

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A volunteer works with the Center for Wooden Boats on their Blanchard Junior Knockabout Restoration project, 2023. Photo: Sunita Martini

INTRODUCTION

Annual reports are a journey of reflection and celebration. As we embark on this particular one, we're grateful you're here with us and proud to share the strides we made in 2023. Over the past year, we've remained steadfast in our commitment to dismantling barriers and creating opportunities for King County communities to express and experience culture.

Intentional funding practices like our new Public Free Access grant and a more accessible Cultural Equipment program came to life. Highly collaborative partnerships like Poetry in Public—an expansion on its original iteration, Poetry on Buses—flourished. Community-driven initiatives brought successes: the first year of our Building for Equity program's Cultural Space partnerships have come to fruition. Our own internal capacity grew as we welcomed new staff in critical roles, including Controller, Deputy Director, Human Resources Manager, and Racial Equity Coordinator.

If you know 4Culture, you know big changes are coming in 2024—you'll read more about that at the end of this report. For now, we hope this document serves as a testament to our collective dedication to fostering a cultural ecosystem where every voice is heard, every story is valued, and every person has the opportunity to thrive.

RACIAL EQUITY

Since 2019, 4Culture has tracked and analyzed demographics for all applicants and awardees. This is one of several ways to work to meet our mission to fund, support, and advocate for culture with a focus on racial equity. Every year we review the outcomes of our funding to better understand our impact and strategize ways to improve.



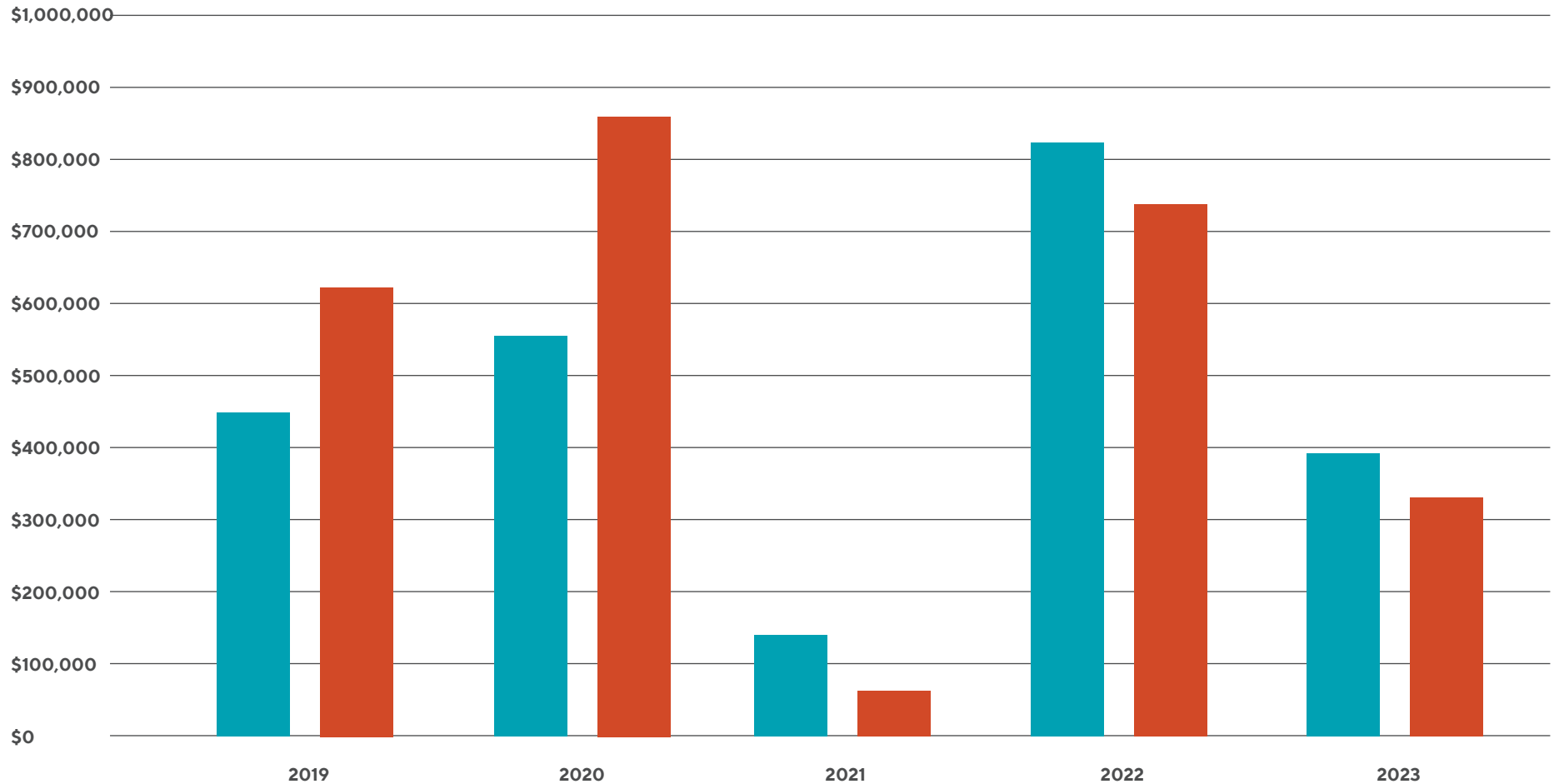
Dancers performing at Diwali: Lights of India, a cultural showcase organized by Northwest Share, 2023. Photo: San D Nath



