

Resources for Nonprofits, Artists, & Cultural Organizations

May 2020

#SupportSeattleSmallBiz
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Mayor Jenny Durkan and the City of Seattle are working to help working people and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We prepared this guide to help you learn about and navigate local, state, and private resources. For more information, please visit: <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19>. If you have any medical or health care questions about the coronavirus outbreak, please visit: [Public Health - Seattle & King County](#).

City of Seattle Resources

COVID-19 Relief Extensions: Mayor Durkan extended the moratorium on evictions for residential, nonprofit, and small businesses through August 1. While the moratorium is in place in Seattle, property owners may not issue notices of termination or otherwise initiate an eviction action with the courts unless there is an imminent threat to the health and safety of the community. Tenants who receive any eviction notice during the moratorium should contact the Renting in Seattle hotline at 206-684-5700 or go online to [submit a complaint](#). The City has also extended its rent relief policies for City tenants through July 31, 2020. For nonprofit organizations and renters with artist studio licenses, the relief is in the form of rent forgiveness. Read more about the [moratorium on evictions](#).

COVID-19 Lease Amendment Toolkit: The City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development (OED) has partnered with Communities Rise and Perkins Coie to launch a new toolkit to help small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic explore options for their commercial leases with a goal of remaining in their spaces. Building on the eviction moratorium for small businesses and nonprofits signed by Mayor Durkan, the new [COVID-19 Lease Amendment Toolkit](#) for small businesses and nonprofits provides a suite of tools – including template lease amendment language – to assist small businesses and nonprofits who are navigating the negotiation of their commercial leases with their landlords.

Small businesses and nonprofits that have 50 or fewer employees are also eligible for a free, [60-minute consultation](#) with a legal professional to assist with any COVID-19 commercial lease-related questions. Businesses and nonprofits can access the toolkit [here](#). Access the COVID-19 Lease Amendment toolkit in Amharic, Chinese (traditional and simplified), Korean, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese [here](#).

Seattle Protects: Public Health – Seattle & King County announced a [health directive](#) for all workers and residents to wear cloth face coverings in all indoor public settings and outdoor public spaces where maintaining social distancing could be difficult. The directive took effect on May 18, 2020. The City heard from many small business owners who were struggling to source face coverings and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their employees. The City created Seattle Protects—an online marketplace—to connect local manufacturers with organizations, businesses, nonprofits, community groups, and individuals in need of cloth face coverings. Visit the [marketplace](#) to browse local manufacturers inventory.

Utility Payment Relief: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle City Light (SCL) will keep utility services on during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency. Effective immediately, all SPU and SCL customers can set up deferred payment plans if their financial stability has been jeopardized by COVID-19. Utility service will stay on as their deferred payment plans are developed and implemented. Customers financially impacted by COVID 19 can set up payment plans with either Seattle City Light or Seattle Public Utilities by calling 206-684-3000 or [sending an email](#).

Individual Artist and Creative Workers Support: The City will invest \$100,000 to provide immediate relief for artists and creative workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) invested \$50,000 in the Seattle Artist Relief Fund, founded by Seattle author Ijeoma Oluo, which will bring the total current funding to \$187,150. In addition, ARTS invested another \$50,000 in Artist Trust's COVID-19 Artist Relief Fund, which provides rapid response grants supporting the critical needs of artists whose livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic. [Read more about Artists and Creative Workers Relief Funding.](#) (Program is currently on pause. Join the [waitlist](#).)

Arts Stabilization Fund: The City invested \$1 million in arts and cultural organizations through the new [Arts Stabilization Fund](#). The focus of the funding will be on arts and cultural organizations that have been impacted by the moratorium on events and public gatherings. These organizations rely on ticket sales, attendance and fundraising efforts. The recent and necessary actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from the State of Washington and Public Health – Seattle & King County have greatly impacted the arts and culture sector. Funds will be distributed through the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture's grant programs.

