

MEETING THE MOMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CULTURE

INTRODUCTION



Youth Community Poetry Workshop at Redmond Old Firehouse Teen Center. *Poetry in Public*, 2023–2025. King County, WA. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: Timothy Aguero Photography

On the cover: *A Practice of Return* presented by Black Collectivity and Velocity Dance Center, featuring Nia-Amina Minor, Akoiya Harris, marco farroni, and Jiamond Watson. Photo: Chloe Collyer

When 2024 began, 4Culture was on the precipice of a major change: The King County Council had just unanimously passed the Doors Open legislation a few weeks prior, dramatically increasing funding for King County arts, heritage, science, and historic preservation nonprofits through a 0.1 percent sales tax.

Doors Open is expected to generate roughly \$700 million over the next seven years—a major investment in the ongoing cultural vitality of our region. This funding comes at a critical time, when many of the county’s more than 800 arts, heritage, science, and historic preservation organizations are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic. Doors Open will not only help these organizations stabilize—preserving jobs, maintaining public access to cultural experiences, and shoring up the overall creative sector—it will also allow them to expand their reach.

Doors Open is expected to generate roughly \$700 million over the next seven years—a major investment in the ongoing cultural vitality of our region.

The County designated 4Culture to distribute these funds, based on our deep grantmaking experience and expertise—and we were ready.

Knowing that a Cultural Access program like Doors Open was a possibility, we have been preparing for years, methodically laying the groundwork to ensure its success. Our preparation began at the heart of 4Culture, with updates to our mission, vision, and values, all of which center racial equity and our commitment to making sure every person in King County has what they need to explore and create culture. We then



4Culture staff
tabling at the
SeaTac Farmers
Market, 2024.
Photo by Timothy
Aguero
Photography

convened community conversations that informed the creation of the King County Cultural Plan, the 4Culture Cultural Health Study, and an Education Study to increase understanding of the local landscape.

4Culture has always been rooted in community needs and opportunities; Doors Open is a natural extension of the work we've been doing for 60 years.

Doors Open is not just about survival. It's about creating the kind of meaningful growth and transformation that will power the cultural sector well into the future. Doors Open funding will help organizations to deepen their work—whether in research, interpretation, or the creative process. We hope it will also catalyze additional philanthropic investments in the vibrant culture that makes people want to live and work here, because no one program, even one as robust as Doors Open, can do that work alone.

Doors Open would never have been possible without a decade-plus of steadfast advocacy by people throughout the cultural sector, the leadership and support of the King County Executive and King County Council, Inspire Washington, and many others. 4Culture is proud to work alongside these committed and visionary leaders.

In 2024, we created the Doors Open Implementation Plan, a blueprint for how Doors Open programs will run over the next seven years. In November, the plan was approved unanimously by the King County Council, and in December, we awarded the first round of grants.

While we worked to launch Doors Open, several of our other grantmaking programs also made a significant impact on the community in 2024. Our Open 4Culture program, which grants up to \$2,500 for Arts, Heritage, Preservation, and Science + Technology projects, awarded \$82,500 in funding for first-time grantees—a 42% increase from 2023! Our Preservation Program piloted new funding to support individuals, groups, and municipalities outside of Seattle as they prepare landmark nominations. And our Recovery Fund for Cultural Producers awarded \$2.7 million of remaining federal Covid-relief funding to 693 artists and cultural producers working in arts, heritage, and preservation.

The pages ahead reveal the overall scope and reach of 4Culture's work, including the first round of funding from Doors Open and grantee highlights from each of King County's nine Districts.

ANNUAL FUNDING BY PROGRAM

To best serve King County and take full advantage of the funds available to us, we focused on architecting Doors Open programs and distributing roughly \$1.1 million in remaining COVID relief funding to individual cultural producers in King County, which federal law required us to do by the end of 2024.

ARTS

CULTURAL PRODUCERS RECOVERY FUND

Applicants 880

Grants 693

Total funding \$2,732,530

EMERGENCY & UNFORESEEN

Applicants 8

Grants 7

Total funding \$59,900

OPEN 4CULTURE

Applicants 47

Grants 33

Total funding \$82,500

SUSTAINED SUPPORT – ARTS*

Applicants 130

Grants 120

Total funding \$3,650,100

TOURING ARTS ROSTER PRESENTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Applicants 24

Grants 17

Total funding \$27,938

HERITAGE

EMERGENCY AND UNFORESEEN

Applicants 1

Grants 1

Total funding \$1,750

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STIPEND

Applicants 20

Grants 16

Total funding \$20,454

SUSTAINED SUPPORT – HERITAGE*

Applicants 8

Grants 8

Total funding \$419,845

PRESERVATION

EMERGENCY AND UNFORESEEN

Applicants 4

Grants 4

Total funding \$45,000

KING COUNTY LANDMARK NOMINATION SUPPORT

Applicants 5

Grants 5

Total funding \$32,534

SUSTAINED SUPPORT – PRESERVATION*

Applicants 5

Grants 5

Total funding \$121,600

PUBLIC ART

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WITH ARTISTS SELECTED IN 2024

Gallery 4Culture

King County Metro—
county partner

Poetry in Public

South Annex Base:
Community Tables

South Annex Base:
Lobby Feature Wall

South Annex Base:
Surface Treatments

*The Sustained Support program includes both Lodging Tax and Doors Open sales tax revenues. The figures on this page represent only the Lodging Tax revenue portion of the program. Please see page 6 for the Doors Open portion of the program.



