



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE  
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**Contact:** S Surface, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, [s.surface@seattle.gov](mailto:s.surface@seattle.gov)

# Seattle Office of Arts & Culture

## ARTS @ King Street Station Programming Plan

Throughout 2016, the Office of Arts & Culture conducted an extended public outreach process for the cultural use of the third floor of King Street Station. The central values of the participants are that King Street Station must **model racial equity**, support artists, provide technical assistance and social programming needs for all communities -- and that it be a place where all are welcome.

The Office of Arts & Culture developed this programming plan based on the priorities and goals that surfaced in community conversations. An eight-member team, comprised of seven Office of Arts & Culture staff members and one youth community member, developed conceptual and operational frameworks for activating ARTS @ King Street Station. Then, the King Street Station Program Lead organized their recommendations into this Programming Plan. The recommendations in this document reflect input from the cultural community, from Office of Arts & Culture leadership and staff, and from the Seattle Arts Commission.

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor | Randy Engstrom, Director

Street Address: 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1766, Seattle, WA 98104 Mailing Address: PO Box 94748  
Tel: (206) 684-7171 Fax: (206) 684-7172 [arts.culture@seattle.gov](mailto:arts.culture@seattle.gov) [www.seattle.gov/arts](http://www.seattle.gov/arts)

## Vision

ARTS @ King Street Station is designed with the following goals in mind:

### Model racial equity.

1. **Increase opportunities for communities of color to create and share work.** Center the voices of culture-makers who have historically been underrepresented: communities of color, as well as people with disabilities, youth and elders, and more. Invest in individual artists through technical assistance, trainings, artist residencies, and mentorship opportunities. Our communities are rich with creativity, expertise, and wisdom that should be showcased in King Street Station.
2. **Remain flexible.** Embrace variability and stay open to change. Reflect the voices of multiple communities and avoid the dominant influence of any single constituency. Showcase the breadth and diversity of Seattle's cultural landscape.

### Support artists and provide technical assistance & social programming needs for all communities.

3. **Create space for the full life cycle of art and other cultural content.** This includes space for:
  - **Research, development, and creation** of arts and cultural work
  - **Exhibition, performance, and presentation** to the community
  - **Sharing information and knowledge** about all of the above
  - **Planning and networking** necessary for all of the above
4. **Create a space for artists, cultural creators, collaborators, and audiences to connect and build community.** Cultural celebrations, shared meals, and other events that bring people together should be considered whenever possible.

### Be a place where all are welcome.

5. **Make ARTS @ King Street Station the City's most accessible, and more importantly, its *most-accessed*, cultural space.** The space welcomes those who have not yet navigated traditional, institutional systems in the arts, including but not limited to: intergenerational audiences spanning children, families, and elders, disabled people, people living at or near the poverty line, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people, and recent immigrants and refugees. This should be reflected through wayfinding, marketing, funding, opportunities, and outreach. Wayfinding systems should include signage in multiple languages, non-verbal iconography and illustration, and tactile/audible design for those without sight. Disability justice is prioritized in spatial organization and event planning.

## Programming

King Street Station is envisioned to lift up a multitude of disciplines including but not limited to the “visual arts.” It is intended to welcome any type of exhibition, event, performance, workshop, lecture, or other activation that can feasibly be presented.

## Open Applications

We are interested in learning from the public how this brand-new arts hub could be used. So, to start, we are launching an open-ended, online application Portal where artists, groups, and communities can tell the Office of Arts & Culture what they would like to do at King Street Station. Much of King Street Station’s programming will come through these open applications.

We expect proposals for exhibitions, performance, dance, music, lectures, screenings, literary readings, spoken word, pop ups, gatherings, culinary gatherings, combinations of these formats, and more.

There will also be open applications for specific, structured opportunities:

- Applying to be on curatorial teams for Regional Survey (2019, 2020) and International Triennial (2021) exhibitions (see page 4)
- Art & Architecture on the Plaza (see page 5)
- Artist-In-Residence program (see page 6)

The ARTS @ King Street Station Advisors and King Street Station Program Lead (see pages 11-12) will select and schedule proposals, using the values and criteria determined by the [public outreach process](#).

The Portal is intended to offer artists and communities freedom to imagine programs without needing to decipher the City’s various programming mechanisms, while also allowing Office of Arts & Culture the greatest flexibility in how to best organize interest from the community. The King Street Station Program Lead may also act as a curator to assemble exhibitions and programs from proposals that reach the Office of Arts & Culture through the Portal, or that they proactively identify. Such programs are also subject to approval by the Advisors.

