

Rhapsody Project, The

The Purchase of Production Audio Equipment at King Street Station (KSS)

Application Contact

Joseph Seamons, Facilitator & Co-founder

Mailing City Renton

Organization Director

Joseph Seamons, Co-Founder & Facilitator

Council District 9

Website

www.therhapsodyproject.org

Incorporated 05/24/2021

Operating Revenue 2020 \$26,398

Operating Revenue 2019 \$45,604

Mission

The Rhapsody Project’s mission is to celebrate heritage and build community through music.

We provide music instruction and cultural events, virtual programs, and consulting services that establish racial and cultural equity. Our programs teach people to root themselves in their layers of heritage, and tap the power of music and culture to embody the change we want to see.

Short Project Description

We are requesting funds for professional production audio equipment including five QSC Speakers, a digital mixing board, Shure SM 58 Mics and Shure sm57 Mics.

Project Discipline / Choice Criterion

Arts

Venue Address

King Street Station / The Station Space
303 S. Jackson St.
Seattle WA 98104

Amount Requested \$10,000

Total Project Budget \$58,095

Venue Council District 8

Project Venue Notes or Comments

n/a

Project Description

Professional audio equipment will allow us to use King Street Station (KSS) as a performing arts venue for students and participants in a variety of our programs and deliver in-person, hybrid, and virtual content while maximizing accessibility and impact. With the grant funds we will purchase a portion of the audio equipment: QSC Speakers, Digital Mixing board, Shure SM 58 Mics, and Shure sm57 Mics.

The KSS project as a whole establishes a cultural center, venue, and instrument repair workshop where Black & Brown youth can feel at home. At KSS, kids are safe and are telling their stories while learning skills and forging connections that will sustain them in their lives and careers.

Last year's 4Culture Building for Equity and Cultural Facilities funded a crucial portion of capital expenditures, thanks to which the space's new walls are now built! This request will allow us to fill a remaining gap with the cultural equipment we need to fully utilize our space.

Every week, youth participants in tRp's free programs will learn to use the audio equipment for peer rehearsals and performances at KSS under the direction of our volunteer professional sound engineer. The equipment will be used throughout the year and be stored at KSS.

The project will help us celebrate music and heritage through an anti-racist lens by centering the needs, views, and stories of Black & Brown youth. We will leverage our digital platforms and use them to host and broadcast a constellation of culture bearers from our community.

Project Impact

The need for this project has been evident since the City of Seattle convened the Equitable Development Initiative and conducted multiple studies that demonstrated that BIPOC people control or own far too little space in our city, given our impact on the culture. We need cultural spaces that center the needs of historically marginalized people, alongside educational opportunities that equip teenaged youth to establish thriving wage jobs instead of decades of debt.

In continuing partnership with Red Eagle Soaring and Totem Star, tRp will reach new populations from throughout the greater Seattle area. Our programs hosted after renovation will allow us to deepen the ways in which we prepare youth for careers in multiple branches of the creative economy.

KSS will ultimately enable us to serve 600 (rather than 200) youth each year, while also including programs designed for whole families. Our collaborator Moonyeka Langley hosted listening sessions in fall of 2022, collecting and documenting input from local Asian American community members of the CID that will help inform the design of an artist residency program at KSS.

The audio/ visual equipment will specifically help us broaden our audience through virtual and hybrid programming, making it accessible to a wider population. Cultural events, including performances, are a key part of our mission, and we need this equipment in order to deliver those events to the public in a professional way. This equipment will also be used for our cultural workforce training services that build on music and heritage programs.

Relevant Expertise / Experience / Accomplishments

The leadership team profiled on our website will continue to manage and implement this project when doors open in November 2023. Partners on the equipment needs of the facility include:

-Steve Coulter is an owner representative for tRp. Steve Coulter has over thirty years' experience designing, engineering, and implementing theatrical rigging, lighting, scenery, effects, and stage renovations. Steve has made a list and budget for all the audio/visual equipment needed, which he estimates at \$49,830. Part of the cultural workforce training services for youth participants will include how to use and care for this equipment during its lifespan, under the guidance of Steve.

-Members of tRp's structural leadership team (Joe Seamons, Jed Crisologo, and Liana Green) are also experienced musicians, and reviewed the full equipment list together with tRp's youth leaders and board members to ensure the equipment matches both programmatic, educational, and performance needs.

