



Regional Arts &
Culture Council

Annual Report 2021



“Art helps me ask questions and see things in a different way. I can get the feeling of what it’s like to not be so sure.”

- Teresa White, RACC Support Beam recipient



Front cover: Nico Inzerella, *Mi Pueblo Mi Gente Mi Vida*, purchased 2020 for the Public Art Portable Works Collection; funding from the Vanport Building, Southwest Fifth Ave., Portland, OR.

This page: Terrance Burton, *A Seat at the Table*, purchased in 2020 for the Public Art Portables Collection with funding from the Vanport Building, Southwest Fifth Ave., Portland, OR.

RACC in the community

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Reflecting on the Year Together

Over the past year, art wove our lives together and brought much into focus for the City, the community and for RACC. Despite the challenges, art was present in people's daily lives in a way we've not seen in decades. Murals popped up. Monuments toppled. Artists claimed new space – coming into our living rooms through virtual platforms and into our neighborhoods with public art and pop-up performances on our streets, parks, and buildings.

Through this difficult year, we've sought your input and responded to the needs expressed by artists, creatives, arts organizations, partners, and our broader community. We focused on collaborative action to:

- ensure the survival and vitality of artists and art organizations across the state of Oregon
- center racial equity and social justice, and support funders and partners in doing the same
- pivot our services online to virtual formats to increase accessibility.

We witnessed people coming together on their own, without the usual suspects – institutions, companies, and venues – structuring their interactions. We watched as entrenched systems were forced to change – in ways we never thought possible on a grand scale. We observed and participated in collaborations that yielded the sharing of responsibilities, aid, and distributed leadership. None of these things are new, generally, but they are new to us – and to many of those we partner with and support. Our job now is to continue this forward movement and stay constant in our commitment to the art makers: those who disrupt, challenge, move, and heal us.

As we look to the future, let us continue to act together. We must expand and leverage our impact and ensure that the fabric woven in our community continues to hold. Together we can inspire, deepen, and expand support for art and artists. We continue to center artists' power. We hope you will join us.

Madison Cario

Madison Cario
Executive Director (FY 21)

Nathan Rix

Nathan Rix
Board Chair

Leaning into Shared Leadership

We are so excited for the opportunity to serve RACC and the community as co-leaders following Executive Director Madison Cario's departure for a position in the Bay Area. Because we are already part of the leadership team, we have a unique ability to ensure smooth operations and continuity of programs and services at RACC.

Madison brought great vision and organizational capability to RACC, allowing us to be responsive, focus on equity, and strengthen our work with key stakeholders and funders. In this report, you can learn about the accomplishments of the past year and how well the organization is positioned to lead and support Portland's ever-evolving and growing arts community.

As we continue to center art, culture, advocacy, and education within our work and in our community, we are inspired by our talented RACC Team, our dedicated Board, and our creative community at large. We will lean in to learn, and lead, in ways that lift up voices not heard and inspire actions not taken. We ask that you lean in with us to fulfill our mission to enrich our communities through art and culture.

RACC's future is bright and we look to the year ahead with hope and joy!



Carol Tatch
Director of Philanthropic Innovation (FY 21)
Chief of External Operations (FY 22)



Della Rae
Director of Culture, Operations & Technology (FY 21)
Chief of Internal Operations (FY 22)

Mission & Vision

We provide artists and arts organizations financial support through operating support, project grants, and commissions.

Our nationally acclaimed public art program integrates a wide range of art in public places. RACC manages Percent for Art programs for the City of Portland and Multnomah county.

We provide community services, including education programs and workshops, professional development opportunities, and a community hub of online resources.

Our arts education program supports arts educators through direct advocacy, professional development, resources, and coordination to help ensure all K-12 students enjoy the benefits of a well-rounded education that includes arts, culture, and creativity.

We connect artists and creatives to opportunity and access.

An independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Regional Arts & Culture Council supports the creative economy in greater Portland by equitably providing funding and services to artists and art organizations; managing and growing a diverse, nationally acclaimed public art program; and developing enduring public and private partnerships. Through advocacy and engagement, we are building support for our community of artists, arts education, and arts and culture.



