

I took my children to the Portland Art Museum this summer to see the amazing Pinocchio exhibit that was on display. We parked a block down from the museum and in broad daylight in the small park block adjacent to the museum there was about a dozen people brazenly smoking and dealing drugs, brandishing glass pipes, and nodding out. It was honestly a disgrace. In our effort to decriminalize drug use we have done the opposite of giving people a hand up and out of this situation. Highly addicted drugs are easier than ever to procure. There are absolutely no incentives to stop and get off of drugs. Zero consequences for any type of behavior. We have protected the addicts at the expense of the general public as well. Why should children on the way to see an exhibit put on in the city's art museum- marketed at children be subject to seeing people smoke the hardest drugs imaginable. This is true of all of our public spaces. The east side esplanade once a thriving place full of community and families and people of all ages promoting outside exercise, health, and wellness is like a ghost town. No one wants to bring their children there to bike, walk, or scooter or enjoy the space. This situation has literally robbed the public of these communal experiences and made Portland a sad, depressing, lonely, and isolated place that panders to drug users vs families and general community. My husband is European and visiting his family this summer there was a sad and stark discrepancy in the vibrancy of their cities, the public squares with young and old enjoying each other etc. There are no drugs like meth or fentanyl there- no sanctioned shoplifting- and shuttered store fronts. Portugal is not contending with the drug problems we have and the drugs people are using here. Drug use is not a victimless crime. It is not ok- I work in a school and have seen the behavior struggles of children traumatized by parents unable to care for them or who abuse them due to their drug use. My brother has had his car stolen TWICE - both times returned trashed with evidence of drug use. I have had my catalytic converter cut off. It has become like a Mad Max movie. It is your civic responsibility to act in the best interest of the public at large. Has measure 110 done this. No. Please work to fix this misguided bill. Make drugs like meth and fentanyl illegal again. Incentivize rehabilitation. Motivate people to stop using and support them in that endeavor.. but do NOT condone public drug use, theft, the taking over of public spaces, and have an anything goes attitude. Right this wrong.

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