Additional partners on the KSS include:

-SKL Architects - Redesign the whole 2nd floor of KSS, advise throughout construction project. SKL projects are guided by the philosophy that buildings should give back more than they take: to the communities and clients that depend on them, and the environment that sustains them.

-Sellen Construction - one of the leading general contractors in the Pacific Northwest

-Cultural Space Agency - conveners of the non-profit partners, and master lessors of the KSS 2nd floor.

-Totem Star, Red Eagle Soaring, and The Rhapsody Project have collaboratively fundraised nearly \$2,000,000 alongside a team of fundraising consultants including Bailey Disher.

Project Implementation

While we are still working on our Capital Campaign for KSS, our partners have been meeting weekly for over 18 months, and include Totem Star, The Cultural Space Agency, Red Eagle Soaring, SKL Architects & Sellen Construction representatives. Together, we have planned, fundraised, designed, and laid the groundwork for this project.

After our grand opening in November, we will acquire the audio/ visual equipment needed for the free, all ages concerts programmed and co-hosted by youth leaders. Youth participants will have access to this equipment as needed and maintain it under the guidance of program leaders. It will be insured under our policy for KSS. This request is only a portion (\$10,000 of an estimated \$50,000 budget) for the full audio/ visual equipment needed. For the additional funding, we are seeking other grants and donations to bring the project to completion.

Timeline

January 2020 - March of 2023:

-Planning & Design

4Culture Panel

- Fundraising
 - Community Listening Sessions
 - Internal Community Agreement Mapping
- April 2023 - October 2023:
- Construction project.
 - Promotional materials distributed during performances and tabling at both local events and schools.
- November 2023
- Grand Opening event!
- December 2023 - February 2024
- Free and pay-what-you-will programs launch
 - Instrument library for youth without access to stringed instruments
 - Regular drop-in after-school hours hosted bi-weekly by staff + youth leaders.
 - Free, all ages concerts are programmed & co-hosted by youth leaders
 - Weekend, potluck jam sessions hosted monthly for youth + their families.
 - Additional music & heritage programs (see our website) are rolled out in person.

Project Budget*

Expenses		Estimate
Planning		<input type="checkbox"/>
Design		<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction		<input type="checkbox"/>
People	\$2,925	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soft Costs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility Purchase		<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising		<input type="checkbox"/>
Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplies		<input type="checkbox"/>
Promotion		<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation/Shipping	\$1,500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Documentation/Assessment		<input type="checkbox"/>
Equipment/Fixtures	\$49,830	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In-Kind	\$3,840	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total:	\$58,095	
Income		Confirmed
Applicant	\$14,255	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundations	\$20,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporations	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Donors	\$5,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Earned	\$5,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In-Kind	\$3,840	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
4Culture Request	\$10,000	
Total:	\$58,095	

* Empty budget fields were not included in this application.

Project Budget Notes

EXPENSES

People: \$2925 is the expense for The Rhapsody Project leaders to spend 45 hours at \$65 / hour coordinating volunteers, contractors, and student apprentices to complete the purchases and installations necessary for the equipment described below.

Transportation: \$1500 is an estimated amount for the shipping expenses needed for tools and equipment not available for pickup in Seattle.

Equipment to be purchased with 4Culture grant:

Items / Source / Cost / # of Units / Notes / Total Expense

4Culture Panel

QSC Speakers / Musicians Friend / \$1,000 / 5 / 2 to serve as Mains, 3 for monitors / \$5,000
Digital Mixing board / Musicians Friend / \$4,000 / 1 / 24-in, 6-8 out, 2 return sends / \$4,000
Shure SM 58 Mics / Musicians Friend / \$100 / 5 / \$500
Shure sm57 Mics / Musicians Friend / \$100 / 5 / \$500

Additional items to be purchased:

Item	Cost	#	Total	
XLR Cables	\$36	25	\$900	
Boom Mic Stands	\$65	10	\$650	
Mic Stands	\$35	3	\$105	
Ear Trumpet Mics	\$600	2	\$1,200	
Snake	\$760	1	\$760	
MacBook Pro	\$2,500	1	\$2,500	
Curtains	\$150	10	\$1,500	
Qlab	\$1,200	1	\$1,200	
PTZ Video Camera	\$1,600	4	\$6,400	
PTZ Camera Controller	\$900	1	\$900	
Stage Lighting Package	\$250	10	\$2,500	
2x4s for Framing	\$3	100	\$302	
Grip-Rite Screws	\$50	2	\$100	
10' Countertop		\$650	1	\$650
New Sink	\$400	1	\$400	
20' of Backsplash	\$40	1	\$40	
Furniture	\$5,000	X	\$5,000	
Printer/Photocopier	\$300	1	\$300	
Point of Sale	\$1,200	1	\$1,200	
Office Supplies	\$2,500	XX	\$2,500	
Recording Software	\$200	1	\$200	
Whiteboard	\$200	1	\$200	
Record Player	\$1,000	1	\$1,000	
Speakers for record player	\$500	2	\$1,000	
Acoustic Treatments	\$1,250	4	\$5,000	
Music Stands	\$54	6	\$323	
Luthier tools	\$3000			
Equipment total:	\$49,830			

In-Kind - 120 hours of volunteer time valued at \$32 / hour (derived from this website: <https://independentsector.org/about/>) We have confirmed this commitment from multiple professional luthiers and carpenters to teach, assist and guide our longtime students as

4Culture Panel

they collaboratively install shelves, work benches, and a kitchenette in our new workshop space.

INCOME

PROJECT INCOME

4Culture Request: \$10,000

Applicant: \$14,255

Foundations: \$20,000 represents 40% of our projected award amount from the Norcliffe Foundation

Corporations: \$0

Government: \$0

Individual Donors: \$5000 is confirmed from private donors for this dimension of our project.

Earned: \$5000 for this equipment was earned through performance and program fees in the course of this year's programming delivered by our staff and songsters.

In-kind: \$3840 (see above)

Other: N/A

Summary – IRS Form 990 OR 990-EZ

IRS Form			990-EZ	990-EZ
Revenue	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Donations/Grants			\$45,604	\$26,398
Membership*				
Fundraising Events*				
Related Organizations				
Government				
Other Contributions				
In-Kind			\$6,375	\$825
Program (See Notes For Items)				
Investments				
Sales				
Other				
Total Revenue			\$45,604	\$26,398
Capital Revenue				
Contributed Income			\$45,604	\$26,398
Contributed Income %			100.00%	100.00%
Earned Income				
Earned Income %				
Earned Income Gap				
Expenses				
Salaries/Benefits				
Member Benefits				
Other				
Fees For Services*			\$9,511	\$9,743
Advertising/Promotion				
Office*				
Information Technology				
Occupancy/Rent*			\$3,788	\$8,713
Travel				
Interest				
Insurance				
In-Kind				
Total Expenses			\$13,299	\$18,456
Program				
Management				
Fundraising				
Capital Expenses				
Surplus			\$32,305	\$7,942
Balances				
Beginning Balance			\$5,000	\$37,305
End Balance			\$37,305	\$45,247
Cash/Investments				
Buildings/Equipment				
Depreciation				
Other			\$3,500	\$3,500
Total Assets			\$3,500	\$3,500
Total Liabilities				
<i>Ratio</i>				
Net Assets			\$3,500	
Unrestricted				
Restricted				
Permanently Restricted				

* For 990-EZ, items are separate lines, not subtotals. For 990, items are subtotals.