Lorna Jordan (1954–2021) and Paul Sorey. *Justice Garden Path* (detail), 1997. Brick, flagstone, painted steel, and plantings. Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: 4Culture

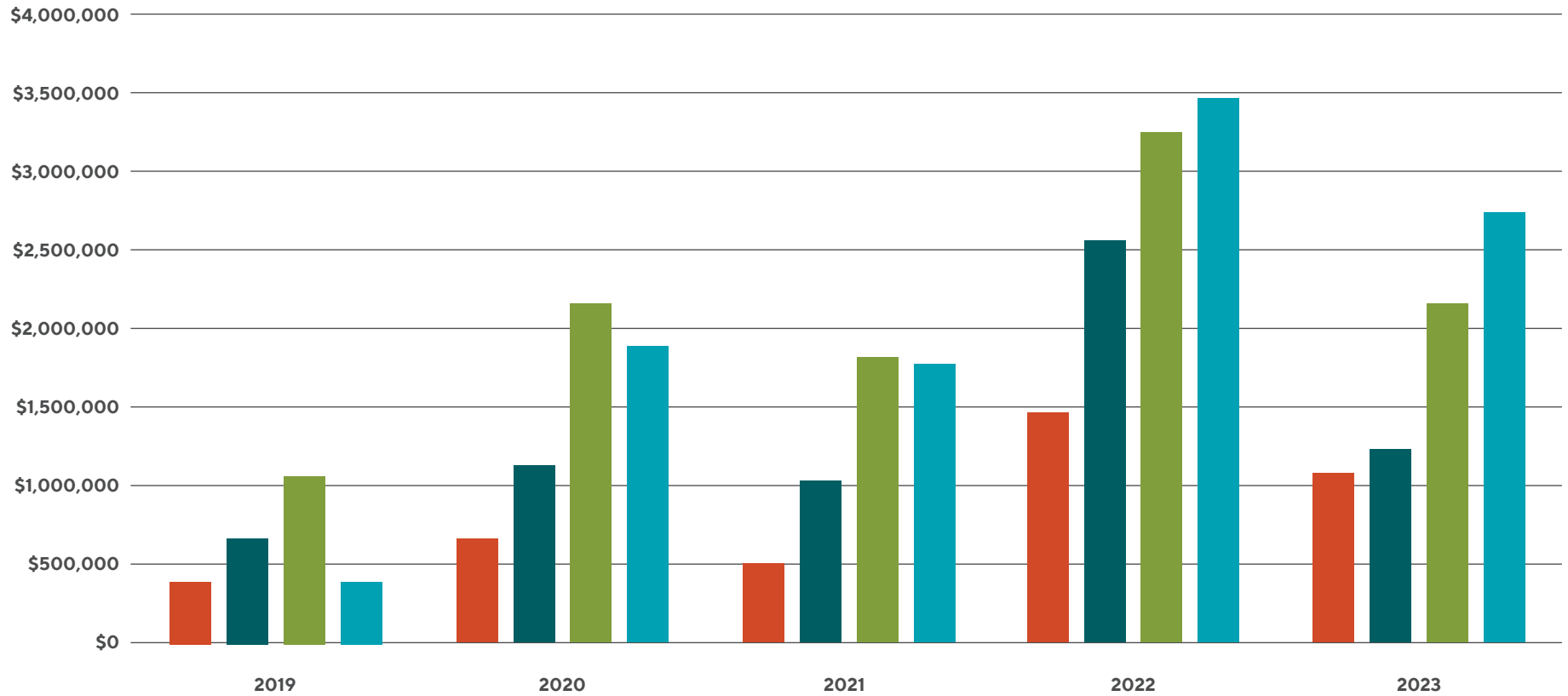
4Culture Grants for Individuals 2019-2023, Aggregated by Race

Key



2023 was the third year straight in which more funding went to BIPOC cultural practitioners than non BIPOC cultural practitioners.