Images from top left: Artist at work at North Pole Studios; Renegade Opera performance; Renegade Opera outdoor performance; *Aspirations for Justice*, a public mural created by Multnomah County youth; Limei Lai's mural, *Together*; Daren Todd, *The Art Marathon: Finished Line*; Eddie Melendrez, *A Thousand Lonely Prayers From a Thousand Lonely Hearts*; Sarah Farahat, *Huddle*.

Public Art Purchases and Commissions

Many projects moved forward in real life despite the constraints of a mostly virtual work environment. Here are some of the highlights from the year. Read about all of our recent and [current projects here](#).

- The new Multnomah County Courthouse opened downtown October 2020 with no fanfare due to state of emergency orders protecting public health and in response to the global pandemic. The building houses an **expansive new collection** of public art that reflects the deep connections selected artists have to their community, identity, and history. On the building's exterior, you can still find the temporary mural designed by local youth focusing on their vision of justice. The collaboration was inspired by Melvin Oden-Orr, a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge who works in the building.
- In East Portland, youth and artists collaborated with local community-based and youth-serving organizations on a series of murals and art installations. These Black-led art projects were supported through a multi-year initiative of RACC and Portland's Bureau of Transportation called the Black Portland Matters Art & Placemaking Initiative.
- In the interior hallways and meeting rooms inside the Multnomah County Department of Justice East Campus, the artist team Blue and Michael Stevenson, Jr., conceived and curated Gallery Blue, featuring work by currently or formerly incarcerated artists.

These projects demonstrate the ways we are expanding our definition of public art. We are integrating different art media and a diversity of perspectives into public spaces in every community.



