



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Regional Policy Committee

*Councilmembers: Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;
Rod Dembowski, Girmay Zahiray
Alternate: Sarah Perry*

*Sound Cities Association: Nancy Backus, Auburn, Vice Chair; Jay Arnold, Kirkland;
Angela Birney, Redmond; Armondo Pavone, Renton
Alternates: Dana Ralph, Kent; Debra Srebnik, Kenmore*

*City of Seattle: Cathy Moore, Alexis Mercedes Rinck
Alternates: Sara Nelson, Mark Solomon*

*Lead Staff: Miranda Leskinen (206-263-5783)
Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)*

3:00 PM

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

REVISED AGENDA

Hybrid Meetings: Attend the King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or to provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Regional Policy Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

The Committee will accept public comment on items on today's agenda in writing. You may do so by submitting your written comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your comments are submitted before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are three ways to watch or listen to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link www.kingcounty.gov/kctv or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone.

Dial: 1 253 215 8782
 Webinar ID: 827 1647 4590

To help us manage the meeting, please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. Call to Order

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes p. 4

Minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting.



Discussion and Possible Action

4. Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0073 p. 7

AN ORDINANCE amending the King County Doors Open Program implementation plan, required by Ordinance 19710, Section 9; amending Ordinance 19868, Section 1, as amended, and repealing Ordinance 19868, Attachment B.

Sponsors: Balducci

Gene Paul, Council Staff



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Briefing

- 5. Briefing No. 2025-B0037 **p. 147**
Parks Levy Renewal Proposal Briefing
Jake Tracy, Sherrie Hsu, and Brandi Paribello, Council staff

Other Business

Adjournment

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1200 King County
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Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes

Regional Policy Committee

*Councilmembers: Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;
Rod Dembowski, Girmay Zahilay
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1. **Call to Order**

Chair von Reichbauer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m

2. **Roll Call**

Present: 9 - Arnold, Backus, Birney, Dembowski, Moore, Pavone, von Reichbauer, Zahilay and Srebnik

Excused: 1 - Mercedes Rinck

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Backus moved approval of the January 8, 2025 meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.

Discussion and Possible Action

4. **RPC Resolution No. RPC2025-01**

A RESOLUTION concerning the regional policy committee work program for 2025.

Miranda Leskinen, Council staff, briefed the Committee on the work plan and answered questions from the members.

A motion was made by Mayor Backus that this RPC Resolution be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Arnold, Backus, Birney, Dembowski, Moore, Pavone, von Reichbauer, Zahilay and Srebnik

Excused: 1 - Mercedes Rinck

Briefing

5. Briefing No. 2025-B0020

Briefing on the Regional Horse Racing Industry

*Phil Ziegler and Ron Crockett, Emerald Downs, commented and answered questions from the members.
Amanda Benton and Doug Moore Washington Horse Racing Commission, briefed the Committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.
MaryAnn O'Connell, Washington HBPA commented and answered questions from the members.*

This matter was Presented

6. Briefing No. 2025-B0021

General Update from Solid Waste

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Pat McLaughlin, Solid Waste Division Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, briefed the Committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

7. Briefing No. 2025-B0023

Crisis Care Centers Update

Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services and Susan McLaughlin, Director, BHRD, DCHS, briefed the Committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Other Business

There was no further business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Policy Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	4	Name:	Gene Paul
Proposed No.:	2025-0073	Date:	March 12, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0073 would amend the Implementation Plan for the Doors Open cultural access program.

SUMMARY

In December 2024, 4Culture announced the first round of Doors Open funding.¹ The Sustained Support operating grants were announced as three-year grant awards that combined the 2024 one-time operating support program with the first two years of the multi-year Doors Open Sustained Support program. Besides the combination of the one-time 2024 program with the multi-year program, the grant award announcement also identified that tax proceeds collected in 2024 would fund the 2025 grants. Because the Doors Open Implementation Plan requires cultural organizations to have a contract with a scope of services and to submit invoices for reimbursement after completing portions of that scope of services before they could receive funding, Council staff identified that there would likely be a timing concern with distributing the 2024 tax proceeds in time for cultural organizations to stave off any current financial challenges.

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0073 would amend the Implementation Plan to establish a new contract and payment process for the 2024 one-time operating support that would allow for advance payment of the 2024 proceeds, require 4Culture to distribute those payments by the end of the second quarter of 2025, and establish new reporting requirements for 4Culture regarding its success on contracting with grant awardees and distributing payments for 2024 proceeds.

BACKGROUND

Doors Open. In December 2023, King County enacted the Doors Open cultural access program.² The Doors Open program was created to provide grant funding to arts, heritage, science, and historical preservation non-profit organizations to increase the

¹ 4Culture Press Release ([Link](#))

public benefits that cultural organizations provide throughout King County. The program includes funding to:

- provide grants for capital and one-time operating support in 2024;
- provide operating support to cultural organizations;
- increase access to cultural programming for public school children;
- provide free public access to cultural experiences;
- build and maintain cultural facilities and equipment;
- help launch new cultural organizations; and
- expand the reach of cultural organizations serving vulnerable populations and located in geographical areas that need additional cultural capacity.

The Doors Open program is administered by 4Culture, King County's Cultural Development Authority, with oversight by the 4Culture Board of Directors and the King County Council. The program is funded through a 0.1% sales tax for seven years beginning in April 2024. Revenues for the program were forecasted to be approximately \$69 million for 2024 and then \$100 million annually.³

Implementation Plan. The legislation implementing Doors Open required transmittal of an implementation plan to be referred to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) and approved by the Council. The Implementation Plan was required to include program descriptions, guidelines for eligible expenditures, criteria for awarding proceeds, a public benefit reporting framework, a description of the grant award process, a description of the contract and payment process, an outreach and technical assistance plan, and details about a required Doors Open program assessment report. The Implementation Plan was approved by the Council in November 2024.⁴

Increased Allocations for 2024 one-time programs. In addition to approving the Implementation Plan, the Council also adopted legislation to increase the allocation to the one-time capital and one-time operating support programs funded by 2024 tax proceeds.⁵ This allocation, originally set to 67% of 2024 proceeds in the Doors Open ordinance, was increased to up to 95% of 2024 proceeds. This larger allocation was a recognition that enhanced financial support for cultural organizations in 2024 was needed to ensure those organizations could survive and to prevent further losses in the cultural sector.

4Culture grant awards. In December 2024, 4Culture announced the first round of Doors Open funding.⁶ The Sustained Support operating grants were announced as three-year grant awards that combined the 2024 one-time operating support proceeds with the first two years of the multi-year Doors Open Sustained Support program.

² Ordinance 19710

³ King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis's August 2024 forecast ([Link](#))

⁴ Ordinance 19868

⁵ Ordinance 19867

⁶ 4Culture Press Release ([Link](#))

4Culture staff expressed that this decision was made to reduce applicant burden since organizations that applied for the 2024 one-time program in September 2024 would likely have to apply again in January 2025 for the multi-year program if the two operating support programs were kept separate. 4Culture staff also indicated that combining the grant awards would meet the target timeline in the Implementation Plan of notifying cultural organizations of 2026 funding awards prior to July 2025.

Besides the combination of the one-time 2024 program with the multi-year program, the grant award announcement also identified that tax proceeds collected in 2024 would fund the 2025 grants. Because the Implementation Plan requires cultural organizations to have a contract with a scope of services and to submit invoices for reimbursement after completing portions of that scope of services before they could receive funding, Council staff identified that there would likely be a timing concern with distributing the 2024 tax proceeds in time for cultural organizations to stave off any current financial challenges.

ANALYSIS

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0073 would amend the Implementation Plan to:

- Update the description of the Sustained Support programs;
- Modify the Contract and Payment Process section;
- Establish a new Contract and Payment Process section for 2024 One-Time Operating Support;
- Establish new reporting requirements for 2024 One-Time Operating Support funded grants.

Updated description of Sustained Support programs. The proposed update to the Implementation Plan would amend the overview of the 2024 One-Time Operating Support, Lodging Tax-funded Sustained Support, and Doors Open-funded Sustained Support programs.⁷ The Implementation Plan previously described these as having a one-time annual application for the 2024 program, a one-time annual application for the 2024 Lodging Tax-funded Sustained Support program, and a triennial application process for Sustained Support from 2025 onward. The proposed update would remove this description and insert an update that the application process from the Fall of 2024 led to three-year grant awards. The first of the three years would be supported by the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program, and the contracts and payments for the first year would have separate provisions that would allow for distributions of one-time payments by the end of the second quarter of 2025. The remaining two years would be subject to the contract and reimbursement payment process established in the Implementation Plan.

⁷ The proposed amendment begins on line 161 of the Redline of the Implementation Plan, Attachment 2

New Contract and Payment Process for 2024 One-Time Operating Support. The proposed amendment would modify the Contract and Payment Process section of the Implementation Plan to provide that the contracts and payments for the 2024 One-Time Operating Support would be completed through a different process. The proposed amendment would also add a new section to the plan describing the different contract and payment process.⁸ The new section would delineate that contracts with the awardees for the one-time support would be based on the services and public benefits described in the September 2024 applications. The contracts would allow for awardees to receive advance payment from 2024 tax proceeds for those services and public benefits. The contracts would also include reporting requirements to support 4Culture’s accountability audits and program evaluation needs. Finally, the contracts would include 4Culture’s right to recoup all or part of the advance payments and to withhold future payments if the contract terms are not met.

New Reporting Requirements. The proposed amendment to the Implementation Plan would require two new reports from 4Culture regarding 2024 One-Time Operating Support grants.⁹ The first report would describe 4Culture’s success in meeting the expectation that contracts with awardees have been issued by March 31, 2025. That report would provide details for each awardee as to whether a contract has been issued and fully executed or what steps 4Culture and the awardees have taken if the contract has not been issued. That report would be submitted to the Council by April 30, 2025.

The second report would describe 4Culture’s success in meeting the expectation that payments to awardees have been made by June 30, 2025. This report would provide payment amounts and date of issuance for each awardee. For any payment not made, the report would provide the amount outstanding, reasons for not being issued, and steps that are being taken to complete the payment. This report would be submitted by July 31, 2025.

Review Schedule. The proposed ordinance was referred as a mandatory dual referral to the Committee of the Whole and then the Regional Policy Committee. On February 25, 2025, the Committee of the Whole sent the proposed ordinance to the RPC with a "Do Pass" recommendation. Table 1 provides the anticipated legislative schedule for this item.

Table 1. PO 2025-0073 Legislative Review Schedule

Action	Committee/Council	Date
Introduction and referral	Full Council	February 18 th
Discussion & Action	COW	February 25 th
Discussion/Possible Action	RPC	March 12 th

⁸ The proposed amendment begins on line 811 of the Redline Implementation Plan, Attachment 2.

⁹ The proposed amendment begins on line 1798 of the Redline Implementation Plan, Attachment 2.

Possible Final Action	Full Council	March 18 th (if expedited) March 25 th (regular course)
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INVITED

- Brian Carter, Executive Director, 4Culture
- Claire Miccio, Government and Community Relations Manager, 4Culture

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0073 (and its attachment)
2. FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY: Redline copy of Implementation Plan with proposed updates shown as track changes



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Ordinance

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Proposed No. 2025-0073.1

Sponsors Balducci

1 AN ORDINANCE amending the King County Doors Open
2 Program implementation plan, required by Ordinance
3 19710, Section 9; amending Ordinance 19868, Section 1, as
4 amended, and repealing Ordinance 19868, Attachment B.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

7 A. Cultural organizations continue to experience financial hardship as a result of
8 the COVID-19 pandemic. Expedited financial support through the one-time operating
9 support program funded by 2024 Doors Open proceeds is essential, both to their survival
10 as well as growth, and to prevent further losses in the cultural sector.

11 B. In Ordinance 19867, the council expressed its interest to distribute not less
12 than 95 percent of the Doors Open proceeds collected in 2024 to cultural organizations in
13 the form of one-time capital and operating support grants.

14 C. It is the intent of the council that the cultural organizations, selected in
15 accordance with Ordinance 19710, Section 4.A.2. to receive the 2024 one-time operating
16 support grants, receive these grant moneys in a one-time payment as expeditiously as
17 possible and no later than by the end of the second quarter of 2025.

18 D. In order to effectuate the council's intent, amendments to the Doors Open
19 implementation plan are necessary.

20 SECTION 2. Ordinance 19868, Section 1, as amended, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 The Doors Open Program Implementation Plan for 2024-2031, (~~dated November~~
23 ~~20, 2024~~) February 12, 2025, Attachment (~~(B)~~) C to (~~(Ordinance 19868)~~) this ordinance
24 (Proposed Ordinance 2025-0073) is hereby approved to govern the expenditure of the

25 cultural access sales and use tax proceeds as authorized under Ordinance 19710.

26 SECTION 3. Attachment B to Ordinance 19868 is repealed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: C. Doors Open Implementation Plan, February 12, 2025



101 PREFONTAINE PL S
SEATTLE, WA 98104
4CULTURE.ORG

Doors Open Implementation Plan

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1. Executive Summary

In December 2023, King County passed Ordinance 19710, creating the King County Doors Open cultural access program. This legislation levies a 0.1 percent sales tax in King County to fund arts, heritage, science, and historical preservation nonprofit organizations to increase the public benefits that cultural organizations provide throughout King County.

Ordinance 19710 requires transmittal of an implementation plan to the King County Council. This plan details the Doors Open program priorities and processes for administering funding. It provides an assessment framework for how the program will measurably increase access to cultural offerings for King County residents and visitors, especially those living in underserved areas.

Doors Open maintains and builds upon 4Culture’s core programs that address the critical needs of cultural organizations located in and serving King County. Doors Open allows 4Culture to:

- Enhance and extend the reach and offerings of cultural organizations
- Ensure continued and expanded access to cultural facilities and the programs of cultural organizations by underserved populations
- Provide financial support for cultural organizations to continue and extend the numerous public benefits they provide

Doors Open meets these ordinance-defined goals through six Program Areas: Sustained Support, Public School Cultural Access, Public Free Access, Building for Equity, Countywide Initiatives, and Launch; and two investment areas: Outside of Seattle and Communities of Opportunity. The Implementation Plan allocates projected Doors Open revenue in accordance with Section 8 of Ordinance 19710, as follows:

2024	2025 - 2031
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 percent for repayment of start-up funding;• 3 percent for administrative costs;• The remainder for one-time capital and one-time operating support programs;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 10 percent for cultural organizations that serve underserved populations and/or organizations located in Communities of Opportunity, and cultural organizations providing mentoring services○ 25 percent supports organizations outside of Seattle• Any proceeds not distributed to 2024 programs will go to 2025 programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 percent for administrative costs;• 72 percent for Doors Open programs, of which 10 percent for cultural organizations that serve underserved populations and/or organizations located in Communities of Opportunity, and cultural organizations providing mentoring services;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 15 percent Public school access program○ 3 percent Launch funding○ 10 percent Building for Equity○ 15 percent Public Free Access○ 7 percent Countywide initiatives and projects○ 50 percent Sustained Support• 25 percent for Outside of Seattle, of which, 10 percent for cultural organizations by underserved populations and/or organizations located in Communities of Opportunity

23

Doors Open Implementation Plan-on-a-Page

	2024 Doors Open Programs ¹		2025-2031: Doors Open ²					
	Capital Facilities	Operating and Program Support	Sustained Support ³	Public School Cultural Access	Public Free Access	Building for Equity	Countywide Initiatives	Launch
Estimated Annual Funding	\$32.9M	\$32.9M	\$48.5M [Ord. 8.B.2.f]	\$14.6M [Ord. 8.B.2.a]	\$14.6M [Ord. 8.B.2.e]	\$9.7M [Ord. 8.B.2.d]	\$6.8M [Ord. 8.B.2.c]	\$2.9M [Ord. 8.B.2.b]
Programming or projects outside Seattle⁴	Minimum of \$8.2M	Minimum of \$8.2M	Minimum of \$24.3M across all programs					
Programming in Communities of Opportunity (COO) or for vulnerable populations⁵	Minimum of \$3.3M	Minimum of \$3.3M	Minimum of \$9.7M across all programs					
Grant Cycle/Timeline	One Time (first awards announced in December 2024)	One Time (first awards announced in December 2024)	Triennial	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
Estimated Number of applicants	175 to 225 projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage: 90 Preservation: 30 Arts: 500 Science and Tech: 80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage: 90 Preservation: 30 Arts: 500 Science and Tech: 80 	350 orgs across four disciplines	300 orgs across four disciplines	200 orgs across four disciplines	50 orgs across four disciplines	25-50 orgs across four disciplines
Primary Program Objective	Funding for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space that houses and facilitates cultural work	Funding to help organizations amplify their programming and support delivery of their mission	Help meet the ongoing needs of cultural organizations	Increase public school student access to cultural educational experiences	Increase access to cultural offerings	Support cultural building projects and create a pathway to equitable facilities funding	Support regional initiatives for cultural workforce development	Ensure that all areas and communities in the county have access to cultural experiences
Key Program Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project size categories; goal to fund the top 10% to 20% in each category Prioritizes projects that can begin within two years Prioritizes greater % of project funding for projects under \$1M Cultural space contribution requirements for projects greater than \$10M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low barrier application Panels by discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding (up to three years) for operations or programming Low barrier application Panels by discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes central database Provides funding for cultural education offerings through programs at schools and cultural facilities Provides transportation funding for eligible school districts Helps schools and cultural organizations develop shared learning goals and a program plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding Low barrier application Reimbursement to orgs for the cost of free and reduced programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding Builds on Facilities and Capacity Building programs Adds equitable funding strategies to Equipment, Landmarks Capital, Emergency Capital programs Cultural space contribution requirements for eligible orgs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-year project-based funding for orgs providing services for cultural practitioners Support for workforce and career development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding Start-up cost funding Multi-year operating support to new + emerging orgs Funding paired with capacity building + technical assistance

¹ For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, 2024 Doors Open funding amounts assume \$65.7M in revenue for 2024 grants. Actual revenues may be higher or lower. Not included in the 2024 Programs list is start-up and administrative funding (2% and 3% of revenue, respectively).

² For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, 2025-2031 Doors Open funding is an estimated \$100M annual funding. This was the estimate presented and used during the ordinance process. Annual fund projections may be lower or higher. Not included in the 2025-2031 programs list is administrative funding which is up to 3% of revenue, annually).

³ Ordinance 19710 uses the term "operating support" but 4Culture uses the term "sustained support" to describe operational support. Sustained support is used throughout the implementation plan, and it refers to operating support.

⁴ Programming for projects and programs outside Seattle is included in both the 2024 Doors Open program estimated annual funding and the 2025-2031 Doors Open programs estimated annual funding.

⁵ Programming for COO and vulnerable population programming is included in both the 2024 Doors Open program estimated annual funding and the 2025-2031 Doors Open programs estimated annual funding.

	2024 Doors Open Programs ¹		2025-2031: Doors Open ²					
	Capital Facilities	Operating and Program Support	Sustained Support ³	Public School Cultural Access	Public Free Access	Building for Equity	Countywide Initiatives	Launch
Outreach and Engagement Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Connectors (1:1 pre-submittal application support) Application workshops 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application workshops Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application workshops Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage 2024 stakeholder outreach PSESD touchpoints District and school outreach 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Connectors Application workshops 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application workshops Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Connectors Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels

23 2. Implementation Plan Background and Overview

24 A. Introduction to Cultural Access Programs

25 In 2015, the Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 2263 which provides for the creation of local
26 cultural access programs.⁶ The law allows Washington counties to create cultural access programs that
27 provide funding for public school access to arts, science, and heritage organizations and for cultural
28 organizations to provide public benefits.

29 Washington’s cultural access law was modeled after the Denver Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
30 (DSCF), which was created in 1989 and is funded through a 0.1 percent sales tax collected in the seven-
31 county Denver, Colorado metropolitan area.⁷

32 In King County, the program can be funded by up to 0.1 percent of sales tax for seven years, after which
33 it may be renewed. The funds must be used for public benefits and may not supplant county and state
34 funds customarily provided to cultural organizations.

35 In April 2023, the state passed HB1575 which changed state law⁸ to allow for county legislative
36 authorities to impose a cultural access program sales tax of up to 0.1 percent by ordinance.
37 Additionally, if a county has not imposed a cultural access program sales tax by December 31, 2024, a
38 city within that county may do so. The statute does not allow a county and city within that county to
39 concurrently impose a cultural access program sales tax.

40 B. Overview of 4Culture

41 In 2002, King County created the Cultural Development Authority of King County, commonly known as
42 4Culture, in order “to support, advocate for and preserve the cultural resources of the region in a
43 manner that fosters excellence, vitality and diversity.”⁹ 4Culture replaced the functions of King County's
44 former Office of Cultural Resources in order to exercise the powers vested in public development
45 authorities under state law and realize operating efficiencies through operating independently of county
46 government.¹⁰

47 4Culture’s name was derived from the agency's four, original cultural programs.

- 48 • **Arts.** 4Culture provides capital and operating grant funding for individual artists, groups, and
49 community organizations.
- 50 • **Heritage.** 4Culture provides capital and operating grant funding for organizations focused on
51 building the historical record, preserving, and enhancing the character of the region, and sharing
52 local heritage resources.
- 53 • **Preservation.** 4Culture provides project, capital, and operating support to aid in the historic
54 preservation of buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes. The organization also provides
55 support for heritage tourism for King County communities.

⁶ RCW chapter 36.160

⁷ <http://scfd.org/>

⁸ RCW 82.14.525

⁹ See generally KCC chapter 2.49 and KCC 2.49.030 specifically

¹⁰ [King County - File #: 2002-0365](#)

- 56 • **Public Art.** 4Culture manages the County’s 1% for Art program and manages public art
57 installations and the King County Public Art Collection on behalf of King County government.

58 These cultural programs are established in the King County Code (KCC) chapter 2.48, which also states
59 that 4Culture is responsible for administering grants to cultural organizations, groups, public agencies,
60 and individuals in King County. Those grant programs are categorized into the areas of support for
61 projects, buildings and equipment, and operations and are to be administered according to code
62 provisions and guidelines and procedures adopted by 4Culture.

63 With Doors Open, 4Culture will include Science in its cultural funding program list.

64 **4Culture Governance and Accountability**

65 4Culture is governed by a fifteen-member Board of Directors. Directors are to have a demonstrated
66 commitment to and knowledge of cultural resources, be active and experienced in community and civic
67 issues and concerns and can evaluate the needs of cultural constituencies in the region. Directors must
68 be residents of King County and are to be chosen to reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the
69 County.¹¹ Directors are appointed by King County Councilmembers and the Executive and confirmed by
70 the Council.¹²

71 **C. Foundational Policies and Plans**

72 The following policies and plans are central to 4Culture’s existing programming and operations and are a
73 reference point for the history of cultural development policy in King County.

- 74 • [Charter and Bylaws of the Cultural Development Authority of King County](#) (last updated October
75 9, 2019, through Ordinance 19036)
- 76 • 2019 King County 4Culture Task Force Briefing Book and Report
- 77 ○ The Briefing Book supported the 27-member King County 4Culture Task Force, charged
78 with assessing and evaluating 4Culture’s governance structure, processes, and practices
79 through an equity and social justice lens.
- 80 ○ The Report, authored by Janet Brown, former President of Grantmakers in the Arts and
81 a nationally known facilitator and consultant, included detail on the community
82 meetings and listening sessions conducted by the Task Force, an overview of 4Culture
83 operations, and recommendations for 4Culture moving forward. The document also
84 includes a comparison of 4Culture with organizations across the United States focused
85 on People of Color/Native organizations, small-mid-sized organizations, and communities
86 outside urban centers.
- 87 • [2019 Building for Equity Agreement for Implementation](#) (Ordinance 18939): legislation enabling
88 4Culture to partner with King County in using an advance on future lodging tax proceeds to fund
89 Building for Equity, a \$20 million equity-based cultural facilities program.
- 90 • [2020 King County Cultural Health Study](#)
- 91 ○ In 2018, 4Culture embarked on a two-year endeavor to research and analyze the
92 cultural health of the county. Staff conducted a listening session tour, compiled award

¹¹ Ordinance 19036, Attachment A, Section 5.2.B

¹² Ordinance 19036, Attachment A, Section 5.2.D and 5.2.E

- 93 information from cultural funders, synthesized city-level cultural planning, and
 94 documented existing cultural infrastructure.
- 95 ○ The findings are the basis for the Doors Open Recommended Spending Plan, as
 96 presented to the Executive and King County Council beginning in 2022 and led to the
 97 development of the Doors Open ordinance in late 2023.
 - 98 ● [2020 4Culture Strategic Plan/King County's Cultural Plan](#) (extended through December 2024 by
 99 the 4Culture Board of Directors)
 - 100 ● [2020 King County Cultural Education Study](#): A Countywide Analysis of K-12 Students Access to
 101 Cultural Education and Community Assets
 - 102 ● [2021 4Culture COVID-19 Recovery Framework](#): 4Culture convened a diverse group of cultural
 103 sector leaders to share their concerns and ideas for the future, and to develop a roadmap for
 104 rebuilding the sector during and after the pandemic.
 - 105 ● [2023 King County Doors Open Ordinance](#) (Ordinance 19710): Legislation, decades in the making,
 106 that created the King County Doors Open cultural access program and imposed a 0.1 percent
 107 sales tax increase in King County to fund the program.

