

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. In alignment with the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI), ARTS seeks solutions that use race and social justice strategies to drive our investments. 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

	2022 Actuals	2023 Adopted	2024 Endorsed	2024 Adopted
Department Support				
General Fund Support	2,314,950	-	-	20,000
Other Funding - Operating	14,711,622	18,885,122	17,432,424	22,883,564
Total Operations	17,026,571	18,885,122	17,432,424	22,903,564
Total Appropriations	17,026,571	18,885,122	17,432,424	22,903,564
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	40.84	40.84	41.34	41.34

* 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

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Incremental Budget Changes

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	2024 Budget	FTE
Total 2024 Endorsed Budget	17,432,424	41.34
Baseline		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	(67,035)	-
Proposed Operating		
ARTS/OED Collaboration on Downtown Activations	1,000,000	-
Downtown Hope Corps	1,000,000	-
Increase in Community ARTS Grants	257,100	-
Investments in Operations and Communications Support	270,000	-
One-Time Bridge Funding to Support Seattle Arts Community	650,000	-
One-Time Support for Seattle Center’s Folklife and Festal Programming	763,952	-
Temporary Graffiti Specialist	150,000	-
Proposed Technical		
Align King Street Station Programming Budget with Organization Structure	-	-
Alignment of ARTS Healthcare Costs	-	-
Arts and Culture Fund Balancing Adjustments - Adopted	-	-
Arts and Culture Fund Revenue Adjustment	-	-
Correcting Project Balances within Arts & Cultural Programs BSL	-	-
CPI Adjustment for Climate Pledge Arena	10,658	-
Municipal Arts Fund Balancing Adjustment - Adopted	-	-
Municipal Arts Fund Revenue Adjustment	-	-
Transfer Funds within Public Art to Align within Updated Project Structure	-	-
Council		
Bumbershoot Workforce Development Program	100,000	-
Additional Funding for Community ARTS Grants	163,000	-
African Cultural Center	150,000	-
Chinese American Legacy Artwork Project	250,000	-
Errata Corrections to the Proposed Budget Adjustments and CIP	-	-
National Nordic Museum Exhibit	20,000	-
Organizational Development and Strategic Planning	100,000	-
SCERS Contribution Rate Change	(21,535)	-
Seattle Storm Center for Basketball Performance Public Space Improvements	675,000	-

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Total Incremental Changes	\$5,471,140	-
Total 2024 Adopted Budget	\$22,903,564	41.34

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$(67,035)

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, retirement, and industrial insurance charges for the department. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

Proposed Operating

ARTS/OED Collaboration on Downtown Activations

Expenditures \$1,000,000

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This item provides one-time funding to the Office of Arts & Culture to partner with the Office of Economic Development (OED) on activation of King Street Station and the Downtown Core. ARTS will activate the King Street Station (KSS) by hosting cultural space, education, and artistic expression events for individual and organization participation. ARTS will focus on developing a larger, more visible footprint in and around King Street Station with a calendar of programming activities such as markets, outdoor events, and concerts.

ARTS will work with OED on ways to bring more art, including murals, performance art, festivals, and temporary public art into the Downtown Core. ARTS will support OED’s work in storefront activation from the perspective of creative sector economic justice by providing BIPOC artists and creative entrepreneurs with technical support focused on building business capacity and sustainability. The proposal includes labor costs for a temporary employee and programmatic funds to work on activations with a focus on creative placemaking. These funds are awarded on a project-by-project basis.

Downtown Hope Corps

Expenditures \$1,000,000

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This item supports a one-year extension to the Office of Arts & Culture’s Hope Corps program, with a focus on downtown activations. Hope Corps is a grant program designed to connect under- and unemployed workers in creative industries with career opportunities. ARTS estimates that this budget will support 50-70 creative projects in 2024. Funding for this program extension supports one temporary position as well as grant programming funds.

Increase in Community ARTS Grants

Expenditures \$257,100

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This item adds \$257,100 of ongoing funding to Office of Arts & Culture arts and cultural grants programs. This funding will provide a broad adjustment to awards in established grant programs run by the Office and seeks to address the impacts of recent historic inflation.

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The funds will allow ARTS to adjust grant awards for programs like Centering Art & Racial Equity (C.A.R.E.) which supports arts and culture, heritage and arts services organizations, Youth Arts which supports creative learning opportunities outside school time, and City Artist which supports Seattle-based individual artists and curators in the research, development, and presentation of new creative products.