4Culture Organization Grants by Staff Percentage POC



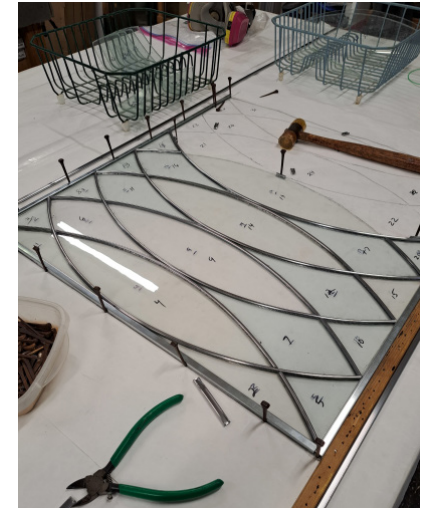
4Culture continues to make progress in more equitable funding for cultural organizations. In 2019, around 15% of organizational funding went to organizations with more than 50% POC staff. In 2023, nearly 40% of award funding went to organizations with 50% or greater POC staff.



Andrea Wilbur-Sigo. *Grandfather's Wisdom*, 2012/2020. Carved and painted cedar. Located at Brightwater in Woodinville. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: joefreemanjunior.com



Window restoration work at the Bereiter House, home to the Greater Kent Historical Society and Kent Museum, 2023. Photo: Greater Kent Historical Society



Nobody Lives Here, exhibition at Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, 2023. Photo: Wing Luke Museum



ANNUAL FUNDING BY PROGRAMS

Arts

Arc Artist Fellowship

Applicants 37

Grants 7

Total funding amount \$84,000

Arts Projects – Groups

Applicants 69

Grants 47

Total funding amount \$319,050

Arts Projects – Individuals

Applicants 158

Grants 85

Total funding amount \$479,125

Arts Sustained Support

Applicants 474

Grants 466

Total funding amount \$2,862,400

Open 4Culture

Applicants 43

Grants 26

Total funding amount \$54,000

Emergency & Unforeseen

Applicants 5

Grants 5

Total funding amount \$86,109

Total \$3,884,684

Heritage

Projects

Applicants 75

Grants 41

Total funding amount \$268,345

Collections Care

Applicants 27

Grants 19

Total funding amount \$114,950

Heritage Sustained Support

Applicants 67

Grants 66

Total funding amount \$541,558

Heritage Professional Development Stipend

Applicants 14

Grants 10

Total funding amount \$9,649

Emergency & Unforeseen

Applicants 2

Grants 2

Total funding amount \$13,998

Total \$948,500

Preservation

Preservation Special Projects

Applicants 15

Grants 13

Total funding amount \$92,000

Landmarks Capital

Applicants 31

Grants 13

Total funding amount \$303,780

Preservation Sustained Support

Applicants 26

Grants 26

Total funding amount \$136,347

Emergency & Unforeseen

Applicants 2

Grants 2

Total funding amount \$13,406

Total \$545,533

Cultural Equipment

Cultural Equipment

Applicants 168

Grants 76

Total funding amount \$525,000

Total \$525,000

Building for Equity

Building for Equity Cultural Facilities

Applicants 66

Grants 19

Total funding amount \$1,099,155

Building for Equity Building Capacity

Applicants 53

Grants 32

Total funding amount \$750,000

Total \$1,849,155

Public Art

Curator's Choice, portable collection acquisition

Gallery 2023–2024 Season

Harborview Medical Center, **Ninth and Jefferson Building**, art installation

King County Metro, Limited-edition artist designed **ORCA Cards**

King County Metro, *Poetry in Public*, poet planner and community liaisons selected