108 **D. Ordinance Requirements Crosswalk**

109 The Doors Open Implementation Plan is in accordance with the requirements laid out in Ordinance
 110 19710.

Overarching Requirement	Program Area	Ordinance location	Implementation Plan location
Itemization of start-up costs	Administration	Section 8. A.1	Appendix A
Program descriptions	2024 Capital Grant	Section 4. A.2 a-h	Section 4. A
	2024 Operating Grant	Section 4. A.2 a-h	Section 4. B
	Sustained Support	Section 4. A.1 f	Section 5. A
	Public School Cultural Access	Section 4. A.1 a	Section 5. B
	Public Free Access	Section 4. A.1 e	Section 5. C
	Building for Equity	Section 4. A.1 d	Section 5. D
	Countywide Initiatives	Section 4. A.1 c	Section 5. E
	Launch	Section 4. A.1 b	Section 5. F
	Increasing capacity outside of Seattle	Section 8.B.3	Section 5.G
Assessment Report	Administration	Section 9 D.2 a-g	Section 6

111 **E. Doors Open Framework Overview**

112 Doors Open builds upon 4Culture's core programs that address the critical needs of cultural
 113 organizations located in and serving King County. Doors Open allows 4Culture to:

- 114 ● Enhance and extend the reach and offerings of cultural organizations
- 115 ● Ensure continued and expanded access of underserved populations to cultural facilities and the
 116 programs of cultural organizations.
- 117 ● Provide financial support for cultural organizations to continue and extend the numerous public
 118 benefits they provide

119 Doors Open meets these goals through six Program Areas: Sustained Support, Public School Cultural
120 Access, Public Free Access, Building for Equity, Countywide Initiatives, and Launch; and two investment
121 areas: Outside of Seattle and Communities of Opportunity.

122 The sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$716 million in revenue between April 2024 and
123 March 2031, according to the King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis's August 2024
124 forecast.¹³ For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, 4Culture is using an annual estimated funding
125 of \$72 million for 2024 and \$100 million for years 2025 and beyond. Annual projections may be lower or
126 higher but all percentages for allocations will be applied as proscribed in the ordinance.

127 The following plan allocates projected Doors Open revenue in accordance with Section 8 of Ordinance
128 19710, as follows:

129 **2024**

- 130 • 2 percent for repayment of start-up funding;
- 131 • 3 percent for administrative costs;
- 132 • The remainder for one-time capital and one-time operating support programs;
 - 133 ○ 10 percent for cultural organizations by underserved populations and/or organizations
 - 134 located in Communities of Opportunity, and/or cultural organizations providing mentoring
 - 135 ○ 25 percent supports organizations outside the city of Seattle
- 136 • Any proceeds not distributed to 2024 programs will go to 2025 programs

137 **2025 - 2031**

- 138 • 3 percent for administrative costs;
- 139 • 72 percent for Doors Open programs (percentage breakdown in sub-bullets), of which 10 percent
140 must go to cultural organizations serving vulnerable populations and/or organizations located in
141 Communities of Opportunity, and/or cultural organizations providing mentoring; Ordinance 19710
142 defines vulnerable populations as including but not limited to, veterans, seniors, unhoused
143 individuals or individuals at risk of becoming unhoused, individuals experiencing mental illness or
144 substance use disorders, individuals with disabilities, households with an annual income at or below
145 eighty percent of the area median income, survivors of domestic violence, communities at risk of
146 gun violence, or justice-system impacted youth or youth at risk of being impacted by the justice
147 system;
 - 148 ○ 15 percent Public school access program
 - 149 ○ 3 percent Launch funding
 - 150 ○ 10 percent Building for Equity
 - 151 ○ 15 percent Public Free Access
 - 152 ○ 7 percent Countywide initiatives and projects
 - 153 ○ 50 percent Sustained Support
- 154 • 25 percent for programming outside the city of Seattle, of which 10 percent must go to cultural
155 organizations serving vulnerable populations, organizations located in Communities of Opportunity,
156 and/or cultural organizations providing mentoring services

¹³ [Office of Financial and Economic Analysis](#)

Ordinance Objective and Program/Investment Area Crosswalk

Doors Open Primary Objectives per Ordinance	Program and Investment Areas							
	Sustained Support	Public School Cultural Access	Public Free Access	Building for Equity	Countywide Initiatives	Launch	Outside of Seattle	Communities of Opportunity
Enhance and extend the reach and offerings of cultural organizations				X	X	X		
Ensure continued and expanded access by underserved populations to cultural facilities and the programs of cultural organizations		X		X			X	X
Provide financial support for cultural organizations to continue and extend the numerous public benefits they provide	X		X	X				

157 The Doors Open Ordinance (Ordinance 19710) eligibility excludes municipalities, individual cultural
158 practitioners, radio stations, newspapers, and magazines from receiving any proceeds from the taxes
159 imposed under the Ordinance 19710.¹⁴ 4Culture will reorient its Lodging Tax to better support these
160 ineligible entities.

161 4Culture intends to administer the Doors Open funded Sustained Support Program through a triennial
162 application process. To that end, 4Culture engaged in an application process in the Fall of 2024 and
163 announced awardees for three-year grants in December 2024. However, the first year of this three year
164 grant award will be supported by the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program and the contracts and
165 payments for these one-time grants will be subject to the provisions of Section 4. B., whereby 4Culture
166 will contract with and distribute one-time payments to the awardees of the 2024 One-Time Operating
167 Support grants by the end of the second quarter of 2025. The remaining 2 years of the Sustained
168 Support grant awards will be subject to the provisions of Section 2. K.

169 To maximize awards, 4Culture may leverage the Doors Open program (2025-2031) with the Lodging Tax
170 funded Sustained Support Programs. In 2024, KCC 2.48.108 and KCC 2.48.109 were amended to allow
171 for a triennial application process for the Lodging Tax funded Sustained Support Programs.

172 Guidelines for eligible expenditures for each Doors Open program will be developed consistent with
173 chapter 36.160 RCW, Ordinance 19710, and other applicable state and local laws, and will be provided in
174 the announcement of each program, prior to the opening of the application, and will also be available in
175 all materials and technical assistance made available during the open application period for each
176 program.

177 **F. Doors Open Impact**

178 Doors Open Program funding will transform King County's cultural landscape by expanding cultural
179 organizations' operations, offering discounted and free admission, supporting public school cultural
180 access programs, and building and expanding facilities for cultural activities. Investing in cultural
181 organizations through the Doors Open Program enriches the lives of King County residents and cultural
182 practitioners and contributes to building healthy and resilient communities that thrive on diversity and
183 creativity.

184 The Doors Open Program can lead to:

- 185 • **Economic Growth.** Cultural organizations contribute to local economies by creating jobs,
186 increasing tourism opportunities, and stimulating related industries such as hospitality and
187 retail.
- 188 • **Community Engagement.** Greater participation in cultural programming fosters residents' sense
189 of belonging and connection.
- 190 • **Community Cohesion.** Cultural organizations promote understanding and collaboration among
191 different communities.
- 192 • **Educational Opportunities.** Investment in cultural organizations provides valuable learning
193 experiences that foster creativity and critical thinking skills for all age groups.
- 194 • **Enhanced Quality of Life.** Access to arts and culture promotes mental health, social connection,
195 and well-being.

¹⁴ Other entities ineligible for Doors Open proceeds include state agencies and organizations that raise funds for redistribution to cultural organizations.

- 196 • **Innovation and Creativity.** Investments in cultural organizations enhance the creative
197 ecosystem, driving innovation and attracting talent to the region.

198 Investing in cultural organizations is vital for fostering vibrant, inclusive communities and enhancing the
199 quality of life for King County residents. Cultural organizations are critical in providing access to the arts,
200 preserving heritage, and promoting diversity.

201 **G. Criteria for Awarding Proceeds**

202 4Culture will evaluate grant applications by a set of criteria specific to the objectives of each grant
203 program. The criteria for awarding proceeds will help produce the transformational impact expected for
204 King County's cultural landscape. The definitions for the criteria used throughout the Doors Open
205 Program are:

- 206 • **Discipline-specific or program-specific priorities:** Priorities that are specific to each cultural
207 discipline or program that will be identified and listed in the guidelines for each application.
208 These priorities may change from application cycles through a process involving 4Culture staff,
209 advisory committees, and the 4Culture Board. An example is the arts priority of "artistic
210 substance" for an operating grant that would evaluate how an applicant provides services that
211 are robust, creative, and engaging with the community.
- 212 • **Economic Impact:** Includes direct impacts like how the applicant's project enhances the local
213 economy, including staff and contractors employed, volunteer hours and in-kind donations
214 leveraged, and other economic multipliers that accrue to King County, and indirect impacts like
215 increasing commercial activity, activating physical spaces, and enhancing the vibrancy of
216 communities.
- 217 • **Emergency:** A pressing situation that would cause a facility or landmark to be threatened, or to
218 suffer severe economic consequences due to conditions outside of the applicant's control. May
219 also include a threat to the safety of patrons or staff. A catastrophic event or natural disaster
220 may constitute an emergency.
- 221 • **Equity:** The applicant's focus on marginalized communities, especially communities that are
222 disproportionately impacted by structural racism.
- 223 • **Feasibility:** The applicant's ability to administer and complete the project within the budgetary,
224 logistical, and time constraints described in the application.
- 225 • **Community Impact:** How the community would benefit from program investments, extent of
226 coverage for geographically underserved communities, and how the work described in the
227 application would affect the applicant's future sustainability and ability to improve or secure
228 facilities.
- 229 • **Project Impact:** For programming grants, how the project will create positive change to meet
230 the needs of the communities being served. For capital projects, how the project will increase
231 access to cultural facilities.
- 232 • **Public Benefit:** A description of the public benefits from Ordinance 19710 that the applicant
233 would provide through programs, activities, and services.
- 234 • **Qualifications:** The applicant's ability to assemble a qualified and prepared project team.
- 235 • **Quality:** The thought and reasoning the applicant has put into the project planning. This
236 criterion may also include how community input has informed the applicant's needs assessment
237 and the prioritization of project outcomes. For capital grant applications, this criterion includes
238 how the project relates to the applicant's ability to secure or improve facilities in the future, as

- 239 well as how the facility project is designed to help an applicant fulfill their organizational mission
240 and address social, economic, and/or environmental challenges.
- 241 • **Resilience:** The applicant has clearly stated plans to remain in operation, has demonstrated
242 organizational adaptability to changes in the community, and shown responsiveness to the
243 community’s needs.
 - 244 • **Unforeseen Opportunity:** An opportunity that was not available at the time of the last
245 application deadline and that will no longer be available to the applicant by the next application
246 deadline. It will also allow an organization to significantly advance its goals and mission.

247 **H. Doors Open Public Benefit Reporting Framework**

248 For decades, 4Culture has defined Public Benefit as the opportunity for King County residents and
249 visitors to access and engage in arts and other cultural activities, events, communities of practice,
250 historic and cultural spaces, and works of public art related to our program areas. Public Benefit is a
251 service requirement for all recipients of public funding from 4Culture. Put simply, public benefit makes it
252 easier to experience culture.

253 As stated in Ordinance 19710, all Doors Open grant recipients must meet at least one General Public
254 Benefit requirement and one Equity or Geographic Inclusion Benefit requirement.

255 **General Public Benefits**

- 256 1. Providing low-barrier opportunities for everyone in the county to take part in the region's
257 cultural life and participate in cultural programs;
- 258 2. Providing performances and programs throughout the county, directly in and for local
259 communities, or through partnerships between and among cultural organizations;
- 260 3. Providing cultural educational programs and experiences at a cultural organization's own
261 facilities or in schools or other cultural facilities or venues;
- 262 4. Bringing cultural facilities and programming into compliance with access requirements of the
263 Americans with Disabilities Act;
- 264 5. Supporting cultural organizations that strive to engage traditional cultures and crafts;
- 265 6. Presenting free cultural festivals;
- 266 7. Providing free events, programing, and educational materials, which enhance a cultural
267 experience either before or after, or both, attending an exhibit, performance, or event;
- 268 8. Providing arts, science, and heritage career building opportunities for youth through internships
269 and apprenticeships or other means;
- 270 9. Establishing partnerships between cultural organizations or other cultural institutions to present
271 new multidisciplinary cultural experiences;
- 272 10. Implementing organizational capacity-building projects or activities that a cultural organization
273 can demonstrate will enhance the ability of that cultural organization to execute community
274 outreach, communications, and marketing strategies to attract and engage county residents
275 with opportunities for access to cultural experiences and with emphasis on underserved
276 communities; and
- 277 11. Implementing organizational capacity-building projects or activities that a community-based
278 cultural organization can demonstrate will enhance the ability of that cultural organization to
279 provide or continue to provide meaningful public benefits not otherwise achievable.

280 **Equity Inclusion Benefits**

- 281 1. Providing free or low-cost attendance to cultural organizations and cultural facilities for county
- 282 residents who have economic, geographic, and other barriers to access;
- 283 2. Providing free access to curriculum-related arts, science, and heritage programs for public
- 284 school students throughout the county at school and at cultural sites with emphasis on
- 285 underserved students;
- 286 3. Increasing the diversity of staff and governing boards of cultural organizations;
- 287 4. Increasing opportunities for access to cultural facilities, programs, and services for diverse and
- 288 underserved populations and communities;
- 289 5. Broadening cultural programs and provide programming that appeals to diverse populations
- 290 within the county;
- 291 6. Increasing investment in programs and organizations that represent and reflect the diversity of
- 292 the county; and
- 293 7. Planning and implementing cultural programs or collaborating with other cultural organizations
- 294 to extend the reach and impact of cultural programs to diverse and underserved populations
- 295 and communities.

296 **Geographic Inclusion Benefits**

- 297 1. Planning and implementing cultural programs and activities outside established cultural centers;
- 298 2. Partnering with other cultural organizations on cultural programs and activities outside
- 299 established cultural centers, through direct investment or in-kind support, on priority projects
- 300 and initiatives;
- 301 3. Providing cultural programming to communities outside the city in which a cultural organization
- 302 is primarily located, either directly or in partnership with other cultural organizations, or public
- 303 schools, or through other means.

304 **Public Benefit Reporting Standards for Funded Organizations**

305 4Culture will incorporate the Doors Open discernible public benefit categories and requirements into its

306 established contracting process, described in [Contract and Payment Process section](#). The grant contract

307 is where the public benefit requirements are first documented, and cultural organizations report on

308 their public facing activities in their payment request. Public benefit reporting allows grantees to list

309 attendance and participation numbers, provide a narrative evaluation of their activities, attach any

310 necessary documents including photos, budgets, and proof of acknowledgment of 4Culture’s support.

311 As an agency, 4Culture values that it eases the reporting burden for grantees. 4Culture collects only

312 needed information so that it can determine overall impact and learn how best to leverage resources for

313 deeper investment in the arts, culture, and science fields.

314 **I. Equity Priorities**

315 4Culture's vision statement is "We envision a vibrant county where culture is essential and accessible to

316 all." To advance that vision, 4Culture has adopted practices to increase equity in grant allocations. Grant

317 applicants are asked to describe how their programming addresses underserved populations such as

318 racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Applicants for capital project funding must

319 complete an "equity in development and construction assessment" to consider equity-focused priorities
320 in project development.

321 **Investments in Geographic Inclusion and Equity**

322 4Culture recognizes that where a cultural organization is based or provides its services, as well as the
323 communities it serves, can affect access to funding and other resources. To take a step towards
324 balancing these disparities, 4Culture awards equity and geographic inclusion investments to cultural
325 organizations that are based in parts of King County that are less served by other funding sources, and
326 to cultural organizations that specifically serve vulnerable communities. The investments are added as
327 bonuses in addition to the programmatic grant awards these organizations receive.

328 **Improving Cultural Experiences for People with Disabilities**

329 An example of 4Culture's equity priorities in action is how 4Culture's policies encourage cultural
330 organizations to improve cultural experiences for people with disabilities. A disability is any physical or
331 mental condition that makes it more difficult for the person to do certain activities and interact with the
332 world around them. Disabilities may affect a person's vision, movement, sensitivity to stimuli, hearing,
333 thinking, remembering, learning, communicating, health, mental health, and social relationships.

334 4Culture collects and analyzes aggregated disability data for organizations and individuals they fund,
335 4Culture staff, Board members, grant review panelists, and on-site reviewers. 4Culture uses the data to
336 understand funding disparities and inform grantmaking practices and processes and outreach and
337 engagement strategies.

338 Additionally, serving people with disabilities is one component of the criteria 4Culture uses to determine
339 whether organizations are eligible for an equity investment added to their grant award and for equity
340 points awarded when scoring grant applications.

341 Cultural organizations must provide and report on public benefits to be eligible for 4Culture funding.
342 Among the public benefits cultural organizations can choose to provide and report on are, bringing
343 cultural facilities and programming into compliance with access requirements of the Americans with
344 Disabilities Act, and activities to improve cultural access for people who face barriers to access and are
345 underserved.

346 All grant review panelists undertake anti-bias training that covers the topic of ableism.

347 **J. Application, Panel, Approval, and Award Process**

348 4Culture will use the agency's established application, panel, approval, and award process for
349 administering Doors Open programs.

350 4Culture accepts applications through 4Culture's online application portal. Applicants can create a
351 profile on the portal to streamline the process for submitting additional applications.

352 4Culture program managers first review all applications to ensure eligibility. Program managers then
353 facilitate panels of peer reviewers, which change for each award cycle. Peer review panelists review and
354 rate applications. Panelists are not required to come to consensus, but to provide their own unique
355 perspectives. Panelist scores are aggregated to create a final score for each application. Panels will

356 recommend a final slate of projects and funding, which then progresses to the standing Advisory
357 Committee for the cultural discipline relevant to the grant pool (Arts, Heritage. And Preservation).

358 For each grant program, the Advisory Committees receive a presentation on the application process,
359 applicant pool, panel process, and recommendations for the award slate. The Advisory Committees
360 have a chance to review the recommendations and ask questions. The Advisory Committees then vote
361 to move the award recommendations as presented or with modifications on to the 4Culture Board for
362 final review and approval. Applicants are notified of their awards after the Board gives final approval for
363 funding. Peer review panels and Advisory Committees consist of working professionals in the fields
364 4Culture funds, and who represent all parts of King County, sizes of organizations, and different points
365 of view. 4Culture's mission, vision, and values direct that that composition of peer review panels and
366 advisory committees include consideration of representation of historically underrepresented and
367 underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

368 Each Doors Open program and application review panel shall receive direction to meet the 10 percent
369 and 25 percent minimum requirements. If a program cannot meet the requirement, 4Culture will work
370 to reallocate the funds within the pool of eligible applicants or to other Doors Open programs to ensure
371 that the overall 10 percent and 25 percent program minimums are met. 4Culture will notify the Sound
372 Cities Association (SCA) Executive Director when a program is unable to meet the 25 percent minimum.
373 Separately and in addition, 4Culture will also engage with SCA and 4Culture's Local Arts Agencies
374 network on the challenges experienced in allocating the 25 percent, as part of 4Culture's efforts to
375 improve upcoming program allocation processes and outreach.

376 **Continuous Improvement of the Application Process**

377 4Culture commits to continuous improvement of the grant application process throughout
378 implementation of Doors Open. It is 4Culture's practice to do post-panel exit surveys with applicants
379 and solicit feedback from program staff. The feedback is used to make program or application
380 improvements. 4Culture also applies feedback collected from grantees at the invoicing stage.

381 **K. Contract and Payment Process**

382 Except for the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program,¹⁵ 4Culture will use the following established
383 contract and payment process for all Doors Open programs.

384 Once the 4Culture Board provides final approval for funding recommendations, 4Culture Program
385 Managers will work with each applicant to develop a Scope of Services and a Public Benefit agreement
386 for the grant contract that will be signed by both the grant recipient and 4Culture. For ease of
387 administration, 4Culture will use a contract template. 4Culture will structure multi-year general
388 operating contracts to provide for annual adjustments of contract payments based on the federal
389 Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the Seattle area (CPI-U-
390 Seattle).

391 Once the contract has been signed by both parties, invoices may be made to request reimbursement for
392 qualifying expenses. When cultural organizations develop a Scope of Services, they can include a plan
393 for a payment schedule that reflects the eligible expenses incurred on or after the award date and the

¹⁵ The contract and payment process for the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program is described in Section 4.B.

394 organization's timeline for providing public benefits. Cultural organizations can submit invoices for
395 partial or final payments.

396 As a best practice to steward public funds, 4Culture generally provides funding on a reimbursement
397 basis, which means 4Culture provides funding for completed work, and not future work. The value of
398 the cultural organization's invoice must be equal to, or more than, the expenses related to providing the
399 organization's public benefit.

400 Cultural organizations will be required to submit a set of documents along with each invoice:

- 401 • A report that demonstrates the cultural organization's public benefit, including for incremental
402 payments
- 403 • Examples of 4Culture acknowledgement via marketing or publicity materials
- 404 • Digital images documenting the project activities, including photo credits, permission to publish,
405 and captions.

406 The process typically progresses along the following timeline.

407 ***3 months after the grant deadline***

- 408 • Program staff draft the Scopes of Service and forward to awardees for review and editing. Once
409 this editing/review process is complete, the Scope of Service is entered into 4Culture's CRM.
- 410 • 4Culture's Finance Team prepares the final contract document and sends it out for electronic
411 signature. Contracts are signed by the recipient, initialed by 4Culture's Controller (after checking
412 all required documents are on file) and signed by the Executive Director.

413 ***4-18 months after the grant deadline***

- 414 • Awardees submit invoices through 4Culture's online portal (either partial or final), and staff
415 review invoices for accuracy and required supporting materials (e.g., report on project activities,
416 invoices/receipts, proof of 4Culture recognition, and photo documentation).
- 417 • Invoice payments typically happens within 3-5 weeks.
- 418 • Once final invoices are submitted, the contract is closed out in the CRM and in the accounting
419 department's system.
- 420 • If awardees don't request reimbursement for the full amount, the program staff will confirm
421 with the awardee that all funds will not be used and notify Accounting that the funds will not be
422 distributed.

423 **L. Leveraging 4Culture's Strengths**

424 4Culture's long history as public cultural funder means that it has developed relationships with cultural
425 groups and communities throughout the County. For Doors Open, 4Culture will leverage its existing
426 infrastructure – administrative, financial, and social – and strengthen it with the incredible opportunities
427 that this new source of funding will provide.

428 **Established Engagement and Communications Channels**

429 For every grant and public art program, 4Culture's Communications department works with grant
430 managers to identify the audiences to reach to increase applications and recipients. The strategies

431 employed are often specific to each program, and include targeted outreach to underserved
432 communities, language communities, and communities specific to the discipline of the grant.

433 4Culture maintains an online list of its current, upcoming, and ongoing funding opportunities. The
434 4Culture website will be updated to include funding opportunities and associated timelines and grant
435 award announcements for the Doors Open program.¹⁶ Additionally, 4Culture will develop a listserv
436 where interested community members may subscribe to electronically receive this information as well
437 as general Doors Open program updates.

438 ***Equity Priorities for Outreach, Engagement and Communications***

439 In 2020, to align the communications work with 4Culture’s racial equity goals, 4Culture’s
440 communications team set a goal to reach Black and Indigenous communities for every grant program.
441 Since that time, with the addition of geographic inclusion and equity investments, and other efforts to
442 lead with racial equity in our programming, 4Culture has seen increases in funding totals to these
443 communities. Since 2021, 4Culture’s demographic data shows that the percentage of applications and
444 recipients in King County Spanish-speaking and AAPI communities is lower than the population rate in
445 King County’s census data. Because of this, we have increased outreach to these communities and plan
446 to continue to focus on these areas.