WHY WE HAVE TO WORK

By Elisheba Johnson and Kristen Ramirez

Inspired by a Nigerian folktale, *Why We Have to Work* was permanently installed at King County Metro's Burien Transit Center, where it references the area's agricultural history and its evolution as a major link between Seattle and Tacoma. Made of mirrored steel, it also reminds passersby of their own relationship to the sky and nature. This Public Art commission was developed in partnership with Metro to celebrate the launch of the RapidRide H Line. Kristen Ramirez passed away after she and Elisheba Johnson finalized the concept for the piece; Johnson continued formalizing the details of its implementation, ultimately manifesting a poignant way to remember and honor her dear friend and collaborator.

Johnson|Ramirez. *Why We Have to Work*, 2024. Painted, etched, and mirrored steel. Burien Transit Center, Burien, WA. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: joefreemanjunior.com

PUBLIC ART

DOORS OPEN

Announced in December 2024, the first round of Doors Open funding awarded more than \$165 million to 700+ King County cultural organizations over the next three years. This funding—made up of \$150 million in Doors Open funds and \$15 million of Lodging Tax funds—will provide the transformational support the cultural sector needs to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and chronic underfunding. To support this significant new grantmaking effort, 4Culture designed and implemented a hiring plan, adding 14 new staff members to our team before year's end.°

DOORS OPEN FACILITIES

Applicants 135
Grants 83
Total funding \$32,860,112

ARTS SUSTAINED SUPPORT*

Applicants 589
Grants 572
Total funding \$26,321,330

SCIENCE SUSTAINED SUPPORT

Applicants 23
Grants 22
Total funding \$2,677,800

PRESERVATION SUSTAINED SUPPORT*

Applicants 28
Grants 28
Total funding \$1,629,200

HERITAGE SUSTAINED SUPPORT*

Applicants 87
Grants 87
Total funding \$6,800,237



A workshop centered on language and bilingualism held at the Frye Art Museum in conjunction with the exhibition *Soft Boy*. Photo: Rafael Soldi



Live recording of Sandbox Radio at Town Hall Seattle, September 2024. Photo: John Cornicello

° All Doors Open data is based on self-reported information.

* The Sustained Support program includes both Lodging Tax and Doors Open sales tax revenues. The figures on this page represent only the Doors Open sales tax revenue portion of the program. Please see page 4 for the Lodging Tax portion of the program.



DOORS OPEN FACILITIES

Doors Open Facilities grants were available for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space that houses and facilitates cultural work in King County. In 2024, there were a total of 135 applicants for this one-time capital grant program, among which 83 (61% of applicants) were awarded. The awards made totaled approximately \$32.9M.

BY DISCIPLINE

Awards are distributed to projects across four disciplines: arts, heritage, historic preservation, and science and technology.

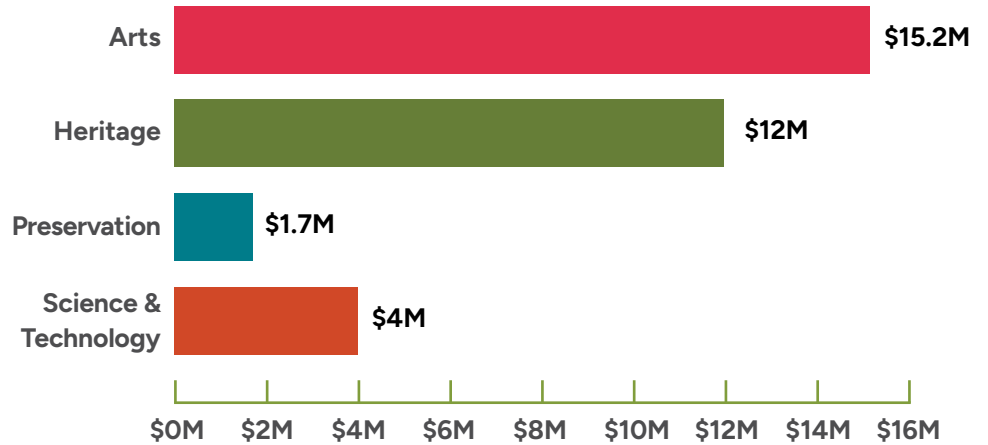
District 1

REFUGEE ARTISAN INITIATIVE

At the Refugee Artisan Initiative (RAI) in Lake City, women from countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Morocco make handicrafts—creating alongside one another as they earn a living wage. In making their wares, they gain confidence and skills while building economic stability. Following significant growth in recent years, RAI is turning a run-down Lake City facility into a makerspace and cultural center, with support from a Doors Open Facilities Grant. The new facility will allow the organization to serve a long waitlist of King County women with diverse cultural heritage and artistic traditions. The items they make span a wide range—sometimes giving a second life to hard-to-recycle materials, other times working in partnership with local organizations to raise awareness of refugee stories and foster appreciation for their cultures.

