desire to donate, the taxpayer must check the appropriate donation box on their renewal return form (tax return) for the tax year in question. In addition, the taxpayer must indicate the amount that is to be donated.

C. Once the renewal return form (tax return) is filed with the Bureau, the taxpayer may not cancel the donation or request that it be instead credited to any other outstanding receivable owed to the Bureau.

Section 2. Section 7.02.830 is effective for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2006.

Passed by the Council: November 29, 2006

Mayor Tom Potter
Terri Williams/Shane Abma
October 26, 2006

Gary Blackmer
Auditor of the City of Portland
By: /s/Susan Parsons
Deputy

BACKING SHEET INFORMATION

AGENDA NO. 1555, 1595-2006

ACTION TAKEN:

NOVEMBER 22, 2006 PASSED TO SECOND READING NOVEMBER 29, 2006 9:30 AM

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION/COUNCIL DOCUMENT NO. 180629

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
ADAMS	X	
LEONARD	X	
SALTZMAN	X	
STEN	X	
POTTER	X	