

# Office of Arts and Culture

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## Department Overview

The Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) builds and strengthens community resilience through investments in arts and culture that support artists and cultural institutions in the city. The Office promotes Seattle as a cultural destination and invests in Seattle's creative sector to ensure a wide range of high-quality programs, exhibits, and public art are provided throughout the city. Racial equity is central to ARTS and is incorporated into department policies, procedures, and practices. ARTS's program investments are centered around five key program areas: Cultural Investments, Creative Youth, Cultural Space programs, Art and Cultural Facilities programs, and Public Art. The Office is supported by the 16-member volunteer Seattle Arts Commission appointed by the Mayor and City Council who provide recommendations on the needs of the city's creative sector.

## Budget Snapshot

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
<b>Department Support</b>				
General Fund Support	51,000	-	-	-
Other Funding - Operating	19,455,954	25,394,366	23,104,188	23,563,408
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>19,506,954</b>	<b>25,394,366</b>	<b>23,104,188</b>	<b>23,563,408</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>19,506,954</b>	<b>25,394,366</b>	<b>23,104,188</b>	<b>23,563,408</b>
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	41.34	43.75	43.75	44.75

\* FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here

## Budget Overview

The 2026 Proposed Budget maintains support for core ARTS programs including arts and cultural grants and education programs, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, King Street Station Gallery, and public art. The proposed budget reflects a realignment of work in cultural space and creative economy in a new Creative Placemaking division. This change reflects some of the findings and recommendations within ARTS's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan which recommended aligning these programmatic areas for greater operational efficiencies. The budget includes adjustments to central cost changes, staffing alignments for updated position classifications, and wage adjustments to reflect updated inflation forecasts.

The budget includes one-time funding to develop and implement a citywide cultural plan. The goal of this comprehensive cultural planning process is to assess Seattle's cultural assets, strengthen community engagement, and integrate arts and culture into citywide priorities.

The 2026 Proposed Budget adds appropriations for a one-year extension of a Graffiti Specialist that was originally

## Office of Arts and Culture

funded for two years in the 2024 budget. The Graffiti Specialist assists the Mayor's Office in graffiti prevention strategies, such as working with schools and youth to educate teens and parents on the harms and consequences of vandalism, developing artist-led youth programs encouraging youth toward sanctioned, safe, creative pursuits, communicating with local graffiti society and known taggers, and developing general and targeted community outreach.

The budget also adds ongoing funding for the Hope Corps program, which had previously been funded on an annual basis. Hope Corps fosters post-pandemic economic recovery by connecting under- and unemployed artists with job opportunities across Seattle. Past iterations of Hope Corps have successfully infused neighborhoods across Seattle with artistic and cultural offerings, while employing artists and providing them workforce development opportunities.

## Office of Arts and Culture

### Incremental Budget Changes

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	2026 Budget	FTE
<b>Total 2026 Endorsed Budget</b>	<b>23,104,000</b>	<b>43.75</b>
<b>Baseline</b>		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	40,714	-
Correct Budget for Arts in Parks	(248,500)	-
Position Cost Alignment	33,443	-
Remove One-Time Funding for Graffiti Position	(150,000)	-
<b>Proposed Operating</b>		
Continue Temporary Graffiti Specialist Position	160,000	-
Create Permanent Hope Corps Program	350,000	-
Cultural Planning	200,000	-
Create Creative Placemaking Division	-	-
<b>Proposed Technical</b>		
Admissions Tax Revenue - August Forecast	-	-
ARTS Revenue Adjustments	-	-
Bargained Annual Wage Adjustment to Base Budget	(88,565)	-
Ongoing Changes from Current Year Legislation	140,992	1.00
SCERS Retirement Contribution Rate Reduction	(2,861)	-
Technical Adjustment to Align Budget and HR for Staffing Costs	24,185	-
<b>Total Incremental Changes</b>	<b>\$459,408</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Total 2026 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$23,563,408</b>	<b>44.75</b>

