

Portland metro region and Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties

October 19, 2023

Washington County Open Studios
Photo Credit: <https://www.washcoart.org/>

Research & Engagement: What We Did



DATA SOURCES

Community Engagement

50+ discussion groups and 40+ interviews

Intentional engagement throughout tri-county area

Artists, nonprofits, commercial creatives, CBOs

Issue-specific discussions, e.g., affordable housing and spaces

Arts Demand Analysis

A portrait of the amount, demographics, and location of arts activity among the tri-county population.

Data is compiled into indexes for two different types of arts activity: 1) activities people attend or visit (“watching”) and 2) personal creative activities people may do on their own (“doing”).

Arts Grantmaking Review & Summary

Five-year analysis of arts grants made by nine largest public and private arts funders in the region.

Public: RACC, OR Arts Commission, OR Cultural Trust; Private: Collins, Lamfrom, Meyer, Miller, & Murdock, OR Community Fndts/Trusts

Statistically Valid Public Opinion Survey

705 completes

25% Clackamas County
43% Multnomah County
32% Washington County

*Base sample of n=603 residents with an oversample of an additional n=102 people of color (POC).
Overall credibility interval of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.*

Community Survey

1,479 completes

20% Clackamas County
56% Multnomah County
23% Washington County
2% Other

Survey open to all and distributed through individual emails, mailing lists, and social media platforms. Requests include the forwarding of the survey to other channels and individuals.

Open community survey respondents are significantly more connected to the arts and creative sector than respondents of the SV survey.

All Engagement Sessions (February – June 2023)

African American/Black Artists and Creatives
APANO Listening Session
Artists and Creatives
Arts and Cultural Organizations
Arts and Cultural Organizations
Beaverton City Councilors
Beaverton Diversity Advisory Board & Arts Commission Members
BIPOC Tri-county Community Conversation
BIPOC Tri-county Community Conversation
Clackamas County Arts and Cultural Organizations
Clackamas County Community Conversation
Contemporary Arts #1
Contemporary Arts #2
Corporate Arts Funders
County Cultural Coalitions
Creative Economy, Economic Development, Tourism & Travel
Dance Community Discussion Group
East Multnomah/East Portland Community Conversation
Estacada Community Conversation
Events Action Table
Foster Program Young Adults
Foundation Arts Funders #1
Foundation Arts Funders #2
Immigrant & Refugee Artists
Indigenous Arts and Cultural Community
Large Arts Institutions

Latino Community Conversation
Music Portland
OMPA Film & Media
Open Virtual Artists and Creatives
Open Virtual Arts and Cultural Organizations
Open Virtual Community Conversation
Queer Artists of Color
Recently Houseless Adults
Student Artists
Tri-county Libraries
Tri-county Teaching Artists
Urban League Seniors Center
Washington County Business & Chambers
Washington County City Managers Network
Washington County Community Conversation
Washington County Community Conversation
Washington County Community Event Organizers/Tourism Leaders
Washington County Mayors Network
Westside Architecture/Real Estate Development
Westside Arts and Cultural Organizations
Westside Electeds/Government
Westside Mayors
Westside NAC & CPO Chairs
Youth Discussion

Plus approx. 40 key person interviews & presentation/discussions

What We Heard Artists/Creatives



Individual Artists and Creatives Told Us They....

Are facing significant challenges with affordable housing and space to make, exhibit, perform, and sell their work. Artists are moving out of the city and the area due to financial challenges.

Are seeking more opportunities for networking and connections with other artists and the community, assistance in building markets for their work, and connections with the business sector.

Want better advocacy and leadership with an effective policy voice and agenda influencing decision-makers, with artists at the table.

Have a lack of trust in government support for and communication with artists and see equity as a main concern in supporting BIPOC artists.

“A good cultural plan takes into consideration the needs of artists, arts orgs, students, families, seniors, and everybody else who already engaged with or makes art and those who don’t know what they want or need.”

*~BIPOC Tri-County
Community Conversations*

Individual Artists and Creatives Told Us They Need....

Support services including easy access to information, health insurance, grant writing assistance, and networking.

Professional development opportunities, mentorships, and sponsorships.

Access to greater funding and other opportunities.

Entrepreneurship opportunities, professional development, and training for their sector.

“Culturally I have been connecting online mostly and have found wonderful connections, but physical places or meeting people can be challenging and limiting.”

*~BIPOC Tri-County
Community Conversations*

Artists and nonprofits alike seek...

Additional funding: including larger grants and microgrants. More meaningful grant awards, commensurate with need.

