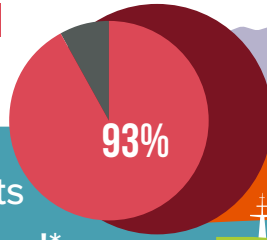


DOORS OPEN CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES STUDY

WINTER 2026

King County is a vibrant community of cultural participants.

93% of King County residents participate in cultural activities!*



CULTURE IMPROVES LIVES

King County residents engage in culture to:

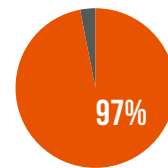


- Connect with family and friends
- Feel a sense of belonging
- Expand their minds
- Relax and enjoy themselves

Over **9 out of 10** King County residents think cultural activities have positively affected their health and wellbeing while also providing other outcomes such as gaining knowledge, empathy, curiosity, critical thinking, and more.



CULTURE IS COMMUNITY



97% of King County residents believe cultural organizations positive impact their community, with the top impacts being:



Providing educational opportunities



Improving quality of life

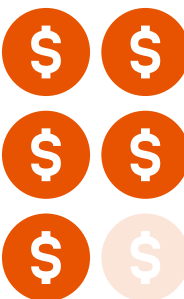


Honoring cultural diversity



Promoting engagement in community life

And **5 out of 6** King County residents think cultural organizations contribute to the economic vitality of their community as well!



SOURCE: King County Resident Culture & Communities Survey, fielded 2026 by Wilkening Consulting on behalf of 4Culture.

*Information on how cultural participation is defined is included in the full report.

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CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE. ACTION.

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BUT BARRIERS STILL EXIST

Despite these positive findings, many King County residents are not able to participate in culture as frequently as they would like.

Primary barriers to higher participation include:



Cost



Time



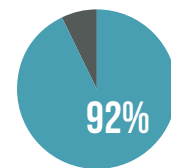
Other interests/priorities

Cost barriers are greatest for young adults under 40 without children, families with young children, and lower-income households.



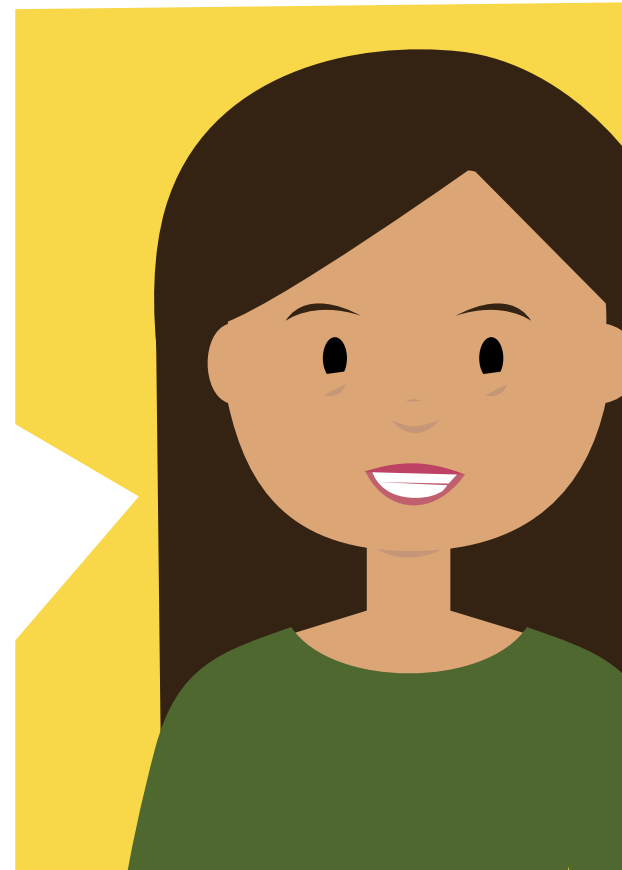
3 out of 5 King households also have access and support needs.

King County residents are cultural participants, and they want their cultural organizations to be able to serve their communities.



92% of King County residents agree that the King County Council should work to support our county's cultural organizations.

“These organizations are not ‘extras’ — they are connective tissue. They create spaces where people encounter cultures beyond their own, build empathy, and feel a sense of belonging. Without them, King County would feel more siloed, less curious, and less humane.” – King County resident



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