447 In 2020, with the shutdown of in-person outreach due to the pandemic, 4Culture instituted a language
448 access policy and a communications campaign to explain to the public that anyone with language-access
449 needs can contact hello@4Culture.org and our main phone line to request translation services. This
450 messaging was translated into King County’s five most spoken languages. Staff handle these requests to
451 make sure the person’s needs are met and tracked through the entire process. This has resulted in
452 mainly ASL, Spanish, and Chinese translations services for grant workshops, information sessions, and
453 print translation.

454 In implementing the Doors Open program, 4Culture will also seek to increase outreach, engagement,
455 and participation to include LGBTQ+, the disability community, youth, and immigrant and refugee
456 populations.

¹⁶ 4Culture. Year At-A-Glance. URL: <https://www.4culture.org/grants-artist-calls/year-at-a-glance/>. Last accessed on October 8, 2024.

457 **4Culture’s Outreach Engagement Strategies**

458 The following sections outline several of the
459 outreach and engagement strategies 4Culture uses
460 in its engagement work and will employ for Doors
461 Open.

462 *Content Focused Strategies*

- 463 • Listening Sessions
- 464 • Grant Workshops
- 465 • General Information Sessions
- 466 • Website, email, and social media

467 *Visibility Focused Strategies*

- 468 • Hello 4Culture outreach events
- 469 • Tabling at community events
- 470 • Print and online advertising and
471 promotional materials

472 *Language Focused Strategies*

- 473 • Partner with community organizations and ambassadors for outreach events and workshops
- 474 • Community-based advertising
- 475 • Translated materials and subtitled online workshops

476 *Geographic Access Focused Strategies*

- 477 • Partner with organizations and individuals to increase visibility.
- 478 • Advertise grants in community news outlets and blogs.

479 *BIPOC Community Focused Strategies*

- 480 • Partner with organizations and individuals to increase visibility.
- 481 • Advertise grants in BIPOC community media serving King County.

482 **Strategies in Action**

483 *Hello 4Culture*

484 In 2025, 4Culture will re-launch its monthly community outreach series, [Hello 4Culture](#) to focus on
485 Doors Open. Pre-COVID, our Hello 4Culture program took us to cities and towns across King County to
486 hear the community’s ideas, questions, and concerns. Communities with the least access to 4Culture’s
487 resources and the lowest number of applicants and recipients were prioritized by analyzing 4Culture and
488 King County census data.

489 In 2020, 4Culture moved the outreach series online and partnered with cultural organizations across
490 King County and Washington State to provide monthly info sessions on topics ranging from COVID relief
491 funding applications to mutual aid for artists.

Example Outreach Partnerships

- Se Habla Media
- Wa Na Wari Walk the Block
- Rainier Valley Creative District Artist Resource Fair
- Artist of Color Expo and Symposium
- Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery
- El Rey 1360 AM
- Local Services, Unincorporated King County
- Cinco de Mayo, Redmond
- Federal Way Community Festival
- Kenmore Town Square

492 For Doors Open, Hello 4Culture will focus ordinance objectives to reach economically and geographically
493 underserved communities and locations. To do this, 4Culture will leverage the [Communities of](#)
494 [Opportunity Composite Index Map](#) and will continue to develop multilingual materials and language
495 access practices.

496 *Tabling and Outreach Events*

497 4Culture regularly tables at community events where the cultural sector is the main audience and is
498 expanding to science and technology education events. We also table at community events focused on
499 serving BIPOC and rural communities located in King County.

500 *Email and Social Media*

- 501 • Email announcement to past applicants
- 502 • Announcements in eNews (usually twice during lifecycle of grant)
- 503 • Posted to social media (x, Facebook, Instagram)
- 504 • Announced in community news outlets and blogs to reach all geographic areas of King County,
505 examples include Bellevue Reporter (and all Sound Publishing online and print outlets),
506 Shoreline Area News, I Love Kent, and related South King County affiliate blogs.

507 *Technical Assistance*

508 4Culture uses a variety of methods to make sure that each program’s potential applicants have ample
509 opportunities to get their questions answered, such as through the following resources:

- 510 • [Online and in-person grant application workshops](#) (free, drop-in, events held throughout the
511 County); and
- 512 • [Manage Your Grant](#) resource page, a dedicated spot for applicants to track their application and
513 make sure they have everything they need for a successful grant process.

514
515 4Culture’s website is accessible for the vision-impaired, including all linked PDF documents. ASL
516 translation services are available on request. 4Culture commits to removing linguistic, cultural, and
517 procedural barriers in applying for Doors Open funding opportunities that organizations commonly face
518 in successfully applying for government funding and will solicit community feedback for continued
519 improvements and incorporate learnings from its broader community outreach and engagement efforts.

520 **M. Support Network Consulting Roster**

521 The increased funding available through Doors Open will greatly impact cultural organizations. While we
522 anticipate most of these impacts being positive, it’s possible that within these moments of tremendous
523 organizational growth, change, and evolution, many organizations will face unique challenges and
524 unfamiliar risks. 4Culture plans to provide additional scaffolding and support to help organizations
525 manage the risk and opportunities associated with the potential influx of increased funding. 4Culture
526 will support cultural organizations needing consulting assistance for crisis situations by referring them to
527 the consultant roster and funding some hours of consulting assistance.

528 Cultural organizations will have access to a consultant roster and will receive an allocation of consultant
529 hours based on their eligibility, with the intent that all grantee organizations will have the opportunity to
530 access consultant services through the roster and that organizations are allotted an appropriate number

531 of hours to meet their stated need. Organizations that choose not to use the entirety of their allotted
532 consultant hours will agree to allow those hours to be allotted to other grantees requesting consultant
533 time. Below are the anticipated roster topic areas with topics specific to emergency/crisis needs
534 highlighted.

535 **Roster Topic Areas**

- 536 • Financial Emergency Planning
- 537 • Cultural Facilities
- 538 • Strategic Planning
- 539 • Organizational Design and Management
- 540 • Financial Planning and/or Strategy
- 541 • Human Resources
- 542 • Interpretive Planning
- 543 • Leadership and Board Optimization
- 544 • Board/Board Relations
- 545 • Communications, Marketing, Branding
- 546 • Fundraising/Development
- 547 • DEAI
- 548 • Legal Services
- 549 • Accessibility (language, ADA, facilities, mobility)

550

551 4Culture is developing this roster and has tentative launch plans for Q1-Q2 2025, depending on Doors
552 Open Implementation Plan approval.

553 **N. Special Focus on Science and Technology Outreach**

554 4Culture has a long history of supporting organizations advancing science and technology through our
555 existing funding programs. This includes organizations whose missions reflect the technological history
556 of our region, such as MOHAI and the Museum of Flight, both of which 4Culture has funded for many
557 years via Projects, Sustained Support, Collections Care, and Cultural Equipment funding programs. In
558 addition, 4Culture has supported numerous projects that have explored the intersection of arts and
559 technology through Tech-Specific (a site-specific funding program) and Special Projects funding
560 programs. These established relationships have proven invaluable in informing our work for Doors
561 Open.

562 With the possibility of new King County funding for science focused organizations, 4Culture staff
563 launched a research project in the fall of 2019 to interview local science organizations regarding their
564 needs, funding priorities, programming, anticipated capital projects, and the health of the field in
565 general. Unfortunately, this work was cut short due to the pandemic.

566 But the foundation laid by that plan was continued in the formation in January 2024 of a [Science &
567 Technology Group](#) consisting of representatives of local science organizations from various disciplines,
568 different size budgets, and regions of the county.

569 This group has met monthly since January 2024, providing insights into the field, and discussing
570 important questions regarding the development of a new set of science and technology focused funding
571 programs.

572 Topics of discussion for the group have included questions that affect the field:

- 573 • What would your organization prioritize with additional funding: kinds of programming, capacity
574 building, facilities, equipment, or other?
- 575 • What strategies does your organization employ to expand outreach to underserved
576 communities?
- 577 • What are the key issues in the regional science and technology field?
- 578 • What organizations and communities should be participating in this group that are not currently
579 represented?
- 580 • What are the professional development needs of individuals working in regional science and
581 technology cultural organizations?
- 582 • How can 4Culture protect against funding pseudoscience?
- 583 • How do you encourage the development of an understanding of scientific inquiry as a lifetime
584 pursuit rather than a “requirement” to be set aside upon graduation from high school?
- 585 • What metrics have you found most useful in communicating the success of your programming?
586

587 To date, some initial observations from these discussions in the group, in individual interviews, and
588 other stakeholder conversations revealed following strengths and challenges:

- 589 • Science organizations have made significant investments in programming for K-12, many with a
590 focus on Title 1 public schools.¹⁷
- 591 • Science and technology focused organizations in the region share similar needs to other cultural
592 organizations: investing in capital facilities, offering competitive salaries for staff, engaging
593 underserved communities, delivering programming at additional venues in communities, and
594 other items.
- 595 • Misinformation has damaged the public's understanding of science. Rebuilding the public's
596 trust in and understanding of science is a challenge.
- 597 • There is an ongoing shortage of qualified educators in science and technology. The increase in
598 the cost of living in King County has made staffing science and technology focused organizations
599 more difficult.
- 600 • Transportation costs associated with travel to organizations' venues can be a barrier to
601 participation in programming.

602 **Science and Technology Grants**

603 Science and technology grants will fund cultural organizations whose mission statement includes an
604 explicit focus on science or technology. Organizations with a primary purpose of advancing and
605 preserving zoology (such as a zoo or an aquarium) must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and
606 Aquariums or supporting an organization accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
607

608 Science and technology grants do not support the following activities:

- 609 • The conduct of primary research not directly providing experiences to the general public
- 610 • Medical and public health practice, including but not limited to medical treatment, medical or
611 nutritional advice, or medical instruction.
- 612 • Pseudoscience, defined for this purpose as any system of beliefs or concepts that exhibits
613 characteristics, including but not limited to, the ability to be proven untrue or falsifiable by

¹⁷ "Title I public schools" refers to Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA), which provides supplemental financial assistance to school districts for children from low-income families.

614 observable facts, lacking a research framework that tests and revises ideas based on observable
615 facts, and/or has been demonstrated to be false by observable facts.

616
617 Doors Open is a new opportunity for 4Culture to fund cultural organizations in direct support of their
618 science and technology programming. To ensure adequate resources are dedicated to this task,
619 4Culture established a Science and Technology Department, beginning with hiring a Science and
620 Technology Director. The director will recruit a Science and Technology Program Manager as well as a
621 Science and Technology Support Specialist. The department director is also charged with helping lead
622 outreach to potential applicants. That outreach and engagement will include:

- 623 • Continued meetings of the Science & Technology Group through the early summer of 2024
- 624 • Recruiting and developing a formal advisory committee by the fall of 2024
- 625 • Convening a gathering of science and technology groups in the second half of 2024
- 626 • Conducting a landscape survey and analysis of the field in the winter/spring of 2024.

627 **O. Special Focus on Economic Revitalization**

628 The Doors Open Program has the potential to revitalize and transform commercial centers around King
629 County into vibrant and inclusive cultural centers. Commercial centers, particularly those that are
630 experiencing post-pandemic challenges, such as reduced commercial activity, vacant storefronts, limited
631 foot traffic, a sense of despair, increased crime, and increased illicit drug use, will benefit from expanded
632 access to cultural facilities and programs of cultural organizations that will be possible because of the
633 Doors Open Program. By funding cultural organizations in King County, it is expected that the Doors
634 Open Program will have a positive effect on public safety, addiction recovery, neighborhood
635 beautification, recreation, and commercial activity in key commercial centers and change the negative
636 narratives surrounding beleaguered neighborhoods to promote a sense of safety, cultural vibrancy,
637 cleanliness, and resilience instead.

638 The Doors Open Program can:

- 639 • Build coalitions of cultural organizations and leaders to work together to align resources and
640 unify plans for revitalizing commercial centers around the region by leveraging 4Culture's
641 existing administrative, financial, and social infrastructure.
- 642 • Incentivize connectivity and cross-programming between cultural organizations to facilitate
643 partnerships and increase access for King County residents through the Building for Equity and
644 Launch grant programs.
- 645 • Improve the recruitment and retention of cultural workers through the Countywide Initiatives
646 grant program.
- 647 • Promote arts and culture as an economic asset in commercial centers.
- 648 • Activate public spaces, retail corridors, and underutilized or vacant spaces as venues for arts and
649 culture to enhance the vibrancy and economy of commercial centers.
- 650 • Enhance the vibrancy and economy of commercial centers by activating public spaces, retail
651 corridors, and underutilized or vacant spaces as venues for arts and culture.

652
653 Through these programmatic and funding actions, Doors Open will initiate transformative and lasting
654 change in King County by improving access to arts, science, and heritage resources, revitalizing the local
655 economy, and reimagining the vibrancy and identity of commercial and cultural centers.

656 3. Doors Open and Implementation Plan Community 657 Engagement

658 4Culture aims to maintain our trust, confidence, and credibility with the cultural community in
659 distributing Doors Open revenue, as we have done over several decades with Lodging Tax and 1% for
660 the Art supported programs. We are a public funder with community-focused goals and outcomes.

661 Because the cultural sector has a history of underinvestment and many organizations are in challenging
662 economic circumstances, 4Culture provides regular and consistent proactive updates to all stakeholder
663 groups and will do so throughout implementation and roll out of programs. 4Culture also provides a
664 strong set of resources and information available online to make it easy for stakeholders to find the
665 information they need.

666 To know more about the depth and breadth of 4Culture’s regular slate of communications, outreach,
667 and engagement strategies, please see [Established Engagement and Communications Channels](#).
668 [4Culture will employ these strategies in its administration of Doors Open](#).

669 The following list is a summary of Implementation Plan-specific outreach taking place from January 2024
670 to June 2024 – the point of plan submittal.

- 671 • In person gatherings with cultural community groups: 22
- 672 • Online general info sessions (with ASL interpretation and translated into Spanish): 3
- 673 • In person gatherings with language/ethnic/racial community groups: 8
- 674 • In person gatherings with municipal groups: 5
- 675 • Gatherings with cultural leader groups: 14

676 4. Doors Open 2024: One-Time Capital and Operating 677 Support

678 A. One-Time Capital Grant Program: Doors Open Facilities

679 Program Summary

680 Doors Open Facilities grants will provide funding for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space
681 that houses and facilitates cultural work in King County. The fund prioritizes projects that can begin
682 construction or acquisition within two years of being awarded funds (by December 31, 2026).

683 This grant builds from the funding and strategies established by 4Culture and King County’s [Building for](#)
684 [Equity initiative](#). The Doors Open capital grant program will support cultural building projects and
685 create a pathway to racial equity in cultural facilities funding. To help achieve this goal, applicants must
686 show an ongoing commitment to racial equity and equitable development, and applicants with project
687 budgets over \$10M will be required to meet a Cultural Space Contribution Requirement, where they
688 provide space or technical assistance as part of their public benefit.

689 Facility project requests may be made in proportion to the Facility Project size, as indicated below.
690 Applications and Contracts will have commensurate sets of reporting agreements and partner
691 contribution agreements to the project size.

- 692 • Projects under \$250,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of total project costs.
- 693 • Projects between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of project costs
694 for first \$250,000 and 50% of project costs between \$250,001 and \$1,000,000.
- 695 • Projects between \$1,000,001 and \$10,000,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of project
696 costs for first \$250,000, 50% of project costs between \$250,001 and \$1,000,000, and 15% of
697 project costs between \$1,000,001 and \$10,000,000.
- 698 • Projects greater than \$10,000,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of project costs for first
699 \$250,000, 50% of project costs between \$250,001 and \$1,000,000, 15% of project costs
700 between \$1,000,001 and \$10,000,000, and 5% of project costs over \$10,000,001. The maximum
701 request for this pool is \$2,500,000.

702
703 In addition to the Base Awards, which are determined based on the panel score as applied to the
704 requested amount, applications are eligible for an Advancing Equity and Geographic Inclusion bonus.
705 Each application may have an additional percentage of funding added to their allocation if they are
706 either outside the City of Seattle, or if the facility is in a 2020 U.S. Census tract area with a Community of
707 Opportunity index percentile of 60% or greater.

708 Additionally, if an organization does not score high enough to receive a Base Award, it may still be
709 eligible for a Geographic Inclusion bonus, and thus the application may still be funded in part.

710 **Program Allocations**

711 An estimated total of \$32.9M will be available for the Doors Open Facilities Grant, to be awarded to
712 organizations applying within different project sizes. Based on previous facility grant cycles, 4Culture
713 anticipates between 175 to 225 total applications for facility funding and will aim to fund the top scoring
714 10%-20% in each project size category.

715 A minimum of 25% of this Operating Support program will be allocated to cultural organizations with a
716 primary location outside of the City of Seattle; and a minimum of 10% will be allocated to cultural
717 organizations with a primary location within a 2020 U.S. Census tract area with a Community of
718 Opportunity index percentile of 60% or greater or provide services to vulnerable populations as defined
719 in the implementing ordinance.

720 **Program Criteria**

721 Doors Open one-time capital grant criteria established by Ordinance 19710 include Quality; Feasibility;
722 Project Impact, Public Benefit; and Equity. 4Culture also included Qualifications and Economic Impact as
723 grant criteria.

724 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

725 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
726 [section](#). Applications will be available for a minimum of five weeks, allowing applicants as long as
727 possible to gather the information required.

728 4Culture staff will do their best to answer questions and help Doors Open Facilities applicants in
729 advance. We anticipate hundreds of applications for this program and encourage applicants to prepare
730 early to meet the deadline and take advantage of the support staff can provide.

731 In addition to staff support, 4Culture has hired several Community Connectors, who will help applicants
732 prepare for their application, including how to go about getting proposals required for application such
733 as architectural and design estimates; how to frame a project for the review panel; advice on choosing
734 the right scale of project (potentially consolidating several smaller projects into “Accessibility Needs,”
735 for example, or picking only the “HVAC Improvements” part of a larger project to propose); and aiming
736 applicants towards best practices and commonly accepted structures for capital budgeting. These
737 Connectors will work proactively to reach out to potential applicants as well as providing an open
738 calendar where applicants can make appointments for consultation.

739 Each Project size category will have a panel, consisting of five members, with the King County Council
740 and the Executive each appointing one member to each panel, to review those applications. Panelists
741 will have approximately three weeks to conduct their reviews.

742 Panel sessions will be held over a 1-to-3-day period, depending on the quantity of applications received.
743 During this period, each panel will talk about the proposals and recommend funding for selected
744 proposals to 4Culture’s Advisory Committees and Board based on the criteria outlined above.

745 **B. One-Time Operating Support Program**

746 **Program Summary**

747 The 2024 One-Time Operating Support program provides operating and programmatic dollars to meet
748 the day-to-day needs of cultural organizations. Funding is intended to provide programs and services for
749 public benefit. Awards are provided as operating support consistent with the requirements of Ordinance
750 19710, and unrestricted to specific purposes allowing cultural organizations to deploy resources to their
751 most emergent operating needs or where they will be most impactful for the delivery of the
752 organization’s mission. Grant awardees are required to provide proof of the public benefits of cultural
753 programming produced. Ineligible program expenses, such as capital expenses and major equipment,
754 are identified in the grant contract.

755 **Program Allocations**

756 There are four funding disciplines, between which an estimated \$32.9 million will be awarded. The
757 anticipated number of applicants per discipline, based on historical data and field scans are as follows:

- 758 • Heritage – approximately 90 applicants
- 759 • Historic Preservation – approximately 30 applicants
- 760 • Arts - approximately 500 applicants
- 761 • Science and technology - approximately 80 applicants

762
763 Award amounts will be determined based on a combination of:

- 764 • Budget size
- 765 • Average score, as determined by the panel

- 766 • an Advancing Equity Bonus, for those cultural organizations who are focusing on vulnerable
767 communities, especially those that are disproportionately impacted by structural racism
768 • Eligibility for Geographic Inclusion Bonus (inclusive of both Outside Seattle and COO status)
769

770 A minimum of 25% of this Operating Support program will be allocated to cultural organizations with a
771 primary location outside the City of Seattle; and a minimum of 10% will be allocated to cultural
772 organizations with a primary location is within a 2020 U.S. Census tract area with a Community of
773 Opportunity index percentile of 60% or greater or provide services to vulnerable populations as defined
774 in Ordinance 19710.

775 **Program Criteria**

776 Ordinance 19710 requires that proposals be evaluated based on the contributing to the organization's
777 stability, public benefit, equity, and artistic substance. 4Culture also added program economic impact as
778 a criterion.

779 **Application Prompts**

780 The application has been developed with an eye toward balancing the need to provide enough
781 information to the panel to make an informed recommendation about funding, while keeping barriers
782 low and the process accessible for cultural organizations which may not have a professionalized grant
783 writing team.

784
785 4Culture staff will do their best to help applicants. We anticipate applications in the hundreds for this
786 program and will encourage applicants to prepare early to meet the deadline and take advantage of the
787 support staff can provide.

788 Applicants will also be asked to provide the following information:

- 789 • Organization description
790 • Description of community served
791 • Programming description
792 • Description of organization governance or decision-making practices
793 • Description of public benefit

794 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

795 Like the applications for the one-time capital grant program, applications for the one-time operating
796 support program will be available for a minimum of five weeks, allowing applicants as long as possible to
797 gather the information required. The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel,
798 Award, and Approval Process section](#).

799 Each of the discipline areas¹⁸ will have at least one panel and up to four panels, depending on the
800 number of applications received. Like the panels convened for the one-time capital grant program,
801 each panel will have five members, with one member appointed by the King County Council and one
802 member appointed by the Executive. Each panel will consist of working professionals in the fields, who
803 represent all parts of King County, sizes of organizations, and different points of view.

804

¹⁸ Heritage (excluding historic preservation), arts, science, and historic preservation.

805 **2024 One-Time Operating Support Contract and Payment Process**

806 4Culture will contract with the 2024 One-Time Operating Support awardees for them to provide in 2025
807 the services and the public benefits described in the awardees' September 2024 applications and upon
808 which the awardees were selected in December 2024 to receive this one-time grant.

809 The contract will allow for awardees to receive advance payment for 2025 services and public benefits
810 to be supported by 2024 tax proceeds. The contracts will include specific reporting requirements
811 necessary for auditing accountability and program evaluation. The contract will also reserve 4Culture's
812 right to recoup all or part of the advance payment and withhold future payment, if the contract terms
813 are not met.

814 These same awardees were also selected for Sustained Support grants to provide services and public
815 benefits in 2026 and 2027 as part of the triennial application process described at Section 2. E. These
816 awardees will receive support of their 2026 and 2027 activities through the contract and payment
817 processes set out in Section 2. K.

818 **C. Engagement and Communications Strategy for 2024 Doors Open One-Time Grant**
819 **Programs**

820 Outreach will be targeted to underrepresented communities based on prior award and applicant pool
821 demographics. Guided by 4Culture's Communications priorities, these efforts include targeted outreach
822 and engagement including communications in multiple languages to broad-based community networks
823 and media outlets within 4Culture's network.

824 Most of 4Culture's capital grant programs are long-standing, and our existing communication strategies
825 employ a racial equity lens to target outreach to underserved communities to encourage them to apply
826 for funding. For more detail on how we'll leverage existing communication channels, see [Established](#)
827 [Engagement and Communications Channels](#). A special focus will be on reaching and engaging Science
828 and Technology cultural organizations that are newly eligible for Cultural Facilities programs. For more
829 detail on these outreach strategies, see [Special Focus on Science and Technology Outreach](#).

830 **Technical Assistance Workshops**

831 4Culture will offer a series of virtual workshops open to all potential applicants, to provide information
832 on program guidelines, the application process and answer questions, discuss project details, and review
833 draft applications.

834 All workshops will be held remotely. For those who are unable to attend, a workshop recording will be
835 available. Workshop recordings are translated into Spanish and Chinese subtitles.

836 5. Doors Open 2025-2031

837 A. Sustained Support

838 Program and Allocation Summary

839 The Doors Open operating support program, which
840 4Culture will call "Sustained Support," provides
841 three-year grants to meet the ongoing needs of
842 cultural organizations. These awards provide funds
843 unrestricted to a specific purpose¹⁹ to cultural
844 organizations that have a track record of delivering
845 programs and services for the benefit of the public.
846 With funds for basic annual expenses such as rent,
847 utilities, and payroll, organizations can deploy
848 resources to their most emergent needs.

