



Priya Frank, Chair
Seattle Art Museum

October 22, 2019

Sharon Nyree Williams, Vice-Chair
Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas

Seattle City Council
City of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Juan Alonso-Rodriguez
Artist

Cassie Chinn
Wing Luke Museum

Re: Written comments required by Seattle Municipal Code 3.14.830G, as amended by Ordinance No. 123460 (2010)

Dawn Chirwa
Philanthropy Northwest

Dear Council Members,

Jonathan Cunningham
Seattle Foundation

On behalf of the Seattle Arts Commission, I want to express our deep gratitude for your continued leadership and support of Seattle's arts community. The arts community is the heart of Seattle and the City's ongoing investment directly supports the heart and soul of this city, honoring the legacies of those who came before us, and paving the way for initiatives that will allow creatives to be able to continue living and working in this region. We are pleased with how that support is reflected within the 2020 budget proposal.

Steve Galatro
Pratt Fine Arts Center

Ashraf Hasham
The Vera Project

Jescelle Major
Berk Consulting

Dr. Quinton Morris
Seattle University

This funding will allow the Office of Arts & Culture to continue and expand their work in the following areas:

Chieko Phillips
4Culture

Sarah Wilke
Meany Center for the Performing Arts

- **Improve City Processes:** Applying an equity lens to programs relating to arts education, funding structures, cultural space practices, and public art. This support will allow us to pursue our racial equity commitments, resulting in increasing funding going towards applicants from diverse backgrounds. This funding is crucial to support the staff and technical resources needed to demonstrate continued progress on racial equity and inclusion.
- **Creative Economy:** Working with the Office of Economic Development (OED), this initiative will allow us to be able to better advocate for artists to be able to work, live and thrive in Seattle. As the eyes and the ears in the arts and culture community, we are able to connect our collective networks to real conversations and recommendations for City interventions that support economic opportunity, affordability and racial equity within the region's creative industries. Initiatives to support this include moving a position to ARTS, aligning our arts education



initiative with OED and the Office of Film + Music's inclusive creative industries program, and increasing support of internships and creative industries learning.

- **Cultural Space:** We are excited to continue supporting the cultural space work through jumpstarting the Public Development Authority program with designated staff to ensure its future success. Over the last year, the Facilities and Equitable Development Committee fostered the second BASE cohort (Build Art Space Equitably), a program to provide training and networking opportunities for a cadre of leaders of color in cultural space development; and developed plans for sustainable, equitable structural change through the creation of a Cultural Space Agency. With completion of the initial study, "Structure for Stability," the upcoming year is pivotal with much needed support to determine the details for implementation of the Cultural Space Agency, drafting the governing legislation, and continuing the RET process, ensuring community-led values, priorities, and ownership are embedded in the Cultural Space Agency from its beginning.

Our role as the Seattle Arts Commission is to advocate for resources and support for the arts community, and to support the Office of Arts & Culture's priorities. Thanks to your generous and ongoing support, we can together model the way for centering racial equity in the areas of arts education, funding processes, cultural space practices, and public art, utilizing the arts as an activation tool to bridge divides across sectors and allow us to center humanity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priya Frank", with a long, sweeping underline.

Priya Frank, Chair
Seattle Arts Commission

cc: Randy Engstrom, Director, ARTS (email only);
Calandra Childers, Deputy Director, ARTS (email only);
Allie Lee, Seattle Arts Commission Liaison, ARTS (email only);
Seattle Arts Commission (email only)