

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Gabrielle Civil,
Randy Ford, Neve
Mazique-Bianco,
and Fox Whitney.
Wild Beauty
(Velocity) © 2020.
Photo: Jim Coleman

ANNUAL REPORT



CULTURE

INTRODUCTION

2020 called on 4Culture to be present, transparent, and nimble in new ways. While we succeeded some times and failed others, what remained the same was our commitment to learning how to do better and our source of inspiration: the cultural community of King County.

If you've explored our previous Annual Reports, you'll quickly notice that we've taken a different approach this year. Where we usually share information with you through the framework of our four main departments—Arts, Heritage, Preservation, and Public Art—this report reflects our new reality of overlapping disciplines and non-linear timelines. We've moved back and forth within our COVID-19 response framework of Relief, Response, Recovery, and as the stark reality of our world's racial injustices are newly laid bare, 4Culture staff across all departments have come together to respond.

Andrea Wilbur-Sigo.
Grandfather's Wisdom
(Brightwater Treatment Plant)
© 2020. Photo: JoeFreeman



Play Your* Part.
More Than Maria
© 2018. Photo: Sean Airhart



COMBINED PROGRAM GRANTS

BUILDING FOR EQUITY CAPACITY BUILDING

applicants / 58
awards / 31
awarded / \$747,050

BUILDING FOR EQUITY LEARNING CIRCLE STIPENDS

participants / 30
cohort / 19

OPEN 4CULTURE

applicants / 14
awards / 12
awarded / \$18,000

SUSTAINED SUPPORT GRANTS

ARTS

awards / 368
awarded / \$2,021,250

HERITAGE

awards / 50
awarded / \$636,606

PRESERVATION

awards / 24
awarded / \$122,110



Andy Wilbur,
Joe Gobin, and
Steven C. Brown.
Welcoming Figure
(Richmond Beach
Saltwater Park) ©
1997. Photo: Joe
Freeman

RELIEF

Overnight, the day-to-day work of supporting King County’s cultural sector became a series of questions. Was our First Thursday gallery opening still on? Could we safely host our office hours-style Hello4Culture gathering at the Sammamish YMCA? What’s the simplest possible grant application we can create? Just how fast can we get checks out the door?

Perhaps the most critical component of what resulted from these early-COVID questions was our Cultural Relief Fund. With support from the King County Council, the federal CARES Act, and our budget, we were able to distribute \$4.6 million to 1,111 organizations and cultural workers across all County districts. The grants rolled out in three phases—April, June, and October—and prioritized applicants with the highest levels of need via several indicators including the King County/Seattle Foundation Community of Opportunity Index.



Kathleen Coyle. Zoom watercolor class for seniors (Creative Response Fund) © 2020



Mandy Arroyo, Meital Smith, and Stat Phillips. Global Open Call posters (4Culture + Amplifier) © 2020. Photo: Joe Freeman

We also keenly felt our community’s need for more than financial support.

Several of our ongoing programs pivoted quickly to help provide information, connection, and reassurance:

- Hello4Culture, previously a monthly meetup in cities and towns outside Seattle, became a weekly webcast. In this digital space, we talked through the often-overwhelming amount of new information in community and found inspiration in the ways artists and creators responded to the crisis.
- Artists Up expanded its partnership with Mentorly, an online mentorship platform, to provide free consultation services to help artists and arts organizations navigate processes and forms for income assistance, unemployment, emergency services, housing, finance, taxes, healthcare, and more.
- Our website became a hub for sharing COVID-19 resources of all kinds. It continues to grow and expand, now featuring a submission form for contributions from the community.
- The Public Art team collaborated with Amplifier as part of their global call for artwork around the themes of public health and safety to promote mental health and well-being during these stressful times. Ten artists from King County were selected to share their powerful work.
- We extended the biennial Sustained Support Program for a third year through a simplified application process that enabled cultural organizations to more easily access funding to meet the challenges of operating during the recovery phase of the pandemic.