849 4Culture offers Sustained Support in each of the
850 four funding program areas: heritage, arts, science,
851 and historical preservation (also referred to as the four disciplines). Applicants must choose one of the
852 four areas which best fits their mission and programs.

853 Applicants must have a minimum two-year operating history for Heritage and Historical Preservation
854 Sustained Support; they must have a minimum three-year operating history for Arts Sustained Support.

855 Program Criteria

856 *Heritage*

857 These awards provide operating support to cultural organizations that have a track record of delivering
858 heritage programs and services, for the benefit of the public. Reviewers use the following criteria:
859 Resilience; Public Benefit, Equity, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Heritage Priorities.

860 *Historic Preservation*

861 These awards provide operating support to cultural organizations that have a track record of delivering
862 historic preservation programs and services, for the benefit of the public. Reviewers use the following
863 criteria: Resilience; Public Benefit, Equity, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Preservation
864 Priorities.

865 *Arts*

866 These awards provide operating support to cultural organizations that have a track record of delivering
867 artistic cultural programs and services for the benefit of the public. Reviewers use the following criteria:
868 Resilience; Public Benefit, Equity, Community Impact, and Economic Impact and Artistic Substance.

Sustained Support

Estimated annual funding: \$48.5 million

Objective: Meet the ongoing needs of cultural organizations

Strategy: Provide predictable, multi-year funding assistance for operations, including assistance with rent, utilities, payroll, and other basic annual expenses

Key Reporting Metrics: Number of awards and total funding over time by organization; Number of awardees and total funding over time by geography (Zip Code and Council district) and discipline

¹⁹ Funds must be used consistent with the requirements of Ordinance 19710.

869 **Science and Technology**

870 Operating funds for science and technology cultural organizations provide operating support to
871 organizations to deliver programs and services for the benefit of the general public, King County
872 residents as well as visitors. For these grants, reviewers will look to the following criteria: Resilience,
873 Public Benefit, Equity, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Science and Technology Priorities.

874 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

875 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
876 [section](#). Award amounts have three components:

- 877 • A base award determined by the recipient cultural organization’s budget size.
- 878 • A possible additional award based on overall panel score.
- 879 • A possible Geographic Investment based on geographic location and/or an Equity investment
880 based on organization’s score on the Equity criterion.

881
882 If a cultural organization is selected for funding, the Program Manager will work with the cultural
883 organization to create a grant contract outlining a Scope of Services and Public Benefit for each
884 consecutive year. Cultural organizations that receive Sustained Support funding are typically paid
885 annually upon completion of one or more of the Public Benefit activities described in their grant
886 contract.

887 4Culture plans to announce awards prior to the end of July 2025 and will provide an on-ramp to new
888 applicants for the duration of the cycle every fall (tentatively September). These are target timelines and
889 4Culture will have flexibility to adjust them to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

890 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

891 4Culture’s existing Sustained Support operating grant programs are long-standing, and our existing
892 communication strategies employ a racial equity lens to target outreach to underserved communities to
893 encourage them to apply for funding. For more detail on how we’ll leverage existing communication
894 channels, see [Established Engagement and Communications Channels](#).

895 A special focus will be on reaching and engaging Science and Technology cultural organizations that are
896 newly eligible for operating grant programs. For more detail on these outreach strategies, see [Special](#)
897 [Focus on Science and Technology Outreach](#).

898 Like our other programs, 4Culture will offer digital and non-digital engagement to assist potential
899 applicants with understanding the program and technical assistance throughout the application process.
900 This will also include opportunities to receive one-on-one support from 4Culture staff. Typically, this
901 comes in the form of feedback on individual applications, technical assistance, and offering general
902 guidance on understanding and interpreting program criteria and eligibility requirements.

903 Outreach is focused on underrepresented communities based on prior award and applicant pool
904 demographics. Guided by 4Culture’s Communications priorities, these efforts include open application
905 periods of 6-8 weeks; at least three workshops sharing guidelines, criteria, and the application process;
906 and engagement including communication in multiple languages to broad-based community networks
907 and media outlets within 4Culture’s network.

908 **Public Benefit Reporting**

909 To receive reimbursement, all Sustained Support recipients provide documentation on the public
910 benefits provided, as detailed in the [Doors Open Public Benefit Reporting Framework section](#). This
911 reporting metric is collected by 4Culture for annual reporting and is evidence of the General Public
912 Benefit and Equity and Geographic Inclusion Benefit requirements.

913 **B. Public School Cultural Access**

914 **Program Summary**

915 The Doors Open Public School Cultural Access Program will provide King County public school students
916 with greater and more equitable access to science, arts heritage and historic preservation learning from
917 our county's rich array of cultural organizations.

918 Beginning in 2025, all public schools and tribal schools in King County's 19 school districts will have
919 access to an online roster of science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation cultural organizations that
920 provide on-site and off-site cultural education programs in and out of the school day. Funding for
921 programs will be provided directly to cultural organizations, and free field trip transportation will be
922 provided to schools in districts with a 40% or higher free and reduced lunch rate.

923 Increased student access to cultural learning and experiences correlates with higher levels of academic
924 achievement in high school and college and higher levels of civic engagement such as voting and

925 volunteering.²⁰ A 2019 study found that
926 elementary students who received increased
927 access to education programs from cultural
928 organizations and teaching artists had decreased
929 disciplinary rates, improved their writing
930 achievement, and that students' compassion for
931 others increased.²¹

932 Cultural learning experiences can lead to better
933 outcomes for students in King County, and this is
934 why 4Culture is committed to implementing the
935 Doors Open Public School Cultural Access Program
936 with the following goals and values:

- 937 • All King County public school students can
938 access engaging and enriching experiences
939 that positively impact their wellbeing,
940 performance in school, and overall growth
941 and development.
- 942 • Prioritization of increased access to
943 cultural experiences and activities for
944 students from communities that have been
945 disproportionately impacted by racism and
946 other systems of oppression.
- 947 • Prioritization of e increased access to
948 students in schools that are located
949 outside of established cultural centers.
- 950 • Commitment of outreach and engagement
951 of community cultural organizations that are led by and staffed by people from communities
952 that have been disproportionately impacted by racism and other systems of oppression.
- 953 • Prioritization of cultural organizations that are located outside of established cultural centers.
- 954 • Commitment to build and improve relationships between public schools and cultural
955 organizations throughout King County.
- 956 • Collect data to improve both the quantity and quality of cultural education programs provided
957 by cultural organizations to schools.

958 **Goals and Priorities for the Cultural Education Programs Roster**

959 Establishing a central database for public school educators to find no-cost on-site and off-site cultural
960 learning opportunities for their students is central to 4Culture's Public School Cultural Access Program.

961 **Roster Goals:**

- 962 • Enable teachers and other school staff to find science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation
963 education programs that align with their classroom and school learning goals.
- 964 • Enable teachers and other school staff to find science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation
965 education programs from cultural organizations that reflect their school communities.

²⁰ James Catterall, 2012.

²¹ Daniel H. Bowen, 2019.

Public School Cultural Access

Estimated annual funding: \$14.6 million

Objective: Increase public school student access to cultural educational experiences through partnership between cultural organizations and the schools

Strategies:

- Develop database of appropriate on-site and off-site cultural experiences for public schools
- Provide funding to sustain and extend the offerings of cultural organizations through programs provided at schools and at cultural facilities and venues of the cultural organizations
- Provide funding for transportation to cultural facilities and venues for eligible school districts

Key Reporting Metric: Number of schools, classes participating in Public School Cultural Access Program, Number of awardees and total funding over time by geography (Zip Code, Council district, and school district)

- 966 • Provide information and support to teachers and other school staff that reduces their barriers to
967 initiating, planning, and implementing cultural field trips and partnerships.
- 968 • Provide information and support to cultural organizations that reduce their barriers to engaging
969 with public schools.
- 970 • Provide a basis for establishing sustained relationships between schools and cultural
971 organizations for the benefit of students.

972 **Roster Priorities:**

- 973 • Educators will be able to search and filter to find science, arts, heritage, and historic
974 preservation programs that meet their specific learning goals and time parameters.
- 975 • Educators will be able to clearly know if their school is eligible for free transportation funding to
976 off-site cultural experiences. They will also know what the process is for requesting free
977 transportation through their district.
- 978 • Cultural organizations will be able to provide descriptive program information for the roster so
979 that educators have a clear sense of the value and requirements of each program.
- 980 • Cultural organizations will be able to update their program information on the roster at least
981 annually.
- 982 • New cultural organizations will be able to add programs to the roster at least annually.

983 **Process for Data Collection and Delivery to Public Schools and Cultural Organizations**

984 The process for data collection to populate the roster of cultural organizations to partner with schools,
985 which will include the following steps:

- 986 1. Outreach to cultural organizations to submit entries for the roster
 - 987 a. 4Culture will put out a call for submissions using 4Culture's cultural organizations list
988 and lists of current partners provided by schools and districts during school stakeholder
989 engagement
 - 990 b. Cultural organizations will fill out an automated form to establish eligibility. If they are
991 found eligible, they will proceed to a submission form where they input data to
992 populate the roster. (see #3)
- 993 2. Cultural organization school partner eligibility
 - 994 a. Meet all cultural organizational structural requirements for Doors Open
 - 995 b. Align with at least one of the discipline definitions
 - 996 c. Provide a minimum of one Public Benefit
 - 997 d. Provide a minimum of one Equity Inclusion Public Benefit and/or a minimum of one
998 Geographic Inclusion Public Benefit
 - 999 e. Must agree to meet all the partnership requirements of the district with which the
1000 program is occurring. Examples of district requirements may include staff background
1001 checks and required liability insurance.
- 1002 3. Roster Data Collection
 - 1003 a. Eligible cultural organizations will provide organization and program information
1004 through an online portal on the 4Culture website.
 - 1005 b. Prior to the initial launch of the roster, cultural organizations will have a minimum of
1006 five weeks to complete their data to allow sufficient time to gather required
1007 information. During this time, technical assistance will be available on the website,
1008 through online webinars, and through email and phone support from 4Culture staff.

- 1009 c. Organization and program information for the roster will include [Note that additional
1010 fields may be added based on continuing stakeholder engagement with teachers and
1011 district staff.]:
- 1012 i. Cultural organization name,
 - 1013 ii. Discipline: Science, Arts, Heritage, Historical Preservation
 - 1014 iii. Sub-discipline, such as Biology, Engineering, Dance, Music, History,
 - 1015 iv. List of school districts and tribal schools that they serve,
 - 1016 v. Grade levels they serve,
 - 1017 vi. Program name (cultural organizations will be able to list multiple programs as
1018 needed),
 - 1019 vii. Program type (field trip, in-school single performance/event, in-school
1020 residency),
 - 1021 viii. Program description,
 - 1022 ix. Alignment to state curriculum standards, if applicable,
 - 1023 x. Student time needed for program,
 - 1024 xi. Educator planning time needed for program,
 - 1025 xii. Number of students program can accommodate,
 - 1026 xiii. Languages available for learning experiences,
 - 1027 xiv. Experience with special education students,
 - 1028 xv. Accessibility features available for program such as ASL interpretation,
1029 wheelchair accessibility, assistive technology,
 - 1030 xvi. Race/ethnicity/accessibility information about program staff,
 - 1031 xvii. Estimated cost of program (for 4Culture, not visible to schools)
 - 1032 xviii. Cultural organization's contact information
 - 1033 xix. Link to program registration
 - 1034 xx. Downloaded program information such as photos, videos, case studies, lesson
1035 plan.
- 1036 4. Cultural organizations also need information about schools in King County.
- 1037 a. Some information about schools can be uploaded annually from the Office of the
1038 Superintendent for Public Instruction and other information will have to be obtained
1039 from schools via survey.
 - 1040 b. Survey information is marked with an asterisk. Cultural organizations will be able to
1041 search and filter for specific types of schools.
 - 1042 i. School name
 - 1043 ii. District
 - 1044 iii. Principal
 - 1045 iv. Address, phone number
 - 1046 v. Grades in school
 - 1047 vi. Size of school
 - 1048 vii. If school is eligible for free transportation for off-site cultural programs.
 - 1049 viii. Students' percentages for race/ethnicity, languages spoken, free and reduced
1050 lunch status, students experiencing homelessness, special education
 - 1051 ix. If there is a partnership liaison, their name and contact information*
 - 1052 x. Link to school website*

1053 **Goals and Priorities for Funding for Cultural Education Programs**

1054 The cultural education programs funding structure is designed with a goal of sustaining, deepening, and
1055 extending cultural education partnerships between cultural organizations and schools. Many King

1056 County cultural organizations already provide engaging and rigorous education programs. Doors Open
1057 Program moneys will ensure that existing partnerships with schools can be sustained through the
1058 budget reductions that many schools are currently facing. Doors Open Program moneys will expand
1059 access to additional schools to bring existing cultural programs to their students, and over time will
1060 enable cultural organizations to build out new education programs to provide more access to King
1061 County public school students. Just as in the establishment of the roster, 4Culture will work to provide
1062 support to educators and cultural organizations to reduce barriers to accessing the benefits of the
1063 program. 4Culture's recently hired Cultural Education Program Manager will be a resource for
1064 matchmaking between educators and cultural organizations and for technical assistance in developing
1065 partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

1066 **Priorities**

1067 The cultural education programs funding structure is designed to ensure that:

- 1068 • Schools and cultural organizations clearly communicate and develop shared learning goals and a
1069 program plan to ensure that students' learning needs are met.
- 1070 • 4Culture gathers relevant data to improve processes for schools and cultural organizations over
1071 time and to study the impact of increasing cultural education access on students and
1072 communities.

1073 **Process**

- 1074 1. Once a teacher or other school staff contacts a cultural organization to initiate a partnership, the
1075 organization and the teacher will complete a brief online memorandum of understanding (MOU).
1076 Technical assistance from 4Culture is available to both find relevant cultural organizations and
1077 complete the MOU. The MOU form will be accessible from the 4Culture website. The MOU will
1078 gather data that will be used in the grant application such as the type of learning experience, the
1079 school, and how many students will be served. The MOU must be signed by a representative from
1080 the cultural organization, the public-school educator, and a school administrator (principal or
1081 assistant principal), or school district representative.
- 1082 2. After an MOU is signed, the cultural organization will apply via an online portal to 4Culture for a
1083 grant.
- 1084 3. To be responsive to school scheduling needs, 4Culture will design a panel review process with timing
1085 that ensures responsiveness and flexibility. Feedback from the cultural organizations and school
1086 stakeholders will inform the design.
- 1087 4. Upon completion of the MOU scope of work, a brief survey will automatically be sent to the teacher
1088 and the cultural organization r to confirm that the partnership occurred and gather feedback for
1089 partnership and process improvements.
- 1090 5. The cultural organization will submit an invoice for reimbursement of the cost of the program.

1091 **Goals and Priorities for Funding Public School Transportation**

1092 In accordance with RCW 82.14.525, school districts with at least 40% of the student population eligible
1093 for federal free and reduced-price school meals (FRL) will have access to transportation funding to
1094 attend programs and activities. Because transportation costs have been identified as a barrier for
1095 schools to student access to field trips, 4Culture's priority is that all schools with 40% FRL or higher are
1096 eligible for transportation funds, regardless of their district, receive free transportation for cultural
1097 education field trips.

- 1098 • All school districts with 40% or more FRL rates have access to transportation funds. This applies
- 1099 to 189 schools in 8 districts (Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Muckleshoot Tribal School,
- 1100 Renton, Skykomish, Tukwila)
- 1101 • If there are sufficient funds, we will include all schools with 40% or more FRL rates to have
- 1102 access to transportation funds, even if the district in which the school is located does not have
- 1103 an overall district rate of 40% or more FRL. This applies to 68 schools in 8 additional districts.
- 1104 The school districts and school count in each district are: – Bellevue (6), Enumclaw (1), Issaquah
- 1105 (2), Lake Washington (1), Northshore (2), Seattle (46), Shoreline (4), and Vashon (1).
- 1106 • If there are sufficient funds, we will include all schools in all districts that face significantly higher
- 1107 transportation costs due to distance from cultural centers.
- 1108 • Process for reserving bus transportation is clear and streamlined for teachers.
- 1109 • Process for receiving payment for transportation by district or bus company is clear and reliable.

1110 **Process for Delivery of Transportation Funds**

1111 The 19 King County school districts use a variety of transportation models. Some districts own and

1112 operate their own fleet of busses, while others contract with a bussing company. Through stakeholder

1113 engagement with district transportation leaders, 4Culture will design a system so that teachers in each

1114 district can request bus transportation in the method that is appropriate for their district and the district

1115 or bus company can invoice 4Culture for the cost. 4Culture’s Finance and Legal teams will also be

1116 engaged in the design of the delivery process.

1117 **Tentative Program Timeline, 2024-2025**

May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
School stakeholder engagement; refine roster + transportation design									
	Cultural organizations stakeholder engagement								
		Website + roster design requirements complete	Website + roster built						
					- Beta test website w/ school staff + cultural organizations - Hire Public Schools Cultural Access Program Manager	Cultural organizations submit roster info		- Soft launch website, roster to schools - Monthly panel review begins	Launch event for district and school staff in person at a cultural organization space

1118 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1119 4Culture’s communication strategy includes a stakeholder engagement component for the 2024

1120 planning year and a communications plan component for the 2025 launch of the Doors Open Public

1121 Schools Cultural Access Program.

1122 ***2024 Stakeholder Engagement for Public Schools Cultural Access Program Design***

1123 The goals of Public Schools Program stakeholder engagement approach are to:

- 1124 • Understand the current barriers across the districts to school and district partnerships with
1125 science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation organizations.
- 1126 • Identify what has worked well to inform required functions for the roster and the funding
1127 partnership mechanism.
- 1128 • Identify the information schools need in a roster to serve their curricular needs as well as the
1129 needs of their specific populations of students, including information about races/ethnicities of
1130 staff, languages spoken, accessibility, experience with special education students, and
1131 geographies served.
- 1132 • Identify the barriers that cultural organizations have in forming and maintaining partnerships
1133 with schools and how Doors Open’s design could help mitigate those barriers to strengthen
1134 public education partnerships.
- 1135 • Identify the information that science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation organizations
1136 need about schools and what tools they may need to access that information.

1137 *Stakeholders and engagement methods:*

- 1138 • District Superintendents
 - 1139 ○ Goals: To build their understanding of Doors Open and 4Culture and to obtain their
 - 1140 support in engaging with other district staff.
 - 1141 ○ Methods: Utilize Puget Sound Educational Services District as an existing touchpoint.
- 1142 • District Curriculum Managers and Teachers on Assignment for science, visual and performing
1143 arts, social studies (including ethnic studies and Native American studies) language arts, Career
1144 and Technical Education
 - 1145 ○ Goal: Understand what information school staff needs related to content and curriculum
 - 1146 to make a partnership choice.
 - 1147 ○ Methods: Online focus groups, by content area or geography.
- 1148 • School and Community Partnerships and Engagement Managers
 - 1149 ○ Goals: Identify barriers to partnership and what schools and educators need to
 - 1150 encourage partnership at a systems level. Identify existing partnerships with science,
 - 1151 arts, and heritage organizations.
 - 1152 ○ Methods: 1-1 conversations, on-line focus group.
- 1153 • Teachers and other school staff who make partnership decisions
 - 1154 ○ Goals: Identify barriers and needs. Identify existing successful partnership models. Beta
 - 1155 testing for website and on-line roster.
 - 1156 ○ Methods: On-line focus groups with stipends provided for work outside of the school
 - 1157 day. May be grouped elementary/secondary, geography, content areas.
- 1158 • Transportation Managers
 - 1159 ○ Goals: Understand the cost and process for funding school transportation to cultural
 - 1160 partner facilities.
 - 1161 ○ Methods: 1-1 interviews.
- 1162 • Science, Arts, Heritage, Historic Preservation Education Cultural Organizations:
 - 1163 ○ Goals: Gather functionality needed for roster and funding mechanism from a partner
 - 1164 perspective.

1165 ○ Method: Focus groups with a variety of types, organization sizes, and locations.

1166 **2025 Public Schools Cultural Access Launch**

1167 There will be three main strands of communication: district and school staff, cultural organizations and
1168 the King County general public.

1169 **Communications with Districts and Schools**

1170 **Goal:** Inform district and school staff about the program and give them a consistent easy way to access
1171 the roster

1172 **Message:** Partnering with King County science, arts, and heritage community organizations will increase
1173 student engagement, expand the breadth and depth of student learning, and bridge cultural gaps.
1174 Through Doors Open, there are hundreds of no-cost programs with King County science, arts, and
1175 heritage community organizations and free field trip transportation is available to many schools.

1176 **Strategies:** Work with school district communications departments to add persistent links on district and
1177 school staff web pages. District staff eNews, emails via curriculum managers. In-person launch event at a
1178 cultural partner space.

1179 **Communications with Cultural Organization about Public School Cultural Access Program**

1180 **Goal:** Inform science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation cultural organizations about the funding
1181 and roster opportunities.

1182 **Message:** More than \$10M is available annually to provide free science, arts and heritage education
1183 programs to King County public school and tribal school students. This is an opportunity to sustain,
1184 deepen and extend cultural education to students across the county.

1185 **Strategy:** Email outreach through 4Culture’s existing cultural organizations list augmented by
1186 organizations that schools report already partnering with. Webinars and technical assistance by 4Culture
1187 staff to provide information and answer questions.

1188 **Communications with Public**

1189 **Goal:** Raise awareness of Doors Open Public Schools Cultural Access Program in the general public,
1190 especially those connected to public education (students, families, school staff)

1191 **Message:** Partnering with King County science, arts, and heritage community organizations will increase
1192 student engagement, expand the breadth and depth of student learning, and bridge cultural gaps.
1193 Through Doors Open, there are hundreds of no-cost programs with King County science, arts, and
1194 heritage community organizations and free field trip transportation is available to many schools.

1195 **Strategy:** Media campaign that includes an in-person event for school leaders, educators, students,
1196 families, cultural organizations and media to raise public and educator awareness of the program.

1197

School Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform program design [transportation managers, curriculum managers] • Support communication about program to school staff [communication managers]
School Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform program design through focus groups and beta testing, pre- and post-launch • Utilize cultural organization roster to arrange programs for students • Collaborate with cultural organization to plan programs and complete no-cost partnership agreement (or MOU) • Implement cultural learning programs with partnering cultural organization • Complete brief post-partnership survey
Cultural Organization Education Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform program design through focus groups and beta testing, pre- and post-launch • Provide data to populate roster with organizational and education program details • Assign staff to monitor school program requests • Collaborate with requesting school staff to plan programs and complete no-cost partnership agreement (or MOU) • Implement cultural learning programs with school staff • Complete brief post-partnership survey • Receive funds
4Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct stakeholder engagement with staff from schools and cultural organizations to inform program design. • Design, implement and maintain website, roster, funding mechanisms for transportation and cultural organizations. • Create conditions to foster positive, long-term relationships between schools and cultural organizations.

1199 **Public Benefit Reporting for Public Schools Cultural Access Program**

1200 Doors Open Public School Cultural Access Program grant recipients are required to meet at least one
 1201 general Public Benefit requirement and one Equity or Geographic Inclusion Benefit requirement. Of
 1202 these, the most relevant to the Public Schools Cultural Access Program are:

- 1203 • Providing cultural educational programs and experiences at a cultural organization's own
 1204 facilities or in schools or other cultural facilities or venues; (GENERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT)
- 1205 • Providing arts, science, heritage, and historic preservation career building opportunities for
 1206 youth through internships and apprenticeships or other means; (GENERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT)

- 1207 • Providing free access to curriculum-related arts, science, heritage and historic preservation
- 1208 programs for public school students throughout the county at school and at cultural sites with
- 1209 emphasis on underserved students; (EQUITY INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1210 • Providing cultural programming to communities outside the city in which a cultural organization
- 1211 is primarily located, either directly or in partnership with other cultural organizations, or public
- 1212 schools, or through other means. (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1213

1214 Data on Public Benefits will be collected through the MOU that the cultural organizations and schools
 1215 complete to receive funding. Public Benefits data will include data that illustrates the immediate
 1216 benefits of programs to King County public school students and staff as well as benefits for the cultural
 1217 organizations. 4Culture will also gather data to show the longer-term benefits of engaging in learning
 1218 through community partnerships with cultural organizations to King County students and communities.

