

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 15, 2020

City of Seattle Resources

Halting Evictions: On May 4, Mayor Durkan extended the moratorium on evictions for residential, nonprofit, and small businesses to June 4. Read more about the [moratorium on evictions](#).

Utility Payment Relief: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle City Light (SCL) will keep utility services on during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency. 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](#).

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. [Read more about Artists and Creative Workers Relief Funding](#). (Program is currently on pause. 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

King County Cultural Relief Fund: [4Culture](#) is providing \$1 million for loss of work due to COVID-19 impacts 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. [Apply for the King County Cultural Relief Fund](#).

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.

State of Washington Resources

ArtsWA CARES Act Relief Grants: [ArtsWA](#) is providing rapid-response funding to nonprofit and fiscally sponsored arts groups and organizations that are facing financial hardship due to economic impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding, in the form of grants, is provided by the CARES Act via the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants of up to \$5,000 may be requested for general operating support. [Apply for the ArtsWA CARES Act Relief Grant by May 31.](#)

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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. [Apply for health care access on Washington Health Plan Finder.](#) 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

2020 Inspiration Fund: Alliance for Pioneer Square is matching volunteer hours and/or funding up to \$20,000 for community members to implement projects and programs making a positive impact in the Pioneer Square neighborhood. Project goals include celebrating neighborhood diversity, enhancing public spaces, and neighborhood storytelling. Potential projects might include work around murals, art, workforce development, alleys, public area improvements, cleanup, experiences, or events. [Apply by May 31, 2020.](#)

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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. [Apply for the Artist Relief Cycle II by May 21, 2020.](#)

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CARES Act Humanities Relief: Humanities Washington is honored to provide rapid-response funding to humanities organizations facing financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus. Grants of between \$2,500 to \$5,000 will be made to Washington State nonprofit cultural organizations that provide humanities programming. [Apply for Humanities Washington's Relief by May 31.](#)

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Arts Writers Grant Program: The Arts Writers grant supports both emerging and established writers who are writing about contemporary visual art. Ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000 in three categories—articles, books, and short-form writing—these grants support projects addressing both general and specialized art audiences, from short reviews for magazines and newspapers to in-depth scholarly studies. The program also support art writing that engages criticism through interdisciplinary methods or experiments with literary styles. As long as a writer meets the eligibility and publishing requirements, they can apply. [Apply for the Arts Writers Grant Program by May 20, 2020.](#)

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COVID-19 Artist Trust Relief fund: 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. [Apply or learn more about the Artist Trust Relief Fund.](#)

Communities Rise: The Communities Rise COVID-19 legal clinics are an opportunity for Washington State entrepreneurs, small businesses, community organizations, and nonprofits who have suffered adversely from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis to receive free legal advice during a 45-minute remote consultation with a volunteer attorney. [Learn more here.](#)

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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. [Apply for the Seattle Sounder's Relief Fund.](#)

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