CULTURAL RELIEF — CULTURAL WORKERS

applicants / **1,151**
awards / **589**
awarded / **\$1,067,500**

CULTURAL RELIEF — CREATIVE RESPONSE

applicants / **156**
awards / **38**
awarded / **\$68,500**

CULTURAL RELIEF GROUPS

applicants / **366**
awards / **308**
awarded / **\$2,069,025**

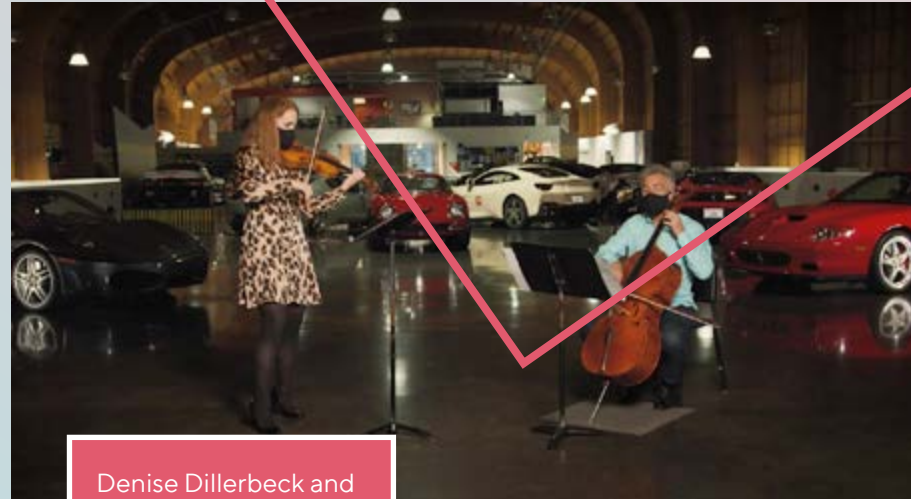
CULTURAL RELIEF REOPEN

applicants / **191**
awards / **176**
awarded / **\$1,400,000**

REOPEN

In summer 2020 organizations across King County worked to safely create and provide cultural experiences for people and families. For many organizations, this meant shifting to digital programming or adapting their spaces to meet public health guidelines. All of these shifts required significant investments at a time in which revenues were scarce. 4Culture's Reopen Program committed \$1.4 million to support King County cultural organizations and historic properties in their efforts to reopen to the public during the pandemic.

At the beginning of the pandemic, 4Culture's own physical exhibition space—Gallery 4Culture—was closed per public health guidelines. To continue supporting and spotlighting artists, we developed PAUSE/PLAY. This series of virtual experiences offered a creative break from life in quarantine and featured two artists or artist teams each month with web and social media profiles, studio visit videos, and original downloadable digital backgrounds for Zoom meetings.



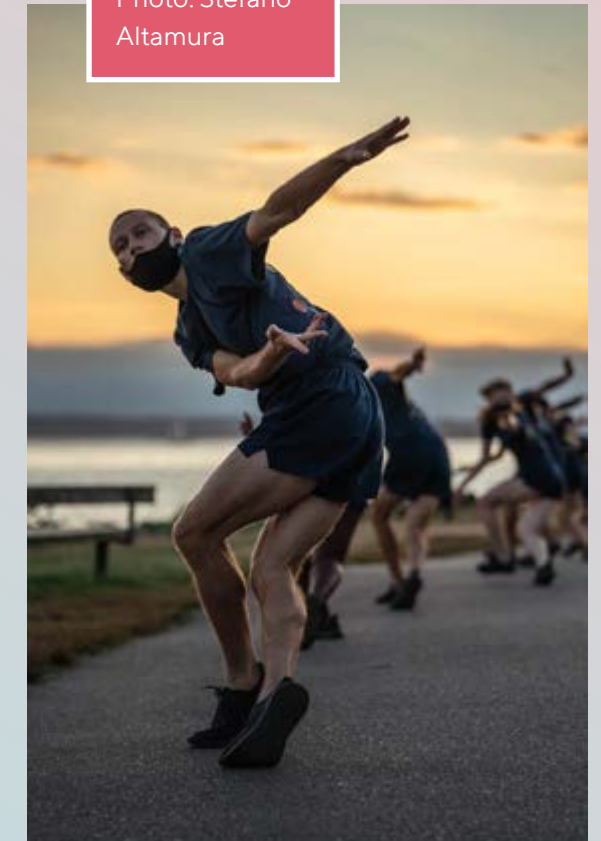
Denise Dillerbeck and David Lockington.
Northwest Sinfonietta
(LeMay - America's Car Museum) © 2020.
Photo: Derek Klein



Crew member Ed Brown handling the lines (Steamer Virginia V) © 2020 Photo: Debra Alderman



