**FACT SHEET**

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**About**: Formed in 1971, and with a mission to foster connections, amplify stories and build community, the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) manages the City's public art program, cultural investments, The Creative Advantage arts education initiative, the Cultural Space program, and cultural facilities such as the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute and ARTS at King Street Station. In alignment with the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative, ARTS seeks new solutions that use arts as a strategy to drive not only the office, but the City as a whole toward racial equity and social justice. The Office is supported by the 16-member Seattle Arts Commission, citizen volunteers appointed by the mayor and City Council.

**Racial Equity**: ARTS is committed to developing, practicing, and role modeling best practices in dismantling institutional and structural racism and sharing these learnings with arts makers and arts and cultural organizations through training and convening opportunities. We are committed to addressing and increasing community-wide awareness about existing inequities so that we, along with our cultural and community partners, can most effectively work together toward a vision of racial equity.

**Creative Youth**: ARTS invests in teaching artists, educators and organizations that are working toward a stronger, more vibrant creative youth culture. We do this through funding programs, professional development, cultural partnerships, public education initiatives, and other opportunities. We also support arts and cultural learning and events for our city's young people. The Creative Advantage is a city-wide initiative to establish equitable access to arts education for each and every student in Seattle Public Schools. The Creative Advantage is made possible through a public-private partnership with Seattle Public Schools, ARTS, Seattle Foundation, and community arts partners. The Creative Advantage addresses the systemic barriers to student access to arts and ensures that every student has arts integrated into their education, from kindergarten through high school.

**Cultural Space and Cultural Facilities**: The office’s Cultural Space program seeks to preserve, create and activate cultural space in Seattle. To achieve this goal the program works with artists and arts organizations to strengthen their role in charting the future of their creative spaces, works with developers and builders to incorporate arts and culture into new projects, and works with property owners to incentivize the preservation and expansion of arts and culture uses. The tools that the program has created include SpacefinderSeattle.org, SpaceLabNW.org, and Arts and Cultural Districts (Capitol Hill, Central Area, Uptown, Columbia City/Hillman City). In addition, the Offices manages two cultural facilities: Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute and ARTS at King Street Station. Both facilities seek to expand opportunities for communities of color to generate and present their work.

**Grants:** ARTS investments in the cultural organization and individual artists make our community more vibrant and spur economic growth. The grant programs include funding opportunities, initiatives and training for organizations, individual artists, youth arts programs, neighborhood and community groups. These grants make meaningful impacts in our communities by expanding access to arts and culture for residents and visitors throughout our city. The office is committed to removing barriers to participation and involving diverse cultures and underserved audiences and artists through all of our funding programs.

**Public Art**: The public art program integrates artworks and the ideas of artists into a variety of public settings, advancing Seattle's reputation as a cultural center for innovation and creativity. 1% of eligible city capital improvement project funds are set aside for the commission, purchase and installation of artworks throughout the city. Our public art program engages emerging and established artists for permanent artwork commissions and purchases, temporary installations, social practice activations and artist-in-residence opportunities. Seattle has more than 400 permanently-sited and integrated works by artists such as Isamu Noguchi, Marita Dingus, Mark Calderon, Buster Simpson, and Michael Heizer. Artworks are commissioned through a public process.

**Civic Art Collection**: The city's Civic Art Collection is a rotating collection of more than 2,800 artworks, representing hundreds of artists collected by the city since 1973. Using percent-for-art funds from city construction budgets, the portable collection includes the work of emerging and established artists. The collection includes sculpture, painting, mixed media, prints, photography and textiles by artists such as Richard Serra, Dale Chihuly, Fay Jones, Jacob Lawrence and Paul Horiuchi. The artworks are exhibited primarily in public areas of municipal buildings and five city galleries.

**Galleries**: The City manages five public galleries: the Seattle Municipal Tower Gallery, City Hall Lobby Gallery & Anne Focke Gallery, The Mayor’s Office Gallery, the Ethnic Heritage Gallery and ARTS at King Street Station.

**Mayor’s Arts Award**: Since 2003 the Mayor's Arts Awards recognize the accomplishments of artists, arts and cultural organizations and community members committed to enriching their communities through the arts.

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**Office of Arts & Culture | Seattle**The Office of Arts & Culture envisions a city driven by creativity that provides the opportunity for everyone to engage in diverse arts and cultural experiences. The Office is supported by the 16-member Seattle Arts Commission, citizen volunteers appointed by the mayor and City Council. Find out more at [seattle.gov/arts](http://www.seattle.gov/arts) Follow **@SeattleArts** on Twitter and Facebook, or **@SeaOfficeofArts** on Instagram.