The categories below were designed with the space in mind, combined with ideas developed through conversation with local community members and regional, national and international peer arts organizations. They are presented here as a framework to shape the first public programs. They will evolve as we grow into the space.

The Portal website will launch in Fall 2018. We are excited to learn how communities imagine using ARTS @ King Street Station.

# Online Proposal Portal

## Exhibitions

The public is invited to propose exhibitions for King Street Station, via the Portal. Sometimes, King Street Station may be filled by one Major Exhibition. At other times it may have multiple small exhibitions.

### All exhibitions:

- Are connected to the current programmatic framework
- Are open to all disciplines and media, and are encouraged to be multidisciplinary
- Receive funding from the Office of Arts & Culture
- May include complementary programs: performances, tours, trainings, and more

### Major Exhibitions

A major exhibition is imagined as a group exhibition, organized by an independent curator or curatorial team, that fills the entire exhibition space at King Street Station.

Applicants may propose major exhibitions outright, or several separate proposals may be aggregated into one major exhibition.

Recurring, planned major exhibitions include a **Regional Survey** of Pacific Northwest Arts & Culture, alternating with a **Triennial** featuring regional, national and international work. These exhibitions are imagined as partnerships between guest curators and Office of Arts & Culture Staff. (A prototype of this type of project was [BorderLands](#) in Summer 2017.)

### Major Exhibitions:

- Remain installed for a significant amount of time, 16-24 weeks (4-6 months) each
- Take up most or all of the indoor exhibition space
- May be linked to Art & Architecture on the Plaza: an open call for the plaza facing Jackson Street
- Include an opening celebration/gala event

### Special Projects & Capsule Exhibitions

Not all activities in the space will completely fill the 10,000 square foot exhibition hall. Smaller installations, events, exhibitions, programs, or individual bodies of work by single artists will also have opportunities for support through the curatorial program. These:

- May be individually branded in the space, or several may be combined into a larger exhibition
- Will likely remain installed for 4-12 weeks (1-3 months)
- Include an opening reception



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## Art & Architecture on the Plaza

The public is invited to propose activations of the King Street Station Plaza, via the Portal. Art & Architecture on the Plaza is imagined as a series of site-specific outdoor installations or artwork, designed for the Plaza facing Jackson Street, and produced by individual creatives or collaborative teams.

### Plaza Activations:

- Are site-specific spatial interventions or objects that can be multidisciplinary in nature
- Are season-specific, designed for the time of year when they appear on the Plaza
- Receive funding from the Office of Arts & Culture
- Remain installed for a significant amount of time, between 12-20 weeks (4-5 months)
- May relate to Major Exhibitions or Projects & Capsule Exhibitions
- May include complementary programs: performances, screenings, presentations, and more

Beginning in 2019, we are launching an annual Design-Build Summer Architecture Pavilion commissioned by Office of Arts & Culture.

## Events

The public is invited to propose events at King Street Station, via the Portal. We are interested in ideas for programs, gatherings, and other activations. Events may be proposed and promoted independently, or they may be scheduled to complement exhibitions. These could include, and are not limited to:

- Performances: Dance, Music, Performance Art, Theater, Comedy, Spoken Word, Magic...
- Literary Readings
- Lectures and Symposia
- Screenings and Film Festivals
- Reading Groups
- Debates
- Sketching and Figure Drawing
- Potlucks or Culinary Gatherings
- Combinations of these formats
- ...and more.

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## Artists-In-Residence

Four artists or artist groups per year will be selected through an application process for residency in the King Street Station studio space. Each residency will last for three months. Program components include:

- A 170 sq ft. studio, equipped with tables, chairs, and WiFi, for the creation of new work, offered to one applicant (or applicant group) at a time on a quarterly basis
- A financial stipend for the support of the artist while in residence
- Open to all disciplines: visual arts, design, writing, literature, performing arts, music, architecture, tech, and more
- Artists will have the opportunity to present their work to the public
- Optional opportunity to be a King Street Station Advisor

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# Office of Arts & Culture Programs

These are programs selected by ARTS staff, or that do not require an application to participate.

## Open Salon Exhibitions

Open Salon Exhibitions are imagined as drop-off, non-juried exhibition opportunities, in which anybody may present their work.