Junko Yamamoto.
Between Consciousness
(PAUSE/PLAY Zoom background) © 2020



Andrew McShea.
Whim W'Him
(Myrtle Edwards Park) © 2020.
Photo: Stefano Altamura

RECOVERY

When COVID-19 hit King County in early spring 2020, 4Culture was just completing a six-month process to complete our three-year strategic plan. Suddenly gatherings were prohibited and there was immediate and devastating financial impact to the cultural sector. Still using the goalposts of our plan, 4Culture began to assess. We implemented a statewide survey partnering with 13 organizations to better understand the impact and identify the sector's needs to restart cultural activities in preparation for recovery. Working closely with the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS), 4Culture specifically analyzed data from King County and published findings on critical needs and time-sensitive resources for cultural workers and organizations.

4Culture worked with its survey partners to bring these preliminary findings to policymakers in advocating for more funding for cultural nonprofits and a social safety net that includes creatives and creative industries.

The 4Culture COVID-19 Recovery Task Force is another way 4Culture is working with partners to build a

more equitable cultural sector. The Task Force represents 12 different cultural sector networks along with several individual artists, academics, and thought partners. The group convened in August 2020 with the charge to explore the dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on King County's cultural sector, create a vision for sector-wide recovery and help prioritize how 4Culture and its partners can equitably respond to the public health crisis.

In February, the Task Force drafted the Recovery Framework, a roadmap to rebuilding King County's cultural sector after the impacts of COVID-19 and a vision and approach toward a full and equitable recovery. The Task Force will continue to meet through August to advise 4Culture on a Recovery Program and to share their own efforts towards a new, more equitable recovery.



Haida Roots.
Language
and Youth
Arts program
(Cultural Relief
Fund) © 2020

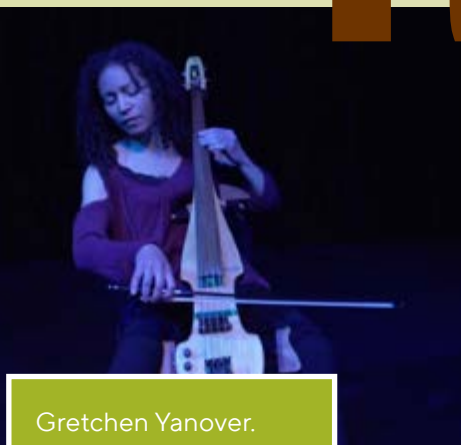


Mike Pekovich. *Master
Artist Workshop:
Box-Making + Kumiko*
(Pratt Fine Arts Center)
© 2020. Photo: Kim
McIntyre



Ashley Green.
Whim W'Him
(Myrtle Edwards
Park) © 2020.
Photo: Stefano
Altamura

RACIAL EQUITY



Gretchen Yanover.
Solo Spotlight (Touring Arts Roster) © 2020.
Videographer: Donald Wickman/Blind Bison Studios



Nic Masangkay.
Solo Spotlight (Touring Arts Roster) © 2020.
Videographer: Donald Wickman/Blind Bison Studios



Anastacia Renee Tolbert.
Arc Artist Fellow © 2020.
Photo: Sunita Martini



Stat Phillips.
She the Future (4Culture + Amplifier) © 2020

In late May, along with the whole world, we felt the impact of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. The global protests that ensued—the King County nexus of which took place on Seattle’s Capitol Hill, barely a mile from our office—caused us to rededicate ourselves to our ongoing racial equity work and to ask what more we could be doing.

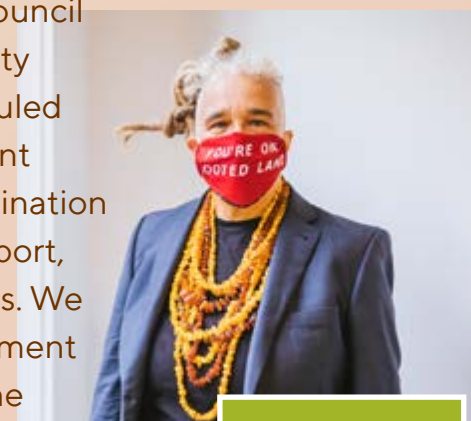
As the world called for an end to

racialized police violence, cultural workers across King County lent their skills in service of this vision. At 4Culture, we looked for ways to support their efforts. An action team composed of staff, board, and advisory committee members came together to clarify our role in this movement and to identify ways we could quickly direct funds to artist activists. An incredible lineup of performers from our Touring Arts Roster gave voice to the sorrow, anger, and hope of this moment

in a virtual concert series we produced and shared. Our Arc Artist Fellowship—which provides operational funding to artists using an annually-changing eligibility requirement, informed by the previous year’s fellows—chose to fund artists between the ages of 18 and 25 years old creating artwork that challenges structures of power.

