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SEATTLE, WA 98104
4CULTURE.ORG

Call for Letters of Interest

Introduction

**“organization” includes “Tribes, Public Agencies, and Municipalities”*

**“culture” or “cultural” includes “science and technology, scientific and technological”*

4Culture is pleased to announce a Call for Letters of Interest (LOI) for the Anchoring Community Grant and Cohort program. This program is designed to fund and foster equitable development for organizations buying, building, or renovating buildings and specialized spaces that make cultural experiences possible.

We invite eligible organizations with cultural facilities project budgets **over \$10 million** to submit a Letter of Interest outlining their long-term project plans and alignment with the program’s goals. Letters of Interest will be submitted through 4Culture’s online **LOI form**. 4Culture **organizations accounts** are required to access this form. Written LOI documents or other forms will not be accepted.

Selected applicants will be invited to apply to this program for funding with a full proposal and participate in a cohort.

Anchoring Community Grant & Cohort Program

Aimed at cultivating a community of equitable development practitioners in King County, this program prioritizes **participatory processes, measurable outcomes, and evaluation efforts** that advance social equity, centering those disproportionately impacted by systemic racism.

Through a 3-year commitment, 4Culture will provide resources to support your equitable development practice.

Cohorts

Invited applicants will participate in a cohort focusing on equitable development practices. Cohort goals are to implement, measure, and evaluate equitable development practices throughout their projects in a peer learning setting. Facilitated by 4Culture, cohorts will meet regularly for a duration of 3-years and participate in an annual Community of Practice, a convening of King County equitable development practitioners and advocates. **A commitment to participate fully in the cohort is required to be funded by this program.**

Cultural Space Partnerships

Cultural Space Partnerships are models of equitable development aimed to form new

collaborations that center resource-sharing and support for organizations that have historically faced barriers to property ownership in King County. **Awardees must** participate in a Cultural Space Partnership by providing free cultural space and/or technical support to a Building for Equity: Project Development awardee for a duration of 3-years and convene in an annual Community of Practice gathering to further relationships of mutual aid.

4Culture Equity Anchor

A 4Culture Equity Anchor is a seal of recognition for successfully demonstrating equitable development practices through a cultural facilities project. **Invited applicants** who have completed a 3-year cohort and cultural space partnership, and received Anchoring Community or Sustained Support funding will be recognized with a 4Culture Equity Anchor. All Anchoring Community applicants (funded or not) are welcome to continue engagement with 4Culture's ongoing Community of Practice convenings.

King County Council Introduction

Invited applicants will have the opportunity to meet with 4Culture and their designated King County District Councilmember to discuss facilities projects in their application.

Other Resources

4Culture Network of Support

4Culture's Network of Support is a directory of vetted consultants who can support organizations directly especially in facing various facilities-related project challenges. Visit [4culture.org](https://www.4culture.org) for more information.

Communities of Practice

Starting in 2026, 4Culture will be hosting various Communities of Practice convenings, gatherings, and/or mixers related to cultural facilities projects, equitable development, project planning and development, and much more. These free and open to public gatherings will be an ongoing opportunity for peer-learning and networking throughout King County. To stay updated on these opportunities and more join our newsletter: <https://www.4culture.org/about-4culture/newsletter/>

Foundational to this grant is King County's [Building for Equity initiative](#) to support cultural building projects and create a pathway to racial equity in cultural facilities funding. The [Building for Equity program](#) provides a combination of funding, technical support, and strategic partnerships geared toward dismantling racism in cultural facilities funding and fostering equitable development throughout the county.

For more resources on equitable development visit our [Building for Equity Field Resources](#) page.

Letters of Interest Requirements

We are looking at internal and external approaches and practices the organization is undertaking to ensure project leadership, financial investments, decision-making, and community input reflect the voices in the communities around the project site and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and/or historically marginalized populations in King County.

The following content will be reviewed in your 4Culture Organization Account Profile, Letter of Interest Form and Attachments, and Interviews.

Organization

- **Organization Information:**
 - Name, contact, and current mission and website
 - Discipline
- **Organizational Advancing Equity Efforts:**
 - Existing efforts to center or serve historically marginalized communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by systemic racism
 - Existing partnerships, collaborations, projects, or programs your organization is involved with that engage external historically marginalized communities
- **Organization annual operating budget:**
 - Annual operating budget
 - Current total liabilities

Long-Term Projects

- **Projects in 5-10 year plan:**
 - **Long-term plan for your facilities projects:** Name, scope, and current stage for each capital project including long-term goals.
 - **Project Sites:** What is the address, zip code, and King County District of your projects
 - **Demonstration of Site Control:**
 - Property Ownership
 - Long-term lease (10 years minimum or 5 years with an option to renew)Acceptable Alternatives:
 - Partnership Agreement
 - Letter of Intent
 - Purchase and Sale Agreement
 - **Total Project Budget:** Total project budgets for all projects in your long-term capital plan.
 - **Total Project Income:** What has currently been raised for each project, including commitments and estimates.
 - **Project Timeline:** Estimated timeline for your long-term plans, including specific project/s phases.