1219 ***Metrics related to benefits to public school students include:***

- 1220 • Number of students participating in programs by program type, category, discipline
- 1221 • Number of students participating in programs by school FRL rate (EQUITY INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1222 • Number of students participating in programs by county council district, Zip Code, school district
- 1223 (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1224 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations for education programs by school, school
- 1225 district, schools where at least 40% of students are eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch
- 1226 program (FRL)

1227 ***Metrics related to benefits to public schools and staff include:***

- 1228 • Number of schools, classes participating in programs by program type, category, discipline
- 1229 • Number of schools, classes participating in programs by school FRL rate (EQUITY INCLUSION
- 1230 BENEFIT)
- 1231 • Number of schools, classes participating in programs by county council district, Zip Code, school
- 1232 district (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1233 • Number of busses and amounts paid to school districts for transportation by district, school,
- 1234 county council district
- 1235 • Number of professional development programs by school, district, cultural category, discipline
- 1236 • Number of teachers participating in professional development by school, district, cultural
- 1237 category, discipline

1238 ***Metrics related to benefits to cultural organizations include:***

- 1239 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations by program type, category, discipline
- 1240 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations by organization size, demographics of
- 1241 leaders, staff (EQUITY INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1242 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations by county council district, Zip Code, school
- 1243 district, school (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)

1244 ***Metrics to understand Doors Open’s impact and to inform improvements to the Doors Open Public***
 1245 ***School Cultural Access Program include:***

- 1246 • Number of cultural organizations that are listed on the roster by category (science, arts, heritage
- 1247 and historic preservation) and discipline (e.g., zoology, computer science, music, theatre)

- 1248 • Number of educational programs listed by type (field trip, in school), category, discipline,
- 1249 • Traffic to roster
- 1250
- 1251 Additional metrics to grow understanding of the impact of programs on students will be added after
- 1252 consulting with evaluation staff.

1253 **C. Public Free Access**

1254 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1255 The Public Free Access program aims to reduce the
 1256 significant barrier that admission fees pose to
 1257 many King County residents, particularly
 1258 underserved communities, in accessing quality,
 1259 relevant cultural and science experiences.
 1260 Reimbursements are provided to cultural
 1261 organizations to help cover the costs of providing
 1262 free and reduced cost programming throughout
 1263 the year.

Public Free Access

Estimated annual funding: \$14.6 million

Objective: Increase access to cultural offerings

Strategy: Reimburse cultural organizations for free and reduced-cost access experiences

Key Reporting Metric: Number of free and/or reduced cost attendants, Number of awardees and total funding over time by geography (Zip Code and Council district)

1264 **Program Criteria**

1265 Grants may be used to support free and reduced cost attendance at arts, heritage, historic preservation,
 1266 or science experiences that meet the following criteria:

- 1267 • Mission-based and meaningfully engages the attendee in the mission.
- 1268 • Provides an identical experience to attendees paying a standard fee.
- 1269 • Produced by the applicant organization.
- 1270 • Open and advertised to the general public without restriction or limitation by invitation, such
- 1271 that anyone who wishes to visit/attend/participate/purchase a ticket may do so.
- 1272 • In-person at venues in King County where head counts are taken and recorded.

1273 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1274 Maintaining a focus on equitable access to funding, the Public Free Access program minimizes the
 1275 burden of applying by automatically pre-qualifying current Doors Open Sustained Support grant
 1276 recipients, if they meet all other program eligibility requirements. The Sustained Support panel process
 1277 effectively serves as the panel process for Public Free Access grants, meaning that being awarded an
 1278 operating support grant for the current year provides eligibility to apply for a Public Free Access
 1279 program grant for the same year if the applicant provides cultural experiences consistent with the
 1280 program criteria and guidelines.

1281 Applicants are required to complete a short application providing necessary information, including but
 1282 not necessarily limited to the following items:

- 1283 • Number of free and reduced cost attendance and total other paid attendance provided by the
- 1284 applicant during the previous calendar year.
- 1285 • How attendance was counted.

- 1286 • What documentation of the attendance is preserved.
- 1287 • List of the cultural experiences in the current calendar year the applicant plans to offer free or
- 1288 reduced cost participation.
- 1289 • How the applicant will prioritize providing free or reduced cost access to cultural experiences for
- 1290 members of King County's underserved communities.

1291 Public Free Access grants for the current year are based on the free and reduced cost attendance
 1292 provided in the previous calendar year that meets the program criteria and guidelines.

1293 In addition, applicants, located outside Seattle, located in, and primarily serving a King County
 1294 Community of Opportunity, with the smallest operating budgets, and/or other indicators correlated with
 1295 a limited access to funding, receive an equity investment increasing the grant amount over and above
 1296 what would have been awarded otherwise. The increased grant amount for equity can only be used to
 1297 support free and reduced cost programming.

1298 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1299 To receive reimbursement, all Public Free Access recipients provide documentation on the number of
 1300 free and/or reduced cost attendance provided. This reporting metric is collected by 4Culture for annual
 1301 reporting and is evidence of the General Public Benefit and Equity and Geographic Inclusion Benefit
 1302 requirements.

1303 **D. Building for Equity**

1304 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1305 The Doors Open allocation for Building for Equity
 1306 encompasses 4Culture’s facilities, facility-focused
 1307 capacity building, and other capital grant
 1308 programs. 4Culture’s current Building for Equity
 1309 initiative was built to center communities that have
 1310 historically faced barriers to purchasing and
 1311 stewarding cultural space, and provides a
 1312 combination of funding, tailored support, and
 1313 strategic partnerships.

1314 Through Building for Equity, 4Culture's priority is to
 1315 act as a "first-in" funder for capital facility projects.
 1316 By providing funding for new projects, 4Culture is
 1317 able to play a unique role in catalyzing
 1318 development of cultural infrastructure, enabling
 1319 projects to move from conception to reality, and
 1320 helping cultural organizations leverage additional
 1321 resources. Many cultural sector funders focus on close-out or "cross-the-line" investments, so by serving
 1322 as a "first-in" funder, 4Culture is fulfilling a gap in cultural funding. Additionally, because the Building for
 1323 Equity program has an annual application cycle, once a project has gotten off the ground, a grantee can
 1324 continue applying year after year until project completion.

Building for Equity

Estimated annual funding: \$9.7 million

Objective: To support cultural building projects and create a pathway to equitable facilities funding.

Strategies:

- Provide funding for cultural and science organizations to acquire, build, and renovate buildings, to purchase equipment
- support organizational capacity building for meeting facility goals
- Foster equitable development throughout all corners of King County

Key Reporting Metric: Number and type of projects funded over time by geography (Zip Code and Council district)

1325 Doors Open will enable 4Culture’s existing Building for Equity funding programs to grow. A new program
1326 will be initiated, focusing on facilities that serve Native communities and share Native cultures.

1327 The Doors Open Building for Equity allocation will also bring additional resources and a renewed focus
1328 on equitable funding strategies in 4Culture’s Equipment, Landmarks Capital, and Emergency/Unforeseen
1329 Capital programs.

1330 Building for Equity includes the following programs.

1331 **Building for Equity: Facilities** provides funding for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space
1332 that houses and facilitates cultural work in King County. Cultural Facilities grants are available to eligible
1333 King County-based nonprofit cultural organizations with a demonstrated long-term control of physical
1334 site. Two specialized programs beneath this include:

1335 **Anchoring Community** for facility projects with budgets larger than \$10 million, and
1336 **Native Cultural Facilities** supports projects including land acquisition, renovations, and new
1337 construction that advances the preservation, expression, and vitality of Native culture.

1338 **Building for Equity: Program Development** (formerly called Capacity Building) invests in a cultural
1339 organization’s development, allowing them to secure their long-term facility needs. These grants may
1340 fund a wide range of activities that increase a cultural organization’s capability to advocate and plan for,
1341 fundraise for, lease, acquire, repair, remodel, and/or construct space suitable for their programming in a
1342 sustainable, long-term manner.

1343 **Equipment** funds the purchase and installation of equipment that can be considered as fixed assets,
1344 including computer hardware.

1345 **Landmarks Capital** funds rehabilitation of designated historic landmark properties in King County that
1346 are owned and/or stewarded by eligible Doors Open cultural organizations.

1347 **Emergency/Unforeseen grants** meet a wide variety of unexpected facility needs for cultural
1348 organizations, and our funds are only available for actual costs incurred to repair or renovate cultural
1349 spaces.

1350 **Program Criteria**

1351 **Building for Equity: Facilities** criteria for facility projects with budgets of \$10 million and under include
1352 Quality and Qualifications, Feasibility, Project Impact, and Public Benefit, Economic Impact, Community
1353 Impact, and Advancing Equity. Funding levels will be determined during the funding process based on
1354 revenue availability and applicant need.

1355 **Building for Equity: Anchoring Community** criteria for facility projects with budgets larger than \$10
1356 million include Quality and Qualifications, Feasibility, Project Impact and Public Benefit, Economic
1357 Impact, Community Impact, and Advancing Equity. An additional eligibility requirement is a
1358 demonstrated commitment to Equity in Development and Construction Practices. Funding levels will be
1359 determined during the funding process based on revenue availability and applicant need.

1360 **Building for Equity: Project Development** criteria include Quality and Qualifications, Feasibility, Impact
1361 and Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Advancing Equity. An additional eligibility requirement
1362 for Capacity Building applicants is being located in a Community of Opportunity or outside of Seattle; or
1363 the organization’s primary mission or programs must support historically marginalized communities.

1364 **Equipment** criteria include Quality, Feasibility, Project Impact, Economic Impact, Community Impact,
1365 and Advancing Equity.

1366 **Native Cultural Facilities** funding criteria are currently under development. A Native Cultural Facilities
1367 Advisory Council is working with 4Culture staff to refine funding criteria. The Advisory Council is a group
1368 of five community-based professionals with deep ties or personal experience with the Native
1369 community, experience in community-based projects, equitable funding platforms or grant-making
1370 program development, neighborhood, community, and/or facility project development, and cultural
1371 organizations.

1372 **Landmarks Capital** criteria include Quality, Feasibility, Public Benefit, Economic Impact, Advancing
1373 Equity, Community Impact, and Program Priorities. The Program Priorities criterion allows the
1374 Landmarks Capital program to adapt to time-sensitive needs and specific gaps in funding for historic
1375 preservation. Additionally, the project must focus on the rehabilitation of a designated landmark
1376 property.

1377 **Emergency/Unforeseen** criteria include Quality, Feasibility, Community Impact, and Project Impact and
1378 Public Benefit. Additionally, projects must meet eligibility criteria as follows:

1379 Emergency:

- 1380 • A pressing situation that would cause a facility or landmark to be threatened, or to suffer severe
1381 economic consequences due to conditions outside of the applicant's control.
- 1382 • A threat to the safety of patrons or staff.
- 1383 • A catastrophic event or natural disaster.

1384

1385 Unforeseen Opportunity:

- 1386 • An opportunity that was not available at the time of the last application deadline and that will
1387 no longer be available to the applicant by the next application deadline.
- 1388 • Will allow an organization an unexpected opportunity to significantly advance its goals and
1389 mission.

1390 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1391 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
1392 [section](#). Each grant program and cycle have a different pool of applicants and projects. Grant
1393 recommendations for Building for Equity Facilities, Building for Equity Capacity Building, Equipment, and
1394 Landmarks Capital funding are made by separate panels.

1395 The application and review process for Native Cultural Facilities funding is currently under development
1396 under the guidance of a Native Advisory Council.

1397 4Culture sets aside a limited amount of capital grant funding for Emergencies and Unforeseen
1398 Opportunities, outside of the regular grant cycle. Applications for Emergency/Unforeseen Opportunity
1399 funding are reviewed by the relevant 4Culture Advisory Committee in advance of their regular meeting,
1400 and typically the applicant joins the committee for an interview. Advisory Committee members evaluate
1401 whether the project meets 4Culture's definition of an Emergency or Unforeseen Opportunity, and they
1402 consider the project's merits using the criteria of Quality, Feasibility, Equity, and Public Benefit. Grant
1403 payments are made upon request for reimbursement for qualifying expenses; the applicant must submit
1404 copies of their invoices to 4Culture to document the expenses. While the emphasis of Building for

1405 Equity is "first-in" funding, 4Culture may reimburse grant recipients for project costs incurred up to two
1406 years prior to the application date, but not for any expenses incurred prior to January 1, 2024.

1407 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1408 Most of 4Culture’s capital grant programs are well-established, and 4Culture's networks and
1409 communication strategies employ a racial equity lens to target outreach to underserved communities
1410 and encourage them to apply for funding.

1411 Outreach is focused on underrepresented communities based on prior award and applicant pool
1412 demographics. Guided by 4Culture’s Communications priorities, these efforts include open application
1413 periods of 6-8 weeks; at least three workshops sharing guidelines, criteria, and the application process;
1414 and engagement including communication in multiple languages to broad-based community networks
1415 and media outlets within 4Culture’s network.

1416 A special focus will be on reaching and engaging Science and Technology cultural organizations that are
1417 newly eligible for Building for Equity Facilities, Building for Equity Capacity Building, Equipment, and
1418 Emergency/Unforeseen programs.

1419 In addition, 4Culture’s Native Advisory Council will advise on outreach and engagement strategies for
1420 the Native Cultural Facilities program.

1421 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1422 **Anchoring Community** grants require cultural organizations provide arts, culture, science and/or
1423 heritage programs, services, or opportunities as a public benefit for a period of at least 10-years as
1424 specified in the agreement governing the award.

1425 During that time, as public health regulations permit, the public will regularly have access to the cultural
1426 organization’s facility or primary location and will benefit from participation in specific arts, culture,
1427 science and/or heritage opportunities provided by the cultural organization.

1428 The cultural organization must widely publicize its public benefit performances, events and programs
1429 throughout King County and track the number of public benefit events and audiences served by such
1430 programs.

1431 As part of the public benefit to be provided by this grant, cultural organizations agree to participate in a
1432 cohort focused on equitable development practices. The goal of this cohort is to implement, measure,
1433 and evaluate equitable development practices throughout the planning, development and/or
1434 construction a facility project in a peer learning setting. Facilitated by 4Culture’s team this cohort will
1435 meet regularly for a duration of 3 years including an annual presentation of goals, outcomes, and
1436 practices in a Community of Practice with equitable development practitioners in King County.

1437 Additionally, grantees agree to participate in a quantifiable Space Contribution program facilitated by
1438 4Culture. The intent of this program is to encourage resource-sharing and partnership between Building
1439 for Equity constituents. The grantee will offer free access to technical assistance, use of facility space or
1440 other equivalent benefits over a designated period with a Building for Equity Project Development or
1441 Launch grantee.

1442 **Building for Equity Capacity Building** grants require cultural organizations provide the following
1443 potential cultural opportunities as public health regulations permit:

- 1444 • Regularly scheduled cultural programs produced by the cultural organization offered to King
1445 County residents and visitors, either live or through virtual means.
- 1446 • Access to special events or educational programs offered by the cultural organization.
- 1447 • Participation/engagement of the cultural organization’s staff, board and/or volunteers in
1448 training that prepares them to better serve their community and increase their skills in planning
1449 for and managing capital projects.

1450 The cultural organization must widely share its public benefit performances, events, and programs
1451 throughout King County and track the number of public benefit events and audiences served by such
1452 programs.

1453 **Equipment** grants require cultural organizations to provide the following types of potential
1454 opportunities to the public, with the equipment over a period of at least 10 years:

- 1455 • Regularly scheduled free or pay-what-you-can access to rehearsals, previews and/or
1456 performances; or historic space, exhibits, and/or programs enabled by the equipment supported
1457 by this grant.
- 1458 • Regularly scheduled free or reduced-price admission to displays or collections enabled by using
1459 the equipment supported by this grant.
- 1460 • Regularly scheduled public programs produced by the grantee and offered to King County
1461 residents and visitors at other sites.
- 1462 • Access to educational programs produced by the grantee that are targeted to underserved King
1463 County populations such as students, senior citizens, or vulnerable populations as defined by
1464 Ordinance 19710.

1465
1466 The **Landmarks Capital** program’s public benefit centers on the rehabilitation and long-term
1467 stewardship of designated landmarks. A cultural organization that receives a Landmarks Capital grant
1468 must agree to maintain the property as landmark in perpetuity, and to maintain the property in good
1469 condition for a minimum of 10 years. The recipient must abide by local historic preservation regulations,
1470 which typically include a requirement for design review of any proposed changes, and adherence to the
1471 Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

1472 **Emergency/Unforeseen** public benefit varies slightly by program area but parallels the public benefit
1473 requirements of Building for Equity Facilities and Landmarks Capital programs.

1474 **E. Countywide Initiatives**

1475 Countywide Initiatives will support cultural
1476 workforce and career development for King
1477 County's cultural practitioners through
1478 funding to cultural organization that provide
1479 "cultural support services." Cultural support
1480 services are investments in people, without
1481 whom the cultural sector would not exist. A
1482 healthy workforce will strengthen the arts
1483 and culture ecosystem and, in turn, improve
1484 the cultural experience available to the
1485 residents and visitors of King County and
1486 revitalize communities.

1487 Countywide initiatives will use the framework
1488 of cultural support services to support
1489 cultural practitioners. Cultural support
1490 services refer to the constellation of
1491 programs, resources, and networks that support capacity building for cultural organizations and cultural
1492 practitioners in King County.

- 1493 • **Capacity building** is the generation of resources or support intended to help an organization,
1494 group, or individual enhance their ability to fulfill their mission or purpose (i.e., any activity or
1495 support that is focused on the success and sustainability of an organization or the practitioner
1496 rather than specific programs.)
- 1497 • **Cultural practitioners** are the collection of artists; administrators, professionals, and volunteers
1498 of cultural institutions and culture-focused public agencies; owners or stewards of historic
1499 structures and landscapes; culture bearers; technical specialists; and creative professionals and
1500 workers with specialized skills needed in the cultural ecosystem.

1501 4Culture has historically played a supporting role in cultural support services, though it may not have
1502 considered this an explicit function of the organization. Studies by ArtsFund, 4Culture, and others
1503 between 2018 and 2022 highlight a need for a more systemic and sustained approach to cultural
1504 support services to enable the cultural sector to thrive during the regional affordability crisis.²² In 2020,
1505 understanding and providing a systemic approach to cultural support services for individual practitioners
1506 was included as one of King County's Cultural Plan Goals: "Foster racial equity, agency, and collaboration
1507 for cultural practitioners to build a stronger cultural sector." The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the
1508 need greatly, shuttering many venues, pushing cultural practitioners out of the region, and creating
1509 social and creative isolation.

Countywide Initiatives

Estimated annual funding: \$6.8 million

Objective: Support regional initiatives for cultural workforce development

Strategies:

- Multi-year project-based funding for organizations providing cultural support services for cultural practitioners
- Support for cultural workforce and career development

Key Reporting Metric: Number and location (Zip Code and Council district) of cultural support providing programs; Number of participants completing the programming and/or service by geography (Zip Code and Council district)

²² ArtsFund Social Impact Study, 2018; King County 4Culture Task Force Report, 2018; 4Culture Cultural Health Study, 2021; and Puget Sound Regional Council's Arts and Culture Economic Recovery Strategy, 2022.

1510 **Cultural support services, Post-Pandemic**

1511 A landscape scan of cultural support services conducted
1512 by BERK Consulting in 2023 found that cultural support
1513 services offerings are most challenged by funding and
1514 staffing constraints among cultural support services
1515 providers. Cultural support services are most robust in
1516 Seattle where providers are concentrated, and where
1517 funding and programming is augmented by the City of
1518 Seattle. Cultural support services opportunities are often
1519 found through social media or through word-of-mouth,
1520 and there is no accepted countywide hub for
1521 communication of opportunities.

1522 Cultural support services offerings 4Culture is best
1523 equipped to support include:

1524 **Pathways.** Training, education, and skill-building
1525 opportunities that are affordable and accessible across
1526 career stages, disciplines, and regions.

1527 **Community-building.** Cultural practitioners want
1528 community building and mentorship, such as
1529 cooperatives or communities of practice to connect with
1530 other cultural practitioners.

1531 **Professional services.** Individual cultural practitioners need professional services such as legal counsel,
1532 professional photography and marketing, trademarking, and tax advice. These services, when available,
1533 may not be tailored to the unique needs of cultural workers or affordable.

1534 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1535 Countywide Initiatives will help 4Culture provide transformative funding to cultural organizations that
1536 provide cultural support services to support cultural workforce development for cultural practitioners in
1537 all disciplines and throughout the county. Countywide Initiatives funds will provide multiyear project-
1538 based grants to increase capacity for cultural support services providers to support individual
1539 practitioners of all cultural disciplines. Additionally, 4Culture will develop a cultural support roster to
1540 connect cultural support service providers to cultural practitioners.

1541 **Program Criteria**

1542 The recipients of cultural support service grant funding will be:

- 1543 • Cultural organizations with a primary purpose to provide programs, resources, and networks
1544 that support capacity building for cultural organizations and cultural practitioners in King
1545 County.
- 1546 • Cultural organizations that provide or would like to provide cultural support services, but do not
1547 include it as their primary mission focus. For projects proposed by these cultural organizations
1548 (that are not primarily field service providers), the proposed project must benefit more than the
1549 staff, membership, or audience of the applicant organization.

**Examples of Cultural Support
Service Providers in King
County**

- Artist Trust
- Shunpike
- Arte Noir
- Maple Valley Creative Arts Council
- African American Writer's Alliance
- Centro Cultural Mexicano
- Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
- Historic Seattle
- yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective
- Ethnic Heritage Council
- Museum Educators of Puget Sound
- TeenTix

1551 Countywide Initiatives will prioritize support for cultural organizations and projects that are (1) based or
1552 will take place outside of Seattle and support diversity in geography, (2) in a Community of Opportunity,
1553 or (3) serving vulnerable populations, for funding and support.

1554 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1555 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
1556 [section](#). Grant contract terms will be at least 3 years, to allow for appropriate length of planning before
1557 implementation and help sustain projects for one or two interactions.

1558 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1559 4Culture conducted extensive outreach in the development of Countywide Initiatives. In addition to
1560 working across all advisory committees, 4Culture partnered with eight organizations throughout the
1561 county to gain insight from the cultural practitioners they serve. In April 2024, 4Culture hosted a
1562 community convening for all cultural support services partners involved in the development of the
1563 cultural support services landscape scan to provide additional review and feedback.

1564 Partner organizations for the early development of Countywide Initiatives includes:

- 1565 • African American Writer's Alliance
- 1566 • Centro Cultural Mexicano
- 1567 • Festal
- 1568 • King County Historic Preservation Program
- 1569 • Maple Valley Arts Council
- 1570 • Powerful Voices
- 1571 • Wing Luke Museum YouthCAN
- 1572 • yəhaw̓ Indigenous Creatives Collective

1573 In 2025, 4Culture will run an open roster call to ensure we connect with as many cultural support
1574 services providers in the county as possible. We will target grant outreach to known cultural support
1575 services providers from the 2024 landscape scan and new providers, with an emphasis on communities
1576 often underfunded by 4Culture. Like our other programs, 4Culture will offer digital and non-digital
1577 engagement to assist potential applicants with understanding the program and technical assistance
1578 throughout the application process.

1579 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1580 Recipients of Countywide Initiatives funding will report on how funding helped with implementation of
1581 capacity-building projects or activities to support cultural practitioners. Data collected will include:

- 1582 • Number of programs and/or services provided
- 1583 • Number/attendance for practitioners that participated in their cultural organization's
1584 programming and/or services
- 1585 • Location of programming and/or services
- 1586 • Number of partnerships between cultural organizations facilitated

1587 **F. Launch**

1588 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1589 The Launch program is focused on new and
1590 emerging, Doors Open-eligible cultural or
1591 science cultural organizations in King County,
1592 with a goal to ensure that all geographic areas
1593 of the county and all communities in the
1594 county have access to cultural experiences.

1595 Launch will provide grants for start-up costs
1596 and multi-year operating support to new and
1597 emerging cultural organizations, paired with
1598 capacity building and technical assistance.

