

**Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission  
Resolution No. 96-65**

**Stating the position of the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) with respect to the future operation and funding of the regional facilities currently managed by the Commission.**

**WHEREAS, the Commission has, since its creation, been charged with the operation of the Oregon Convention Center (OCC), the Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA), the Civic Stadium, and, since 1994, the Portland Exposition Center; and,**

**WHEREAS, studies and discussions have ensued on a continuing basis for the past several years between Metro, the Commission's parent agency and owner of OCC and EXPO; the City of Portland, owner of the PCPA and Civic Stadium; and Multnomah County, the governmental body responsible for enacting the Transient Lodging Tax which serves as a source of funding for OCC and PCPA; and,**

**WHEREAS, the City/Metro Facilities Consolidation Committee, which studied the future governance and financing of the Commission's facilities, recommended continued regional operation of these facilities with unified management in its report issued on January 11, 1996; and,**

**WHEREAS, the Consolidation Committee's work was followed by the formation of a Transition Team, which resulted in a final report issued October 15, 1996 that called for negotiations among the City of Portland, Metro, and Multnomah County with the aim of transferring management of the city-owned facilities back to the city; and,**

**WHEREAS, the Commission, as manager of all of these regional facilities, wishes to formally state its position with respect to their future governance and funding, and**

**WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes and wishes to call attention to the outstanding financial and business performance realized by all of the MERC facilities as a result of unified management under MERC, and**

**WHEREAS, the Commission affirms that this success has been due in large part to the benefits realized through unified management, including but not limited to: Economies of scale (better bargaining power for large purchases, market clout, joint marketing and promotion); efficiencies and cost-savings from centralized, streamlined operations; cross-pollination of ideas and expertise, regular collaboration, mutual support, and unified approaches to problem-solving by facility management; and superior client service, and**

**WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that this superior performance is also due in large part to the business plans developed and implemented under MERC, and that unified management has been a key prerequisite to the plans' approach and accomplishments, and**

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that unified operation offers the most accountable, efficient, and cost-effective means of operating the facilities, and


WHEREAS, the Commission believes that unified management is in the best interest of the regional facilities and the public at large,


WHEREAS, the Commission has always supported the search for a regional funding solution for these important facilities,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:


1. The Commission supports continued unified operation and management of OCC, PCPA, Civic Stadium, and EXPO, and calls for efforts by the principals to keep the facilities together.
2. The Commission continues to support allocation of an adequate level of funding for all MERC facilities in order to ensure continued high standards of performance, service, maintenance, and operations, and continues to support the search for a funding solution on a regional basis.
3. The Commission recognizes the proposal to earmark a share of the Oregon Convention Center's current share of Transient Lodging Tax proceeds for operation of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, for programs supporting cultural tourism, and for the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC). The Commission affirms that this proposal can provide a suitable basis for continued operations of the MERC facilities, but only within a framework of continued unified operation of these regional facilities, so as to ensure that the management efficiencies and operational benefits continue to be maximized. The Commission therefore endorses this revenue sharing concept, within the context of continuing the demonstrated efficiencies inherent in the unified operation of the MERC facilities.

Passed by the Commission on December 11, 1996.

  
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Chairman

  
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Secretary-Treasurer

Approved as to Form:  
Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

  
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