These actions happened alongside our ongoing racial equity work. Recent years have seen us adopt new hiring and board recruitment practices, a permanent Racial Equity Team on staff, and a new mission statement that puts racial equity at the forefront. With those foundations in place, we spent 2020 bringing them into our funding practices in more concrete ways. Building for Equity—seeded by a \$20 million investment from the King

County Executive and Council and driven by a community advisory task force—rehailed our Cultural Facilities grant program through a combination of funding, technical support, and strategic partnerships. We also piloted equity investment strategies that balance the restrictions of RCW 49.60.400 with our mission, vision, and values. Using cultural health indicators such as King County’s Communities of Opportunity index and income qualifiers, we took steps to begin to rebalance funding inequities towards those most deeply impacted by racist systems. What we learned this year will help us iterate as we head into 2021.

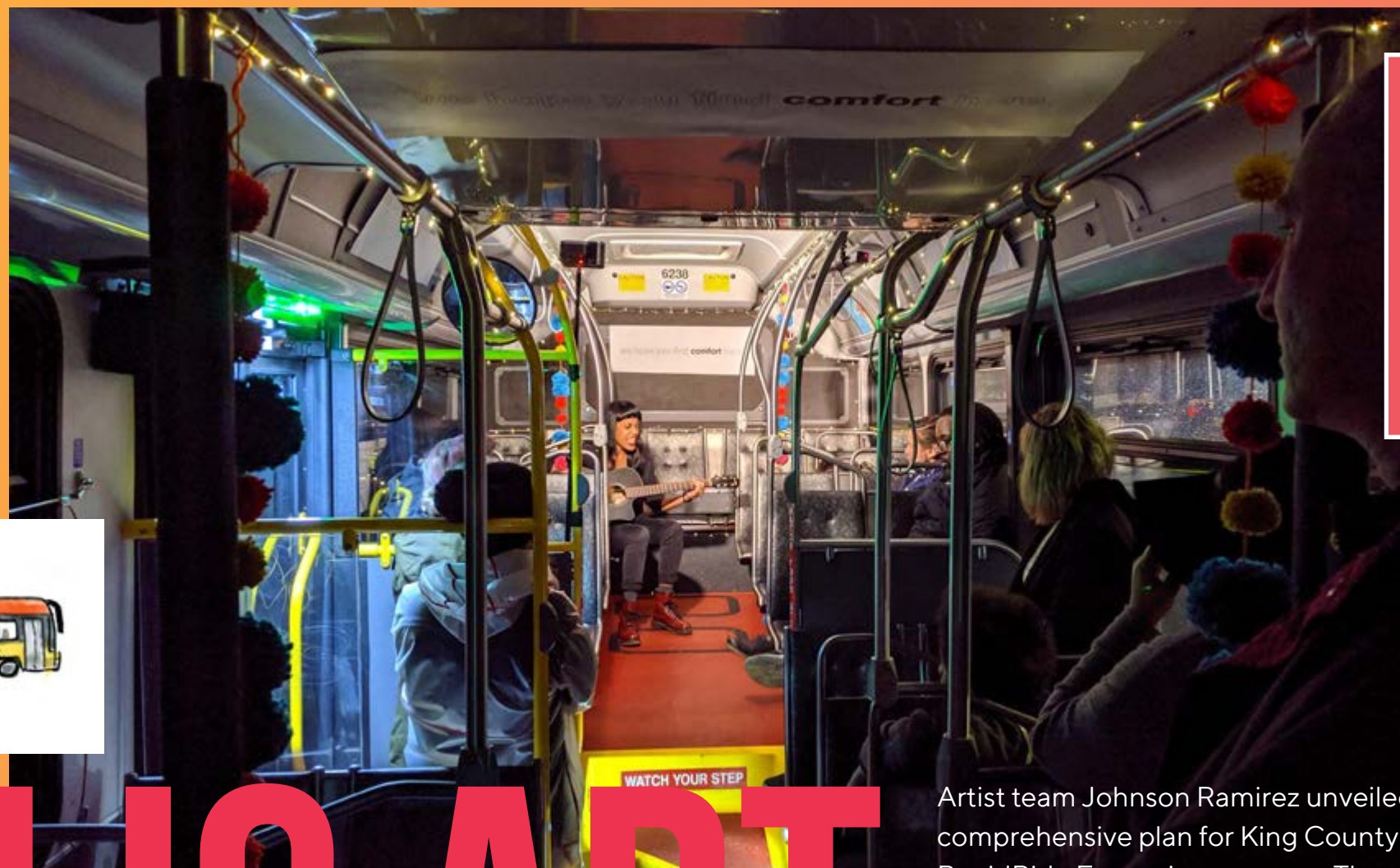


Storme Webber.
Arc Artist Fellow © 2020. Photo: Sunita Martini

RACIAL EQUITY

BRIGHT SPOTS

Aaron Bagley, Top:
Crane Transfers
Driver, Middle:
Modern Rapid Ride
Bottom: *Expansion*
Riders (RapidRide
Expansion Art Plan)
© 2020



Elisheba
Johnson and
Kristen Ramirez.
Community
Engagement Event
“The Rest Stop”
(RapidRide
Expansion Art Plan)
© 2019. Photo:
Jill Freidberg/
Corrugated Films

PUBLIC ART

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

AMPLIFIER GLOBAL CALL

artworks submitted / **10,500**
countries represented / **90**
artists selected / **130**
(**10** from King County)

100% of the artists
commissioned for public
art opportunities in 2020
are new to the King County
Public Art Collection

Artist team Johnson Ramirez unveiled a comprehensive plan for King County Metro’s RapidRide Expansion program. The plan, created over the course of eight months, is a reflection of time spent with bus drivers, King County Metro Staff, riders, and transit-lovers featuring playful visual vignettes by illustrator Aaron Bagley. The plan will be integral to the RapidRide experience of the future and will engage a multitude of artists spanning numerous disciplines—watch for artworks to take shape as each new line begins service between 2021-2025.

BRIGHT SPOTS