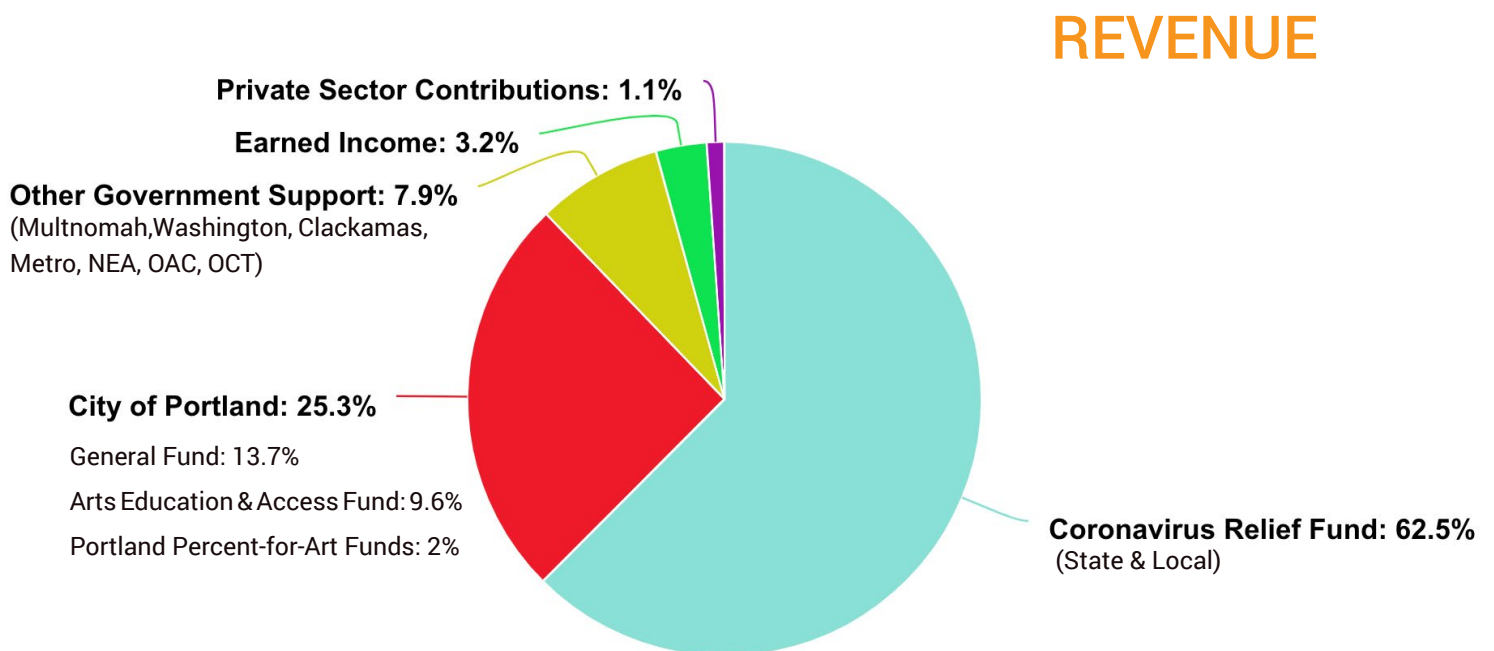
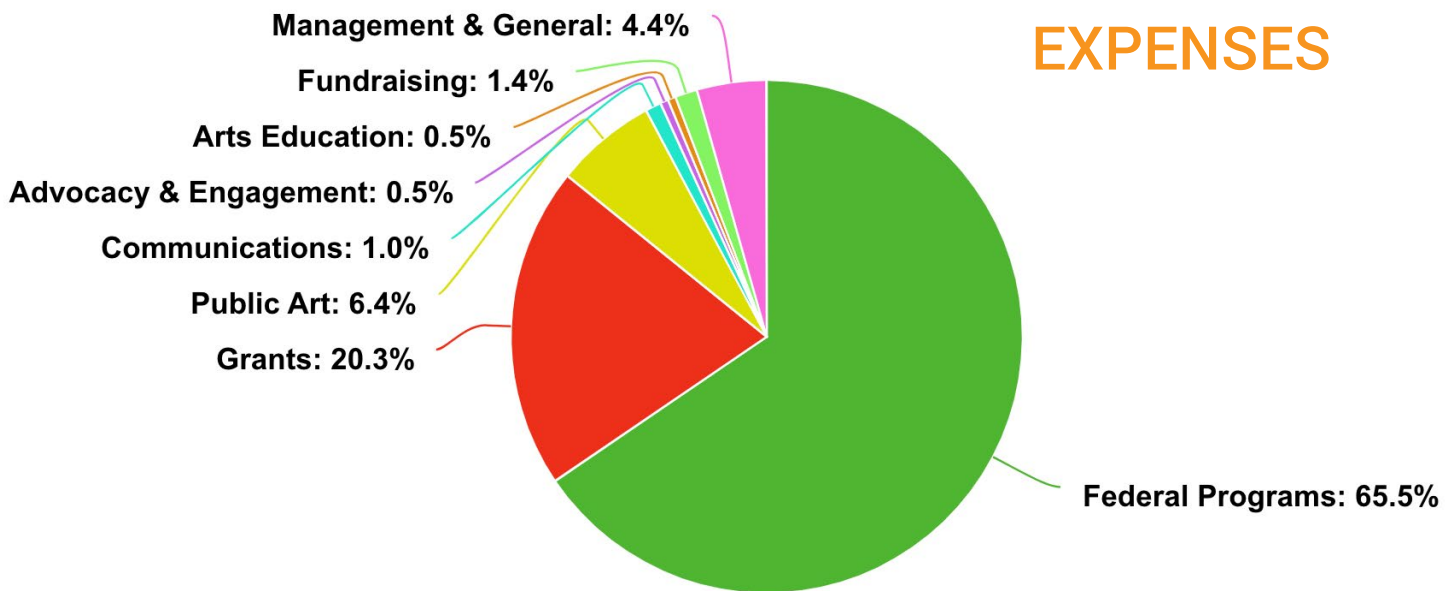
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"The World is Beautiful, and Dangerous Too"

Humaira

Credit: Humaira Abid, *The World is Beautiful and Dangerous Too*, purchased in 2020 for the Public Art Portable Works Collection with funding from the Vanport Building, Southwest Fifth Ave., Portland, OR.