Budget Notes FY 2017																																														
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<p>The majority of our revenue in 2019 was derived from a grant to The Rhapsody Project (tRp) from Seattle's Dept of Neighborhoods, which allowed us to expand the scope of free programming we provided to community. Neither our non-profit parent org, Community Arts Create (CAC), nor that org's fiscal sponsor, Shunpike, applied for the funds nor administered the programming.</p> <p>The other major program tRp delivered served King County students by bringing 12 of them to the Pt. Townsend Acoustic Blues Festival in summer of 2019 (for the 3rd year in a row). This was done through volunteer labor by our community musicians, primarily our co-founder, Joe Seamons and his partner, Tina Dietz. Neither Shunpike nor Community Arts Create had any hand in this notable experience for the students - rather it was done through a partnership between The Rhapsody Project and the Centrum Foundation. The information above can be verified with CAC founder Ben Hunter by contacting him at (206) 669 8106 or benjaminhunter1@gmail.com</p>																																														
<p>In-kind revenue was provided in the form of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Musical instrument donations to our Instrument Library (\$3500) + The in-kind donation of free cultural space paid for by NW Folklife for our Unbroken Circle program to be held with youth at various spaces in South Seattle (\$600). + The donation of time by local culture bearers such as Lady A, Steve James, Ochemai, Paul Richardson, and John Oliver III to transmit culture and skills to our students (35 hours valued at \$65 / hour = \$2,275) 																																														
<p>Fundraising Events: Our project functioned on grant revenue and voluntary donations from community members - we provide free programming to our students and their families. All of our events are community gatherings that align with our core mission, they are not held for fundraising purposes.</p>																																														
<p>Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date in 2019</th> <th>Expense Description</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6/30</td> <td>Fiscal Sponsorship Fees</td> <td>\$664</td> <td>For January - June of 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7/25</td> <td>Joe Seamons stipend FFH</td> <td>\$300</td> <td>For performance at South End Heritage Festival</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/22</td> <td>Joe Seamons Contract Services</td> <td>\$2,400</td> <td>Unbroken Circle Program</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/22</td> <td>Vertizon Creative film capture</td> <td>\$1,000</td> <td>For Edien & Mariah videos</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/29</td> <td>Rafael Tranquilino Guitar Instruction</td> <td>\$200</td> <td>For free workshop with students</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12/12</td> <td>Rent to SEED for Instrument Library space</td> <td>\$3,788.00*</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12/12</td> <td>Vertizon Creative film edit</td> <td>\$300</td> <td>For Edien & Mariah videos</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12/31</td> <td>Joe Seamons' Contract Services</td> <td>\$750</td> <td>For Roots Music Class management</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12/31</td> <td>Fiscal Sponsorship Fees</td> <td>\$3,897</td> <td>For July - December of 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>\$13,299</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*This is the rental expense reflected above</p>			Date in 2019	Expense Description	Amount	Notes	6/30	Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$664	For January - June of 2019	7/25	Joe Seamons stipend FFH	\$300	For performance at South End Heritage Festival	8/22	Joe Seamons Contract Services	\$2,400	Unbroken Circle Program	8/22	Vertizon Creative film capture	\$1,000	For Edien & Mariah videos	8/29	Rafael Tranquilino Guitar Instruction	\$200	For free workshop with students	12/12	Rent to SEED for Instrument Library space	\$3,788.00*		12/12	Vertizon Creative film edit	\$300	For Edien & Mariah videos	12/31	Joe Seamons' Contract Services	\$750	For Roots Music Class management	12/31	Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$3,897	For July - December of 2019	Total		\$13,299	
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5/31	Corina Linden	\$800	
6/2	James Kinskey	\$500	
6/21	George Jennings	\$50	
7/3	Northwest Folklife		\$1700
8/22	Andrew D. Kidde	\$50	
9/11	Dept of Neighborhood Grants		\$6231
10/26	John Shifley	\$50	
10/28	John Ullman	\$50	
10/30	Ian Curry	\$1000	
11/1	Peter Robinson	\$100	
11/4	Christine Marshall	\$100	
11/6	Ashraf Hasham	\$125	
11/8	Karen Stuhldreher		\$250
11/13	Steussy-Edfeldts	\$250	
11/13	Greg Linden	\$100	
11/18	Laura Komada	\$100	
11/20	Wells Fargo Advisors		\$200
11/20	Dept of Neighborhood Grants		\$7,936
11/25	Microsoft Match - Zack Stephens	\$1200	
11/27	Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving	\$10000	
12/5	Gerallynn Rackowski	\$25	
12/11	Satterberg Foundation	\$5000	
12/11	King County - Department of Executive Services		\$652
12/22	Chuck Kisselburg	\$2000	
12/24	Ian Curry	\$1000	
12/30	Northwest Folklife - Associated Program		\$750
12/31	Peter Robinson	\$100	
Total:		\$45,604	

Budget Notes FY 2020

Due to the lack of administrative support from Community Arts Create & / or Shunpike, we were sometimes too slow in getting artists paid for their work with The Rhapsody Project. Hence, while much of the Department of Neighborhoods funding was used to help maintain our instrument library, the artists paid for working with our students (see 2/20 expenses, below) were overdue these payments for work they had started late in 2019.

This challenge, along with the long delays in getting detailed financial reports when requested from our fiscal sponsor, compelled us to begin the process of incorporating as our own non-profit at the time of this writing (in 2021).