- **Project Community Engagement:** Community engagement in local community and historically marginalized communities. How these communities have been involved in planning, development, and decision-making of these projects.
- **Project Advancing Equity Efforts:** Equitable practices you have incorporated or plan to incorporate in your projects.

Summary of Proposed Project for Anchoring Community Application:

- **Name of project:** Proposed project must be active within 1-year (by or before November 6, 2026)
- **Project Description:** Describe the proposed facilities project. Why is this project important right now? How does this project help further your mission?
- **Project Timeline:** Project milestones from project planning and development to occupancy.
- **Project Team:** Include design, construction, and community partners, committee or board members essential to completing this project.
- **Objectives and Expected Outcomes:** What is the goal for this project? What critical issues does this project address? What are the expected outcomes? How do these outcomes support your goal?
- **Equitable Development Practices:** What are the current equitable development practices you have in place for this project?
- **Community support/input:** What is the commitment to and historical connection with the communities you serve? How is your organization accountable to these communities? How you have or will engage these communities in the planning and development of this facilities project.
- **Measurements of Success:** What does success look like for this project? How will you share success and lessons learned with the communities you serve?

Submission Instructions

Organizations responding to this Call are required to **submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) form** online to be considered for the Anchoring Community funding and cohort opportunity. Organizations are limited to one submission form only.

Please submit your LOI information through the 4Culture Portal: <https://apply.4culture.org> no later than July 31, 2025, 5pm PT. Late submissions will not be considered.

1. Download and read this Call for Letters of Interest: **PDF**.
2. Set up an organization account: register early – account setup takes 1-2 days.
3. **Submit online:** complete and submit your application via our [application portal](#) by the deadline.

Timeline

Call for LOI Opens:	June 12, 2025
Call for LOI Closes:	July 31, 2025, 5pm PT
LOI Interview scheduling:	August 18 – 20
LOI Interviews:	August 21 – 22
LOI Notifications:	August 25, 2025
Application Opens (by invitation only):	September 4, 2025
Application Deadline (by invitation only):	November 6, 2025, 5pm PT
Award notifications:	January 28, 2026
Contracting:	February – April 2026
Cohort & Cultural Space Partnerships:	October 2026 – October 2029

Eligibility

Organizations with facility **project budgets over \$10 million** are invited to apply for Anchoring Community funding and Cohort opportunity.

King County-based, federally recognized nonprofit arts, cultural, heritage, historic preservation, science and technology organizations; Tribal governments, public corporations, and public agencies; or culture or science organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) partner organization.

Your Organization or Tribe

- Is a federally recognized nonprofit arts, cultural, heritage, historic preservation, science and technology organization; Tribal government, public corporations, and public agencies; or culture or science organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) partner and provide public benefit through their programs or activities, are eligible to apply.
- Is not a K-12 school or school district.
- Has a board of directors, a proven two-year record of providing arts, cultural, or science experiences or services.
- You can, if funded, provide a W-9 form and sign a contract that limits 4Culture's liability.

Science and Technology-based organizations must meet these additional Doors Open eligibility requirements:

- Must be a federally recognized nonprofit organization (501c3) and incorporated in the state of Washington as a Nonprofit Corporation.
- OR must be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the state of Washington and your fiscal sponsor meets all Doors Open eligibility criteria.

Science and Technology-based organizations and their fiscal sponsors may not be:

- A university, college, or institution of higher education.
- An agency of the state or any of its political subdivisions.
- A municipal corporation.

- An organization that raises money for redistribution to multiple cultural organizations.
- A radio or television broadcasting network or station, cable communications system, Internet-based communications venture or service, newspaper, or magazine.

Your Project:

- For this program funding and cohort opportunity, project evaluations will be based on the timing and impact of the proposed project, preparedness of the applicant, and baseline commitment to equitable development.
- Projects must be cultural facilities, the brick-and-mortar buildings and spaces that make culture, science, and technology experiences possible.
- The proposed project must be active and/or shovel-ready within one year (November 6, 2026).
- All funds must be for capital costs and depreciable assets.
- Projects cannot solely consist of feasibility studies or early project planning. The project must include acquisition, construction, and/or renovation work. If the application is not for a complete project, the proposed project must complete a significant phase toward having a usable cultural facility.

Deadline

LOI Deadline: **Thursday, July 31, 2025, 5pm PT**

If you do not have experience with our online system and need help with your application, please call us in advance of the deadline.

Questions?

Join virtual Open Office Hour on zoom:

Friday, June 27, 2025

12 – 1pm PT

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://4culture.zoom.us/j/89501657922>

Contact:

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For technical issues contact:

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We look forward to learning about your long-term cultural facilities plans and equity practices.

**This information is available in alternative format for persons with disabilities at 206
296.8574 TTY**