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SEATTLE, WA 98104
4CULTURE.ORG

Open 4Culture: Sample Application

PROJECT SUMMARY

Applicant

Joanne A.

Project Title

Ladies First Comedy Jam, A Pilot Project

Short Description

I want to curate a BIPOC Femme space for folks to practice comedy in hard times that is values-aligned around social justice, immigrant rights, women of color having a voice and taking up space.

Date

February 14, 2026

Venue

Grey Sunz Tattoo, Kent, WA

Venue Notes

Holding the event in Kent is intentional. As gentrification impacts Seattle BIPOC communities, many have had to move further south. The artists at the core of this event are all former South Seattle residents who now live in Skyway, Burien, Auburn, and Covington. There is a growing need and demand for more art and cultural activities in South King County that are rooted in social justice.

Discipline

Art

NARRATIVE

Project Description

Ladies First Comedy Jam is a pilot project to create a BIPOC Femme space for folks to practice stand-up comedy (a vulnerable, story telling experience) that is values-aligned around social justice, immigrant rights, and women of color having a voice. This pilot is in the arts discipline with the goal to support BIPOC Femmes to grow their stand up comedy skills in an environment and audience that is supportive. The first performance will be February 14, 2026 in the intimate setting of Grey Sunz Tattoo shop in downtown historic Kent. This first performance will be free and serve as an incubator; I hope to use the momentum to try to create a second show with a modest ticket price.

I have lined up three aspiring comedians: Sela Teulilo, EJ Agoot, and Onion Carrillo, as well as musical performer Rogue Pinay for a 90-minute show that includes an audience open mic session. Sela is a Tongan community organizer for API Chaya, EJ is a Filipinx community organizer and Onion is a Mexican social worker. The set will be emceed by Claudia Alexandra Paras, writer and community organizer, as well as the owner of Grey Sunz Tattoo.

Ladies First Comedy Jam was inspired by deeply held relationships and the struggles I've seen our communities face in the past several years with grace and humor. I am apply to 4Culture as a writer and event producer.

Public Benefit

For Ladies First Comedy Jam, the public benefit is the development of local BIPOC femme comedians who are anti-racist and equity-driven. This event will be free and open to the public with a goal of about 50 attendees. Grey Sunz Tattoo shop has ADA compliant bathrooms and is accessible by public transit. The project will also benefit me: I'm a queer, immigrant femme living and working in King County. I'm excited to produce a show that is housed in a local treasure, owned and operated by BIPOC community leaders.

The project will be accessible to people of all economic backgrounds. Support from 4Culture will allow me to create a fully-supported incubator. Funding will benefit a small business (the venue), BIPOC artists, and our immigrant and BIPOC audience who will enjoy the event at no cost. Queer artists are at the core of this vision and the event will be supportive of LGBTIQ communities.

Project Plan

In early November, I booked the venue and performers for Ladies First Comedy Jam for February 14, 2026. I designed the Save the Date and plan to release it in the last week of December 2025. I will open up ticket registration by January 14, 2026. In collaboration with the artists and my local business partner, I plan to advertise for this event on email, via text, community list-servs and social media channels.

In January and February, I will organize dress rehearsals with all performers at the venue to give folks

a chance to be in the performance space and workshop their material for each other. The event will be completed on February 14, 2026 and I will check in with artists post-show about their experiences.

Advancing Equity (optional)

Ladies First Comedy Jam benefits historically marginalized communities of color, because it centers BIPOC femmes who have social justice and equity values. The majority of the artists are queer and come from communities impacted by today's immigration assault. In a political environment where immigrants and people of color communities are being systemically targeted, I want to create authentic spaces with rich storytelling, joy, and laughter that help lift us up and maintain our strength to continue on. Comedy is an art form that takes practice and I am excited to support aspiring BIPOC femme comedians to grow their skills. I am collaborating directly with performers and business owners who are community organizers, caregivers and direct service advocates in historically marginalized communities of color.

Qualifications or Catalyst

I am very excited to work with 4Culture to successfully complete this project. I've lived in the Seattle area for the greater part of the last 40 years and created several productions with story telling at the core, all as collaborations with community organizers. In the late 1990s, I was part of synapse magazine, a quarterly publication for women writers. I was also part of Pinay sa Seattle/GABRIELA Seattle, a grassroots Filipino women's anti-imperialist organization. With Pinay/GABRIELA, I helped to produce cultural shows such as Indayog (2006), Indayog II (2008), and Diwang Pinay (2009). With API Chaya/API Women & Family Safety Center, I organized the Queer People of Color Liberation Project, a series of 3 theatre productions that used storytelling to uplift communities impacted by homophobia, heterosexism, racism, and imperialism (2006). I am currently writing a book about foster parenting, as well as a book about grief and loss. Over the past 10 years, I've produced events at least annually, the majority of which have been fundraisers for nonprofit organizations (API Chaya and RECLAIM) that have included cultural presentations, speeches, film/video creation, and audience development.

Project Budget

4Culture funding will cover the following expenses:

1. Artist and Emcee Stipends ($\$250 \times 5$) = \$1,250. These stipends compensate artists for their performance time on February 14th and dress rehearsals.
2. Producer Stipend ($\$500 \times 1$) = \$500. This covers labor to organize artists, run dress rehearsals, promote the event and run it on the day of show.
3. Venue Rental that includes sound and lights = \$500 - this fee includes rehearsal time and day of show rental.
4. Supplies (\$250)

The Feb 14, 2026 pilot show will be free to the public.

Work Samples

Upcoming:

2/14/2026 - Ladies First Comedy Jam Flyer (Event Producer, Flyer Attached)

5/16/2026 - API Chaya Fearless Gala (Event Producer, Website Image Attached)

Past:

3/8/2025 - API Chaya 30th Anniversary Gala (Event Producer, Social Media Image Attached)

12/7/2006 - Pinay Sa Seattle Indayog Cultural Event (Event Producer, Website Image Attached)