Expanded eligibility: for individual artists, CBOs, unincorporated community and artist groups, to get resources equitably to those who can fill community needs.

Support for BIPOC, Queer and immigrant artists: through recognition, relationship/trust-building, a voice in decision-making, partnerships, and funding.

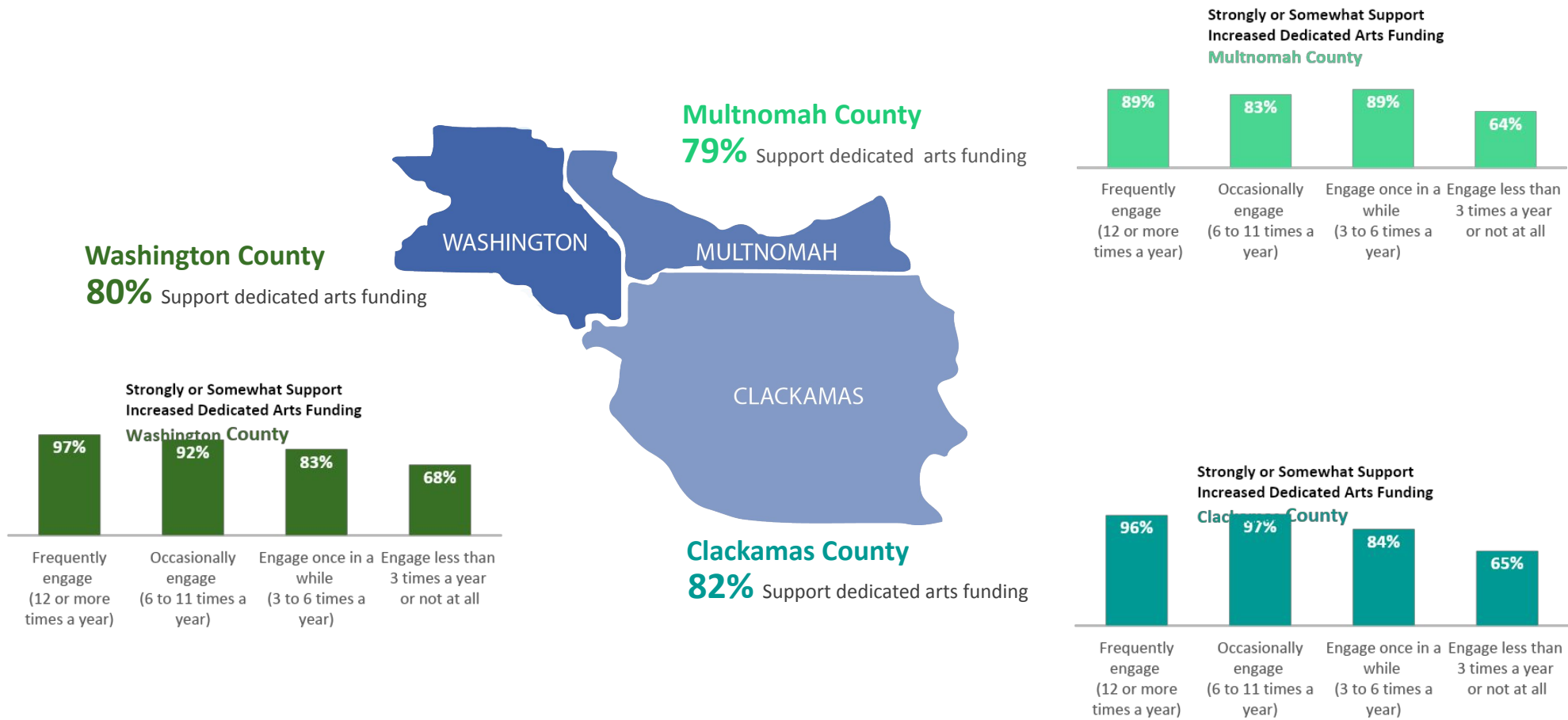
Streamlined application process and reporting: many potential grant seekers lack grant writing experience and the systems to fulfill grant requirements.

“Art isn’t just a tool to help us cope, it’s a way to tell the stories of our lives and what we understand.”

~Homeless Youth Discussion

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Across the region, 80% somewhat or strongly support an increase in dedicated government funding for the arts and creative life of their communities. Consistently, within each county, we see high levels of support community-wide, across all levels of engagement.



What's Next

Fall 2023

- Nov. 28 Open Virtual Community Meeting to share and discuss research/engagement findings

Winter & Spring 2024

- Finalize draft cultural plan – Steering Committee
- Community presentations and comment on draft plan
- Cities' and Counties' presentations and adoptions