- Open Salon Exhibitions will take place once per year.
- Staff will mount the exhibitions and determine artworks' placement, display, and lighting.
- Calls for Participation may relate to a concurrent Major Exhibition, or other cultural reference points to help focus the work.
- Exhibition length will be approximately one month and will recur at the same time each year.
- There is no participation fee. Participation by presenters is voluntary and uncompensated.
- An opening event or celebration may be planned around the work.

## Civic Art Collection

A dedicated space will showcase holdings from the City of Seattle's Civic Art Collection. Artwork may be selected to thematically complement other programs and exhibitions within King Street Station.

## Public Presentations

- Lectures, Panel Discussions, Conferences, Colloquia, and Symposia
- Work In Process: Creatives working on commissions or in development of grant-funded projects could present works in progress and experiment with ideas
- Artist Talks: Opportunities for more established artists, and a diverse array of artists at different stages of their careers, on all types of art forms, traditional to ephemeral

## Arts Slams

Arts Slams are imagined to be regularly recurring events that are open to the public, both as audience members and as presenters. These are multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary "Open Mic" style events hosted by the Office of Arts & Culture.

- Arts Slams recur on a regular date: *for example*, the second Monday, every other month.
- The recurring Arts Slam is open to all to participate, with sign-ups open before each event.
- There may be additional Arts Slams to meet specific needs, themes, and communities.
- Arts Slams welcome a range of performing, visual, auditory, and movement-based presentations (visual slideshows, readings, dance, music, etc.)
- Attendance is free for the audience. Participation by presenters is voluntary and uncompensated.



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## Trainings and Technical Assistance

A series of educational and professional development opportunities connect to the many bodies of work around the Office of Arts & Culture, and the broader cultural community. Examples may include:

- **Office of Arts & Culture Opportunities:** Workshops, trainings, and information sessions related to opportunities presented by the Office: grants, mentorship programs, public art commissions
- **Square Feet Seattle:** An annual convening covering topics related to Cultural Space, featuring a keynote address, local panels, and the Large Foam Check Challenge
- **Racial Equity Trainings:** A series of trainings that help cultural workers embed racial equity into their creative practices
- **Safety in the Arts:** A series addressing issues related to public safety in the arts, from active shooter situations, to medical emergencies, to fire and earthquake preparedness
- Website development, digital marketing, social media leveraging, and software trainings \*
- Workshops on creating successful arts proposals, fundraising, development best practices, and “opportunities fairs” \*
- Documentation Day: a photographer, or group of photographers could be available to document artists’ work, take headshots, and consult on images \*

## Pop Ups \*

In the future, there may be opportunities between (or even during) longer-term exhibitions to support pop-up exhibits and displays that can be installed and de-installed within a few hours, and that do not require any build-out, exhibition design, or lighting design. These opportunities could include:

- Maker Fairs: Opportunities for artists and craftspeople to present their wares
- Publication Expos: Art Books, Zines, Records, Comics
- Community Art Studio Garage Sale
- Gear Swap: Musical Instruments, Electronics, Art Supplies
- Clothing Swap and Sewing School

## Commuter-Focused Activation \*

King Street Station offers a unique opportunity to engage audiences who pass through the venue on a short-duration, often one-time, basis. In the future, thoughtfully designed and positioned experiences may address this group.

## Rapid Responses \*

Occasionally, current events or community needs may prompt the public to convene. In the future, there may be a process for evaluating requests, subject to space availability and staff discretion.

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## Digital Access \*

In the future, documentation of events and exhibitions, live streams, online programming, and digital interaction may make the activities at King Street Station accessible to people who are unable to visit due to constraints of geography or disability.

## Rentals \*

Space may eventually become available to the community to rent for mission-aligned meetings and gatherings not produced by the Office of Arts & Culture. The priorities for rentals are:

- **Mission Alignment:** The mission of the programming at King Street Station is to center the voices of traditionally underrepresented communities of color. Rentals must align with this mission.
- **Event Rentals: ARTS @ King Street Station will *not* be available for rental as an exhibition or performance space.** All cultural programming requests (exhibitions, installations, performances, artist talks, etc.) must be submitted as applications through the Portal.

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## Resources

### Living Room

The Living Room is the central space that connects the exhibition hall with the administrative offices. This space is available for a variety of programs and is also functional as a gathering space when “unprogrammed.”

- **Meeting Space:** The public is invited into this space to sit, read, and meet. There is free guest WiFi access and seating options.
- Many casual presentations, technical assistance sessions, workshops, and trainings can take place in the Living Room.