Natasha Marin. *Black Imagination: Sites of Power* © 2020
Photo: Erika Schultz

ARTS

Artist Natasha Marin’s *Black Imagination: Sites of Power* is the continuation of a 3-year project to uplift and celebrate Black voices. Originally designed as in-person exhibitions and theatrical performances, Marin quickly pivoted to an interactive, digital media experience that showcases collaborations with over 40 artists, curators, performers, and filmmakers. Working with Director Jay O’Leary Woods, Marin’s collaboration created new video and audio works that center Black creative communities through dynamic adaptations from the book *Black Imagination* resulting in interviews, performances, and musical compositions.

ARTS AWARDS

PROJECTS: INDIVIDUALS

applicants / 211
awards / 77
awarded / \$446,500

PROJECTS: GROUPS

applicants / 107
awards / 46
awarded / \$258,500

ARC ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

applicants / 35
awards / 5
awarded / \$60,000

BRIGHT SPOTS



Porscha Shaw,
Shermona Mitchell,
and Shaunyce Omar.
Ain't (Y) Our History
© 2020. Photo:
Rachel Atkins

HERITAGE



*Ain't (Y) Our
History* ©
2020. Photo:
Rachel Atkins

Playwright Rachel Atkins's research-based play *Ain't (Y) Our History* is about the lesser told stories of race relations within the women's suffrage movement. It was originally intended as a free public presentation to encourage community engagement around equity and voting rights. After the COVID-19 shutdown, it shifted to an online reading with the actors and Azeotrope theatre spending significant time to make the new platform work. In conjunction with a livestream panel, part of Washington's Votes for Women Centennial, the performance reached 1,200 people.

HERITAGE AWARDS

HERITAGE PROJECTS

applicants / **93**
awards / **41**
awarded / **\$272,276**

BRIGHT SPOTS

Even though the Mukai Farmhouse, the historic home of an entrepreneurial, Japanese American immigrant family, closed due to the pandemic, this Vashon Island site continues to serve as a community resource. Last spring, it was a temporary COVID-19 testing location serving over 100 people. Friends of Mukai continue to welcome visitors to the formal Japanese garden designed by Kuni Mukai through creative programs. A Haiku contest generated 250 poems, posted online and throughout the garden and grounds, enjoyed by those walking by.