King County Metro, **South Annex Base**, artist team selected

King County Metro, **Third Ave S and S Main Street**, artist team selected



2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Staci Adman
Jeanne Burbidge
Kim Deriana
Catherine Nueva Espana
Khazm Kogita
Afua Kouyaté
Peter Kwon
Seth Margolis
Frank Martin
Patricia Moss
A C Petersen
Natasha Rivers
Latha Sambamurti
Steven Schindler
Eugenia Woo (Board President)

Ex Officio Board Members

Councilmember **Rod Dembowski**,
District 1
Councilmember **Joe McDermott**,
District 8
Councilmember **Sarah Perry**, District 3
Sarah Steen, King County Historic
Preservation Program

2023 STAFF

Riza Almanza
Anna Callahan
Bart J. Cannon, Ph.D.
Brian J. Carter
Jonathan Cunningham
Fiona Dang
Christina DePaolo
Elly Fetter
Bret Fetzer
Jordan Freeman
Willow Fox
Jon Graef
Selina Hunstiger
Phung Lam
Emily P. Lawsin
Andy Le
Erica Maniez
Guy Merrill
Claire Miccio
Lauren Miles
Jackie Mixon
Jordan Monez
Megumi Nagata
Melissa Newbill
Scott Oshima
Kelly Pajek

Dana Phelan
Chieko Phillips
Dalayna Sampton
Maya Santos
Lauren Semet
Anadelia Torres
Amber Trillo
Nina Yarbrough

Interns

Michelle Bacca, Community
Partnership Intern (with
University of Washington
College of Built Environments
and National Council for
Preservation Education)
Andrew Le, King County
Heritage Internship Program
Rosa Woolsey, Equity in
Historic Preservation
Undergraduate Intern
Jade Wahlgren, Equity
in Historic Preservation
Graduate Intern



Wa Na Wari's Seattle Black Spatial Histories Institute cohort with oral historian Alissa Rae and co-director Zola Mumford, 2023. Photo: Jill Freidberg



Art a Glow at the Highline Heritage Museum, 2023. Photo: Stephanie Dore

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arts

Amy Dukes
Gabriela Denise Frank
Patricia Moss
Jacob Prendez
Sudeshna Sen
Lauren Superville

Heritage

Leslie Anderson
Christina Arokiasamy
Teofila "Teya" Cruz-Uribe
Suzanne Greathouse
Jolene Haas
Seth Margolis
Temi Odumosu

Preservation

Stefanie Barrera
Justin Ivy
Robyn Mah
Frank Martin
Dawn Moser
Huy Pham

Public Art

Sonia-Lynn Abenojar
Lesley Bain
Leo Berk
Kamari Bright
Kimberly Deriana
Kate Fernandez
Tommy Gregory
Philippe Hyojung Kim
Maria Lau Hui
Keith McPeters
Catherine Nueva España



Poetry in Public *Drop In Poetry Event* at the Roadhouse in Seatac, 2023. Photo: Timothy Aguero Photography



The Filipiniana Multicultural Dance Troupe performing at the Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival, Seattle Center Festál, 2023. Photo by Susan Fried

PANELISTS

Humaira Abid
 Yasiman Ahsani
 Roberto Ascalon
 Susan Bartlett
 Laura Becker
 Kim Becklund
 Jeremy Beliveau
 Erika Bell
 Stesha Brandon
 Taylor Brooks
 Pierce Canser
 Mary Anne Carter
 Marie Chant
 Lina Cholewinski
 Celeste Cooning
 Jackson Cooper
 Kristine Cramer
 BJ Cummings
 Curtis Dickie
 Theresa Do
 Rick DuPree
 Maureen Ewing
 Robert Frankel
 Wilmer Galindo
 Ashley Guardipee

Francisco Guerrero
 Dulce Gutierrez Vasquez
 Ashraf Hasham
 Donna Hogerhuis
 Heidi Jackson
 Emily Kelly
 Amelia Ketzell
 Marie Kidhe
 Nicole Kistler
 Rachael Kitagawa-
 Hoshide
 Zaara Kittenchops
 Linda Lee
 Kalei Matsui
 Salome MC
 Rachael McAlister
 Cynthia Mejia-Giudici
 Zia Mohajerjasbi
 Stephanie Mohr
 Dakota Murray
 Shankar Narayan
 Auxiliadora Newman
 Agnes Navarro
 Samuel Obrovac
 Tyna Ontko