RACC Audited Financial Statement FY 20-21



Funding Support for Artists and Art Organizations

Our grantmaking took another pivot, adapting to meet the needs we heard from our community during the pandemic. Make|Learn|Build grants filled in gaps for artists and art organizations from around our tri-county service area. We deepened engagement with a cohort of artists

and arts professionals hired as Community Panel Reviewers. Contracted as “seasonal workers,” they received better compensation for their time and expertise, along with implicit bias training that was part of preparing them to participate in this collective decision-making process.

Private Fundraising

This fiscal year individuals, foundations, and corporate donors contributed \$176,342 to our programs and services.

We worked with and supported the City of Portland, Prosper Portland, Multnomah County Cultural Coalition, Oregon Cultural Trust, and Oregon Film, moving public resources allocated by the CARES Act to artists, organizations, and performance venues for projects, purchase of works, and small-business support. Altogether RACC was tasked by our partners to move more than \$15M in CARES funding into the community in FY 21-22. This is nearly three times the amount we typically grant in a year.

Shifts to a more equitable funding model for our regular grantmaking, including General Operating Support, are showing results. The total number of organizations receiving this reliable but limited support, increased to 66. We selected a cohort of six new organizations for Capacity Building and expanded our support into Washington County. Three new organizations were added to General Operating

Support this year, including two who were part of Capacity Building. Seeing and feeling the impact of the pandemic on working artists, RACC’s Public Art Program created Support Beam, an initiative providing direct financial support to strengthen artists working in all media towards a long-term re-imagination and activation of their creativity. Selected artists contributed virtual share-outs of work-in-progress through RACC’s web and social media platforms. At the conclusion, one art piece was acquired into the Public Art Portable Works Collection.

City of Portland federal CARES that financially supported local Black, Indigenous, Latinex, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other artists of color were conceived and strengthened. This provided the resources for a second round of funding for Support Beam, as well as acquisitions through our Capturing the Moment initiative, and Project Grants.



What Do You Need Now? Survey and Focus Groups

In July 2020, RACC launched an engagement effort reaching into our creative community to find out what services, support, advocacy, and resources artists and arts organizations most needed as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded. We asked artists and members of arts organizations to answer a simple question in their own words: "What do you need now?"

Nearly 400 individuals filled out the online survey. The answers provided valuable insight into what challenges and opportunities existed for our community.

In addition to the survey, RACC also contracted with local small business owner Ashnie Butler, of Inner Work, Outer Play, to facilitate a series of focus groups with artists and arts administrators asking similar questions.

