

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING ACCESS) RESOLUTION NO. 25-5475
TO METRO PROPERTIES AND SUPPORTING)
THE FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY IN) Introduced by Councilor Duncan Hwang and
THE GREATER PORTLAND REGION) Councilor Christine Lewis in concurrence
) with Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, for more than a century, filmmakers in Oregon have sought to display the state’s breathtaking natural beauty, featuring locations across the state in hundreds of films and television shows; and

WHEREAS, the rich backdrops of Oregon’s landscape have long inspired viewers to connect with nature, be good stewards of natural areas and natural resources and visit our region’s most beloved natural wonders; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has supported filmmakers for decades and has sought to foster a community that values the artistic and cultural contributions of the industry, as well as its undeniable economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Metro is dedicated to fostering economic growth opportunities for local business, supporting arts and culture and connecting people to nature; and

WHEREAS, the film and video industry’s total contribution to Oregon’s economy surpassed \$5.9 billion in FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2023, the industry employed a full-year-equivalent of 12,680 jobs and stimulated an additional 14,584 jobs by hiring local workers and attracting out-of-state dollars that support local businesses, such as restaurants, hotels and local retailers; and

WHEREAS, jobs supported by the industry offer living wages and workers have the ability to access benefits for up to two years; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s support for arts and culture includes its management of Portland’s 5 Centers for the Arts, which brings more than 1,000 music, theater, dance and lecture performances to the region each year; and

WHEREAS, Metro has, for over 35 years, committed to protecting land and improving parks and natural areas and currently manages over 19,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across the region; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s special use permits offer access to public lands and other Metro facilities while ensuring the health and safety of workers and visitors and while preserving sensitive habitat and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, predictable and efficient access to public lands and other Metro facilities are critical to supporting the film, television and video industry and showcasing the greater Portland region’s natural beauty, the talent of its local artisans, performers, and designers and this region’s unique and artistic spirit; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council directs the Chief Operating Officer to promote, support and advance the film, television and video industry and collaborate with industry partners to:

1. Streamline special use permit applications across Metro departments.
2. Increase predictability, reduce response times improve communications with applicants and proactively provide alternatives to requests whenever possible.
3. Create expectations and processes that enhance filming opportunities and maintain habitat protection.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 27th day of March 2025.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

IN CONSIDERATION OF **RESOLUTION NO. 25-5465** FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING ACCESS TO METRO PROPERTIES AND SUPPORTING THE FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY IN THE GREATER PORTLAND REGION

Date: March 20, 2025
Department: Council Office
Meeting Date: March 27, 2025

Prepared by: Anne Buzzini,
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Presenter(s), (if applicable): Andrew Scott, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Length: 20 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

As the steward of over 19,000 acres of parks and natural areas in the region, as well as the owner and operator of additional properties and venues, Metro provides access for special events like filming through special use permits.

Metro’s special use permits program provides applicants with the ability to access certain parks, natural areas, and properties under specific circumstances. However, access to certain places—like natural areas—are complicated by Metro’s dedicated to preserving habitat. Nonetheless, Metro’s portfolio of parks, natural areas, and properties offers ample substitutes, and opportunities exist for modifying permitted uses to achieve both goals.

ACTION REQUESTED

Council approval of Resolution No. 25-5465, to support film and television industry partners and other residents and businesses through increased and more efficient access to Metro parks, natural areas, and properties for special uses.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Adoption of Resolution No. 25-5465 will increase access to Metro properties, facilities, parks, and natural areas by improving the process for securing special use permits. Increased access will directly support local film and television industry partners by providing more reliable filming locations, which will in generate more economic activity in the region, support local businesses like restaurants and retailers, help workers retain their family-wage jobs and benefits, and support arts and culture in the greater Portland region.

POLICY QUESTION

Should Metro’s Chief Operating Officer take actions to streamline permitting and find opportunities to ease administrative burdens to support the outcomes listed above?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Council may adopt Resolution No. 25-5465 to support the local film and television industry, while benefitting other industries and residents seeking more efficient access to Metro properties, facilities, parks, and natural areas for events.

Alternative, Council may reject the resolution and retain the existing special use permitting processes. If desired, Council may further direct staff to further work with industry partners, residents, and other affected groups to find alternative solutions to their concerns.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 25-5465 to provide greater clarity and reliability to industry partners, and to support additional partnerships moving forward that maximize filming opportunities while continuing to protect habitat.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The film and television industry in the greater Portland region has, for decades, showcased Oregon's pristine natural areas, its vibrant and unique culture, and the talents of local artists.

Through the years, the industry has not only filmed many beloved movies and television series in greater Portland but has supported tens of thousands of workers in jobs that pay family wages and provide much-needed benefits, such as health insurance. The industry generates economic activity in Portland that supports local restaurants, shops, and other businesses, and brings additional visitors to the region by sparking excitement about its cities and natural wonders.

Film and television industry partners would benefit directly were Metro to direct the Chief Operating Officer to identify opportunities to proactively support special use permit applicants, including a single point of contact for all types of properties, and by working collaboratively to increase predictability for applicants. More reliability during tight filming schedules saves the production money and ensures that artists expecting work are retained, paid, and can continue to access benefits.

ATTACHMENTS

None