



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 10/13/16
Agenda Item #: R.6
Est. Start Time: 10:10 am approx
Date Submitted: 10/5/16

Agenda Title: **Board Briefing on BRAVO Youth Orchestras Program**

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested: Commissioner Shiprack **Time Needed:** 20 minutes
Department: Non Departmental **Division:** Shiprack
Contact(s): Matthew Lashua
Phone: 503 988 4105 **Ext.:** 84105 **I/O Address:** 503-6
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Seth Truby – Executive Director, BRAVO; BRAVO Board Member TBD

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

None – Informational briefing

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

BRAVO transforms the lives of underserved youth through intensive orchestral music instruction emphasizing collaboration, promoting self-confidence, and creating a community where children thrive.

Its vision was inspired by El Sistema, a musical program in Venezuela conceived in 1975, in the barrios on the outskirts of Caracas. A small band of determined and idealistic friends gathered to improve the lives of Venezuela's youth through the power of music. They found an abandoned garage to use as a practice space and went door to door in the surrounding slums, inviting over two hundred families to bring their children that weekend to join a new youth orchestra. It was free and the instruments were provided. The orchestra soon touched off an international social movement.

Planning for BRAVO Youth Orchestras began on Christmas Eve, 2011. Founders spent months researching existing music and youth enrichment programs in the community, and contacted leaders of the El Sistema movement in the US for advice and counsel. They also visited programs in several states, met with local non-profit partners in education, arts and social service and spoke with policymakers to identify sources of funding. BRAVO was

formed as a non-profit in 2013 and continues to pursue a distinct dual mission of effective social service and rigorous music education. BRAVO established in Oregon a network of youth orchestras for social change serving both urban and rural communities with a high concentration of poverty.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

N/A

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

BRAVO serves Multnomah County in a number of schools, to be highlighted in the briefing. BRAVO's values include:

- Inclusion: Embracing racial, cultural and economic diversity by honoring the unique contributions of each child and family.
- Equity: Improving academic and social outcomes of underserved children.
- Excellence: Pursuing the highest musical standards through rigorous education.
- Social Responsibility: Encouraging children to participate in their communities.
- Joy: Strengthening the spirit in all that we do.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department**

Director: Matthew Lashua /s/ **Date:** 10/5/16

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.