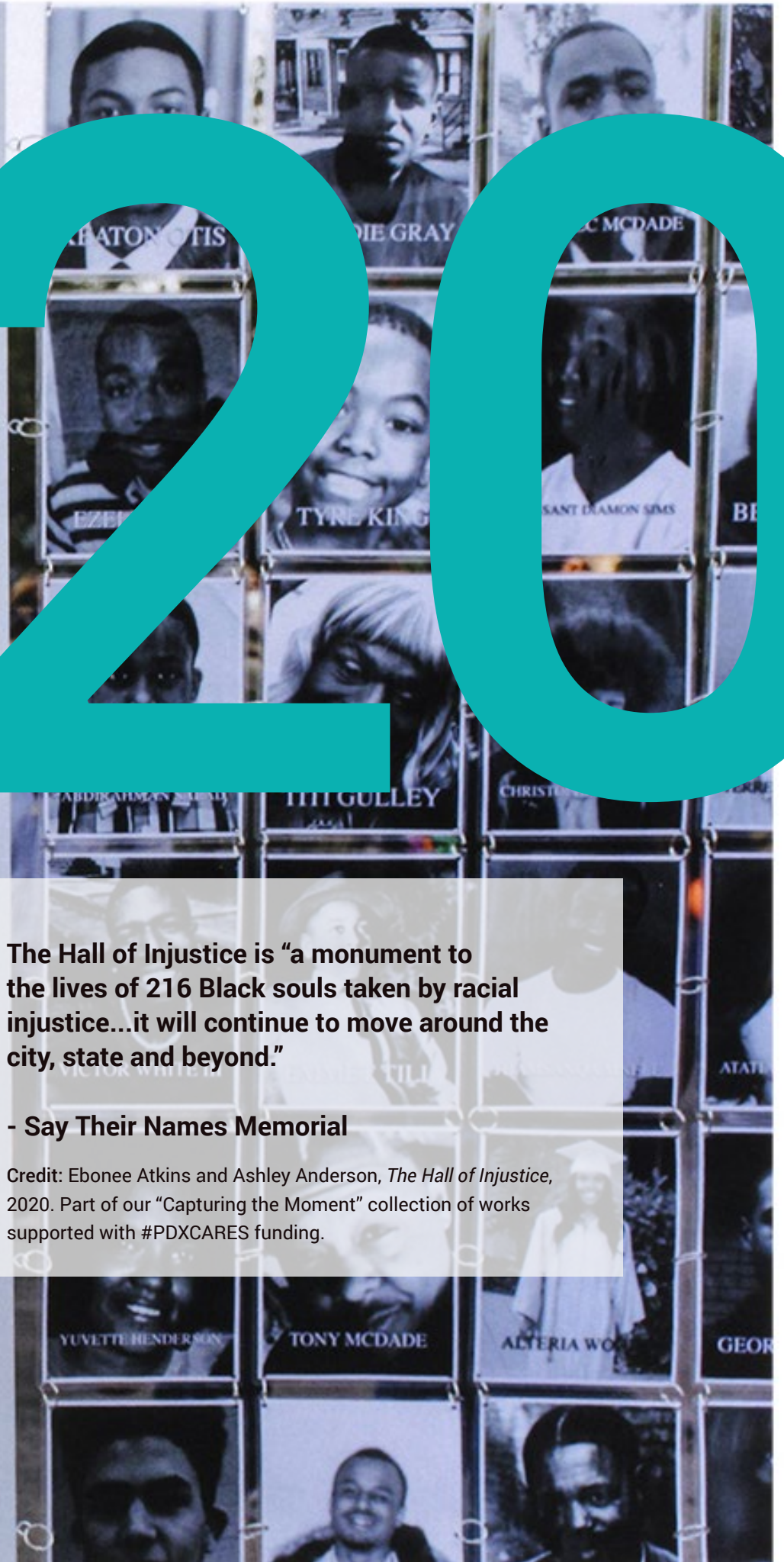


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The Hall of Injustice is “a monument to the lives of 216 Black souls taken by racial injustice...it will continue to move around the city, state and beyond.”

- Say Their Names Memorial

Credit: Ebonee Atkins and Ashley Anderson, *The Hall of Injustice*, 2020. Part of our “Capturing the Moment” collection of works supported with #PDXCARES funding.