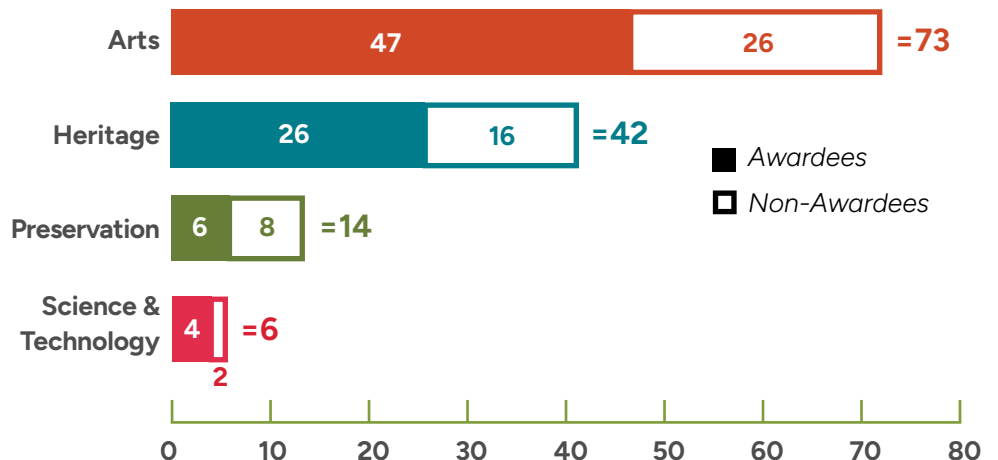
Above: An RAI artisan works on a sewing project. Photo: Refugee Artisan Initiative

AWARD AMOUNT



This chart shows the total Doors Open Facilities funding awarded by discipline.

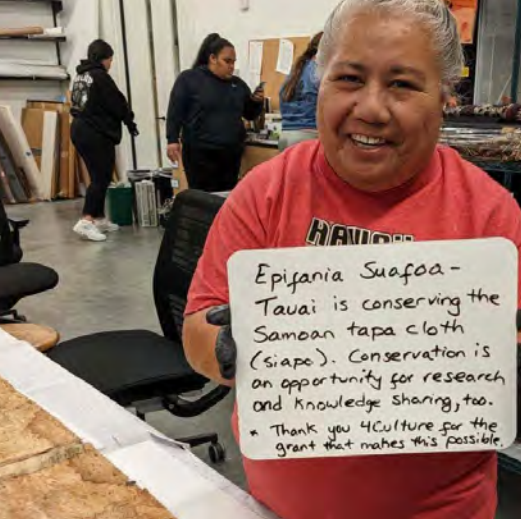
ORGANIZATIONS



This chart shows the number of Doors Open Facilities applicants and awardees by discipline.

BY ZIP CODE

Zip Code	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards	City or Seattle Neighborhood
98118	\$5.7M	9	6	Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, Seward Park
98109	\$3.4M	15	7	Central Seattle Neighborhoods
98104	\$3.4M	10	9	Downtown Seattle, SODO
98101	\$2.7M	6	2	Capitol Hill, Downtown Seattle
98122	\$2.4M	7	4	Downtown and Surrounding Neighborhoods
98144	\$2.3M	11	8	Downtown and South Seattle Neighborhoods
98070	\$1.6M	4	4	Vashon
98108	\$1.5M	5	3	South Seattle Neighborhoods
98065	\$1.4M	1	1	Snoqualmie
98188	\$1.3M	2	2	Tukwila, SeaTac
98125	\$1.1M	1	1	Lake City, Northgate
98092	\$753K	2	2	Auburn
98106	\$625K	3	1	Delridge, South Park, Industrial District
98030	\$491K	4	3	Kent
98121	\$445K	4	3	Downtown Seattle
98027	\$406K	2	2	Issaquah
98045	\$379K	4	3	North Bend
98005	\$310K	2	1	Bellevue
98022	\$297K	2	2	Enumclaw
98057	\$270K	1	1	Renton
98105	\$260K	2	1	Northeast Seattle Neighborhoods
98126	\$250K	1	1	West and South Seattle Neighborhoods
98001	\$241K	1	1	Auburn
98033	\$192K	2	1	Kirkland
98177	\$187K	2	1	North Seattle and Shoreline
98166	\$140K	3	2	Burien
98103	\$119K	2	1	North Seattle Neighborhoods
98288	\$109K	1	1	Skykomish
98116	\$104K	2	1	Industrial District, West Seattle
98155	\$80K	1	1	Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park
98117	\$75K	1	1	North Seattle Neighborhoods
98003	\$72K	2	1	Federal Way
98019	\$65K	1	1	Duvall
98028	\$40K	1	1	Kenmore
98052	\$19K	1	1	Redmond
98010	\$12K	1	1	Black Diamond
98168	\$3K	2	1	Beacon Hill, Burien, Tukwila, SeaTac
Total	\$32.9M	135	83	



District 2

THE BURKE MUSEUM

Founded 125 years ago and located on the University of Washington campus, The Burke Museum is Washington state's museum of natural history and culture, with more than 18 million objects in its collection. With support from a Collections Care grant, the museum restored two pieces of delicate Samoan *Siapo*—sometimes called *tapa*, *kapa*, or bark cloth—an artform that has been used by Pacific Islanders for thousands of years for both practical and ceremonial purposes. The museum hired a tapa maker with ties to the Pacific Islands to restore the pieces using traditional techniques and materials, preserving their cultural significance and ensuring that the cloths—and the cultural knowledge they carry—can be accessed and appreciated for years to come.

Above: Sela Lane, a master of Tongan *ngatu*-making, shares her rich knowledge. Photo: The Burke Museum



BY COUNCIL DISTRICT

DISTRICT 1
Applicants 4
Grants 4
Total funding \$1.4M

DISTRICT 4
Applicants 24
Grants 10
Total funding \$3.8M

DISTRICT 7
Applicants 6
Grants 4
Total funding \$750,000

DISTRICT 2
Applicants 30
Grants 18
Total funding \$9.7M

DISTRICT 5
Applicants 8
Grants 5
Total funding \$1.6M

DISTRICT 8
Applicants 42
Grants 26
Total funding \$11.6M

DISTRICT 3
Applicants 9
Grants 8
Total funding \$2.4M

DISTRICT 6
Applicants 6
Grants 3
Total funding \$520,000

DISTRICT 9
Applicants 6
Grants 5
Total funding \$1.1M

District 2

BLACK FARMERS COLLECTIVE

With two small farms in King County, Black Farmers Collective is building a Black-led food system by developing a farm cooperative, acquiring and stewarding land, providing educational programming, and creating space for Black healing and joy. A Science Sustained Support grant supports both Yes Farm, which occupies 1.5 acres along I-5 at Yesler Terrace, and Small Axe Farm, a four-acre “teaching farm” in the Sammamish Valley that helps new and emerging BIPOC farmers with access to land, infrastructure, business development, and more. In both locations, elders, youth, and families grow their own food while learning and building community. The Collective centers its sustainable urban agriculture around the needs of the communities of color who are likely to experience the impacts of health disparities due to food apartheid and other effects of systemic oppression.