Investments in Operations and Communications Support

Expenditures \$270,000

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This item makes strategic and operational investments in the functional areas of Office of Arts & Culture communications and professional resources. In 2024, this proposal supports hiring a 1-year term-limited web content specialist for content generation and support of the ARTS’ externally facing website with a focus on human centered design. This item also restores ongoing funding to the department for staff training and development which was cut during the pandemic.

One-Time Bridge Funding to Support Seattle Arts Community

Expenditures \$650,000

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This item provides one-time funding to the Office of Arts & Culture arts and cultural grants programs. The funding will be distributed through existing ARTS grant programs and is designed to ameliorate negative pressures on arts and cultural institutions who have not yet fully recovered from pandemic-caused economic pressures and who are facing the loss of federal funding. These grant funds will support efforts to build capacity through planning and strategic investments and meet one-time or short-term financial needs.

One-Time Support for Seattle Center’s Folklife and Festal Programming

Expenditures \$763,952

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This adjustment makes a one-time increase to ARTS’ ongoing support of Seattle Center’s Festal programming, bringing the total financial support to Seattle Center in 2024 to \$1.2 million. ARTS will reimburse Center for programming costs including funds to support community organizations operating at these cultural festivals and operating costs associated with putting on and marketing these events.

Temporary Graffiti Specialist

Expenditures \$150,000

The City of Seattle projects higher-than-anticipated Admissions Tax revenues that provide an opportunity to make key structural and short-term investments to strengthen Seattle’s creative sector. This item adds funding for a two-year temporary position 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.

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Proposed Technical

Align King Street Station Programming Budget with Organization Structure

Expenditures -

This budget neutral item transfers appropriation authority from the King Street Station Facilities to King Street Station Programming. This reflects a structural change which took place in 2021 as King Street Station programming was made structurally distinct from the King Street Station facility.

Alignment of ARTS Healthcare Costs

Expenditures -

This budget neutral change aligns budget for health care where costs are incurred in the Leadership and Administration budget.

Arts and Culture Fund Balancing Adjustments - Adopted

Revenues \$1,832,911

This is a technical item to record a fund balancing entry for the Arts and Culture Fund, which is primarily managed by this department.

Arts and Culture Fund Revenue Adjustment

Revenues \$1,411,565

This technical item adjusts revenues for the Arts and Culture Fund.

Correcting Project Balances within Arts & Cultural Programs BSL

Expenditures -

This item makes a series of net zero transfers of appropriation authority within the Office of Arts & Culture in the Arts & Culture Fund Arts & Cultural Programs Budget Control Level (12400-BO-AR-VA160). The transfers move funds within projects to better align anticipated expenditures within the Arts & Cultural Programs BSL and actual program budgets.

CPI Adjustment for Climate Pledge Arena

Expenditures \$10,658

Revenues \$10,658

This item reflects increased revenue from a 10-year contractual agreement between the Office of Arts and Culture and the Climate Pledge Arena for arts programming. As a part of the contract, each year, the amount owed to ARTS increases related to CPI, not to exceed 3%.

Municipal Arts Fund Balancing Adjustment - Adopted

Revenues \$3,172,182

This is a technical item to record a fund balancing entry for the Municipal Arts Fund, which is primarily managed by this department.

Municipal Arts Fund Revenue Adjustment

Revenues \$1,720,881

This technical item adjusts revenues for the Municipal Arts Fund.

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Transfer Funds within Public Art to Align within Updated Project Structure

Expenditures -

This item transfers \$203,966 of Municipal Arts Funds within the Office of Arts & Culture Municipal Art Budget Summary Level from an old legacy project activity code to its replacement. This technical adjustment will true up budget with expected expenditures.

Council

Bumbershoot Workforce Development Program

Expenditures \$100,000

This Council Budget Action (CBA) uses higher than anticipated Admissions Tax revenue from the October 2023 Revenue Forecast to add \$100,000 Arts and Culture Fund (one-time) for the Bumbershoot Workforce Development Program (BWDP) in conjunction with the annual Bumbershoot Arts and Music Festival held at the Seattle Center. The appropriation would support teaching about 20 young people, ages 17 to 25 years-old, the skills of concert and event promotion.