### Access to Basic Needs \*

In the future, a centralized resource, both physical and digital, could offer information about job opportunities, healthcare, affordable housing, studio rentals, childcare, accessibility, and more.

### Cultural Info Kiosk \*

In the future, an information kiosk may provide an opportunity for patrons to explore the breadth and depth of Seattle’s cultural landscape. There will be space for printed collateral from independent organizations, as well as information about programs through the Office of Arts & Culture. The potential exists for a cultural calendar, or other digital interactive experiences, to be shared through a kiosk as well.

### Libraries and Labs \*

- **Tool and Equipment Library:** In the future, an equipment library could allow the public to “check out” equipment that is typically needed only once, or tools that are often too expensive for individuals to purchase.
- **Art Publications Library:** In the future, arts publications, reports, and other printed resources may be available to browse.
- **Computer Lab:** In the future, computers may be available for use in the space.

**\* Some of the ideas described might not be realized when we first open. As King Street Station develops and matures, we will revisit these ideas for feasibility and evaluate continued interest. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) note ideas that may not be implemented for the opening.**

# People

## King Street Station Advisors

The ARTS @ King Street Station Advisors are a newly formed group of community leaders and arts/culture enthusiasts who will help ensure our programming centers racial equity, represents and welcomes diverse communities, and showcases many creative disciplines.

### This group will:

- **ADVISE** the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) as a peer review panel for proposals that emerge from the broader cultural community, and recommend programs to departmental leadership.
- **SHARE** the activities of ARTS @ King Street Station with their communities. And likewise, share their communities' ideas, interests, and concerns with ARTS.
- **INVITE** arts and cultural communities to propose programs, events and exhibitions.
- **UPHOLD** the [mission, vision, and racial equity commitment](#) of ARTS @ King Street Station
- **CONNECT** between the immediate neighborhood, and cultural communities in and around Seattle.

We are looking for Advisors who reflect the many communities we serve. Some individuals may fall into multiple descriptions on the following list. This is intended as a starting point, *to include but not be limited to*:

- Artists, Creatives, Crafters, Makers, Artisans, Writers, Performers. Professional or non-professional, in any medium or discipline. Emerging, mid-career, established, and community-based are all welcome.
- Communities impacted by racism
- People across the age spectrum, including youth and elders
- People across the gender and sexuality spectrums
- Immigrants, refugees, US Nationals, and other diasporic communities
- People with disabilities
- People living at or near the poverty line
- Housing-insecure or unhoused people
- People affected by incarceration or criminalization
- People who live, work, or receive services in Chinatown-International District & Pioneer Square
- Arts and Cultural Workers: administrators, educators, curators, preparators, registrars, arts writers, talent buyers, gallerists, guest services, security, custodians, directors, collectors, and more



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- Community members working outside of “fine arts”: tech workers, culinary creators, designers, full-time parents, doctors, construction workers, contractors, architects, engineers, lawyers, and more. This opportunity is open to *anyone* who has a passion for the arts and community-building, regardless of profession.
- Seattle Arts Commissioners

Advisors will receive a \$400 annual stipend to cover the costs of travel and participation. The first group will be formed through an open application process. In the future, members may join through mechanisms including nominations by existing Advisors, City appointments, and/or open applications. Advisors serve two-year terms and can serve for up to two terms.

## King Street Station Program Lead

The King Street Station Program Lead is a full-time staff position with the Office of Arts & Culture. The role is broadly envisioned to be both programmatic and administrative. Activities include:

- Liaison to the Advisors to develop programming themes and choose an annual slate of projects
- Prioritize community interest in programs and opportunities
- Work with curators, artists, staff and community programmers to develop exhibitions and other programs
- Mentor or facilitate community programmers, depending on each participant’s needs

## Office of Arts & Culture Staff

The Office of Arts and Culture will create programs and activations in King Street Station, and will serve as advisors or participants in the ongoing, community-led activities that take place within the space.

## Volunteer Docents \*

Community members will be able to participate through holding Docent positions, as well as shorter-term volunteer roles. Docents will:

- Participate in a training program and become a part of the public face of King Street Station
- Interact with the artists and curators, and share that exposure with the broader public
- Lead exhibition tours
- Welcome guests to the space
- Answer questions
- Help with events
- Facilitate activities
- Serve as an ambassador to their communities
- Help drive the future of the space by offering feedback

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