Yvonne Kuperberg.
Friends of Mukai
(Mukai Fruit Barreling
Plant) © 2020. Photo:
Michelle Bates

PRESERVATION

PRESERVATION AWARDS

PRESERVATION SPECIAL PROJECTS

applicants / 16
awards / 12
awarded / \$92,000

LANDMARKS CAPITAL

applicants / 14
awards / 13
awarded / \$200,000

2020 program prioritized
urgent and emergency needs

STAFF VOLUNTEERS

Riza Almanza
Laura Becker
Anna Callahan
Bart J. Cannon, Ph.D.
Brian J. Carter
Christina DePaolo
Heather Dwyer
Bret Fetzer
Willow Fox
Christina Harrison
Joshua Heim
Jordan Howland
Selina Hunstiger
Noy Kitnikone
Phung Lam
Andy Le
Brandi Link
Guy Merrill
Claire Miccio
Doreen Mitchum
Jackie Mixon
Megumi Nagata
Melissa Newbill
Kelly Pajek
Dana Phelan
Chieko Phillips
Charlie Rathbun
Lauren Semet
Sean Stearns
Eldon Tam

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Staci Adman
Greg Beams
Jeanne Burbidge
Hank Cooper
Kimberly Deriana
Khazm Kogita
Peter Kwon
Frank Martin
Chris Moore
AC Petersen
Vivian Phillips
Natasha Rivers
Mitch Shepherd
Heather Trescases
Eugenia Woo

Councilmember Rod Dembowski, *Board Ex Officio*
Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, *Board Ex Officio*
Councilmember Joe McDermott, *Board Ex Officio*
Jennifer Meisner, *Board Ex Officio*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arts
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AC Petersen
Vivian Phillips, *Board Representative*
Eben Pobee
Jacob Prendez
Becky Witmer
Amy Dukes

Heritage
Cassie Chinn
Jolene Haas
Langston Collin Wilkins
Nancy Salguero McKay
Eric Nelson
Heather Trescases, *Board Representative*
Ruth Pickering
Seth Margolis

Preservation
Toni Azzola
Justin Ivy
Claudia Kiyama
Robyn Mah
Erica Maniez
Frank Martin, *Board Representative*
Eugenia Woo

Public Art
Lesley Bain
Saul Becker
Leo Saul Berk
Kamari Bright
Kate Fernandez
Janet Galore
Tommy Gregory
Maria Lau Hui
Keith McPeters

Building for Equity Taskforce
Kimberly Deriana
Preston Hampton
Heidi Jackson
Marie Kidhe
Katie Oman
Julie Chang Schulman
Matthew Richter
Patrice Thomas
Debra Twersky

COVID-19 Recovery Task Force
Gavin Amos-Lopez
Erika Bentley-Holland
Allison Campbell
Manuel R. Cawaling
Jade Solomon Curtis
Amy Dukes
Breanne Durham
Maya Farrar
Kathy Hsieh
Heidi Jackson
Elisheba Johnson

Satpreet Kahlon
Amanda Leon
Jasmine Jamillah Mahmoud
Chris Marcacci
Nancy Salguero McKay
Hilary Pittenger
E.T. Russian
Sarah Steen
Raymond Tymas-Jones, PhD
Nina Yarbrough

Cultural Education Task Force

Amy Dukes
Corey Dunne
Olisa Enrico
Rahul Gupta
Jessica Holloway
Andy Jensen
Tina LaPadula
Bernadette Merikle
James Miles
Andrew Peterson

Social Justice Movement Action Team

Staci Adman
Lesley Bain
Brian J. Carter
Christina Harrison
Willow Fox
Claudia Kiyama
Erica Maniez
Jackie Mixon
Chieko Phillips
AC Petersen
Lauren Semet

PANELISTS

We would like to thank our grant and commission panelists for their flexibility, patience, and commitment as we transitioned to running virtual meetings and a weekly rolling relief program. Without them we wouldn't have been able to keep our programs moving forward in 2020.