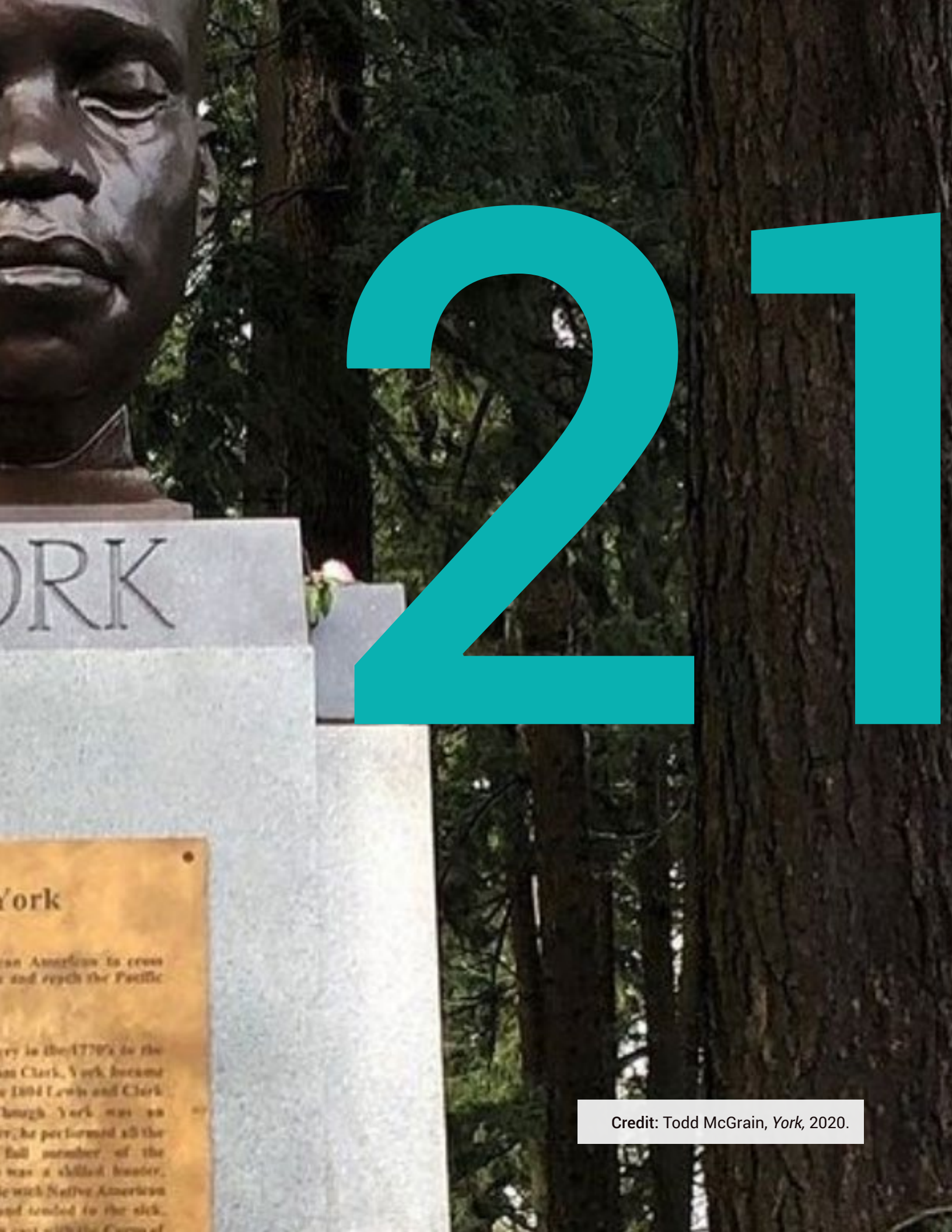




What Kind of Public Art Do We Want Now?

Monuments are symbolic and reflect our community values. Today, many Portlanders are seeing the harm caused when so few of the contributions of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other Oregonians are recognized and celebrated in our public spaces. While some people prefer the return of heroic statues removed or toppled in protest in 2020, many others are clamoring for public art that reflects new stories and different narratives. When a statue of York mysteriously appeared on the top of Mt. Tabor earlier this

year, there was an outpouring of support for the artwork and the story it brought to light. By following RACC's recommendations, taking time for a public conversation, and consulting with communities that have been most impacted, we can meet this moment and ensure our City's valuable public art program reflects our community values and helps Portland in making systemic change. Follow this [link](#) to be involved in the conversation.



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Credit: Todd McGrain, York, 2020.



Community Support for Arts & Culture

Contributions of dollars and time enable us to be a strong and productive organization, empowering our artists and creatives to dream big and share their talents. Thank you to everyone who has ensured RACC's success. You have kept our community thriving during this time.

We wish to thank the following corporate, business, and organization partners for their support in FY2021.