Above: Preparation of raised beds with Black Farmers Collective. Photo: Raymond Williams

BY COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

4Culture commits to investing a minimum of 10% of awarded funding to Communities of Opportunity (COOs), which are communities identified as most adversely affected by inequities according to a suite of health and socioeconomic indicators. The index ranks all census tracts in King County. 4Culture considers the tracts ranked in the highest 40% of tracts as Communities of Opportunity. Sixty-one (61%) of Doors Open Facility funds were distributed to organizations in COOs.

Community of Opportunity	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards
Non COO	\$12.8M	69	36
COO	\$20.0M	66	47
Total	\$32.9M	135	83

BY OUTSIDE SEATTLE

4Culture’s equity investments include ensuring that 25% of Doors Open funds are awarded to cities and communities outside of Seattle and within King County. In 2024, 26% of facilities funds awarded went to 34 projects located outside of Seattle, which totaled about \$8.4 million; 74% of awarded funds went to 49 projects in Seattle, totaling \$24.5 million.

Eighty-seven Seattle organizations applied for facilities funding and of them, 49 (56%) were funded. Forty-eight organizations based outside Seattle applied for facilities funding, and of them, 34 (71%) were funded, reflecting the intention to invest more heavily in facilities in non-established cultural centers.

City	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards
Auburn	\$753K	2	2
Bellevue	\$310K	3	1
Black Diamond	\$12K	1	1
Burien	\$140K	3	2
Des Moines	\$0	1	0
Duvall	\$65K	1	1
Enumclaw	\$297K	2	2
Federal Way	\$313K	3	2
Issaquah	\$406K	2	2
Kenmore	\$40K	1	1
Kent	\$491K	5	3
Kirkland	\$192K	2	1
Maple Valley	\$0	1	0
North Bend	\$379K	4	3
Redmond	\$19K	1	1
Renton	\$270K	1	1
SeaTac	\$1.2M	3	2
Shoreline	\$267K	2	2
Skykomish	\$109K	1	1
Skyway	\$0	1	0
Snoqualmie	\$1.4M	1	1
Tukwila	\$80K	3	1
Vashon	\$1.6M	4	4
Total (Outside of Seattle)	\$8.4M	48	34



District 2

YƏHAW

Founded in 2017, yəhaw Indigenous Creatives Collective is a community of Indigenous artists who are rematriating 1.5 acres of land in South Seattle as part of its mission to improve Indigenous well-being through art-making, community-building, and equitable creative opportunities for personal and professional growth. An Arts Cultural Facilities Emergency and Unforeseen grant helped yəhaw acquire the house beside its land parcel when it became available more quickly than expected. A Doors Open Facilities grant is supporting safety and accessibility improvements to the house, which will ultimately become a Native arts center with equipment for printmaking, carving, weaving, and other cultural artforms, as well as exhibition spaces, and artist-in-residence lodging. The Doors Open grant is also contributing to the restoration of an 80-year-old greenhouse, which includes construction of a covered open-air space for workshops, dance, installations, and more.

Above: Indigenous Creatives Collective (dba yəhaw), Owen Oliver Residency Presentation, 2024. Photo: yəhaw

SUSTAINED SUPPORT

Sustained Support is designed to help fund the operational needs of cultural organizations in King County. In 2024, the total funding awarded for the Sustained Support program was \$37.2 million through a combination of lodging tax and Doors Open sales tax revenue. There were a total of 596 applicant organizations eligible for Doors Open funds, of which 586 organizations (98% of applicants) were awarded.

BY DISCIPLINE

Project Type	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards
Arts	\$22.5M	472	463 (98%)
Heritage	\$6.3M	79	79 (100%)
Science	\$2.7M	23	22 (96%)
Preservation	\$1.3M	22	22 (100%)
Total	\$32.8M	596	586 (98%)

BY ZIP CODE

Zip Code	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards	City or Seattle Neighborhood
98101	\$4.6M	30	30	Capitol Hill, Downtown Seattle
98109	\$4.5M	38	38	Central Seattle Neighborhoods
98122	\$1.8M	38	36	Downtown and Surrounding Neighborhoods
98144	\$1.7M	24	24	Downtown and South Seattle Neighborhoods
98103	\$1.7M	35	34	North Seattle Neighborhoods
98104	\$1.5M	27	26	Downtown Seattle, SODO
98108	\$1.1M	14	14	South Seattle Neighborhoods
98118	\$847K	18	18	Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, Seward Park
98105	\$741K	15	15	Northeast Seattle Neighborhoods
98121	\$615K	6	6	Downtown Seattle
98027	\$578K	6	6	Issaquah
98070	\$563K	13	13	Vashon
98195	\$546K	3	3	University District
98033	\$542K	9	9	Kirkland

District 3

NORTH BEND ART & INDUSTRY

In Snoqualmie Valley, a Doors Open Facilities grant helped North Bend Art & Industry (NBAI) move from 300 square-foot space to a 1,600 square-foot space where its growing makerspace can continue to expand for years to come. A grassroots and volunteer-run organization, NBAI creates an environment where people of all ages and backgrounds can explore and nurture their creativity and curiosity. Its planned renovations include building a covered outdoor vendor space for art markets and construction of a facility for woodworking, glass blowing, pottery, and metal working where artists and community members can access equipment, classes, and other events.