King County Resources

King County COVID-19 Community Response Fund: The King County Council approved \$1 million for the Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) to expand funding for the COVID-19 Community Response Fund. First launched in March 2020, the COVID-19 Community Response Fund invested \$800K in grant awards to community-based organizations providing health literacy and awareness, language access, anti-bias and stigma response, and outreach in communities located near isolation, quarantine, and recovery facilities. OESJ will continue to prioritize funding to partners working with communities at the highest risk of immediate and long-term negative health, social and economic impacts. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to organizations based on the [priorities](#). [Apply for the COVID-19 Community Response Fund by June 23, 2020.](#)

COVID-19 Handbook for Creative Industries: King County Creative has established a [COVID-19 Handbook for Creatives](#) to bring together resources to take care of yourself and your family; to support the arts and culture community; and to prepare for recovery.

Hello4Culture Digital Workshops: Every Friday, Hello4Culture hosts a Zoom presentation at 12:00 p.m. to share information and resources to navigate through COVID-19 for creatives. [Register for the Hello4Culture workshops.](#)

Arts Sustained Support: Sustained Support offers funding for the day-to-day needs of arts organizations over two-year cycles—this reliable, consistent support lets creativity flourish in the places that make King County a cultural hub. [Apply for the Art Sustained Support fund.](#)

State of Washington Resources

Health Care Access: In response to the potential growth of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, the Washington Health Benefit Exchange announced a limited-time special enrollment period for qualified individuals who are currently without insurance. [Apply for health care access on Washington Health Plan Finder.](#) The Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner has resources and information available [here](#) for consumers who have questions about insurance and COVID-19.

State Unemployment Assistance for Creatives: Unemployment benefits in Washington state are expanding under the federal CARES Act to cover independent contractors and self-employed individuals. Anyone who is receiving or will be receiving weekly unemployment benefits will receive an additional \$600 per week. These new benefits are also available for workers who did not work enough hours to qualify for traditional unemployment benefits (workers who worked fewer

than 680 hours). You can apply to receive unemployment assistance from the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) at esd.wa.gov/unemployment.

Private & Philanthropic Resources

African-American Writers' Alliance: The African-American Writers' Alliance is powered by Shunpike, a nonprofit agency that provides independent arts groups in Washington State with services, resources, and opportunities they need to forge their own paths to sustainable success. [Join the African-American Writers' Alliance's on-going meetings and events here.](#)

Artist Trusts' COVID-19 Resource List: The Artist Trust compiles a growing list of COVID-19 response resources for artists. Find access to [Emergency Funds for artists here.](#)

Arts and Culture Leaders of Color Emergency Fund: This fund is for US-based BIPOC artists and administrators. This is a ONE-TIME micro grant of \$200. Funding available until funds run out. [Apply for the Arts and Culture Leaders of Color Emergency Fund here.](#)

COVID-19 Artist Trust Relief fund: The COVID-19 Artist Trust Relief Fund is an emergency grant program that will put cash grants directly into the hands of Washington State artists who have lost wages related to the COVID-19 crisis. Grants range from \$500-5,000 based on artists' needs. Funding available until funds run out. [Apply or learn more about the Artist Trust Relief Fund.](#)

Communities Rise Legal Consultations: The Communities Rise COVID-19 legal clinics are an opportunity for Washington State entrepreneurs, small businesses, community organizations, and nonprofits who have suffered adversely from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis to receive free legal advice during a 45-minute remote consultation with a volunteer attorney. [Learn more here.](#)

Free Printable Templates for Coronavirus Signage: Signs.com is offering free printable health and closure sign templates related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus. To browse available templates and for more information, visit their [website](#).

The Seattle Sounders FC Relief Fund ("Fund"): This fund was established by RAVE Foundation to support individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits located in CenturyLink Field and in the neighborhoods surrounding CenturyLink Field that have been adversely impacted by the postponement of the 2020 MLS season due to COVID-19. [Apply for the Seattle Sounder's Relief Fund.](#)

Virtual Roundtables for Festival Professionals: Film Festival Alliance is hosting free virtual roundtables open to all festival professionals. Weekly virtual roundtables cover information about how to stream online festivals to hosting drive-ins. [Sign-up for the Virtual Roundtables for Festival Professionals.](#)

WeWork for Good Initiative Workspace: WeWork will contribute up to two (2) months of workspace at no cost to "Eligible Organizations" who are directly engaged in COVID-19 response efforts in regions where WeWork operates. Learn more about [WeWork's Good Initiative Terms and Conditions.](#)

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