AHS Foundation	Nike Inc.
Amazon	North Clackamas School District
Bora Architects	NW Documentary Arts & Media
Bullivant Houser Bailey PC	NW Natural
Business Oregon	Oregon Health & Science University
Cambia Health Solutions	Oregon Historical Society
City of Beaverton	PGE Foundation
City of Lake Oswego	Port of Portland
City of Portland	Portland Art Museum
City of Portland Office of Management & Finance	Portland General Electric
Clackamas County	Portland Opera Association
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Portland Public Schools
Doris Duke Management Foundation	Schwab Charitable
DuBois Charitable Lead Trust	SeaChange Capital Partners
Erath Winery	SERA Architects
Fidelity Charitable	Social and Emotional Learning Fund
Fred Meyer Stores	State of Oregon
Gary McGee & Co. LLP	Stoel Rives
Geffen Mesher CPAs, Consultants & Business Advisors	Swinerton
Hampton Affiliates	The Oregon Community Foundation
Hampton Lumber	The Standard
Impact Assets	Trimet
Intel	Umpqua Bank
Kaiser Permanente Community Fund	US Bank
Metro	Vernier Software & Technology
Moda Health (Delta Dental)	Washington County
Multnomah County	Wells Fargo
National Endowment for the Arts	Wyss Foundation
	Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

David Flores' large outdoor mural, *Helping Hand*, located on the Century Building in downtown Portland, 1201 SW 12th Ave. The mural faces Outside In directly and can be seen clearly from the I-405 freeway. Mural supported by RACC.

Focus Brings Innovation and Opportunity

In our reflection, fiscal year 2021, while presenting many challenges, also offered up incredible opportunities for RACC to lean in and support our artist and creative community. During this year we reallocated more than \$17 million to ensure that the Portland Metro area economy stayed vibrant and engaged with the sights and sounds of a thriving community.

With your support, RACC keeps artists and creatives working and thriving in our community. Donate to RACC to create a better today and tomorrow!

[Donate Today](#)

We are devoted to making sure that our communities are thriving hubs of arts and culture. By ensuring access to arts from age 2 to age 102 we are ensuring that our communities stay stronger and are healthier through good and bad times. We are committed to using our resources, and those of our community, to enhance and create a landscape that holds creativity as a human right and access to culturally-representative art a mandate.

In FY21 we did that. By focusing our efforts and energies on equity and inclusion, we were able to bring innovative and new opportunities to creatives throughout the Portland Metro area. By centering the community, we created opportunities and leveraged funding from national, state, and local funders to keep our community thriving.

In the midst of great upheaval and irrefutable change is art...capable of creating social upheaval and myriad change. We have learned the most supportive ways to approach and foster the arts in our community, by caring for the artists and creatives who draw from the currents of time and imagination to interpret a way through to joy, meaning, and understanding. Art uplifts in ways that inspire us, devastate us, and ask us to be more, do more, create more. Support each other more.

Over the past year, the RACC team has refocused our creative energies to promote, support, and engage with creatives and artists throughout the region. We have recommitted to being a sounding board for new ideas, a promoter of social change, and a supporter of equity-based community engagement. We have asked for – and received – guidance from those most affected by recent fires, the pandemic, and the impact of racial injustice in our community. We have deepened our commitment to fulfilling our mission to enrich our communities through arts and culture. We are here for you.



Zoom screen image top: Michelle Fujii, *Sayonara Mata Ashita*, 2020, Part of our "Capturing the Moment" collection of works supported with #PDXCARES funding.

Bottom: Renegade Opera, *Orfeo in Underland*.

Your Advocacy Makes the Difference

Through advocacy and engagement, we help build support for a strong arts and culture community. The creative economy is big business in Oregon. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis, the creative sector is among the most heavily impacted nationally and locally. As many as 63% of creative workers experienced unemployment in 2020, translating to over 2 million Americans. Direct investments in the arts not only improve the health and recovery of our communities, but the broader economy as

well – boosting tourism, travel, and spending at hotels, local businesses, and restaurants.

