



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSICPORTLAND TO APPEAL CITY HEARINGS OFFICER'S APPROVAL OF LIVE NATION VENUE PROPOSAL

Portland-Based Nonprofit Launches Campaign to Challenge Decision to Allow Multinational Promoter to Co-Develop and Exclusively Operate Midsize Music Venue in Portland's Central Eastside Industrial District

Portland, OR – Aug. 15, 2024 – Portland nonprofit MusicPortland today announced the launch of a campaign to challenge the Portland City Auditor Hearings Office's decision to allow multinational entertainment company Live Nation/TicketMaster to co-develop and exclusively operate a 3,500-capacity music venue in Portland's Central Eastside Industrial District, according to MusicPortland's Music Policy Council Chair, Jamie Dunphy.

"There is no question the city would benefit from a music venue this size, but allowing Live Nation and TicketMaster to run it would be a terrible decision for Portland and its music community," Dunphy said. "It would not only undermine the integrity of Portland's independent music scene but also the character of the city for a monopolistic organization to control a critical venue for both local and national acts."

The proposed venue, which would be situated on a site on S.E. Water Ave. owned by Prosper Portland, would be a 62,000-square-foot building to be used as a concert venue with 1,280

seats and a maximum spectator capacity of 3,500. Critics of the location cite serious and expensive infrastructure challenges as an additional reason not to build a venue there.

“The chosen site for this venue is inherently problematic,” Dunphy said. “It’s in an inconvenient and unsafe location that would force fans to cross unprotected and unpredictable train crossings to get to and from concerts, and the transportation infrastructure is woefully inadequate for the level of traffic that would be going in and out of the area.”

MusicPortland today launched a [crowdfunding campaign](#) to raise the \$6,079 that the City of Portland will charge to appeal this decision to Portland’s City Council, as well as other legal costs. The group is anticipating their direct expenses for this appeal alone may exceed \$20,000.

To date, the U.S. Department of Justice and 30 states have accused Live Nation/Ticketmaster of unlawful behavior. Specifically, in a [news release issued by the U.S. Dept. of Justice](#) in May 2024, U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland said, “We allege that Live Nation relies on unlawful, anticompetitive conduct to exercise its monopolistic control over the live events industry in the United States at the cost of fans, artists, smaller promoters, and venue operators. The result is that fans pay more in fees, artists have fewer opportunities to play concerts, smaller promoters get squeezed out, and venues have fewer real choices for ticketing services.”

MusicPortland urges Portlanders to join the organization in sending a message to the Portland City Council, contributing to its crowdfunding campaign and volunteering to help MusicPortland stop Live Nation/Ticketmaster: <https://www.musicportland.org/policy/live-nation>

About MusicPortland

[MusicPortland](#) is a 501(c)(6) trade association supporting and expanding the economic opportunities for music professionals. Our grassroots movement is powered by volunteers from all parts of the music industry—from musicians to engineers to bookers and everyone in between.

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