Above: A community art project at the Block Party in North Bend, summer 2024. Photo: Deb Landers

(CHART CONTINUED)

Zip Code	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards	City or Seattle Neighborhood
98106	\$502K	11	11	Delridge, South Park, Industrial District
98032	\$483K	9	9	Kent
98003	\$471K	8	8	Federal Way
98107	\$447K	15	15	Ballard, Phinney Ridge, Fremont
98052	\$420K	11	10	Redmond
98004	\$412K	7	7	Bellevue
98134	\$405K	14	13	Downtown and Surrounding Neighborhoods
98125	\$393K	13	12	Lake City, Northgate
98166	\$360K	9	9	Burien
98112	\$343K	6	6	Capitol Hill, Central Area
98115	\$342K	14	14	Northeast Seattle Neighborhoods
98057	\$314K	8	7	Renton
98116	\$304K	9	9	Industrial District, West Seattle
98178	\$302K	5	5	Seattle, Tukwila, Renton
98199	\$270K	4	4	Interbay, Magnolia
98014	\$269K	6	6	Carnation
98102	\$263K	9	9	Capitol Hill, Eastlake, South Lake Union
98133	\$257K	10	9	North Seattle Neighborhoods
98155	\$255K	8	8	Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park
98119	\$231K	5	5	Interbay, Queen Anne
98040	\$230K	4	4	Mercer Island
98117	\$221K	7	7	North Seattle Neighborhoods
98188	\$218K	4	4	Tukwila, SeaTac
98065	\$215K	2	2	Snoqualmie
98146	\$197K	5	5	West Seattle, Burien
98038	\$189K	6	6	Maple Valley
98002	\$165K	2	2	Auburn
98177	\$162K	5	5	North Seattle Neighborhoods
98056	\$156K	3	3	Renton
91809	\$148K	1	1	Seattle PO Box
98008	\$141K	6	6	Bellevue
98074	\$134K	5	5	Sammamish
98007	\$127K	5	5	Bellevue
98136	\$121K	6	6	West Seattle

District 4

GINNY RUFFNER

In the heart of Ballard, a building known as the Cors & Wegener Block is one of the oldest, most intact, and architecturally significant buildings in the Ballard Avenue Landmark District, where a small town flourished in the late 19th century before Seattle annexed it in 1907. While the historic streetscape has been largely preserved—it's locally designated as the Ballard Avenue Landmark District—the decorative metal urns on the parapet of the Cors & Wegener Block had fallen into disrepair over the years. With support from a Landmarks Capital grant, artist Ginny Ruffner hired a skilled metalworker to restore the urns in 2024. Ruffner, known especially for her public artworks and work in glass, maintained a studio in the building for many years prior to her untimely passing in January 2025.

Above: The Cors & Wegener Block Building. Photo: Ginny Ruffner

(CHART CONTINUED)

Zip Code	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards	City or Seattle Neighborhood
98045	\$119K	5	5	North Bend
98168	\$118K	4	4	Beacon Hill, Burien, Tukwila, SeaTac
98030	\$105K	3	3	Kent
98028	\$98K	5	5	Kenmore
98019	\$92K	5	5	Duvall
98005	\$90K	2	2	Bellevue
98023	\$86K	3	3	Federal Way
98198	\$84K	4	4	Des Moines
98092	\$81K	3	3	Auburn
98001	\$79K	1	1	Auburn
98058	\$76K	3	3	Renton
98011	\$73K	3	3	Bothell
98072	\$70K	4	4	Woodinville
98126	\$55K	4	3	West and South Seattle Neighborhoods
98127	\$52K	2	2	Seattle PO Box
98031	\$52K	2	2	Kent
98022	\$51K	3	3	Enumclaw
98124	\$44K	2	2	Seattle PO Box
98024	\$43K	1	1	Fall City
98029	\$42K	2	2	Issaquah
98288	\$40K	2	2	Skykomish
98042	\$37K	2	2	Kent
98148	\$36K	2	2	Burien
98010	\$33K	2	2	Black Diamond
98006	\$30K	2	2	Bellevue
98059	\$30K	1	1	Renton
98111	\$19K	1	1	Seattle PO Box
98015	\$18K	1	1	Bellevue
98093	\$15K	1	1	Federal Way
98051	\$15K	1	1	Ravensdale
98075	\$15K	1	1	Sammamish
98053	\$14K	1	1	Redmond
Total	\$32.8M	596	586	

District 5

SHOW BRAZIL! WITH THE ROADHOUSE

Inside the garage at Angle Lake Station in SeaTac, a vibrant community thrives at a community performance space called The Roadhouse. Dedicated to cultivating and promoting local arts and culture, the venue celebrates the rich cultural heritage of SeaTac and South King County while fostering connections between transit riders, visitors, and the local community. A Community Partners grant supported a project called *South King County at The Roadhouse*, which showcased local artists at free monthly events, hosted Q&As where artists and audiences could engage with each other, and offered a series of workshops and activities curated by and for youth. The Roadhouse is managed by Show Brazil!, an organization known primarily for its Brazilian programming, such as BrasilFest, which dates back to 1999.