Our organization has been doing good work with students across the Rainier Valley since 2013, and because we were run by full-time, nationally touring musicians (until the pandemic cancelled such engagements), the administrative work remained slap dash.

This began to change in the pandemic, as the slowed pace of life gave us more capacity to begin shoring up both our financial tracking systems, and our coordination with volunteers and new, paid contractors and interns in 2021.

Date in 2020	Description	Income
1/8	Dept of Neighborhoods Grant	\$6,566
1/10	Randall Port	\$50
1/17	Linda Bridge	\$40
2/12	Dept of Neighborhoods Grant	\$7,796
3/10	Chuck Houston	\$100
4/1	Dept of Neighborhoods Grant	\$4,811
4/19	James Lucal	\$100

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6/10	Bowline Fund	\$5,000
6/10	YourCause, LLC	\$1,000
7/17	Erika & Sally Shreder	\$250
7/26	Corina Linden	\$500
10/31	David Edwards	\$40
11/1	David Edwards	\$40
12/1	David Edwards	\$80
12/24	Janet Stecher	\$25
Total:		\$26,398

Date in 2020	Expense Description	Amount
1/9	Instrument Library Rental from SEED*	\$4,925
1/31	Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$657
2/20	Ben Hunter - Contract Services for tRp	\$500
2/20	Joe Seamons - - Contract Services for tRp	\$1,346
2/20	Tina Dietz - Contract Services for tRp	\$1,700
2/20	Tiffani Jones - - Contract Services for tRp	\$1,000
2/29	Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$780
4/23	Student Stipend for Ariana Whidbey	\$250
4/23	Student Stipend for Jasmine Grant	\$250
4/23	Student Stipend for Edien Nega	\$250
6/30	Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$600
6/30	Instrument Library Rental from SEED*	\$3,788
11/19	Joe Seamons - - Contract Services for tRp	\$2,395
12/31	Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$15
Total Expenses:		\$18,456

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Support Materials

Support materials may include Work Sample Description, Externally Hosted Work Sample URLs, Board of Directors, Activities List, and/or Equipment List in addition to other attachments.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1 - Anita White - Lady A Productions - Burien, WA
- 2 - John Oliver III - Culture Bearer - Renton, WA
- 3 - Valerie Diaz Leroy - Puget Sound Community School - Seattle, WA
- 4 - Katelyn Kimmons - Culture Bearer - Oakland, CA
- 5 - Lillian Werbin - Elderly Instruments - Lansing, MI
6. Monika Jo - Communications Consultant - Oakland, CA
7. Katie Chase - Meta Audio Department - Everett, WA
8. Naudia Miller - Black & Tan Hall - Seattle, WA

Our board does not currently operate with set term limits.

ACTIVITIES

Ongoing

- Culture Bearer Pathways: Black American Music; ~25 adult participants, 2 staff and 6 culture bearers per year present.
- Intern Program (Hybrid format, delivered in partnership with Northwest Folklife); 2 young adults in current cohort, facilitated by 3 staff
- Rhapsody Songsters (Since 2016); 4+ meetings (rehearsals, clinics, culture bearer interviews) per month; 7 - 10 youth; performances for 50 people/month.

Monthly

- Klezmer Jam - 1 staff; 4 - 8 participants.
- All Ages Jam Sessions - 1 volunteer with staff support; 4 - 10 participants.
- Acoustic Blues Jam - 1 staff with 1 volunteer support; 3 - 10 participants.

Classes

- Face The Music (virtual, weekly, 8-week session, 4 cohorts per year); 8-10 adults per cohort
- Intro to Klezmer and Yiddish Heritage Music (in person, weekly, 6-week sessions, 2 cohorts per year); 5-10 adults per cohort; 1 staff, 1 volunteer
- Port Townsend Acoustic Blues Festival (week-long camp; in person every summer since 2017); Up to 10 youth (ages 12 - 22) participate per year. 2 staff facilitate.

4Culture Panel

-Big Blues Mixup; All Songsters participate; Co-facilitated by 1 staff and two board members.

Other

-Luthier Trainings & Mentorship (Ongoing since spring of 2021); with master luthier Steve James, who volunteers his time. Two students have begun earning independent income directly from Steve James working as his assistants in repairing instruments.

-Blues In The Schools (In person since fall of 2021); Current average is 60 youth / year experiencing this program. Concert, workshop, and residency formats take place.