### Description of Incremental Budget Changes

#### Baseline

#### Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$40,714

Citywide technical adjustments made in the baseline phase reflect changes to internal services costs, including rates from the Department of Finance & Administrative Services, Seattle Information Technology Department, Seattle Department of Human Resources, and for healthcare and other central cost factors. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

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### Correct Budget for Arts in Parks

Expenditures	\$(248,500)
Revenues	\$(306,931)

This item reduces appropriation authority by \$248,500 in the Office of Arts & Culture Arts & Culture Fund Arts & Cultural Programs Budget Summary Level. These funds were historically in ARTS budget to pay for the Arts in Parks program which would then be reimbursed by the Seattle Parks & Recreation. In the 2025 Adopted Budget, ARTS was given appropriation authority to cover all of PARKS cost for the Arts in Parks program but the original appropriation authority was not removed. This adjustment removes the excess appropriation authority and corrects the expected revenues.

### Position Cost Alignment

Expenditures	\$33,443
Position Allocation	-

This item adds \$33,443 to reflect the updated position authority of the Department Director position from an Executive 2 to an Executive 3 as determined by the classification review process.

### Remove One-Time Funding for Graffiti Position

Expenditures	\$(150,000)
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This item removes \$150,000 in funding that was added in the 2023-2024 Mid-Biennial Budget to fund a 2-year temporary position. The position was created to lead and enhance the beautification efforts of graffiti art, connect with the graffiti society, and educate, mentor and guide youth to use their time and energy in constructive ways and concludes at the end of 2025.

## Proposed Operating

### Continue Temporary Graffiti Specialist Position

Expenditures	\$160,000
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The City's 2026 Proposed Budget adds \$1.6 million and 6.0 FTE to the One Seattle Graffiti Plan, a citywide initiative focused graffiti removal teams, enforcement and assistance for impacted businesses, and support for public art and volunteer clean-up efforts. The proposed budget adds additional funding and staff for graffiti abatement and prevention efforts in Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Transportation, and the Office of Arts and Culture.

In ARTS, this item restores funding for a one-year extension for a temporary Graffiti Specialist to work with the Mayor's Office on graffiti prevention strategies. This position will lead and enhance the beautification efforts of graffiti art, connect with the graffiti society, and educate, mentor and guide youth to use their time and energy in constructive ways. Reducing graffiti is a priority of the One Seattle initiative and is a key factor in improving Seattle livability. ARTS received two-year funding for this purpose originally in the 2024 budget and it is set to expire at the end of 2025. This change would extend the position and work through 2026.

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## Create Permanent Hope Corps Program

Expenditures	\$350,000
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This item adds \$350,000 ongoing to create a permanent Hope Corps program. The Hope Corps program, launched by the Office of Arts & Culture in 2021, was initially created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide economic support to the creative sector and modeled on the historic WPA program. The program is designed to support Seattle's creative workforce by funding job opportunities that also contribute to the well-being and revitalization of Seattle's diverse communities. The program has received one-year extensions every year since its inception and has delivered numerous creative activations throughout the city. This funding will cover a one-year temporary employee and programming for this program.

## Cultural Planning

Expenditures	\$200,000
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This item adds \$200,000 one-time for the execution of a comprehensive city-wide cultural plan led by ARTS in 2026. This planning effort will align Seattle's cultural investments with broader economic development strategies, community and workforce needs ensuring an inclusive, sustainable and equitable arts ecosystem. The cultural plan will also provide data for the City's Comprehensive Plan update in 2027.

## Create Creative Placemaking Division

Expenditures	-
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Position Allocation	-
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This item moves Arts and Culture funding from the Arts & Cultural Programs BSL into the former Cultural Space BSL. This item is combined with legislation which renames the BSL from Cultural Space to Creative Placemaking. The funding adjustments are net-zero and align positions and programming that fall under creative placemaking into this new organizational structure.

## Proposed Technical

### Admissions Tax Revenue - August Forecast

Revenues	\$25,391,778
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This item reflects the August Forecast amount for the City's Admissions Tax. Of this amount, 59% is used for the Arts and Culture Fund which is used to fund arts and culture spending through ARTS and 41% is used to fulfill a rental agreement with Climate Pledge Arena.

