

Resources for Nonprofits, Artists & Cultural Organizations

May 2020

#SupportSeattleSmallBiz
#WeGotThisSeattle



City of Seattle



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](#).

Updated: May 1, 2020

City of Seattle Resources

Halting Evictions: On March 17, Mayor Durkan signed an emergency order to put into place a temporary moratorium on evictions of nonprofits. [Click here to learn more](#). Mayor Durkan has also signed an emergency order to halt residential convictions.

Utility Payment Relief: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle City Light (SCL) will keep utility services on during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency. This will provide immediate utility relief for customers, both residential and commercial, financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. 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 24/7 [here](#).

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 critical needs of artists whose livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic.

[You can find more information on these two programs here](#). *(Program is currently on pause. However, you may join the waitlist.)*

Arts Stabilization Fund: The City also 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.

County Resources

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.

King County Cultural Relief Fund: [4Culture](#) is providing \$1 million for loss of work due to COVID-19 impact on the King County cultural sector. The first round of funding will be available April 1 through May 15. Apply at any time within that time frame. Applications will be reviewed by a panel weekly and they will notify within 10 business days about the application status.

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. This special enrollment period, which runs through April 8, 2020, will allow uninsured individuals 30 days to enroll in health insurance coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder. For more information and to apply, [please click here](#). 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

COVID-19 Artist Trust Relief fund: Artist Trust is pressing pause on business as usual to focus all resources on two things: The COVID-19 Artist Trust Relief Fund, and COVID-19 Online Artist Relief and Recovery Resources. 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. Artist Trust will begin accepting applications on March 20, 2020, with the first funds deployed to artists the week of March 23, and then on an on-going basis. Visit artisttrust.org for more information about how to apply and/or how to donate to directly support artist relief and recovery.

COVID-19 Arts Emergency Relief Fund: ArtsFund, in collaboration with the arts and culture community, has created the Covid-19 Arts Emergency Relief Fund to provide short-term relief in the form of unrestricted grants to arts organizations which have been particularly hard hit during this public health emergency. The shutdown is having catastrophic effects on nonprofit arts and culture organizations which are responsible for nearly 20,000 jobs and support almost 17,000 additional jobs in restaurants, parking, childcare, and more. For more information, visit <https://www.artsfund.org/covid-19-relief-fund/>.

Artists Relief: The national coalition Artist Relief has created "an emergency initiative to offer financial and informational resources to artists across the United States." They are distributing \$5,000 grants to artists. To learn more about this fund, visit: artistrelief.org. To learn more about eligibility and to apply, visit: artistrelief.submittable.com/submit.

Small Business & Non-Profit Legal Clinic: Non-profits are eligible for new virtual clinic designed to help small businesses and nonprofits navigate the legal issues they are experiencing due to Covid-19. Small businesses and nonprofits will get to meet with a lawyer for a free 60-minute legal consultation by phone or video conference (client preference). [Click here to learn more.](#)

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. To find out more and apply for benefits, see their [website](#).

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