1599 New cultural organizations will have a
1600 pathway to receiving Sustained Support,
1601 which is only available to cultural

1602 organizations with a minimum 2-year operating history for heritage and preservation and 3-year
1603 operating history for arts. Cultural organizations that have previously received Sustained Support but
1604 have had 501c3 status for less than 3 years and are hiring paid staff for the first time, can apply for a
1605 limited-time boost in operating support, along with capacity building services to enable their growth and
1606 stability.

1607 An additional priority of this program is increasing access to cultural space, especially for cultural
1608 organizations that have historically faced barriers to purchasing and stewarding cultural space. The
1609 Launch program will explore leveraging 4Culture’s existing capital programs, including Building for
1610 Equity Facilities and the Preservation Action Fund, to increase access to cultural space for new and
1611 emerging organizations.

1612 Launch will prioritize grants for new collaborative ventures of existing cultural organizations to
1613 incentivize connectivity and cross-programming between cultural organizations to facilitate partnerships
1614 and increase access for King County residents.

1615 **Program Criteria**

1616 The Doors Open Ordinance states:

1617 "New or emerging cultural organization" means a cultural organization formed, and operating
1618 exclusively for exempt purposes, as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit no more than three years prior to
1619 seeking funding under the Door Open Program."

1620 For the purposes of the Launch program, 4Culture further defines "**new organizations**" as Doors Open-
1621 eligible cultural organizations that are less than three years old and have not previously been awarded
1622 Sustained Support funding.

1623 For the purposes of the Launch program, 4Culture further defines "**emerging organizations**" as Doors
1624 Open-eligible cultural organizations that have had 501c3 status for less than three years, and are hiring

Launch

Estimated annual funding: \$2.9 million

Objective: Ensure that all geographic areas of the county and all communities in the county have access to cultural experiences

Strategies: Grants for start-up costs and multi-year operating support to new and emerging organizations, paired with capacity building and technical assistance

Key Reporting Metric: Number of awards and total funding over time to new organizations by geography (Zip Code and Council district) and discipline; Number of new organizations that gain eligibility to Sustained Support

1625 paid, regular staff for the first time. Emerging organizations may have received Sustained Support
1626 previously.

1627 **New collaborative ventures** among existing cultural organizations are also eligible for funding as new
1628 organizations, but they must have a decision-making body and structure that is independent of the
1629 participating cultural organizations. 4Culture will provide technical assistance to support existing
1630 organizations in forming new collaborative ventures.

1631 Additionally for a specific cultural event or use, in accordance with Ordinance 19710, a cultural entity
1632 that does not have 501c3 status may contract with a fiscal sponsor cultural organization to be eligible
1633 for Launch Program funding.

1634 The Launch Program will focus on ensuring that all geographic areas of the county and all communities
1635 in the county have access to cultural experiences. The program will prioritize cultural organizations and
1636 cultural entities that are (1) based outside of Seattle and support diversity in geography, (2) in a
1637 Community of Opportunity (COO), or (3) serving a vulnerable population as well as new collaborative
1638 ventures for funding and support.

1639 Program criteria for selecting new and emerging cultural organizations, as well as fiscally sponsored
1640 cultural entities to be funded will include: Quality and Innovation, Public Benefit, Advancing Equity,
1641 Feasibility, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Goals. For these purposes, innovation is defined
1642 as providing programming or services that current cultural organizations do not offer, demonstrating a
1643 new idea or concept in the cultural organization's field, or providing new services to currently
1644 underserved geographic areas or communities. The goals criteria will require a cultural organization to
1645 show clearly stated goals to achieve what the cultural organization considers success and a method to
1646 measure that success.

1647 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1648 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
1649 [section](#). Grant contract terms will be 2-3 years, to help sustain new and emerging cultural organizations
1650 or support the fiscally sponsored cultural entity until the next Sustained Support application round for
1651 which they will be eligible.

1652 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1653 4Culture will conduct an extensive outreach and engagement process beginning in 2024 and continuing
1654 into 2025. Priorities for this engagement include:

- 1655 • Outreach will include opportunities for both digital and non-digital engagement.
- 1656 • Geographic reach of engagement will be countywide, with an emphasis on rural and
1657 underserved communities.
- 1658 • Language access will be prioritized based on 4Culture analysis of demographic data indicating
1659 communities that are underserved with cultural funding.

1660
1661 Outreach and engagement for the Launch program will include technical support for the formation of
1662 new cultural organizations, to help build a pipeline of applicants that will be competitive for New
1663 Organization grants.

1664 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1665 Like Sustained Support recipients, New and Emerging cultural organizations, as well as the fiscal sponsor
1666 cultural organization will report on the public benefit of their activities over the course of each year that
1667 they receive funding. This may include metrics such as visitation numbers, volunteer hours, or audiences
1668 served. The public benefit reported by Launch-funded cultural organizations can include capacity-
1669 building work that leads to growth in reach and impact. Public benefit can also include free and reduced
1670 cost programs and services that increase access to culture and science, especially for underserved
1671 communities.

1672 **G. Outside of Seattle Program and**
1673 **Communities of Opportunity Program**

1674 Ensuring continued and expanded access to cultural
1675 facilities and cultural programming located in and
1676 serving economically and geographically
1677 underserved populations is a key objective of the
1678 Doors Open Program and is a long-held value at
1679 4Culture. Built into each of the six Doors Open
1680 programs is the requirement that the recipient
1681 cultural organization provide Equity and/or
1682 Geographic Inclusion Benefits, in addition to the
1683 General Public Benefit requirement.

1684 In addition, the ordinance sets aside funds to
1685 ensure that at least 25% of Doors Open Program
1686 funding supports cultural organizations outside of
1687 established cultural centers and that of all Doors
1688 Open funding, a minimum of 10% goes towards
1689 cultural organizations in Communities of
1690 Opportunity or serving vulnerable populations.

1691 In accordance with Ordinance 19710, the goals for
1692 this funding are:

- 1693 1. Overcoming economic and geographic inequities that limit access to the arts, science, and
1694 heritage experiences by expanding access to programs and activities at cultural organizations in
1695 the county, such that audiences represent the diversity of the county;
1696 2. Stronger relationships between local communities and cultural organizations that result in the
1697 creation of programs and activities that are mutually beneficial;
1698 3. Making the boards, staff, and programming of cultural organizations more representative of the
1699 diversity existing within the county; and
1700 4. Ensuring that the Doors Open Program distributes a total of at least one million dollars to
1701 cultural organizations in each county council district each year.
1702

**Communities of Opportunity
Composite Index Map**

To identify the locations for equity investments, 4Culture leverages the [Communities of Opportunity Composite Index](#). This index is a publicly available research tool with data compiled by Public Health – Seattle & King County. This work stems from a partnership funded by Best Starts for Kids, King County, and the Seattle Foundation.

The COO Composite Index was first developed in 2012 and includes a set of indicators for different health and socioeconomic domains to examine their combined impact on community health and well-being.

4Culture has been using this Composite Index Map to help practice its equity investments since 2020.

1703 **Outside of the City of Seattle**

1704 Cultural organizations with a primary location outside of Seattle City limits will receive additional
1705 geographic inclusion funds. At least 25% of all Doors Open funding will be distributed to cultural
1706 organizations outside the City of Seattle.

1707 **Communities of Opportunity**

1708 Cultural organizations that are located in a Community of Opportunity are eligible for additional funds.
1709 The Communities of Opportunity (COO) index includes a set of health and socioeconomic indicators to
1710 gauge community health and well-being. 4Culture aligns equity investments with the COO index to
1711 identify the areas of King County in greatest need of support. At least 10% of all Doors Open funding will
1712 be distributed to cultural organizations located in a Community of Opportunity or serving one or more
1713 vulnerable populations.

1714 **6. Measuring and Evaluating Doors Open Outcomes**

1715 Doors Open gives 4Culture the opportunity to hire its first full-time Evaluator. This position was filled in
1716 mid-2024 and is helping 4Culture to improve data collection, reporting, and reflection processes and is
1717 helping to ensure that Doors Open programs are accountable to the public. Key reporting metrics listed
1718 for each program may be revised upon review by the Evaluator.

1719 The Evaluation Manager is working with community partners to develop a Doors Open Program results-
1720 based accountability evaluation framework.

1721 **Methodology for Assessment and Evaluation**

1722 The Assessment Report’s evaluation framework will specifically address the effectiveness of the Doors
1723 Open Program funding in achieving the following outcomes:

- 1724 a. expanding cultural organizations' operations, offers of discounted and free admission, and
1725 public school cultural access, and supporting newly built and expanded cultural facilities;
1726 b. advancing equitable access to cultural organizations throughout King County and removing
1727 barriers to access faced by many segments of the county population;
1728 c. fostering the creation and development of new cultural organizations throughout King County,
1729 reducing geographic barriers and ensuring that residents have improved access to cultural
1730 organization resources; and
1731 d. supporting the growth and development of cultural centers throughout King County to promote
1732 healthy and vibrant communities.

1733 As part of measuring program access, the evaluation framework will describe how measures of
1734 geographic diversity, including Zip Code, will be used to inform program success. 4Culture will also
1735 recommend a strategic approach to improve the ability of local arts organizations and 4Culture to collect
1736 demographic and geographic origin data on program participants.

1737 The assessment and evaluation of the impact of Doors Open funding will draw from multiple methods
1738 (mixed methods approach) and levels of analysis of stakeholders. The following table summarizes the
1739 different levels, methods, and data sources 4Culture will leverage.

1740

Levels of Data Analysis	Methods	Potential Sources
Grantee and Applicant Impact Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive statistics on the category/discipline, organizational demographics and geographic dispersion of awarded grantees; • Qualitative data includes in-depth case studies, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, content analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant and Awardee data • Photographic submissions • Site visits by external reviewers • Local press • Staff insights
Audience and Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey data • Organizational partners working with schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience and attendee survey data • Youth satisfaction surveys through org partnerships
Creative Workforce Sector Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical data • Supplemental surveys • Partnering with reputable research partners will be key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ArtsFund and other regional partners • American Community Survey • Creative Vitality Index / WESTAF data
King County Residential Polling/Opinion Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text or email polling using statistically representative sample of residents

1741

1742

1743 **Assessment Report Requirements**

1744 As required by Ordinance 19710, 4Culture will develop an Assessment Report and reporting process that
1745 addresses the effectiveness of program funding. In developing this Report and reporting process, it will
1746 work with following groups:

- 1747 • Qualified evaluation personnel
- 1748 • Staff from cultural organizations
- 1749 • King County cultural consumers
- 1750 • School districts
- 1751 • 4Culture staff
- 1752 • 4Culture Board of Directors
- 1753 • 4Culture’s Local Arts Agencies network (LAA)
- 1754 • Sound Cities Association

1755 In accordance with Ordinance 19710, the Assessment Report will include:

- 1756 • An overview of evaluation personnel, methodology, and practices.
- 1757 • Funding distribution data by council district and Zip Code.
- 1758 • Planned vs actuals for program allocations, year past and year ahead.
- 1759 • Data and findings on public benefit outcomes for King County residents.
- 1760 • Data and findings on Public School Cultural Access Program, broken down by council district and
- 1761 Zip Code, and by percentage of schools eligible for Doors Open transportation funding.
- 1762 • Data and findings on cultural organizations located in and serving Communities of Opportunity.
- 1763 • Data and findings on capacity building and growth for cultural organizations located and serving
- 1764 communities outside of Seattle.
- 1765 • Recommendations for future improvements or changes to Doors Open Program processes,
- 1766 criteria, and reporting requirements.

1767 **Timeline for Assessment Report**

1768 4Culture plans to deliver the required assessment report in 2029. This will provide time to gather and
1769 analyze data which will inform the Doors Open renewal process in 2030. At the time of transmittal to
1770 the King County Council, a copy of the assessment report will be submitted to the Regional Policy
1771 Committee and its members and alternates for briefing. Prior to the official Assessment Report, 4Culture
1772 will integrate Doors Open Program reporting with its regular cycle of reporting on budget and funding
1773 activities to the Executive and the King County Council.

1774 **Evaluating the Doors Open Program Impact and Annual Reporting**

1775 As stated above, 4Culture will incorporate updates on Doors Open in 4Culture's published annual report
1776 and budget report submitted to the Executive and the King County Council through the duration of the
1777 Doors Open Program. A copy of the annual report will be submitted to the Regional Policy Committee
1778 and its members and alternates for briefing.

1779 Transmittal of 4Culture's 2024 annual report should include the draft evaluation framework that will be
1780 used to measure the impact of the Doors Open Program with the goal of allowing the King County
1781 Council to provide feedback on development of the evaluation framework. Beginning with the 2025

1782 report, 4Culture's annual report should include progress reports measuring the Doors Open Program
1783 impact.

1784 4Culture's annual reports should also show the breakdown of Doors Open funding allocations according
1785 to Doors Open requirements, including the requirement that at least 25% of program funding be
1786 awarded to cultural programming and projects outside of Seattle and that 10% be awarded within
1787 Communities of Opportunity or to cultural organizations serving vulnerable populations. The geographic
1788 breakdown should also include the total number of grant applicants and recipients and total awarded
1789 for each of the six program areas by Zip Code and by Council district. In order to identify growth
1790 opportunities, annual reports should identify any areas of underspending due to unclaimed awards or
1791 lack of eligible programs and projects.

1792 **2024 One-Time Operating Support Grant Contracts Reporting**

1793 4Culture shall report to the Council regarding its success in meeting the expectation that contracts with
1794 awardees of the 2024 One Time Operating Support grants, totaling, approximately \$32.9 million, have
1795 been issued to awardees by March 31, 2025. The report shall detail with respect to each awardee: if a
1796 contract has been issued to the awardee, when the contract was issued, if the contract is fully executed
1797 by both the awardee and 4Culture. The report shall also detail as to each awardee for which a contract
1798 has not been issued, the steps to be taken by either 4Culture, the awardee, or both to expedite issuance
1799 of a contract. 4Culture shall electronically transmit this contract update written report to the Clerk of
1800 the Council by April 30, 2025. The Clerk of the Council shall retain an electric copy and provide an
1801 electric copy to all Councilmembers, the Council chief of staff, and the lead of the Committee of the
1802 Whole, or its successor.

1803 4Culture shall report to the Council regarding its success in meeting the expectation that payments to
1804 awardees of the 2024 One Time Operating Support grants, totaling, approximately \$32.9 million, have
1805 been made by June 30, 2025. The report shall detail with respect to each awardee receiving payment:
1806 the amount of the payment and the date the payment was issued. For payments not made by June 30,
1807 2025, the report shall detail with respect to each awardee having not been issued a payment: the
1808 amount of the payment outstanding, the reasons the payment has not been made, and the steps to be
1809 taken to expedite the issuance of the payment. 4Culture shall electronically transmit this payment
1810 written report to the Clerk of the Council by July 31, 2025. The Clerk of the Council shall retain an
1811 electric copy and provide an electric copy to all Councilmembers, the Council chief of staff, and the lead
1812 of the Committee of the Whole, or its successor.

1813

1814

1815 **7. Appendices**

1816 **A. Itemization of Doors Open Start-Up Costs**

1817 The table below reflects Doors Open expenditures incurred by 4Culture between December 5, 2023, and
1818 March 31, 2024.

Item	Cost	Note
Existing Staff – Doors Open time allocation	\$531,050	Employee allocation % range: 0% - 80%. Average time allocation 31%.
Indirect Costs - Occupancy/IT	\$134,705	Indirect costs parallel salary allocations; thus 31% of total allocable indirect costs
New staff	\$29,471	2024 Doors Open Project Director through 3/31
Consulting expenses	\$24,950	
Legal and accounting	\$17,817	
Other	\$7,753	Includes professional fees for design, outreach and marketing, and office equipment and supplies
Total	\$745,746	

1819 **B. 2024 Board Directors**

1820 **Staci Adman: Kenmore (District 1)**

1821 Staci is an artist who lives and creates in Kenmore, WA. She graduated from the University of
1822 Washington with a BFA in painting and now works in a wide variety of media. She has enjoyed sharing
1823 her love of art with children and youth for a couple of decades. She currently teaches adult glass and
1824 fiber classes at The Schack Art Center in Everett and her work is found in several local galleries. Staci had
1825 the honor of being a co-creator of the Kenmore Mural Project in Kenmore, WA in 2016 and has created
1826 several public art projects around Woodinville sponsored by the Woodinville Rotary’s Peace Pole
1827 project.

1828 **Catherine Nueva España, Vice President: Seattle (District 4)**

1829 Catherine Nueva España is a consultant with experience in arts, design, and creative practices. She helps
1830 leaders recognize personal values and create a practice of sustaining collaborations. She has been
1831 interim executive director at On the Boards and EarthCorps, executive director at Velocity Dance Center,
1832 and a board member at Khambatta Dance Company. She serves as a board commissioner for ArtsWA
1833 and serves on a variety of grant panels. España received her BA from Wellesley College, and her MA in
1834 Dance Studies from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London.

1835 **Leanne Guier: Pacific (District 7)**

1836 Leanne Guier is the retired mayor of Pacific, Washington, where she served from July 2013 until
1837 December 2023. Leanne has also worked as the Political Coordinator for the UA Plumbers and
1838 Pipefitters Local. She has served on a variety of King County Regional Committees, including Water
1839 Control, Transportation, Growth Management, and Flood Control. In 2019, she was elected President of
1840 the Sound Cities Association (SCA). Leanne also spearheaded construction of 3 War Memorial sites along
1841 the Interurban Trail.

1842 **Angie Hinojos: Redmond (District 3)**

1843 Angie Hinojos is the Executive Director and co-founder of Centro Cultural Mexicano in Redmond. Angie
1844 is a Trustee for Cascadia College, and Chair of the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. She
1845 is a Public Artist and a passionate advocate for social and racial justice. She received a degree in
1846 Architecture from UC Berkeley and utilizes her experience with art and culture to strengthen community
1847 bonds. As a community organizer, Angie has focused on equity in education to increase access to higher
1848 education for underserved communities.

1849 **Khazm Kogita, Member-at-Large: Seattle (District 8)**

1850 Khazm “King Khazm” Kogita is a multidisciplinary artist, music producer, and community organizer who's
1851 a prominent figure in the Hip-Hop community in Seattle and internationally. His work to unify and
1852 empower the communities is demonstrated through over 25 years of art and service. Khazm is Executive
1853 Director of 206 Zulu, a Seattle Disability Commissioner, a Here & Now Project Board Member, and
1854 Manager of Washington Hall.

1855 **Afua Kouyaté: Seattle (District 2)**

1856 Afua Kouyaté is a teaching and performing artist specializing in cultural arts leadership, emphasizing
1857 therapeutic engagement. As the Executive Director of Adefua Cultural Education Workshop, she is
1858 viewed as one of Seattle’s treasures, a leader in the cultural arts sector, and dedicated to the
1859 community. Afua is renowned for building educational pathways for youth and families for African
1860 cultural experiences. Afua presents a full year of programming in the of study of arts, history, and
1861 culture.

1862 **Seth Margolis: Seattle (District 8)**

1863 Seth Margolis is the Director of Education Operations for the Boeing Academy for STEM Learning at The
1864 Museum of Flight in Seattle and has worked at heritage organizations in the United States and Canada.
1865 He teaches museum education for the UW Graduate Program in Museology, serves on the advisory
1866 board for the Museum Studies Certificate Program, and is a member of the 4Culture Heritage Advisory
1867 Committee.

1868 **Frank Martin: Skykomish (District 3)**

1869 Frank Martin is the managing principal of the Chain Companies and has been a recipient of a 4Culture
1870 Preservation grant to restore the Skykomish Theater into what is now known as Onemish Lodge, an
1871 extended stay basecamp in the heart of the Great Northern Corridor. Prior to Chain, Frank was a Senior

1872 Program Manager at Microsoft, Senior Project Manager for Investco Financial Corporation, and
1873 Construction Manager for a general contractor in Seattle.

1874 **Bryan Ohno: Kent (District 5)**

1875 Bryan Ohno is the Director of Soos Creek Studio, a contemporary ceramic studio that creates sustainable
1876 use pottery, and trains the next generation of youth potters. Bryan’s career has led him to direct two art
1877 galleries in Tokyo and Seattle. He was also the founding director of MadArt. Bryan previously served on
1878 4Culture’s Art Advisory Committee. Bryan received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from the
1879 University of Puget Sound. Bryan also serves on the Kent Arts Commission.

1880 **AC Petersen: Kirkland (District 6)**

1881 AC Petersen has been choreographing and producing dance/theatre works since 1983. She is a volunteer
1882 book narrator at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library and worked in communications and
1883 media relations with the UW Libraries. While at the Northwest Asian American Theatre, she worked
1884 with individual artists from Asia and Pacific Island regions in creating new interdisciplinary works. She
1885 was a founding co-editor of DanceNet, a publication for the region’s dance community, from 1990-2000,
1886 and has a BA in Architecture from the University of Washington.

1887 **Natasha Rivers, Secretary: Renton (District 5)**

1888 Natasha Rivers is the Senior Sustainability & Measurement Manager at BECU where she is developing a
1889 strategic framework around their social impact and commitment to philanthropy, diversity, equity, and
1890 inclusion. Natasha has served on the boards of the Seattle Children’s Theatre, Seattle Urban League
1891 Young Professionals, and Treehouse for Kids. In 2022, Rivers was named one of Seattle’s 40 Under 40 by
1892 the Puget Sound Business Journal. She is a Leadership Tomorrow alum and Partner with Social Venture
1893 Partners (SVP). Natasha earned her PhD in Geography from UCLA with a focus on contemporary sub-
1894 Sharan African migration.

1895 **Latha Sambamurti: Redmond (District 6)**

1896 Latha Sambamurti is the producer and Artistic, Outreach and Development Director of several large-
1897 scale arts and culture festivals in Washington. She is an educator, trained musician, band leader, and
1898 winner of Kirkland Performance Center’s You Rock award for community service. Sambamurti has been
1899 a Washington State Arts Commissioner and a Redmond Arts & Culture Commissioner/Chair. She serves
1900 as a board director for several state and regional cultural organizations. Sambamurti holds a master’s
1901 degree in English Literature.

1902 **Steven Schindler, Treasurer: Issaquah (District 3)**

1903 Steven Schindler is a partner with Perkins Coie, where he represents individuals and families in personal
1904 and estate planning strategies. His practice also includes working with individuals and groups to form
1905 charitable organizations and advising existing charitable organizations on a variety of legal and tax
1906 matters. He serves on several boards, including the Atlantic Street Center, End of Life Washington, and
1907 Powerful Schools, Inc, and is a member of the 2018 cohort of Leadership Tomorrow. Steven joined the
1908 4Culture Finance Committee in 2020.

1909 **Neil Strege: Renton (District 9)**

1910 Neil Strege is Vice President of the Washington Roundtable, a public policy research and advocacy group
1911 comprised of senior executives of major Washington state employers. Before joining the Roundtable,
1912 Neil worked at the King County Council and as a Member of Congress. He is a graduate of Washington
1913 State University and a lifelong resident of Washington State. Neil serves on the board of the YMCA
1914 Youth and Government program and is the Vice Chair of the Washington Research Council.

1915 **Eugenia Woo, President: Seattle (District 2)**

1916 Eugenia parlayed a lifelong interest in architecture, history, cities, and communities into a career in
1917 historic preservation, serving as Historic Seattle’s Director of Preservation Services since 2009. She
1918 develops and implements preservation policies and initiatives; provides technical assistance; engages in
1919 community outreach; and coordinates broad advocacy efforts. In 2022, Eugenia was honored with an
1920 Advocacy Award of Excellence from US Docomomo. Eugenia was a 4Culture Historic Preservation
1921 Advisory Committee member from 2015-2020, serves on the Governor’s Advisory Council on Historic
1922 Preservation, and is a co-founder and current Treasurer of Docomomo US/WEWA.

1923 **Ex Officio Members**

- 1924 • Councilmember Claudia Balducci, District 6
- 1925 • Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, District 8
- 1926 • Councilmember Sarah Perry, District 3
- 1927 • Brian J. Carter, 4Culture

1928 **C. 2024 Advisory Committee Members**

1929 **Arts**

1930 **Amy Dukes, Issaquah (District 3)**

1931 Amy Dukes is the Arts Program Administrator for the City of Issaquah. In this role, she oversees the
1932 community arts granting program, manages the public art program, contributes to policy development,
1933 participates in the Local Arts Agency Network, and serves as the liaison to the mayor-appointed Arts
1934 Commission. She has worked in the arts and philanthropic sectors since 1995 in the Seattle area,
1935 Southern CA, and NYC.