### ARTS Revenue Adjustments

Revenues	\$4,083,932
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This technical item adjusts revenues for the Municipal Arts Fund to reflect the anticipated amount of 1% for the Arts funds collected from capital departments. It also adjusts revenues for the Arts and Culture Fund to reflect increases to interest earnings.

## Office of Arts and Culture

### **Bargained Annual Wage Adjustment to Base Budget**

Expenditures	\$(88,565)
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This centrally administered change adjusts base budget appropriations to reflect the proper Annual Wage Increase (AWI) increment for 2026, as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of City Unions for personnel costs. AWI increments are determined based on the average change in the local Consumer Price Index (CPI). This change represents a true-up between the forecasted CPI assumption included in the Endorsed Budget and the actual CPI data.

### **Ongoing Changes from Current Year Legislation**

Expenditures	\$140,992
Position Allocation	1.00

This change includes ongoing budget and/or position changes resulting from current year legislation in 2025, including the Year End Supplemental Ordinance. In the 2025 Mid-Year Supplemental, ARTS added an Administrative Specialist III (1.0 FTE) position to provide administrative support to the Public Art team, particularly in panel support, contract support, and logistics. This position is funded with 1% for the Arts funds.

### **SCERS Retirement Contribution Rate Reduction**

Expenditures	\$(2,861)
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The City's employee retirement system, the Seattle City Employees Retirement System (SCERS) is a defined benefit pension program funded by a combination of salary-based employer (i.e., the City) and employee contributions, and investment earnings. Based on the updated actuarial valuation for 2025, this item reduces the employer contribution rate from the endorsed rate of 15.17% to the SCERS minimum actuarial required rate of 15.06%.

### **Technical Adjustment to Align Budget and HR for Staffing Costs**

Expenditures	\$24,185
Position Allocation	-

This item adds \$24,185 to update the budgeted position authority of three positions with their scope of work as determined through the Seattle Department of Human Resources position classification review. This change modifies one Admin Specialist III position to a Management Systems Analyst position, one Event Booking Rep, Sr. position to a Planning & Development Specialist II position, and one Strategic Advisor 1 position to a Management Systems Analyst, Sr. position.

## Office of Arts and Culture

### Expenditure Overview

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
<b>Appropriations</b>				
<b>ARTS - BO-AR-2VMA0 - Public Art</b>				
12010 - Municipal Arts Fund	2,667,255	4,546,267	4,597,406	4,715,693
12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	355,886	610,250	619,508	443,393
14000 - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	(2,375)	-	-	-
<b>Total for BSL: BO-AR-2VMA0</b>	<b>3,020,765</b>	<b>5,156,516</b>	<b>5,216,914</b>	<b>5,159,086</b>
<b>ARTS - BO-AR-VA150 - Leadership and Administration</b>				
12010 - Municipal Arts Fund	1,127,175	1,156,836	1,206,940	1,181,607
12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	3,245,643	4,061,037	4,197,689	4,289,288
<b>Total for BSL: BO-AR-VA150</b>	<b>4,372,818</b>	<b>5,217,873</b>	<b>5,404,629</b>	<b>5,470,895</b>
<b>ARTS - BO-AR-VA160 - Arts and Cultural Programs</b>				
00100 - General Fund	51,000	-	-	-
12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	10,150,201	13,811,616	11,615,140	11,259,047
14000 - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	143,425	-	-	-
14500 - Payroll Expense Tax	190,189	350,000	-	-
<b>Total for BSL: BO-AR-VA160</b>	<b>10,534,815</b>	<b>14,161,616</b>	<b>11,615,140</b>	<b>11,259,047</b>
<b>ARTS - BO-AR-VA170 - Creative Placemaking</b>				
12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	1,578,556	858,361	867,506	1,674,379
<b>Total for BSL: BO-AR-VA170</b>	<b>1,578,556</b>	<b>858,361</b>	<b>867,506</b>	<b>1,674,379</b>
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>19,506,954</b>	<b>25,394,366</b>	<b>23,104,188</b>	<b>23,563,408</b>
<b>Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*</b>	<b>41.34</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>44.75</b>

\* FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here

### Budget Summary by Fund Office of Arts and Culture

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
00100 - General Fund	51,000	-	-	-
12010 - Municipal Arts Fund	3,794,430	5,703,103	5,804,346	5,897,300
12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	15,330,286	19,341,264	17,299,842	17,666,108
14000 - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	141,050	-	-	-
14500 - Payroll Expense Tax	190,189	350,000	-	-
<b>Budget Totals for ARTS</b>	<b>19,506,954</b>	<b>25,394,366</b>	<b>23,104,188</b>	<b>23,563,408</b>

## Office of Arts and Culture

### Revenue Overview

#### 2026 Estimated Revenues

Account Code	Account Name	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
341900	General Government-Other Rev	2,926,039	-	-	-
360020	Inv Earn-Residual Cash	411,515	-	-	-
360210	Oth Interest Earnings	-	112,200	112,200	112,200
360900	Miscellaneous Revs-Other Rev	10,000	20,400	20,400	20,400
397000	Operating Transfers In Summ	-	2,896,425	4,442,499	4,072,499
<b>Total Revenues for: 12010 - Municipal Arts Fund</b>		<b>3,347,554</b>	<b>3,029,025</b>	<b>4,575,099</b>	<b>4,205,099</b>
400000	Use of/Contribution to Fund Balance	-	2,674,078	1,229,247	1,692,201
<b>Total Resources for:12010 - Municipal Arts Fund</b>		<b>3,347,554</b>	<b>5,703,103</b>	<b>5,804,346</b>	<b>5,897,300</b>
308000	Beginning Fund Balance	-	1,411,565	1,411,565	1,411,565
316020	B&O Tax-Admissions Rev	22,036,872	(1,391,000)	(1,391,000)	24,000,778
318050	Admission Tx Penalties & Inter	74,711	-	-	-
331110	Direct Fed Grants	22,060	-	-	-
337080	Other Private Contrib & Dons	191,227	-	-	-
341900	General Government-Other Rev	215,071	306,931	309,000	-
360010	Investment Interest	-	-	-	150,000
360020	Inv Earn-Residual Cash	-	480,000	350,000	350,000
360210	Oth Interest Earnings	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
360300	St Space Facilities Rentals	53,667	-	-	-
360900	Miscellaneous Revs-Other Rev	35,917	203,297	206,965	221,632
397000	Operating Transfers In Summ	-	40,000	40,000	40,000
<b>Total Revenues for: 12400 - Arts and Culture Fund</b>		<b>22,629,525</b>	<b>1,100,793</b>	<b>976,530</b>	<b>26,223,975</b>
400000	Use of/Contribution to Fund Balance	-	3,998,718	834,361	2,599,133
<b>Total Resources for:12400 - Arts and Culture Fund</b>		<b>22,629,525</b>	<b>5,099,510</b>	<b>1,810,891</b>	<b>28,823,108</b>
331110	Direct Fed Grants	141,050	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenues for: 14000 - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund</b>		<b>141,050</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
397010	Operating Transfers In	250,000	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenues for: 15090 - Gift Catalog - Arts &amp; Culture</b>		<b>250,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



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Total ARTS Resources	26,368,129	10,802,613	7,615,237	34,720,408
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## Office of Arts and Culture

### Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

#### **ARTS - BO-AR-2VMA0 - Public Art**

The purpose of the Public Art Budget Summary Level is to fund the Public Art Program, which develops art pieces and programs for City facilities, and the Artwork Conservation Program, which maintains the City's permanent art collection.

