

An Open Letter to Seattle Voters

Arts, Music, Creative and Small Business Leaders Urge the Re-Election of Councilmember Tim Burgess

As our city grows, we must invest in the culture of Seattle that has given us our unique identity and strength.

That's why we strongly support the re-election of Tim Burgess to the Seattle City Council.

Tim is an **effective leader** who will help us address the cost pressures that are forcing people to move away and small businesses to close. We must act with urgency to stabilize families, artists, and small businesses in Seattle because without them we lose the very thing that has made us such a special city.

Seattle is the entertainment and cultural center of the Pacific Northwest. Creativity is in the water and in our blood. From musicians, to painters, to dancers, to writers, to filmmakers, and many more, artists have given us voice and spirit. To make sure we don't lose this valuable distinction in a skyrocketing economy, **Tim is proposing to increase arts and culture spending by millions of dollars.** Tim's idea is to increase the allocation of the city's existing admissions tax from 75% dedicated to the arts today to 80% in 2016, to 90% in 2017, and to 100% in 2018. **This increase means millions of additional dollars dedicated to supporting artists and arts organizations all over the city, including more arts education in our public schools.**

More funding for arts education in our schools is

crucial. Tim wants to ensure the leaders of tomorrow are creative critical thinkers, prepared with a solid education that includes the arts. Tim believes arts and music education should be offered in every public school in our great city.

Tim understands that great cities support a thriving arts, music and nightlife sector. That's why he became a vocal proponent of the Seattle Nightlife Initiative and was a leader in turning the City's negative stance toward nightlife into one of support. Tim recognized the value of music in our city and proposed waiving the admissions tax on small live-music venues to encourage small business development and promote our renowned local music scene. Twelve new venues opened after Tim's legislation was adopted by the City Council.

Many businesses that contribute to our creative culture are in fact small businesses with very thin margins. As a former small business owner himself, Tim understands the risks we take and the investments we make. He's been a strong advocate for the business community.

Tim Burgess is the kind of leader we want to see continue in office because he believes creativity is a valuable cultural and economic human resource that will make all of Seattle's people and neighborhoods better.

Please join us in supporting the re-election of Tim Burgess.

Becky Bogard, Washington Film Works/Seattle Theatre Group

D. David Brown, Chairman, Culture PAC

Marcus Charles, The Crocodile, Local 360 Cafe and Bar

Linda Derschang, Restaurateur

Liz Dunn, Dunn & Hobbes, LLC

Jerry Everard, Entrepreneur

Maureen Frisch, Board Member, Culture PAC; Trustee, MOHAI

Leonard Garfield, Executive Director MOHAI

Bernie Griffin, Managing Director, The 5th Avenue Theatre

Megan Griffiths, Filmmaker

Shannon Roach Halberstadt, Executive Director, Artist Trust

Mari Horita

Kevin Hughes, Government Relations/Arts Advocate

Megan Jasper, Sub Pop Records

James Keblas

Josh LaBelle, Executive Director, Seattle Theater Group

Jason Lajeunesse, Capitol Hill Block Party, Neumos, Guild Seattle

Lacey Leavitt, Filmmaker

Tim Lennon, Executive Director, The Vera Project

Amy Lillard, Executive Director, Washington Filmworks

Greg Lundgren, Director, Vital 5 Productions

David Meinert, Guild Seattle, The 5 Point Cafe, Onto Entertainment

Jonathan Poneman, Co-Founder, Sub Pop Records

Jane Richlovsky

Jon Rosen, Former Chair, Seattle Arts Commission

Lynn Shelton, Filmmaker

Karen Thomas, Director, Seattle Pro Musica; Commissioner, Seattle Music Commission

Kelly Tweeddale, Executive Director, Seattle Opera

Simon Woods

The signers of this letter are endorsing Councilmember Burgess' election as individuals. Their title and organization names are for identification purposes only.