1936 **Sudeshna Sen: Seattle (District 3)**

1937 An Indian American filmmaker, Sudeshna grew up in India and Japan before moving to the United States
1938 for graduate school. Her films have premiered at SIFF, Outfest Los Angeles, New York Indian Film
1939 Festival, and Vancouver South Asian Film Festival. Sudeshna is a member of Alliance of Women
1940 Directors, Women in Film and serves on the board of the Seattle International Film Festival.

1941 **Lauren Superville: Seattle (District 7)**

1942 Born and raised in New Jersey, Lauren Superville is an Individual Giving Officer at the Seattle Opera. Her
1943 background is in project coordination and creating and managing successful community events. She is

1944 leveraging her passion for relationship building by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders
1945 including staff, donors, and board members for the Opera’s mid-level giving program.

1946 **Bryan Ohno: Kent (District 5)**

1947 Bryan Ohno is the Director of Soos Creek Studio, a contemporary ceramic studio that creates sustainable
1948 use pottery, and trains the next generation of youth potters. Bryan’s career has led him to direct two art
1949 galleries in Tokyo and Seattle. He was also the founding director of MadArt. Bryan previously served on
1950 4Culture’s Art Advisory Committee. Bryan received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from the
1951 University of Puget Sound. Bryan also serves on the Kent Arts Commission.

1952 **Jessica Ramirez: SeaTac (District 7)**

1953 Jessica Ramirez is the Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator for the City of SeaTac, and participates
1954 in their Arts, Culture and Library Advisory Committee, which is the citizen advisory committee charged
1955 to advise the City Council on topics related to art and culture. In addition, Jessica represents City of
1956 SeaTac in the quarterly Local Arts Agency Network meetings.

1957 **Heritage**

1958 **Christina Arokiasamy: Kent (District 5)**

1959 Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Christina Arokiasamy is renowned for her culinary skills, as a
1960 spice expert and as an award-winning cookbook author. She was Malaysia’s first-ever official Food
1961 Ambassador to the United States and brings with her over 25 years of world class culinary expertise as a
1962 former chef of various Four Seasons Resorts throughout Southeast Asia. Christina is a passionate
1963 advocate for cultural heritage practitioners in King County.

1964 **Teofila “Teya” Cruz-Uribe: Burien (District 8)**

1965 Teya is the Director of the Sea Mar Museum of Chicano/a/Latino/a Culture and the Health Center
1966 Administrator of the Sea Mar Adolescent Medical Clinic. Teya has an MA in Museology from the
1967 University of Washington’s (UW) Museology Program, and an M.A.I.S. in Russian, Eastern European &
1968 Central Asian Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies at University of Washington.

1969 **Suzanne Greathouse: Kenmore (District 1)**

1970 Suzanne Greathouse is the President of Kenmore Heritage Society and brings over 30 years of
1971 experience working with a broad spectrum of individuals, businesses, corporations, and universities. A
1972 Kenmore resident since 2014, Suzanne serves as a Bothell/Kenmore Chamber of Commerce
1973 Ambassador, Kenmore Planning Commissioner and is on the boards of the Northshore Senior Center
1974 and EvergreenHealth Foundation. Suzanne is focused on evolving the Heritage Society into a vibrant,
1975 inclusive, and fun organization.

1976 **Rachael McAlister: Auburn (District 7)**

1977 Rachael McAlister is the Director of the White River Valley Museum in Auburn, WA. Before taking on the
1978 role of director in 2018 she served as the Museum’s Curator of Education for seven years. She holds a

1979 Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from Belmont University and a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Johns
1980 Hopkins University. McAlister’s work includes extensive arts and heritage programing, municipal
1981 leadership, strong cultural partnerships, energized and engaged staff, and a commitment to racial justice
1982 and equity.

1983 **Seth Margolis, Board Representative: Seattle (District 8)**

1984 Seth Margolis is the Director of Education Operations for the Boeing Academy for STEM Learning at The
1985 Museum of Flight in Seattle and has worked at heritage organizations in the United States and Canada.
1986 He teaches museum education for the UW Graduate Program in Museology and serves on the advisory
1987 board for the Museum Studies Certificate Program.

1988 **Temi Odumosu: Seattle (District 2)**

1989 Temi Odumosu is an interdisciplinary scholar and curator at the UW iSchool. Her research and curatorial
1990 work are engaged with the visual and affective politics of slavery and colonialism, race, and visual coding
1991 in popular culture, postmemorial art and performance, image ethics, and politics of cultural heritage
1992 digitization. Odumosu holds a PhD and Master of Philosophy in art history from the University of
1993 Cambridge and contributes to a variety of international research networks and initiatives.

1994 **Historic Preservation**

1995 **Stefanie Barrera: Seattle (District 2)**

1996 Stefanie Barrera is an architectural designer at SMR Architects focusing on affordable housing projects.
1997 While working on her Master of Architecture at the University of Washington, Stefanie interned for
1998 4Culture's Beyond Integrity Group. Her interest in historic preservation emanates from a curiosity to
1999 learn about other cultures, and the connection between cultural significance and place.

2000 **Justin Ivy: Seattle (District 2)**

2001 Justin Ivy is the owner of Heritage Art Glass, a Seattle-based stained and leaded glass studio specializing
2002 in repair, restoration, and new historic reproduction windows. Working with a wide array of clientele,
2003 from homeowner to developer to church board, he has been involved with projects in many of the
2004 Puget Sound region’s historic structures.

2005 **Robyn Mah: Shoreline (District 1)**

2006 Robyn Mah is a principal at I.L. Gross Structural Engineers and has made historic building rehabilitation a
2007 cornerstone of her career. Robyn’s recent renovation and adaptive reuse projects include Mercy
2008 Magnuson Place (Building 9) at Magnuson Park and YWCA’s 5th and Seneca Building in Seattle.

2009 **Frank Martin, Board Representative: Skykomish (District 3)**

2010 Frank Martin is the managing principal of the Chain Companies and has been a recipient of a 4Culture
2011 Preservation grant to restore the Skykomish Theater into what is now known as Onemish Lodge, an
2012 extended stay basecamp in the heart of the Great Northern Corridor.

2013 **Dawn Moser: Auburn (District 7)**

2014 Dawn Moser lives in south King County and is a gallery guide at the Washington State History Museum
2015 and a land use planner. Dawn has worked in land use planning and community development in Oregon,
2016 Washington, and Utah, engaging and informing community members about historic preservation.

2017 **Huy Pham: Seattle (District 8)**

2018 As the Executive Director of APIAHiP: Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, Huy
2019 leads the national nonprofit organization in its mission to protect historic places and cultural resources
2020 significant to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans through historic preservation and heritage
2021 conservation. Huy is eager to continue his work collaborating with government agencies, nonprofit
2022 organizations, community members and groups, developers, stakeholders, and policymakers to apply a
2023 progressive preservation ethic to their work at the local, state, and national levels.

2024 **Public Art**

2025 **Sonia-Lynn Abenojar: Seattle (District 2)**

2026 Sonia-Lynn Abenojar is co-founder of La Union Studio, an architectural and interior design studio based
2027 out of Seattle, Washington. Her interdisciplinary experience in urban planning and design, community
2028 engagement, and project management led her to a career in cultural placemaking and inclusive design.
2029 Abenojar is passionate about the built environment; she holds a BA in Architecture + Community Design
2030 from the University of San Francisco and a Master of City Planning degree from UC Berkeley.

2031 **Leo Saul Berk: Seattle (District 2)**

2032 Leo Saul Berk is an artist who examines the transformative potential of exceptional architecture to
2033 positively shape our lives. He is a recipient of the Artist Trust Arts Innovator Award, Betty Bowen Award,
2034 and Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Washington. Berk has held solo exhibitions at the Frye
2035 Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, Institute of Visual Arts at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and
2036 Seattle Art Museum.

2037 **Kamari Bright: Seattle (District 4)**

2038 With the goal of creating something that starts the process of healing, Kamari Bright is a
2039 multidisciplinary artist with works that have been received across the US, Greece, France, Mexico,
2040 Germany, & Canada. The 2022 Artist Trust Fellowship Award for Black Artists recipient is currently
2041 working on a manuscript connecting the influence of Christian folklore on present-day misogyny, and a
2042 videopoem extrapolating collective trauma and its connection to land stewardship.

2043 **Catherine Nueva España, Board Representative: Seattle (District 4)**

2044 Catherine Nueva España is a consultant with experience in arts, design, and creative practices. She helps
2045 leaders recognize personal values and create a practice of sustaining collaborations. She has been
2046 interim executive director at On the Boards and EarthCorps, executive director at Velocity Dance Center,
2047 and a board member at Khambatta Dance Company. She serves as a board commissioner for ArtsWA

2048 and serves on a variety of grant panels. España received her BA from Wellesley College, and her MA in
2049 Dance Studies from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London.

2050 **Kate Fernandez: Seattle (District 2)**

2051 Kate Fernandez is an artist, cultural producer, and educator. She currently works as the Director of
2052 Interpretation & Visitor Experience at the University of Washington's Burke Museum.

2053 **Tommy Gregory: SeaTac (District 5)**

2054 Tommy Gregory is a practicing artist and the Sr. Manager and Curator for the Port of Seattle, where he
2055 oversees conservation, commissions, and acquisitions as well as temporary exhibitions at Seattle-
2056 Tacoma International Airport.

2057 **Philippe Hyojung Kim: Seattle (District 2)**

2058 Philippe Hyojung Kim (he/him/they) is a Seattle-based artist, curator, and educator. He is a member of
2059 SOIL, a co-founder/curator of Specialist, a Fine Arts faculty member at Seattle Central College, and a
2060 curator for Washington State Arts Commission. Philippe grew up in a small town outside of Nashville,
2061 TN, and moved to Pacific Northwest in 2013. He currently lives and works in Seattle's North Beacon Hill
2062 neighborhood with his husband, Drew, and their dog, Jack.

2063 **Keith McPeters: Seattle (District 8)**

2064 Keith McPeters is a Principal at GGN, a landscape architecture studio based in Seattle. A diverse design
2065 background allows Keith to merge architecture and landscape architecture with his interests in art,
2066 music, and history. His design advisor role at GGN involves him in the concept and design phases of
2067 many projects across the studio. He received his BS in Architecture and Master of Landscape
2068 Architecture degrees from the University of Virginia.

2069 **Science**

2070 **Arthur Bednar (Seattle, District 4)**

2071 Arthur is a lifelong learner and museum enthusiast that joined The Museum of Flight in 2014, serving in
2072 a variety of roles leading and supervising STEM programming for K-12 youth within the greater Puget
2073 Sound region. Currently he serves as a Senior Program Manager overseeing the Boeing Academy for
2074 STEM Learning Core Programs. He holds a MA in History from The University of North Florida.

2075 **Stephanie Bohr (Seattle, District 4)**

2076 Stephanie has worked in the zoo, aquarium, and museum field for more than twenty years. She is the
2077 Director of Learning Programs and Partnerships at Woodland Park Zoo, where she leads three teams
2078 that create programs for children, teens, and adults both at the zoo and in Seattle communities.
2079 Stephanie is a proud alumna of North Carolina State University, where she earned a BS in Zoology and
2080 MEd in Science Education.

2081 **Kent Chapple (Seattle, District 4)**

2082 Kent is the Education Program Manager at Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center in Carnation, WA. He
2083 was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest (Portland, OR), and has over 17 years of experience
2084 designing and delivering environmental education and science programming, including Northwest
2085 cultural and natural history, organic farming, foodshed, watershed and marine science education. Kent
2086 earned his BS in Biology from Southern Oregon University and his Masters in Education from the
2087 University of California Santa Cruz.

2088 **Felipe Vera (Seattle, District 8)**

2089 Felipe Vera is a Portfolio Manager and Program Coordinator in the Communications Division at the
2090 Gates Foundation. As co-lead of the Latinos in Philanthropy Employee Resource Group and an active
2091 member of the Out for Good & Allies (LGBTQIA+) and Disabilities Advocacy Group ERGs, Felipe is deeply
2092 committed to fostering workplace inclusion and advocating for underrepresented communities.

2093 **Freeda Warren (Seattle, District 4)**

2094 Freeda is Pacific Science Center’s Chief Advancement Officer and a seasoned expert in nonprofit
2095 fundraising and communications. With over three decades of experience, she’s a powerhouse in driving
2096 impact through marketing, public relations, fundraising, and more. Freeda holds a Juris Doctor degree
2097 from Seattle University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies and U.S.
2098 History from the University of California, Davis.

2099 **Rosie Wilson-Briggs (Burien, District 8)**

2100 Rosie Wilson-Briggs is the School Programs Manager at the Environmental Science Center in Burien. She
2101 holds a Masters degree in Urban Environmental Education from Antioch University, and a certificate in
2102 Scientific Illustration from the University of Washington. She has worked with many regional
2103 environmental organizations, including the Seattle Aquarium, the UW Botanic Gardens, and the
2104 Schooner Adventuress. Rosie is focused on reducing systemic barriers to environmental education, and
2105 on supporting communities in their unique relationships to the outdoors.

2106 **Science and Technology Working Group Participants**

- 2107 • Derek Baker, Seattle Aquarium
- 2108 • Jeff Bauknecht, Museum of Flight
- 2109 • Stephanie Bohr, Woodland Park Zoo
- 2110 • Kent Chapple, Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center
- 2111 • Paul Chiocco, Pacific Science Center
- 2112 • Gladis Clemente, Villa Comunitaria
- 2113 • Jennifer Dumlao, Seattle Aquarium
- 2114 • Kim Kotovic, Seattle Universal Math Museum
- 2115 • Paul Meijer, Birds Connect Seattle
- 2116 • Bianca Perla, Vashon Nature Center
- 2117 • Grace Reamer, Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
- 2118 • Dana Riley Black, Museum of Flight
- 2119 • Arthur Ross, Technology Access Foundation

- 2120 • Kate Sorensen, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society
- 2121 • Chloe Wightman, Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- 2122 • Amy Zarlengo, Pacific Science Center



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Doors Open Implementation Plan

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1. Executive Summary

In December 2023, King County passed Ordinance 19710, creating the King County Doors Open cultural access program. This legislation levies a 0.1 percent sales tax in King County to fund arts, heritage, science, and historical preservation nonprofit organizations to increase the public benefits that cultural organizations provide throughout King County.

Ordinance 19710 requires transmittal of an implementation plan to the King County Council. This plan details the Doors Open program priorities and processes for administering funding. It provides an assessment framework for how the program will measurably increase access to cultural offerings for King County residents and visitors, especially those living in underserved areas.

Doors Open maintains and builds upon 4Culture’s core programs that address the critical needs of cultural organizations located in and serving King County. Doors Open allows 4Culture to:

- Enhance and extend the reach and offerings of cultural organizations
- Ensure continued and expanded access to cultural facilities and the programs of cultural organizations by underserved populations
- Provide financial support for cultural organizations to continue and extend the numerous public benefits they provide

Doors Open meets these ordinance-defined goals through six Program Areas: Sustained Support, Public School Cultural Access, Public Free Access, Building for Equity, Countywide Initiatives, and Launch; and two investment areas: Outside of Seattle and Communities of Opportunity. The Implementation Plan allocates projected Doors Open revenue in accordance with Section 8 of Ordinance 19710, as follows:

2024	2025 - 2031
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 percent for repayment of start-up funding;• 3 percent for administrative costs;• The remainder for one-time capital and one-time operating support programs;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 10 percent for cultural organizations that serve underserved populations and/or organizations located in Communities of Opportunity, and cultural organizations providing mentoring services○ 25 percent supports organizations outside of Seattle• Any proceeds not distributed to 2024 programs will go to 2025 programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 percent for administrative costs;• 72 percent for Doors Open programs, of which 10 percent for cultural organizations that serve underserved populations and/or organizations located in Communities of Opportunity, and cultural organizations providing mentoring services;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 15 percent Public school access program○ 3 percent Launch funding○ 10 percent Building for Equity○ 15 percent Public Free Access○ 7 percent Countywide initiatives and projects○ 50 percent Sustained Support• 25 percent for Outside of Seattle, of which, 10 percent for cultural organizations by underserved populations and/or organizations located in Communities of Opportunity

23

Doors Open Implementation Plan-on-a-Page

	2024 Doors Open Programs ¹		2025-2031: Doors Open ²					
	Capital Facilities	Operating and Program Support	Sustained Support ³	Public School Cultural Access	Public Free Access	Building for Equity	Countywide Initiatives	Launch
Estimated Annual Funding	\$32.9M	\$32.9M	\$48.5M [Ord. 8.B.2.f]	\$14.6M [Ord. 8.B.2.a]	\$14.6M [Ord. 8.B.2.e]	\$9.7M [Ord. 8.B.2.d]	\$6.8M [Ord. 8.B.2.c]	\$2.9M [Ord. 8.B.2.b]
Programming or projects outside Seattle⁴	Minimum of \$8.2M	Minimum of \$8.2M	Minimum of \$24.3M across all programs					
Programming in Communities of Opportunity (COO) or for vulnerable populations⁵	Minimum of \$3.3M	Minimum of \$3.3M	Minimum of \$9.7M across all programs					
Grant Cycle/Timeline	One Time (first awards announced in December 2024)	One Time (first awards announced in December 2024)	Triennial	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
Estimated Number of applicants	175 to 225 projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage: 90 Preservation: 30 Arts: 500 Science and Tech: 80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage: 90 Preservation: 30 Arts: 500 Science and Tech: 80 	350 orgs across four disciplines	300 orgs across four disciplines	200 orgs across four disciplines	50 orgs across four disciplines	25-50 orgs across four disciplines
Primary Program Objective	Funding for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space that houses and facilitates cultural work	Funding to help organizations amplify their programming and support delivery of their mission	Help meet the ongoing needs of cultural organizations	Increase public school student access to cultural educational experiences	Increase access to cultural offerings	Support cultural building projects and create a pathway to equitable facilities funding	Support regional initiatives for cultural workforce development	Ensure that all areas and communities in the county have access to cultural experiences
Key Program Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project size categories; goal to fund the top 10% to 20% in each category Prioritizes projects that can begin within two years Prioritizes greater % of project funding for projects under \$1M Cultural space contribution requirements for projects greater than \$10M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low barrier application Panels by discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding (up to three years) for operations or programming Low barrier application Panels by discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes central database Provides funding for cultural education offerings through programs at schools and cultural facilities Provides transportation funding for eligible school districts Helps schools and cultural organizations develop shared learning goals and a program plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding Low barrier application Reimbursement to orgs for the cost of free and reduced programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding Builds on Facilities and Capacity Building programs Adds equitable funding strategies to Equipment, Landmarks Capital, Emergency Capital programs Cultural space contribution requirements for eligible orgs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-year project-based funding for orgs providing services for cultural practitioners Support for workforce and career development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides multi-year funding Start-up cost funding Multi-year operating support to new + emerging orgs Funding paired with capacity building + technical assistance

¹ For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, 2024 Doors Open funding amounts assume \$65.7M in revenue for 2024 grants. Actual revenues may be higher or lower. Not included in the 2024 Programs list is start-up and administrative funding (2% and 3% of revenue, respectively).

² For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, 2025-2031 Doors Open funding is an estimated \$100M annual funding. This was the estimate presented and used during the ordinance process. Annual fund projections may be lower or higher. Not included in the 2025-2031 programs list is administrative funding which is up to 3% of revenue, annually).

³ Ordinance 19710 uses the term "operating support" but 4Culture uses the term "sustained support" to describe operational support. Sustained support is used throughout the implementation plan, and it refers to operating support.

⁴ Programming for projects and programs outside Seattle is included in both the 2024 Doors Open program estimated annual funding and the 2025-2031 Doors Open programs estimated annual funding.

⁵ Programming for COO and vulnerable population programming is included in both the 2024 Doors Open program estimated annual funding and the 2025-2031 Doors Open programs estimated annual funding.

	2024 Doors Open Programs ¹		2025-2031: Doors Open ²					
	Capital Facilities	Operating and Program Support	Sustained Support ³	Public School Cultural Access	Public Free Access	Building for Equity	Countywide Initiatives	Launch
Outreach and Engagement Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Connectors (1:1 pre-submittal application support) Application workshops 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application workshops Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application workshops Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage 2024 stakeholder outreach PSESD touchpoints District and school outreach 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Connectors Application workshops 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application workshops Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Connectors Strategic advertising 4Culture engagement and comms channels

23 2. Implementation Plan Background and Overview

24 A. Introduction to Cultural Access Programs

25 In 2015, the Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 2263 which provides for the creation of local
26 cultural access programs.⁶ The law allows Washington counties to create cultural access programs that
27 provide funding for public school access to arts, science, and heritage organizations and for cultural
28 organizations to provide public benefits.

29 Washington’s cultural access law was modeled after the Denver Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
30 (DSCF), which was created in 1989 and is funded through a 0.1 percent sales tax collected in the seven-
31 county Denver, Colorado metropolitan area.⁷

32 In King County, the program can be funded by up to 0.1 percent of sales tax for seven years, after which
33 it may be renewed. The funds must be used for public benefits and may not supplant county and state
34 funds customarily provided to cultural organizations.

35 In April 2023, the state passed HB1575 which changed state law⁸ to allow for county legislative
36 authorities to impose a cultural access program sales tax of up to 0.1 percent by ordinance.
37 Additionally, if a county has not imposed a cultural access program sales tax by December 31, 2024, a
38 city within that county may do so. The statute does not allow a county and city within that county to
39 concurrently impose a cultural access program sales tax.

40 B. Overview of 4Culture

41 In 2002, King County created the Cultural Development Authority of King County, commonly known as
42 4Culture, in order “to support, advocate for and preserve the cultural resources of the region in a
43 manner that fosters excellence, vitality and diversity.”⁹ 4Culture replaced the functions of King County's
44 former Office of Cultural Resources in order to exercise the powers vested in public development
45 authorities under state law and realize operating efficiencies through operating independently of county
46 government.¹⁰

47 4Culture’s name was derived from the agency's four, original cultural programs.

- 48 • **Arts.** 4Culture provides capital and operating grant funding for individual artists, groups, and
49 community organizations.
- 50 • **Heritage.** 4Culture provides capital and operating grant funding for organizations focused on
51 building the historical record, preserving, and enhancing the character of the region, and sharing
52 local heritage resources.
- 53 • **Preservation.** 4Culture provides project, capital, and operating support to aid in the historic
54 preservation of buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes. The organization also provides
55 support for heritage tourism for King County communities.

⁶ RCW chapter 36.160

⁷ <http://scfd.org/>

⁸ RCW 82.14.525

⁹ See generally KCC chapter 2.49 and KCC 2.49.030 specifically

¹⁰ [King County - File #: 2002-0365](#)

- 56 • **Public Art.** 4Culture manages the County’s 1% for Art program and manages public art
57 installations and the King County Public Art Collection on behalf of King County government.

58 These cultural programs are established in the King County Code (KCC) chapter 2.48, which also states
59 that 4Culture is responsible for administering grants to cultural organizations, groups, public agencies,
60 and individuals in King County. Those grant programs are categorized into the areas of support for
61 projects, buildings and equipment, and operations and are to be administered according to code
62 provisions and guidelines and procedures adopted by 4Culture.

63 With Doors Open, 4Culture will include Science in its cultural funding program list.

64 **4Culture Governance and Accountability**

65 4Culture is governed by a fifteen-member Board of Directors. Directors are to have a demonstrated
66 commitment to and knowledge of cultural resources, be active and experienced in community and civic
67 issues and concerns and can evaluate the needs of cultural constituencies in the region. Directors must
68 be residents of King County and are to be chosen to reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the
69 County.¹¹ Directors are appointed by King County Councilmembers and the Executive and confirmed by
70 the Council.¹²

71 **C. Foundational Policies and Plans**

72 The following policies and plans are central to 4Culture’s existing programming and operations and are a
73 reference point for the history of cultural development policy in King County.

