

# OUR CREATIVE FUTURE

co-creating an arts & cultural plan for all

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**Portland metro region and Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties**

## Introduction

Today, we want to listen to you. We'd like to understand what makes your community unique, what you value about its arts and cultural life, and what you think can be improved or different, or what you want to see five years from now. We want to understand what the specific community priorities for this planning process are.

## Discussion Questions

Introductions: **[Go around room and ask all to introduce themselves "how do you define creativity? "what do you love about where you live?"** Have a couple of people start who you know can give simple examples...

1. ***Thinking about your community, let's talk about what you think makes it great. What are creative or cultural "gems" or great places we should know about as we are creating this plan? (Examples: theaters, places, organizations, etc.)***
2. ***Thinking broadly about arts, culture, and creative opportunities, do you see opportunities where this plan may help your community thrive? Or help your community address issues it is dealing with?***
3. ***Let's think about the future of this region- what do you want to be different from today? What is working? What is not working?***
4. ***If you were developing this cultural plan, what would be the top 2-3 priorities you would want the plan to address/accomplish?***
5. ***What (if anything) keeps you from attending and/or participating at all or attending/participating more in arts, cultural, and creative events in this region? (too expensive, don't know what is going on, not relevant to you, etc.)***
1. ***Lastly, in a few words describe your definition of success for this plan?***
2. ***Is there anything we didn't ask you about that you'd like to share?***

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## Guide & Tips

### The Facilitator

The facilitator will be the person asking thoughtful questions and moderating the conversation among all participants. The facilitator is responsible for documenting the thoughts, ideas, and themes of the conversation. It is best to have a co-facilitator to help take notes, photos, etc.

### Facilitator Tips:

- *Emphasize confidentiality to the group – all data is reported only in the aggregate (no data is attributed to an individual)*
- *Always respect each person's opinion*
- *Invite and encourage different, multiple perspectives and ideas*
- *Encourage group to build meaning together*
- *Reference group comments and ideas to continue the conversation*
- *Group involvement 85%, Facilitator involvement 15%*

### Group Size and Duration

Try to gather a group of at least 4-5 but no more than 20 people. Although, any size group that has thoughtful dialogue about this process is valuable. Discussions are usually about 30 - 60 minutes in duration.

### Materials

1. Sign-in Sheet
2. Discussion Guide/Sample Activities
3. Planning Process Summary Handout

### Please keep in mind....

~ *Each meeting may go a little differently. Some groups may be eager to have long discussions, and some may be more pressed for time.*

~ *Discussion guides are just that – guides. Feel free to customize to your own voice and style.*

~ *Conversation may wander off the specific areas listed in the guide. That is great if still about arts and culture and economic development. Most AHA! moments come from the community!*

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## **Meeting Process:**

- Introduction
- Hand out planning process document.
- Discussion and Probes
  - Introduce question and perhaps give your own example or story to get the conversation flowing.
  - Use probes and follow-up questions if answers are vague.

## **Note taking:**

- Listen for key themes and ideas
- Please document any great quotes you hear!
- Note if hearing similar responses from multiple members/or groups – (i.e. all members agree that there is that ONE thing this planning process should accomplish).
- Note if you think there are any individuals who warrant follow up after the meeting.

## **Materials Submission**

- Notes should be recorded in Word or Google Docs
- All notes, and photos can be emailed to [linda@culturalplanning.com](mailto:linda@culturalplanning.com) or uploaded to the website at [www.ourcreativefuture.org](http://www.ourcreativefuture.org). Click on the Get Involved page, scroll down and you will see an option to upload Community Conversations Results.