

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

**10:30 AM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
253-205-0468 (toll free), [www.youtube.com/live/-VRfiHrvqjM?si](http://www.youtube.com/live/-VRfiHrvqjM?si)**

## **Council work session**

**10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Deputy Council President called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

**Present:** 5 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simpson, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

**Excused:** 2 - Council President Lynn Peterson, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

**10:30 Work Session Topics:****10:30 Council Direction on Performing Arts Venue Workgroup Recommendations**

**Presenter(s):** Craig Stroud (he/him), General Manager, Visitor Venues  
Rachael Lembo (she/her), Interim Executive Director, Portland's

**Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)

Staff provided an overview of existing operations and maintenance issues facing Portland's Centers for the Arts (P's). They described a process and recommendations offered by a workgroup that included representatives from Metro and the City of Portland.

In response to a question from Councilor Rosenthal, staff clarified that workgroup members had highlighted strain on local arts and cultural organizations during and after the pandemic, and that these concerns are addressed in the final recommendations. Staff also confirmed the workgroup's scope was limited to P's venues.

Councilor Lewis agreed with the finding that the existing intergovernmental agreement (IGA) raises concerns, however, she expressed skepticism about transferring operating duties to the City of Portland at this time.

Councilor Hwang agreed with Councilor Lewis's assessment and asked whether recently allocated state funds would be available in this process. Staff noted the funds in question were designated only for other specific purposes. Councilor Hwang also expressed concern about residents' appetite for more cultural events, considering new venues currently under construction. Staff noted that the City of Portland is currently conducting a market feasibility study to measure impacts to smaller theaters.

Councilor Nolan also agreed with Councilor Lewis that the IGA is not functioning well. They expressed skepticism at the City's ability to raise funds for a new or renovated venue, noting past instances when the City deferred or transferred to Metro its responsibilities for maintenance. Councilor Nolan advocated for strong communication and partnership with City in next steps.

Councilor Lewis shared her belief that Metro's role in arts and culture likely relates to funding streams for regional arts and culture, rather than operations.

Deputy Council President Simpson agreed with the recommendation that Metro dissolve the existing IGA. He noted the importance of Metro's commitment to arts and culture in the region and the need for clear goals and timelines.

Councilor Rosenthal agreed with his colleagues regarding the IGA and that Metro should continue to have a role in arts and culture. He emphasized the importance of supporting smaller arts and culture organizations around the region.

Staff confirmed for Councilor Hwang that the IGA could be

dissolved collaboratively or unilaterally, which could impact the timeline and the ease of the process. Staff noted that City Councilors appear excited about the upcoming changes, and Councilor Lewis asked staff to support outreach to those City Councilors, particularly those new to office.

**11:15 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

COO Madrigal updated Council on heat advisory actions, recognized the completion of the cooling corridors project, and provided an update on an upcoming financial audit.

**11:20 Councilor Communication**

Councilor Rosenthal shared that he attended Viva Tualatin and reported on the Washington County Coordinating Committee, which discussed high-capacity transit and high-speed rail.

Councilor Lewis reported on the Tri-County Planning Body, which approved a technical assistance strategy and a training strategy, and they also discussed employee retention.

**11:30 Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Deputy Council President Simpson adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Buzzini