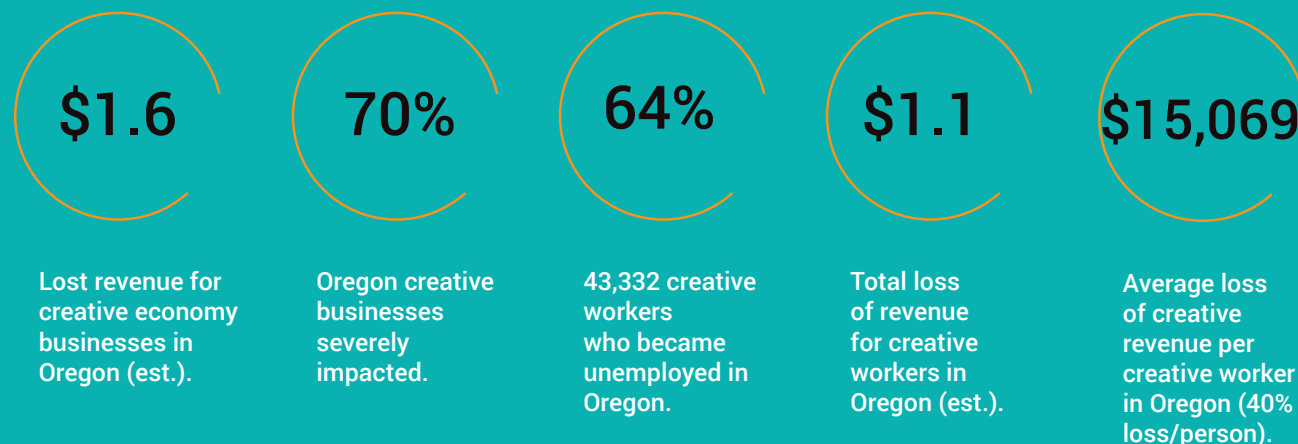
In partnership with for-profit and non-profit partners, RACC helped secure some of the largest investments of federal CARES Act funding in the country for our arts and culture economy, sustaining many of our state's most beloved cultural institutions.

Source: Americans for the Arts

OREGON'S CREATIVE ECONOMY 2020



COVID-19 DEVASTATED OREGON'S CREATIVE ECONOMY IN 2020





In 2020-21, a joint project saw the launch of a student competition for a redesign of the AEAF logo. Arts education continued this past year despite the challenges of virtual instruction, social distancing, and masks. Clockwise from top left: Portland Youth Philharmonic students perform; summer program for students at the Portland Art Museum; painting by an artist from North Pole Studios; new AEAF logo design by Vincente, Rose City Park 3rd Grader.

Arts Education

Our **Arts Education Program** continues to evolve as we work to ensure equitable access for K-12 schools across the region and throughout the State of Oregon.

This past year we've focused on coordinating services and supporting the collaboration of arts educators, curriculum specialists, and school superintendents, with a special focus on the districts funded by the city of Portland's Arts Education & Access Fund: Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, Portland Public, Reynolds, and Riverdale.

We support all of our arts educators in music, visual arts, media arts, drama, and dance. Below, read a few highlights or visit [our website](#) for a deep dive into our advocacy for equitable arts education in Oregon.

- Convened quarterly meetings for our six district Art Liaisons (arts educators) and Curriculum Cohorts (Directors of Curriculum).
- Launched a four-part series in partnership with Trauma Informed Oregon/ Portland State University to offer trauma-informed workshops to all K-12 arts educators in our six districts.
- Launched artlook® in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties with our partners at Ingenuity (Chicago) and the Kennedy Center. It is part of a 3-year pilot to provide real-time data about arts and culture resources at the local level with a goal of increasing equity. This arts education resource is supported by more than 200 partners and two school districts, Portland Public and Parkrose.
- Curated an extensive **Arts Educators Resource** guide and enhanced our arts education website with highlights from the districts, resources, and information for K-12 arts educators.
- In coordination with the AEAF Oversight Committee, RACC created a new data collection template for our six districts to better address barriers in arts education and improve other measurable outcomes to increase equity in arts education.

In partnership with the AEAF Oversight Committee, RACC launched a student design competition for our six AEAF school districts students to re-imagine the AEAF logo. We thank the students, arts educators, and judges from Portland State University, Reed College, Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA), University of Portland, the City of Portland, Portland Art Museum, and Echo Theatre Company.



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Council Annual Report FY 20-21

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Back Cover: Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theater is one of the arts organizations that began receiving Capacity Building Support from RACC in 2021.