Sara Marie Ortiz
 Megan Prince
 Shenise Ramirez
 Taelore Rhoden
 Susan Robb
 MaryKate Ryan
 Ekkarath Sisavatdy
 Yolanda Suarez
 Estrella Sung
 Momo Song Suzuki
 Roger Tang
 Emily Tanner-McLean
 Demarus Tevuk
 Arianne True
 Hallee Turner
 Va'eomatoka Valu
 Nathan Vass
 Meriça Whitehall
 Rosten Woo
 Ken Workman
 Dana Wu
 Kitty Wu
 Stephen Yamada-Heidner



Students, radio producers, and DJ Blast working on C89.5 podcast series *Artist Mental Health Stories, 2023*. Photo: Billy Thompson



Hugo Moro. *In the Current, 2023*. Installation view. Gallery 4Culture. Photo: joefreemanjunior.com

LOOK AHEAD

In December 2023, the King County Council unanimously passed Doors Open legislation to increase funding by an estimated \$100 million per year to the County’s arts, heritage, science, and historic preservation non-profit organizations through a 0.1 percent sales tax. Perhaps you even joined us for our first [Doors Open Shareout!](#)

Much is still taking shape, but as we quickly get to work creating an implementation plan for this landmark new revenue source, here’s some of what’s exciting us:

The six funding programs comprised in the Doors Open ordinance—Sustained Support, Public School Cultural Access, Public Free Access, Building for Equity, Countywide Initiatives, and Launch—will push us into exciting new territory.

A minimum of 25% of all Doors Open funding will go to organizations outside of the city of Seattle, bringing long-needed resources and visibility to other vibrant places in King County.

10% of all Doors Open funding will go to organizations serving historically underserved communities in King County.

In 2024, Doors Open revenue will fund two large scale initiatives: a One-Time Capital Facilities Program and a One-Time Operating Support Program that will disburse approximately \$48.24 million to organizations still rebuilding from the impact of COVID.

Doors Open promises to be transformative for our entire sector. While our organization may look very different by the time we publish our 2024 Annual Report, the work highlighted here and planned for the year ahead is true to the 4Culture you know: broad support for the cultural doers of King County, capacity-building initiatives, and always [working to make King County a more vibrant place.](#)



The Sound of the Northwest utilizing performance and rehearsal space at Seattle JazzED through Building for Equity’s Cultural Space Partnership program, 2023. Photo: Seattle JazzED



In the process of tearing off old shingles and installing new, cedar shingles, original skipjack boards were exposed on the east side of the Neely Mansion roof, 2023. Photo: Neely Mansion Association, Linda Van Nest

4Culture Financial Information for 2023 Annual Report

Revenues and Other Sources	2023	2022	2021
Lodging Tax Revenue	14,361,606	12,396,621	7,098,137
King County Public Art Revenue	4,874,364	1,962,757	6,094,290
King County Appropriations	-	6,494,899	550,494
Advances from King County	-	-	3,984,690
Public Art Consulting Revenue	26,770	6,900	23,725
Investment Earnings	1,917,741	537,268	31,111
Miscellaneous Other	-	-	75,224
Total Revenues*	21,180,481	21,398,445	17,857,671

*Total revenues differ on an annual basis due to timing factors in the inflows and outflows of the various programs' financial resources.

Expenditures and Other Uses	2023	2022	2021
Arts, Heritage, and Preservation Grant Programs	8,729,291	7,273,372	7,499,491
Public Art Projects	2,367,177	1,723,130	1,131,737
COVID Relief Pass-Through	-	5,929,736	-
Building for Equity Facility Investment Program	1,806,505	1,320,856	1,073,400
Debt Service	300,000	300,000	465,550
Repayment of Advances from King County	2,000,000	1,859,493	1,500,000
Management and General Supporting Activities	921,796	825,290	665,219
Total Expenditures and Other Uses*	16,124,769	19,231,877	12,335,397

*Total expenditures differ on an annual basis due to timing factors in the inflows and outflows of the various programs' financial resources.

Fund Balances	Dec. 31, 2023	Dec. 31, 2022	Dec. 31, 2021
General Fund	4,269,792	6,790,562	8,981,555
Lodging Tax Special Revenue Fund	4,922,679	4,060,370	5,017,451
1% for Art Special Revenue Fund	20,431,487	17,035,531	16,392,282
Cultural Special Account Fund	12,153,012	8,834,795	4,159,402
Total Fund Balances	41,776,970	36,721,258	34,554,690

NOTE: 2023 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.