Above: The Roadhouse storefront. Photo: Show Brazil!



District 5

DIWA FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL

The Diwa Filipino Film Festival celebrates the Filipino spirit by exhibiting independent films from the Philippine islands and beyond. With a focus on work by emerging Filipino and Filipinx filmmakers, in 2024 the festival featured 11 films exploring timely topics and themes, made screenings available both virtually and in person, and offered a filmmaking seminar to encourage first-time Filipinx filmmakers to share their own stories. After applying to 4Culture for the first time, the festival was awarded an Arts Sustained Support grant to support continued free admission to all of its screenings and programs.

Above: Staff and volunteers at a tabling event. Photo: Diwa Filipino Film Festival

BY COUNCIL DISTRICT

DISTRICT 1

Applicants 50
Grants 48
Total funding \$1.4M

DISTRICT 4

Applicants 116
Grants 115
Total funding \$8.1M

DISTRICT 7

Applicants 18
Grants 18
Total funding \$900,000

DISTRICT 2

Applicants 102
Grants 100
Total funding \$5.7M

DISTRICT 5

Applicants 35
Grants 34
Total funding \$1.4M

DISTRICT 8

Applicants 165
Grants 162
Total funding \$11.1M

DISTRICT 3

Applicants 42
Grants 42
Total funding \$1.6M

DISTRICT 6

Applicants 46
Grants 45
Total funding \$2.1M

DISTRICT 9

Applicants 22
Grants 22
Total funding \$529,000

BY COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

In 2024, 23% of awarded Sustained Support funds went to organizations serving or located in Communities of Opportunity (COOs), surpassing 4Culture’s COO equity investment goal of 10%.

Community of Opportunity	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards
Non COO	\$25.3M	471	466
COO	\$7.5M	125	120
Total	\$32.8M	596	586



District 6

NRITYENAKATHA DANCE-THEATER COMPANY

A couple of years ago, Nriylenakatha Dance-Theater Company presented *Nala Damayanti*, a large-scale production of Kuchipudi, one of eight major forms of Indian classical dance. With original script, songs, and choreography by the company, the 3.5-hour musical featured 30 cast members, 18 dances, and dynamic digital backdrops. The production was such a hit that Nriylenakatha remounted it in 2024. Nriylenakatha—which means “storytelling through dance”—shares rare Indian history and literature through Kuchipudi, elements of Garba/Raas (Western Indian traditional folk dance), theater, and film. An Arts Sustained Support grant helps Nriylenakatha continue to provide its unique programming, artist training, and cultural experiences.

Above: Nriylenakatha Dance-Theater Company’s 2022 performance of *Nala Damayanti*. Photo: Gotta Click That

BY OUTSIDE SEATTLE

Organizations in 33 cities outside of Seattle received Sustained Support Doors Open funding. Of the 586 organizations awarded, 206 (approximately 35%) are located outside of Seattle. Funding for these organizations amounted to about \$9 million, or about 27% of Sustained Support Doors Open funding.

387 Seattle organizations applied for funding and 380 were awarded. Outside Seattle organizations were awarded at a similarly high rate with 209 applicants and 206 awardees.

City	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards
Auburn	\$325K	6	6
Bellevue	\$818K	23	23
Black Diamond	\$33K	2	2
Bothell	\$73K	3	3
Burien	\$384K	11	11
Carnation	\$269K	6	6
Des Moines	\$84K	4	4
Duvall	\$92K	5	5
Enumclaw	\$51K	3	3
Fall City	\$43K	1	1
Federal Way	\$572K	12	12
Issaquah	\$620K	8	8
Kenmore	\$98K	5	5
Kent	\$676K	16	16
Kirkland	\$542K	9	9
Lake Forest Park	\$65K	2	2
Maple Valley	\$189K	6	6
Mercer Island	\$230K	4	4
Newcastle	\$30K	1	1
Normandy Park	\$34K	1	1
North Bend	\$119K	5	5
Ravensdale	\$15K	1	1
Redmond	\$504K	13	12

(CHART CONTINUED)

City	Funding Amount	# of Applicants	# of Awards
Renton	\$546K	14	13
Sammamish	\$79K	5	5
SeaTac	\$40K	1	1
Shoreline	\$384K	14	13
Skykomish	\$40K	2	2
Skyway	\$189K	1	1
Snoqualmie	\$215K	2	2
Tukwila	\$899K	6	6
Vashon Island	\$563K	13	13
Woodinville	\$70K	4	4
Total (Outside of Seattle)	\$8.9M	209	206

District 7

PACIFIC BALLROOM DANCE

Based in Auburn, Pacific Ballroom Dance (PBD) encourages joyful movement through ballroom dance for students ages 3 to 90+. Its classes, social dances, and workshops make it possible for people of all ages and experience to pursue ballroom dance in whatever way suits their interest, and a scholarship program makes sure that anyone who wishes to take classes won't be turned away. PBD also brings ballroom dance to local elementary schools as a means for social and emotional learning. This program is offered for free to students and is accessible for those intellectual and developmental disabilities. PBD students give twice yearly public concerts and the organization often collaborates with groups such as the Auburn Symphony and Green River College. An Arts Sustained Support grant provides funding for PBD's ongoing work.