<b>Program Expenditures</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Artwork Conservation	357,421	478,853	491,249	470,353
Public Art	2,663,344	4,677,664	4,725,665	4,688,733
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,020,765</b>	<b>5,156,516</b>	<b>5,216,914</b>	<b>5,159,086</b>
Full-time Equivalents Total*	12.65	13.65	13.65	14.65

*\*FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here*

The following information summarizes the programs in Public Art Budget Summary Level:

#### **Artwork Conservation**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Artwork Conservation	357,421	478,853	491,249	470,353
Full Time Equivalents Total	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50

#### **Public Art**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Public Art	2,663,344	4,677,664	4,725,665	4,688,733
Full Time Equivalents Total	11.15	12.15	12.15	13.15

# Office of Arts and Culture

## **ARTS - BO-AR-VA150 - Leadership and Administration**

The purpose of the Leadership and Administration Budget Summary Level is to provide executive, financial, human resource, and business support to the Office and to support the Seattle Arts Commission, a 16-member advisory board that advises the Office, Mayor, and City Council on arts programs and policy.

<b>Program Expenditures</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Citywide Indirect Costs	956,188	1,182,441	1,231,288	1,265,549
Departmental Indirect Costs	2,207,522	2,485,248	2,529,308	2,518,616
Pooled Benefits and PTO	1,209,108	1,550,184	1,644,033	1,686,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,372,818</b>	<b>5,217,873</b>	<b>5,404,629</b>	<b>5,470,895</b>
Full-time Equivalents Total*	10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00

*\*FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here*

*The following information summarizes the programs in Leadership and Administration Budget Summary Level:*

### **Citywide Indirect Costs**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Citywide Indirect Costs	956,188	1,182,441	1,231,288	1,265,549

### **Departmental Indirect Costs**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Departmental Indirect Costs	2,207,522	2,485,248	2,529,308	2,518,616
Full Time Equivalents Total	10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00

### **Pooled Benefits and PTO**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Pooled Benefits and PTO	1,209,108	1,550,184	1,644,033	1,686,730

## Office of Arts and Culture

### **ARTS - BO-AR-VA160 - Arts and Cultural Programs**

The purpose of the Arts and Cultural Programs Budget Summary Level is to invest in Seattle's arts and cultural community.

<b>Program Expenditures</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Activations Equity and Youth Development	2,617,621	1,951,334	2,016,679	1,873,222
Communication Outreach and Events	505,885	620,620	653,144	679,808
Cultural Facilities Operations	1,485,252	1,415,521	1,471,436	1,220,859
Funding Programs & Partnership	5,926,057	10,174,141	7,473,881	7,485,158
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,534,815</b>	<b>14,161,616</b>	<b>11,615,140</b>	<b>11,259,047</b>
Full-time Equivalents Total*	17.59	18.00	18.00	16.00

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*The following information summarizes the programs in Arts and Cultural Programs Budget Summary Level:*

#### **Activations Equity and Youth Development**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Activations Equity and Youth Development	2,617,621	1,951,334	2,016,679	1,873,222
Full Time Equivalents Total	3.50	3.00	3.00	2.00

#### **Communication Outreach and Events**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Communication Outreach and Events	505,885	620,620	653,144	679,808
Full Time Equivalents Total	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

#### **Cultural Facilities Operations**

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Cultural Facilities Operations	1,485,252	1,415,521	1,471,436	1,220,859
Full Time Equivalents Total	7.34	8.25	8.25	7.25

# Office of Arts and Culture

## Funding Programs & Partnership

<b>Expenditures/FTE</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Funding Programs & Partnership	5,926,057	10,174,141	7,473,881	7,485,158
Full Time Equivalents Total	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75

### **ARTS - BO-AR-VA170 - Creative Placemaking**

The purpose of the Creative Placemaking Budget Summary Level is to invest in opportunities that bring together arts and cultural strategies to advance economic and community development.

<b>Program Expenditures</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Adopted</b>	<b>2026 Endorsed</b>	<b>2026 Proposed</b>
Cultural Space	1,578,556	858,361	867,506	1,674,379
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,578,556</b>	<b>858,361</b>	<b>867,506</b>	<b>1,674,379</b>
Full-time Equivalents Total*	1.10	1.10	1.10	3.10

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