

HCR 24 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure commemorates the remarkable life of Hendrik Pieter “Henk” Pander, who lived from 1937 to 2023, and recognizes his monumental artistic and cultural legacy in the State of Oregon.

Fiscal Impact: No impact

Revenue Impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The life and contributions of Henk Pander

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Hendrik Pieter “Henk” Pander was born on November 21, 1937, in Haarlem, the Netherlands, the oldest of 10 children of Hendrica Smedes Pander and Jacob Pander. He enthusiastically followed in the footsteps of his artist father, and at a young age he was already regarded as a rising star in the Dutch art world. He trained for five years at the prestigious Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, where he won several commissions and prizes.

A crucial portion of Henk Pander’s childhood was lived during the five-year occupation of the Netherlands by Nazi Germany during World War II, which meant that he had to grow up far too fast in the face of trauma and inhumanity. For the rest of his life, much of Henk Pander’s art drew on his experiences during the war and occupation, including *Raid Over Haarlem (The Father)*, which portrays the terror of a bombing air raid, and *The Floor*, which depicts two Jewish youths hiding beneath floorboards as German soldiers search the room above them.

In 1965, following the birth of his first son, Henk Pander moved to Portland, Oregon, and his passion for family kept him in Oregon with his sons Jacob and Arnold.

Being an immigrant to the United States, Henk Pander often felt like an outsider, an identity that he brought to his work. He struck out fiercely on his own artistic path, largely ignoring trends and pursuing his unique vision. He collaborated frequently with performing artists, designing sets for Portland’s Storefront Theatre and other theater companies and dance groups. When his close friend Ric Young was dying of AIDS, Henk Pander created large, remarkable, and loving end-of-life portraits of Young.

Henk Pander became, despite his reservations, an important player in the art world in Portland and Oregon, and he was a counterbalance to that art scene’s regional inclinations even as he helped to reshape them. His work was described by art critic Bob Hicks as a fusion of “the long tradition of Dutch art with the frontier edge of the Pacific Northwest and a keen outsider’s feeling for the American psyche.”

Henk Pander was attracted by the grandeur of the Pacific Northwest’s landscapes—so different from his native Netherlands—which featured in many of his works, often involving scenes of destruction, such as the eruption of Mount St. Helens or the wreck of the New Carissa off the Oregon coast.

Henk Pander's works are in many prestigious collections around the world, including the Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam), Museum Henriette Polak (Zutphen, the Netherlands), City of Amsterdam, City of Portland, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (Pasadena), Portland Art Museum, Frye Art Museum (Seattle), Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (University of Oregon), and Hallie Ford Museum of Art (Willamette University). A 50-year retrospective exhibition of Henk Pander's work was shown at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in 2011.

Henk Pander's public commissions are found in numerous locations across the state, including Oregon State University, the Oregon Public Safety Academy, and the Portland Center for the Visual Arts. His drawing books, papers, and related materials are housed in the Pacific Northwest Artists Archive at the Mark O. Hatfield Library of Willamette University.

The Rijksmuseum, which houses the work of such world-renowned artists as Rembrandt and Johannes Vermeer, named Henk Pander's painting *New World*, which depicts a field of abandoned fighter planes, as one of the 100 greatest works on paper in its collections.

Henk Pander's portraits of Oregon Governors Tom McCall and John Kitzhaber, which hang in the State Capitol in Salem, are landmarks of Oregon history and culture.

Henk Pander died on April 7, 2023, at the age of 85.