Above: Pacific Ballroom Dance's winter concert, Joy, 2024. Photo: Pacific Ballroom Dance

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

PUBLIC ART

By Tommy Segundo and Toka Valu

For centuries, the Duwamish River has been a cultural anchor for the dx^wdəwʔabš (Duwamish) people. *Return on Investments*, a collaborative mural at the King County International Airport, features Northwest Coast formline work and illustration by Indigenous artists Tommy Segundo (Haida/Katzie) and Toka Valu (Tongan). Emphasizing the importance of returning the Duwamish River Valley to health, the mural portrays Thunderbird, the Duwamish Waterway's original meandering form, spawning salmon, a Boeing 747, and Chief Sealth overseeing Seattle from above, accompanied by Sun and Moon. Its design was shaped by interviews with nearby residents, business owners, artists, and culture bearers.

Tommy Segundo and Toka Valu. *Return on Investments* (detail), 2024. Powder coated aluminum. King County International Airport, Seattle, WA. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: joefreemanjunior.com





District 8

BOB SANTOS COMMUNITY ROOM

Construction began in 2024 on the Bob Santos Community Room, a new gathering place in Seattle's Chinatown International District devoted to community organizing, education, and celebration. Funded in part by a Building for Equity grant, the space was named for the beloved community activist Bob Santos, known as Uncle Bob, who passed away in 2015 after a life spent advocating for the preservation and dignity of the neighborhood's Asian and Pacific Islander communities, histories, and cultures.

The new space will feature a large painting and a terrazzo floor design created by community-based artists. Once open, the Bob Santos Room will serve as the starting point for a walking tour modeled after Uncle Bob's famous neighborhood tour known for emphasis on social equity and humor.

The Bob Santos Community Room during the CID 2023 Block Party. Photo: Bob Santos Community Room

2024 STAFF

Riza Almanza	Selina Hunstiger	Dana Phelan
Elyn Blandon	Korra Kairos	Chieko Phillips
Anna Callahan	Phung Lam	Jennifer Pritchard
Bart Cannon, Ph.D.	Emily Lawsin	Liz Reyes
Brian J. Carter	Andy Le	Jay Robles Chumash/ Cahuilla/Ohlone
Calandra Childers	Erica Maniez	Dalayna Sampton
Cassie Chinn	Guy Merrill	Maya Santos
Jonathan Cunningham	Claire Miccio	Lauren Semet
Fiona Dang	Lauren Miles	Ana M. Sneed
Christina DePaolo	Jacquelyn Mixon	Fundisha Tibebe
Sol Dressa	Jordan Monez	Anadelia Torres, CPA
Elly Fetter	Casey Moser	Amber Trillo
Bret Fetzer	Megumi Nagata	Natasha Varner, Ph.D.
Willow Fox	Melissa Newbill	Bryan Wilson
Jordan Freeman	Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, Ph.D.	Nina Yarbrough
Jon Graef	Scott Oshima	
Melissa Huggins	Kelly Pajek	

2024 BOARD MEMBERS

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Elizabeth Tail
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PUBLIC ART

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Leo Berk
Kamari Bright
Kate Fernandez
Tommy Gregory
Philippe Hyojung Kim
Elisheba Johnson
Keith McPeters
Catherine Nueva España

District 9

BLADES OF CHANGE

A decade ago, artist and educator Jill Drlevich became aware of a disused material: 200 massive nuclear fan blades from the never-completed Satsop nuclear power plant in Elma. She saw in them great potential as canvases and storytelling tools, and diverted them from the landfill. That moment eventually gave way to Blades of Change, a thriving multidisciplinary arts and storytelling initiative that transforms these pieces of nuclear history into artwork through collaboration and community engagement. Funded in part by an Arts Sustained Support grant, the organization works with a wide variety of artists, presents work at places like the Downtown Sculpture Park in Auburn, and works with partners ranging from the Veterans Memorial in Maple Valley to Sound Transit to Urban Artworks' youth apprenticeship program.

Above: Marshallese master weaver Emma Joran with her Blades of Change nuclear sculpture, 2024. Photo: Daniel Ames

PANELISTS

Adetola Abatan	Ubox Gardheere	Jose (Pepe) Montero
Ann Marie Apigo	Stefan Gonzales	Dawn Moser
Sharon Arnold	Sasha Alexandra Gourevitch	Alicia Mullikin
Roberto Ascalon	Ricky Graboski	Keyara Murray
Ryan Asuncion	Kate Greenberg	D.A. Navoti
Austin Bell	Laura Haddad	Sierra Nelson
Toni Borlas	Ekram Hassen	Sara Osebold
Kamari Bright	Amy Hirotaka	Dr. Jeffery Perkins Jr.
Shelley Brittingham	Ashley-Nichole Holland	Sah Pham
Russell Brooks	Micah Horwith	Anna Pierce
Jon Cantalini	Bu Huang	David Pilgrim
Ruiming Cash	Zixuan Huang	Era Pogosova
Matthew Chambers	Kevin Hughes	Jaime Quiroga
Juan (Chenxi Liu) Chang	Jennifer Huston	Jessica Ramirez
Alexander Chew	Matthew Inpanbutr	Ricky Reyes
Pedro Ciriano Perez	Kayla Jackson	Dr. Meena Selvakumar
Alejandro Cortes	Michael Jacobson	Sudeshna Sen
Jo Cosme	Debra Landers	Yoko Shimomura
Jacqueline Crane	Wei-Wei Lee	Sirichanh Sisavatdy
Andrew Creech	Rhonda Lewis	Estrella Sung
Laura Da'	Edwin Lindo	Susanō Hideko Surface
Elena Davert	Misha Lujan	Asia Tail
Rosaline Dou	Violeta Martin	Josh Tuininga
Tom Drugan	Michael May	Caroline VanHarmelen
Dr. Shelly Farnham	Rachael McAlister	Jessi Wasson
Miz Floes	Jennifer-Navva Milliken	Iz White
Bonnie Fluckinger	Brandon Moak	Sharon Williams
Gabriela Frank		Jason Young
Monique Franklin		



