

How does the Portland region measure up to Renny Pritikin’s prescription for a healthy arts scene?

Renny Pritikin is an arts leader and frequent consultant for the National Endowment for the Arts who looks at communities and their creative resources.

A core element of a healthy arts and culture scene.	Portland?
1. A large pool of artists: critical mass or tipping point that makes a scene	YES
2. Teaching opportunities which help support the pool of artists	YES
3. Arts schools which expand the artist pool and give artists teaching role	YES
4. Affordable studio space and laws that allow artists to occupy industrial areas	MAYBE
5. Alternative spaces for new exhibition and residencies	NO
6. Adventurous art dealers who take on new artists and support artists	MAYBE
7. Adventurous collectors who buy local, open their collections to students	MAYBE
8. Sophisticated writers to document, discuss and promote new ideas	YES
9. Publications for them to write for	SOME
10. Newspaper critics who are thoughtful, sophisticated and talented	SOME
11. Fellowships and grants available for artists and writers	SOME
12. Accessible museums and curators who talk together and visit local artists	SOME
13. Interested audiences who attend all of the above and read about it	SOME
14. Access to specialized materials or businesses (paints,technology)	SOME
15. Social space where ideas are shared about art, society, the role of art	SOME
16. Salons/lecture series/restaurants manifesting a sense of community	SOME
17. Articulate artist leaders	YES
18. Heroes, iconoclasts, villains (people everyone love to hate)	SOME
19. Artist in residency opportunities	YES
20. Progressive political climate that encourages art	YES
21. Opportunities for artists to get involved in politics	YES
22. Opportunities for public art (city or private)	SOME
23. Events that bring people together—scheduled Third Thursdays	YES

The creative spirit of the arts defines the Portland that we know and love—a vibrant, forward-thinking place. This vibrancy benefits all of us, but we often take it for granted. The arts do need our support, for the benefit of every person in our community.

—Kimberly Howard, former director Oregon Cultural Trust, Founding Circle Member ninety-nine girlfriends.