Sonia-Lynn Abenojar	Abby Inpanbutr	Mary Sherhart
Jite Agbro	Justin Ivy	Elizabeth Shi
Cleo Barnett	Srivani Jade	Allison Shirk
Stefanie Barrera	Sara Jensen	Daniel Smith
Ebo Barton	Carlos Jimenez	Rafael Soldi
Vaughn Bell	Mark Johnson	Diana Soliday
Matthew-Mary Caruchet	Philippe Hyojung Kim	Rebecca Solverson
Lucile Chich	Jessie Kotarski	Glynda Steiner
Lisa Cohen	Claudia Kiyama	Koloud 'Kay' Tarapolsi
Patricia Cosgrove	George Lee	Anastacia Renee Tolbert
Kiana Davis	Amanda Leon	Stephanie Johnson-Toliver
Catherine Nueva Espana	Nic Masangkay	Jonathan S. Tomhave, PhD
Dian Ferguson	Elizabeth Matson	Monica Van der Viernen
Gabriela Denise Frank	Kathy McCabe	Lorna Velasco
Monique Franklin	Maija McKnight	Vanessa Villalobos
Tatiana Garmendia	Eduardo Mendoca	Aletheia Wittman
Calvin Gimpelevich	Min Moon	Ko Kirk Yamahira
Neely Goniodsky	Katie Oman	Ro Yoon
Felicia Gonzalez	Barbara Nahouraii	Allison Zike
Suzanne Greathouse	Mary Ann Peters	Jennifer Zwick
Preston Hampton	Lola Peters	
Emma Herron	AC Peterson	
Dylan High	Cody Pherigo	
Bu Huang	Tom Pruiksma	
Stephanie Ikeda	Kristen Ramirez	
	John Rodezno	
	Jovino Santos Neto	

“Paneling for 4Culture during the pandemic profoundly affected me on a personal level. I still lack words to describe the experience of feeling indelibly connected to so many others in the aftermath of the shutdowns.”
— TATIANA GARMENDIA

FINANCIALS

REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES

	2020	2019	2018
Lodging Tax Revenue ⁽¹⁾	—	—	—
King County Public Art Revenue	\$518,572	\$6,887,039	\$681,075
King County Appropriations	\$3,211,891	\$3,145,672	\$3,638,576
Advances from King County	\$4,150,000	\$3,000,000	—
Public Art Consulting Revenue	\$31,045	\$161,623	\$90,781
Investment Earnings	\$280,223	\$1,088,694	\$874,812
Miscellaneous Other	\$5,695	\$133,020	\$419,819
TOTAL REVENUES ⁽²⁾	\$8,197,426	\$14,416,048	\$5,705,063

EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES

	2020	2019	2018
Arts, Heritage, and Preservation Grant Programs	\$8,013,019	\$8,688,285	\$7,750,947
Public Art Projects	\$1,002,287	\$2,143,067	\$2,107,353
CARES Act Pass-Through	\$3,211,891	—	—
Building for Culture Facility Investment Program	—	\$2,955,492	\$3,638,576
Building for Equity Facility Investment Program	\$1,068,776	\$3,998,224	—
Debt Service ⁽³⁾	\$2,165,450	\$2,168,245	\$2,170,948
Management and General Supporting Activities	\$632,663	\$682,164	\$699,369
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES ⁽²⁾	\$16,094,086	\$20,635,477	\$16,367,193

FUND BALANCES

	2020	2019	2018
General Fund	\$5,593,004	\$2,682,680	\$3,743,719
Lodging Tax Special Revenue Fund	\$6,730,858	\$5,743,538	\$6,568,389
1% for Art Special Revenue Fund	\$11,212,470	\$11,700,856	\$6,418,663
Cultural Special Account Fund	\$5,205,124	\$16,511,042	\$26,126,774
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$28,741,456	\$36,638,116	\$42,857,545



Nichole DeMent. *Future Memory* (Gallery 4Culture) © 2020. Photo: Joe Freeman

NOTES

2020 financial information is based on unaudited fund financial statements. Requests for the most recent complete audited financial report should be addressed to 4Culture’s finance department at 4Culture, 101 Prefontaine Place S, Seattle, WA 98104.

(1) Current legislation temporarily discontinues the use of lodging tax receipts for cultural purposes in King County until 2021. The Cultural Special Account is the designated source of funds for arts and heritage grant programs through 2020.

(2) Total revenues and expenditures differ on an annual basis due to timing factors in the inflows and outflows of the various programs’ financial resources.

(3) Required payments to King County for principal and interest on County debt issued for arts and heritage cultural facilities grants prior to the creation of 4Culture and for County debt issued for the Building for Culture program.



Andrea Wilbur-Sigo. *Grandfather’s Wisdom* (Brightwater Treatment Plant) © 2020. Photo: Joe Freeman