As part of a pigment-making workshop, members of the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps harvest plant material at the Georgetown Steam Plant dye garden. Laura C. Wright, *waterplant*, 2024. Seattle, WA. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: Laura C. Wright



Michael Hong, *Oi-ee Moo-chim*, 2024. Gallery 4Culture, Seattle, WA. Photo: joefreemanjunior.com

4CULTURE 2024 FINANCIALS

Revenues and Other Sources	2024	2023	2022
Doors Open Sales Tax Revenue	\$70,830,401	\$ -	\$ -
Lodging Tax Revenue	14,787,239	14,361,606	12,396,621
King County Public Art Revenue	1,681,105	4,874,364	1,962,757
King County Appropriations	2,869,317	-	6,494,899
Public Art Consulting Revenue	32,126	26,770	6,900
Investment Earnings	2,403,252	1,917,741	537,268
Total Revenues*	\$92,603,440	\$21,180,481	\$21,398,445

Expenditures and Other Uses	2024	2023	2022
Arts, Heritage, and Preservation Grant Programs	\$9,632,994	\$8,729,291	\$7,273,372
Doors Open Startup Administration	1,524,392	-	-
Public Art Projects	2,535,512	2,367,177	1,723,130
COVID Relief Pass-Through	2,726,290	-	5,929,736
Building for Equity Facility Investment Program	1,517,067	1,806,505	1,320,856
Debt Service	300,000	300,000	300,000
Repayment of Advances from King County	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,859,493
Management and General Supporting Activities	1,056,906	921,796	825,290
Leasehold Improvements	267,589	-	-
Total Expenditures and Other Uses*	\$21,560,750	\$16,124,769	\$19,231,877

Fund Balances	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2023	Dec. 31, 2022
General Fund	\$6,537,605	\$4,269,792	\$6,790,562
Lodging Tax Special Revenue Fund	3,435,915	4,922,679	4,060,370
1% for Art Special Revenue Fund	20,656,460	20,431,487	17,035,531
Cultural Special Account Fund	13,555,141	12,153,012	8,834,795
Doors Open Special Revenue Fund	68,634,539	-	-
Total Fund Balances	\$112,819,660	\$41,776,970	\$36,721,258

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

NOTE: 2024 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.

LOOKING AHEAD



Seattle Pride Art Walk on June 6, 2024, at Railspur in Pioneer Square. Photo: Seattle Pride

Many exciting efforts are in the works for 2025. Here's a snapshot of what to expect from 4Culture over the next year.

After going on pause during the pandemic, **Hello 4Culture** is back! The countywide outreach effort engages King County residents in conversations about their creative pursuits. These events and office-hours sessions help us share information about our grants and programs while building relationships that center those who have been disproportionately left out of cultural funding and public art opportunities.

Several **new public art projects** will be installed throughout King County. A new work by W. Scott Trimble will evoke the history of Woodinville on the Eastrail. And a series of King County Parks projects will take shape guided by Rosten Woo's *Seeding: King County Parks and Trails Art Plan*, which was completed in 2024.

You are always welcome to visit us and check out Gallery 4Culture and Storefront Media

Gallery, where we showcase the work of King County visual artists.

We'll finish developing a plan and framework for **evaluating** new Doors Open programs and **reporting to the community** on their effectiveness.

We're staffing up our **Science and Technology** team and conducting site visits with recently funded science organizations to strengthen our relationships with them.

The **Launch grant program** will open in July, providing new and emerging cultural and science organizations in King County with three years of unrestricted general operating support and access to additional capacity-building support services. To raise awareness about these grants, we'll host a series of in-person and online outreach events in the spring.

A new **Network of Support program** will create a roster of skilled individuals and organizations who can provide as-needed services to

cultural organizations in King County, specifically recipients of Sustained Support, Launch, and Building for Equity grants, as they navigate change and growth. In spring, we'll be issuing a call for coaches, mentors, consultants, and technical assistance providers to join this roster.

Opening for the first time in November, our **Cultural Support Services program** focuses on organizations that contribute to the quality of life and career development for individual cultural workers. A new online Resource Library will feature a roster of organizations for people to learn about and access their services.

Doors Open funding will expand the reach of our **Public Free Access program**, funding efforts to reduce the out-of-pocket costs of science and cultural experiences, helping to make them accessible to everyone in King County, particularly underserved communities.

Building for Equity is an interdisciplinary cultural facilities grant program that provides a unique combination of funding, technical support, and strategic partnerships geared toward dismantling racism in cultural facilities funding and fostering equitable development. The program is expanding from two to four funding areas in 2025.

The all-new **Public School Cultural Access program** will work to ensure that K-12 public school students in all 19 King County school districts benefit from greater access to arts, science, heritage, and historic preservation experiences—both in their own classrooms and on field trips. In 2025 we will develop the three ways this will happen: through piloting a transportation program, launching a roster to connect school districts to cultural organizations providing educational services, and running a three-year grant program to fund these activities.



Artist-led wild clay workshop. Vaughn Bell. *Atmospheric River Garden*, 2024. Plants, earthwork, and stoneware ceramics. 21 Acres, Woodinville, WA. King County Public Art Collection. Photo: Timothy Aguero Photography



A GreenStage performance of *Henry VI* in summer of 2024. Photo: GreenStage

Back cover: Maria Phillips. *at what point...*, 2024. Gallery 4Culture, Seattle, WA. Photo: joefreemanjunior.com



CULTURE

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