Additional Funding for Community ARTS Grants

Expenditures \$163,000

This item uses higher than anticipated Admissions Tax revenue from the October 2023 Revenue Forecast to add \$163,000 Arts and Culture Fund to provide \$143,000 ongoing additional funding for established community grant programs and \$20,000 of one-time support for programming that showcases films from the global Latino community. This action imposes a proviso on these funds to reserve them solely for this purpose.

This item imposes the following proviso:

"Of the appropriations in the Office of Arts and Culture's 2024 budget for the Arts and Cultural Programs Budget Summary Level (ARTS-BO-AR-VA160), \$20,000 Arts and Culture Fund is appropriated solely for programming that showcases films from the global Latino community and may be spent for no other purpose."

African Cultural Center

Expenditures \$150,000

This item uses higher than anticipated Admissions Tax revenue from the October 2023 Revenue Forecast to add \$150,000 Arts and Culture Fund (one-time) to support the acquisition of a cultural arts space for African immigrant and legacy communities, including African American communities. This CBA supports a community-based project to create a community hub for African arts in the Rainier Valley Creative District, providing African cultural and heritage activities, gatherings, lessons, and artifact display.

Chinese American Legacy Artwork Project

Expenditures \$250,000

This item uses higher than anticipated Admissions Tax revenue from the October 2023 Revenue Forecast to add \$250,000 Arts and Culture Fund (one-time) to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) to support an art project recognizing the anti-Chinese riots of 1886 and preserving the legacy of Chinese people forcibly expelled from Seattle.

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Technical Change to Municipal Arts Fund

Revenues \$(2,662,171)

This action is a technical correction to align revenues for the 2024 Proposed Budget Adjustments. For ARTS, this item aligns revenues and expenditures with projections from contributing departments.

National Nordic Museum Exhibit

Expenditures \$20,000

This item uses higher than anticipated Admissions Tax revenue from the October 2023 Revenue Forecast to add \$20,000 GF (one-time) to support projects featuring African American artists and their experiences in Nordic countries.

Organizational Development and Strategic Planning

Expenditures \$100,000

This CBA uses higher than anticipated Admissions Tax revenue from the October 2023 Revenue Forecast to add \$100,000 Arts and Culture Fund (one-time) for organizational development and strategic planning activities as requested in Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) ARTS-801S-A. ARTS anticipates undergoing a strategic planning effort in 2024 that will evaluate its strengths, resources, and the arts and cultural landscape of Seattle. The exercise is anticipated to include structured conversations with ARTS staff, community listening sessions, and engagement with the Seattle Arts Commission. Informed by this process, ARTS anticipates developing a City Cultural Plan in 2025 that identifies key priorities and programs for the office and an established role for community stakeholders in guiding these investments.

SCERS Contribution Rate Change

Expenditures \$(21,535)

This item reduces the employer contribution rate from the proposed rate of 16.22% to the SCERS minimum actuarial required rate of 15.17%, which was determined to provide sufficient funding to the retirement system to achieve 100% funded status by 2042.

Seattle Storm Center for Basketball Performance Public Space Improvements

Expenditures \$675,000

This item adds \$675,000 JumpStart Fund (one-time) to support arts, neighborhood identity, and public space improvements in the Interbay neighborhood.

The City's 2024 Adopted Budget appropriates approximately \$330 million in JumpStart Payroll Expense Tax (payroll tax) proceeds, of which \$34 million is allocated to investments in Economic Revitalization.

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2023-24 Mid-Biennium Adopted Budget Updates - Expenses

Budget Summary Level	Fund	Budget Process Phase Endorsed	Adopted Changes	Grand Total
Arts and Cultural Programs	00100 - General Fund	0	20,000	20,000
	12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	7,272,454	4,352,507	11,624,962
	14500 - Payroll Expense Tax	0	675,000	675,000
Arts and Cultural Programs Total		7,272,454	5,047,507	12,319,962
Cultural Space	12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	813,329	173,421	986,750
Cultural Space Total		813,329	173,421	986,750
Leadership and Administration	12010 - Municipal Arts Fund	1,080,503	-5,111	1,075,393
	12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	3,524,699	123,142	3,647,841
Leadership and Administration Total		4,605,202	118,032	4,723,234
Public Art	12010 - Municipal Arts Fund	4,741,438	-17,820	4,723,618
	12400 - Arts and Culture Fund	0	150,000	150,000
Public Art Total		4,741,438	132,180	4,873,618
Grand Total		17,432,424	5,471,140	22,903,564