- 74 • [Charter and Bylaws of the Cultural Development Authority of King County](#) (last updated October
75 9, 2019, through Ordinance 19036)
- 76 • 2019 King County 4Culture Task Force Briefing Book and Report
- 77 ○ The Briefing Book supported the 27-member King County 4Culture Task Force, charged
78 with assessing and evaluating 4Culture’s governance structure, processes, and practices
79 through an equity and social justice lens.
- 80 ○ The Report, authored by Janet Brown, former President of Grantmakers in the Arts and
81 a nationally known facilitator and consultant, included detail on the community
82 meetings and listening sessions conducted by the Task Force, an overview of 4Culture
83 operations, and recommendations for 4Culture moving forward. The document also
84 includes a comparison of 4Culture with organizations across the United States focused
85 on People of Color/Native organizations, small-midsized organizations, and communities
86 outside urban centers.
- 87 • [2019 Building for Equity Agreement for Implementation](#) (Ordinance 18939): legislation enabling
88 4Culture to partner with King County in using an advance on future lodging tax proceeds to fund
89 Building for Equity, a \$20 million equity-based cultural facilities program.
- 90 • [2020 King County Cultural Health Study](#)
- 91 ○ In 2018, 4Culture embarked on a two-year endeavor to research and analyze the
92 cultural health of the county. Staff conducted a listening session tour, compiled award

¹¹ Ordinance 19036, Attachment A, Section 5.2.B

¹² Ordinance 19036, Attachment A, Section 5.2.D and 5.2.E

- 93 information from cultural funders, synthesized city-level cultural planning, and
 94 documented existing cultural infrastructure.
- 95 ○ The findings are the basis for the Doors Open Recommended Spending Plan, as
 96 presented to the Executive and King County Council beginning in 2022 and led to the
 97 development of the Doors Open ordinance in late 2023.
 - 98 ● [2020 4Culture Strategic Plan/King County’s Cultural Plan](#) (extended through December 2024 by
 99 the 4Culture Board of Directors)
 - 100 ● [2020 King County Cultural Education Study](#): A Countywide Analysis of K-12 Students Access to
 101 Cultural Education and Community Assets
 - 102 ● [2021 4Culture COVID-19 Recovery Framework](#): 4Culture convened a diverse group of cultural
 103 sector leaders to share their concerns and ideas for the future, and to develop a roadmap for
 104 rebuilding the sector during and after the pandemic.
 - 105 ● [2023 King County Doors Open Ordinance](#) (Ordinance 19710): Legislation, decades in the making,
 106 that created the King County Doors Open cultural access program and imposed a 0.1 percent
 107 sales tax increase in King County to fund the program.

108 **D. Ordinance Requirements Crosswalk**

109 The Doors Open Implementation Plan is in accordance with the requirements laid out in Ordinance
 110 19710.

Overarching Requirement	Program Area	Ordinance location	Implementation Plan location
Itemization of start-up costs	Administration	Section 8. A.1	Appendix A
Program descriptions	2024 Capital Grant	Section 4. A.2 a-h	Section 4. A
	2024 Operating Grant	Section 4. A.2 a-h	Section 4. B
	Sustained Support	Section 4. A.1 f	Section 5. A
	Public School Cultural Access	Section 4. A.1 a	Section 5. B
	Public Free Access	Section 4. A.1 e	Section 5. C
	Building for Equity	Section 4. A.1 d	Section 5. D
	Countywide Initiatives	Section 4. A.1 c	Section 5. E
	Launch	Section 4. A.1 b	Section 5. F
	Increasing capacity outside of Seattle	Section 8.B.3	Section 5.G
Assessment Report	Administration	Section 9 D.2 a-g	Section 6

111 **E. Doors Open Framework Overview**

112 Doors Open builds upon 4Culture’s core programs that address the critical needs of cultural
 113 organizations located in and serving King County. Doors Open allows 4Culture to:

- 114 ● Enhance and extend the reach and offerings of cultural organizations
- 115 ● Ensure continued and expanded access of underserved populations to cultural facilities and the
 116 programs of cultural organizations.
- 117 ● Provide financial support for cultural organizations to continue and extend the numerous public
 118 benefits they provide

119 Doors Open meets these goals through six Program Areas: Sustained Support, Public School Cultural
120 Access, Public Free Access, Building for Equity, Countywide Initiatives, and Launch; and two investment
121 areas: Outside of Seattle and Communities of Opportunity.

122 The sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$716 million in revenue between April 2024 and
123 March 2031, according to the King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis's August 2024
124 forecast.¹³ For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, 4Culture is using an annual estimated funding
125 of \$72 million for 2024 and \$100 million for years 2025 and beyond. Annual projections may be lower or
126 higher but all percentages for allocations will be applied as proscribed in the ordinance.

127 The following plan allocates projected Doors Open revenue in accordance with Section 8 of Ordinance
128 19710, as follows:

129 **2024**

- 130 • 2 percent for repayment of start-up funding;
- 131 • 3 percent for administrative costs;
- 132 • The remainder for one-time capital and one-time operating support programs;
 - 133 ○ 10 percent for cultural organizations by underserved populations and/or organizations
 - 134 located in Communities of Opportunity, and/or cultural organizations providing mentoring
 - 135 ○ 25 percent supports organizations outside the city of Seattle
- 136 • Any proceeds not distributed to 2024 programs will go to 2025 programs

137 **2025 - 2031**

- 138 • 3 percent for administrative costs;
- 139 • 72 percent for Doors Open programs (percentage breakdown in sub-bullets), of which 10 percent
140 must go to cultural organizations serving vulnerable populations and/or organizations located in
141 Communities of Opportunity, and/or cultural organizations providing mentoring; Ordinance 19710
142 defines vulnerable populations as including but not limited to, veterans, seniors, unhoused
143 individuals or individuals at risk of becoming unhoused, individuals experiencing mental illness or
144 substance use disorders, individuals with disabilities, households with an annual income at or below
145 eighty percent of the area median income, survivors of domestic violence, communities at risk of
146 gun violence, or justice-system impacted youth or youth at risk of being impacted by the justice
147 system;
 - 148 ○ 15 percent Public school access program
 - 149 ○ 3 percent Launch funding
 - 150 ○ 10 percent Building for Equity
 - 151 ○ 15 percent Public Free Access
 - 152 ○ 7 percent Countywide initiatives and projects
 - 153 ○ 50 percent Sustained Support
- 154 • 25 percent for programming outside the city of Seattle, of which 10 percent must go to cultural
155 organizations serving vulnerable populations, organizations located in Communities of Opportunity,
156 and/or cultural organizations providing mentoring services

¹³ [Office of Financial and Economic Analysis](#)

Ordinance Objective and Program/Investment Area Crosswalk

Doors Open Primary Objectives per Ordinance	Program and Investment Areas							
	Sustained Support	Public School Cultural Access	Public Free Access	Building for Equity	Countywide Initiatives	Launch	Outside of Seattle	Communities of Opportunity
Enhance and extend the reach and offerings of cultural organizations				X	X	X		
Ensure continued and expanded access by underserved populations to cultural facilities and the programs of cultural organizations		X		X			X	X
Provide financial support for cultural organizations to continue and extend the numerous public benefits they provide	X		X	X				

157 The Doors Open Ordinance (Ordinance 19710) eligibility excludes municipalities, individual cultural
158 practitioners, radio stations, newspapers, and magazines from receiving any proceeds from the taxes
159 imposed under the Ordinance 19710.¹⁴ 4Culture will reorient its Lodging Tax to better support these
160 ineligible entities.

161 ~~The Doors Open Ordinance (Ordinance 19710) provides, among other things, for a 2024 One-Time~~
162 ~~Operating Support grant program with a one-time annual application process. KCC 2.48.108 and KCC~~
163 ~~2.48.109 direct 4Culture to administer the Lodging Tax funded Sustained Support Programs through a~~
164 ~~biennial application process. 4Culture intends to administer the Doors Open funded Sustained Support~~
165 ~~Program through a triennial application process. To bring the application and contract period of these~~
166 ~~programs into alignment, the 2024 Lodging Tax funded Sustained Support Program will be a one-time~~
167 ~~annual application process, and from 2025 onward, a triennial application process will apply.⁴⁵ To that~~
168 ~~end, 4Culture engaged in an application process in the Fall of 2024 and announced awardees for three-~~
169 ~~year grants in December 2024. However, the first year of this three year grant award will be supported~~
170 ~~by the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program and the contracts and payments for these one-time~~
171 ~~grants will be subject to the provisions of Section 4. B., whereby 4Culture will contract with and~~
172 ~~distribute one-time payments to the awardees of the 2024 One-Time Operating Support grants by the~~
173 ~~end of the second quarter of 2025. The remaining 2 years of the Sustained Support grant awards will be~~
174 ~~subject to the provisions of Section 2. K.~~

175 To maximize awards, 4Culture may leverage the Doors Open program (2025-2031) with the Lodging Tax
176 funded Sustained Support Programs. In 2024, KCC 2.48.108 and KCC 2.48.109 were amended to allow
177 for a triennial application process for the Lodging Tax funded Sustained Support Programs.

178 Guidelines for eligible expenditures for each Doors Open program will be developed consistent with
179 chapter 36.160 RCW, Ordinance 19710, and other applicable state and local laws, and will be provided in
180 the announcement of each program, prior to the opening of the application, and will also be available in
181 all materials and technical assistance made available during the open application period for each
182 program.

183 F. Doors Open Impact

184 Doors Open Program funding will transform King County's cultural landscape by expanding cultural
185 organizations' operations, offering discounted and free admission, supporting public school cultural
186 access programs, and building and expanding facilities for cultural activities. Investing in cultural
187 organizations through the Doors Open Program enriches the lives of King County residents and cultural
188 practitioners and contributes to building healthy and resilient communities that thrive on diversity and
189 creativity.

190 The Doors Open Program can lead to:

- 191 • **Economic Growth.** Cultural organizations contribute to local economies by creating jobs,
192 increasing tourism opportunities, and stimulating related industries such as hospitality and
193 retail.

¹⁴ Other entities ineligible for Doors Open proceeds include state agencies and organizations that raise funds for redistribution to cultural organizations.

⁴⁵ ~~Subject to changes to KCC 2.48.108 and KCC 2.48.109 to allow for triennial application cycles.~~

- 194 • **Community Engagement.** Greater participation in cultural programming fosters residents' sense
195 of belonging and connection.
- 196 • **Community Cohesion.** Cultural organizations promote understanding and collaboration among
197 different communities.
- 198 • **Educational Opportunities.** Investment in cultural organizations provides valuable learning
199 experiences that foster creativity and critical thinking skills for all age groups.
- 200 • **Enhanced Quality of Life.** Access to arts and culture promotes mental health, social connection,
201 and well-being.
- 202 • **Innovation and Creativity.** Investments in cultural organizations enhance the creative
203 ecosystem, driving innovation and attracting talent to the region.

204 Investing in cultural organizations is vital for fostering vibrant, inclusive communities and enhancing the
205 quality of life for King County residents. Cultural organizations are critical in providing access to the arts,
206 preserving heritage, and promoting diversity.

207 **G. Criteria for Awarding Proceeds**

208 4Culture will evaluate grant applications by a set of criteria specific to the objectives of each grant
209 program. The criteria for awarding proceeds will help produce the transformational impact expected for
210 King County's cultural landscape. The definitions for the criteria used throughout the Doors Open
211 Program are:

- 212 • **Discipline-specific or program-specific priorities:** Priorities that are specific to each cultural
213 discipline or program that will be identified and listed in the guidelines for each application.
214 These priorities may change from application cycles through a process involving 4Culture staff,
215 advisory committees, and the 4Culture Board. An example is the arts priority of "artistic
216 substance" for an operating grant that would evaluate how an applicant provides services that
217 are robust, creative, and engaging with the community.
- 218 • **Economic Impact:** Includes direct impacts like how the applicant's project enhances the local
219 economy, including staff and contractors employed, volunteer hours and in-kind donations
220 leveraged, and other economic multipliers that accrue to King County, and indirect impacts like
221 increasing commercial activity, activating physical spaces, and enhancing the vibrancy of
222 communities.
- 223 • **Emergency:** A pressing situation that would cause a facility or landmark to be threatened, or to
224 suffer severe economic consequences due to conditions outside of the applicant's control. May
225 also include a threat to the safety of patrons or staff. A catastrophic event or natural disaster
226 may constitute an emergency.
- 227 • **Equity:** The applicant's focus on marginalized communities, especially communities that are
228 disproportionately impacted by structural racism.
- 229 • **Feasibility:** The applicant's ability to administer and complete the project within the budgetary,
230 logistical, and time constraints described in the application.
- 231 • **Community Impact:** How the community would benefit from program investments, extent of
232 coverage for geographically underserved communities, and how the work described in the
233 application would affect the applicant's future sustainability and ability to improve or secure
234 facilities.

- 235 • **Project Impact:** For programming grants, how the project will create positive change to meet
236 the needs of the communities being served. For capital projects, how the project will increase
237 access to cultural facilities.
- 238 • **Public Benefit:** A description of the public benefits from Ordinance 19710 that the applicant
239 would provide through programs, activities, and services.
- 240 • **Qualifications:** The applicant's ability to assemble a qualified and prepared project team.
- 241 • **Quality:** The thought and reasoning the applicant has put into the project planning. This
242 criterion may also include how community input has informed the applicant's needs assessment
243 and the prioritization of project outcomes. For capital grant applications, this criterion includes
244 how the project relates to the applicant's ability to secure or improve facilities in the future, as
245 well as how the facility project is designed to help an applicant fulfill their organizational mission
246 and address social, economic, and/or environmental challenges.
- 247 • **Resilience:** The applicant has clearly stated plans to remain in operation, has demonstrated
248 organizational adaptability to changes in the community, and shown responsiveness to the
249 community's needs.
- 250 • **Unforeseen Opportunity:** An opportunity that was not available at the time of the last
251 application deadline and that will no longer be available to the applicant by the next application
252 deadline. It will also allow an organization to significantly advance its goals and mission.

253 H. Doors Open Public Benefit Reporting Framework

254 For decades, 4Culture has defined Public Benefit as the opportunity for King County residents and
255 visitors to access and engage in arts and other cultural activities, events, communities of practice,
256 historic and cultural spaces, and works of public art related to our program areas. Public Benefit is a
257 service requirement for all recipients of public funding from 4Culture. Put simply, public benefit makes it
258 easier to experience culture.

259 As stated in Ordinance 19710, all Doors Open grant recipients must meet at least one General Public
260 Benefit requirement and one Equity or Geographic Inclusion Benefit requirement.

261 General Public Benefits

- 262 1. Providing low-barrier opportunities for everyone in the county to take part in the region's
263 cultural life and participate in cultural programs;
- 264 2. Providing performances and programs throughout the county, directly in and for local
265 communities, or through partnerships between and among cultural organizations;
- 266 3. Providing cultural educational programs and experiences at a cultural organization's own
267 facilities or in schools or other cultural facilities or venues;
- 268 4. Bringing cultural facilities and programming into compliance with access requirements of the
269 Americans with Disabilities Act;
- 270 5. Supporting cultural organizations that strive to engage traditional cultures and crafts;
- 271 6. Presenting free cultural festivals;
- 272 7. Providing free events, programing, and educational materials, which enhance a cultural
273 experience either before or after, or both, attending an exhibit, performance, or event;
- 274 8. Providing arts, science, and heritage career building opportunities for youth through internships
275 and apprenticeships or other means;

- 276 9. Establishing partnerships between cultural organizations or other cultural institutions to present
277 new multidisciplinary cultural experiences;
- 278 10. Implementing organizational capacity-building projects or activities that a cultural organization
279 can demonstrate will enhance the ability of that cultural organization to execute community
280 outreach, communications, and marketing strategies to attract and engage county residents
281 with opportunities for access to cultural experiences and with emphasis on underserved
282 communities; and
- 283 11. Implementing organizational capacity-building projects or activities that a community-based
284 cultural organization can demonstrate will enhance the ability of that cultural organization to
285 provide or continue to provide meaningful public benefits not otherwise achievable.

286 **Equity Inclusion Benefits**

- 287 1. Providing free or low-cost attendance to cultural organizations and cultural facilities for county
288 residents who have economic, geographic, and other barriers to access;
- 289 2. Providing free access to curriculum-related arts, science, and heritage programs for public
290 school students throughout the county at school and at cultural sites with emphasis on
291 underserved students;
- 292 3. Increasing the diversity of staff and governing boards of cultural organizations;
- 293 4. Increasing opportunities for access to cultural facilities, programs, and services for diverse and
294 underserved populations and communities;
- 295 5. Broadening cultural programs and provide programming that appeals to diverse populations
296 within the county;
- 297 6. Increasing investment in programs and organizations that represent and reflect the diversity of
298 the county; and
- 299 7. Planning and implementing cultural programs or collaborating with other cultural organizations
300 to extend the reach and impact of cultural programs to diverse and underserved populations
301 and communities.

302 **Geographic Inclusion Benefits**

- 303 1. Planning and implementing cultural programs and activities outside established cultural centers;
- 304 2. Partnering with other cultural organizations on cultural programs and activities outside
305 established cultural centers, through direct investment or in-kind support, on priority projects
306 and initiatives;
- 307 3. Providing cultural programming to communities outside the city in which a cultural organization
308 is primarily located, either directly or in partnership with other cultural organizations, or public
309 schools, or through other means.

310 **Public Benefit Reporting Standards for Funded Organizations**

311 4Culture will incorporate the Doors Open discernible public benefit categories and requirements into its
312 established contracting process, described in [Contract and Payment Process section](#). The grant contract
313 is where the public benefit requirements are first documented, and cultural organizations report on
314 their public facing activities in their payment request. Public benefit reporting allows grantees to list
315 attendance and participation numbers, provide a narrative evaluation of their activities, attach any
316 necessary documents including photos, budgets, and proof of acknowledgment of 4Culture’s support.

317 As an agency, 4Culture values that it eases the reporting burden for grantees. 4Culture collects only
318 needed information so that it can determine overall impact and learn how best to leverage resources for
319 deeper investment in the arts, culture, and science fields.

320 **I. Equity Priorities**

321 4Culture's vision statement is "We envision a vibrant county where culture is essential and accessible to
322 all." To advance that vision, 4Culture has adopted practices to increase equity in grant allocations. Grant
323 applicants are asked to describe how their programming addresses underserved populations such as
324 racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Applicants for capital project funding must
325 complete an "equity in development and construction assessment" to consider equity-focused priorities
326 in project development.

327 **Investments in Geographic Inclusion and Equity**

328 4Culture recognizes that where a cultural organization is based or provides its services, as well as the
329 communities it serves, can affect access to funding and other resources. To take a step towards
330 balancing these disparities, 4Culture awards equity and geographic inclusion investments to cultural
331 organizations that are based in parts of King County that are less served by other funding sources, and
332 to cultural organizations that specifically serve vulnerable communities. The investments are added as
333 bonuses in addition to the programmatic grant awards these organizations receive.

334 **Improving Cultural Experiences for People with Disabilities**

335 An example of 4Culture's equity priorities in action is how 4Culture's policies encourage cultural
336 organizations to improve cultural experiences for people with disabilities. A disability is any physical or
337 mental condition that makes it more difficult for the person to do certain activities and interact with the
338 world around them. Disabilities may affect a person's vision, movement, sensitivity to stimuli, hearing,
339 thinking, remembering, learning, communicating, health, mental health, and social relationships.

340 4Culture collects and analyzes aggregated disability data for organizations and individuals they fund,
341 4Culture staff, Board members, grant review panelists, and on-site reviewers. 4Culture uses the data to
342 understand funding disparities and inform grantmaking practices and processes and outreach and
343 engagement strategies.

344 Additionally, serving people with disabilities is one component of the criteria 4Culture uses to determine
345 whether organizations are eligible for an equity investment added to their grant award and for equity
346 points awarded when scoring grant applications.

347 Cultural organizations must provide and report on public benefits to be eligible for 4Culture funding.
348 Among the public benefits cultural organizations can choose to provide and report on are, bringing
349 cultural facilities and programming into compliance with access requirements of the Americans with
350 Disabilities Act, and activities to improve cultural access for people who face barriers to access and are
351 underserved.

352 All grant review panelists undertake anti-bias training that covers the topic of ableism.

353 **J. Application, Panel, Approval, and Award Process**

354 4Culture will use the agency's established application, panel, approval, and award process for
355 administering Doors Open programs.

356 4Culture accepts applications through 4Culture's online application portal. Applicants can create a
357 profile on the portal to streamline the process for submitting additional applications.

358 4Culture program managers first review all applications to ensure eligibility. Program managers then
359 facilitate panels of peer reviewers, which change for each award cycle. Peer review panelists review and
360 rate applications. Panelists are not required to come to consensus, but to provide their own unique
361 perspectives. Panelist scores are aggregated to create a final score for each application. Panels will
362 recommend a final slate of projects and funding, which then progresses to the standing Advisory
363 Committee for the cultural discipline relevant to the grant pool (Arts, Heritage. And Preservation).

364 For each grant program, the Advisory Committees receive a presentation on the application process,
365 applicant pool, panel process, and recommendations for the award slate. The Advisory Committees
366 have a chance to review the recommendations and ask questions. The Advisory Committees then vote
367 to move the award recommendations as presented or with modifications on to the 4Culture Board for
368 final review and approval. Applicants are notified of their awards after the Board gives final approval for
369 funding. Peer review panels and Advisory Committees consist of working professionals in the fields
370 4Culture funds, and who represent all parts of King County, sizes of organizations, and different points
371 of view. 4Culture's mission, vision, and values direct that that composition of peer review panels and
372 advisory committees include consideration of representation of historically underrepresented and
373 underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

374 Each Doors Open program and application review panel shall receive direction to meet the 10 percent
375 and 25 percent minimum requirements. If a program cannot meet the requirement, 4Culture will work
376 to reallocate the funds within the pool of eligible applicants or to other Doors Open programs to ensure
377 that the overall 10 percent and 25 percent program minimums are met. 4Culture will notify the Sound
378 Cities Association (SCA) Executive Director when a program is unable to meet the 25 percent minimum.
379 Separately and in addition, 4Culture will also engage with SCA and 4Culture's Local Arts Agencies
380 network on the challenges experienced in allocating the 25 percent, as part of 4Culture's efforts to
381 improve upcoming program allocation processes and outreach.

382 **Continuous Improvement of the Application Process**

383 4Culture commits to continuous improvement of the grant application process throughout
384 implementation of Doors Open. It is 4Culture's practice to do post-panel exit surveys with applicants
385 and solicit feedback from program staff. The feedback is used to make program or application
386 improvements. 4Culture also applies feedback collected from grantees at the invoicing stage.

387 **K. Contract and Payment Process**

388 Except for the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program,¹⁶ 4Culture will use the following established
389 contract and payment process for all Doors Open programs.

¹⁶ The contract and payment process for the 2024 One-Time Operating Support program is described in Section 4.B.

390 Once the 4Culture Board provides final approval for funding recommendations, 4Culture Program
391 Managers will work with each applicant to develop a Scope of Services and a Public Benefit agreement
392 for the grant contract that will be signed by both the grant recipient and 4Culture. For ease of
393 administration, 4Culture will use a contract template. 4Culture will structure multi-year general
394 operating contracts to provide for annual adjustments of contract payments based on the federal
395 Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the Seattle area (CPI-U-
396 Seattle).

397 Once the contract has been signed by both parties, invoices may be made to request reimbursement for
398 qualifying expenses. When cultural organizations develop a Scope of Services, they can include a plan
399 for a payment schedule that reflects the eligible expenses incurred on or after the award date and the
400 organization's timeline for providing public benefits. Cultural organizations can submit invoices for
401 partial or final payments.

402 ~~Due~~As a best practice to ~~state-law restrictions~~steward public funds, 4Culture generally provides funding
403 on a reimbursement basis, which means 4Culture provides funding for completed work, and not future
404 work. The value of the cultural organization's invoice must be equal to, or more than, the expenses
405 related to providing the organization's public benefit.

406 Cultural organizations will be required to submit a set of documents along with each invoice:

- 407 • A report that demonstrates the cultural organization's public benefit, including for incremental
408 payments
- 409 • Examples of 4Culture acknowledgement via marketing or publicity materials
- 410 • Digital images documenting the project activities, including photo credits, permission to publish,
411 and captions.

412 The process typically progresses along the following timeline.

413 ***3 months after the grant deadline***

- 414 • Program staff draft the Scopes of Service and forward to awardees for review and editing. Once
415 this editing/review process is complete, the Scope of Service is entered into 4Culture's CRM.
- 416 • 4Culture's Finance Team prepares the final contract document and sends it out for electronic
417 signature. Contracts are signed by the recipient, initialed by 4Culture's Controller (after checking
418 all required documents are on file) and signed by the Executive Director.

419 ***4-18 months after the grant deadline***

- 420 • Awardees submit invoices through 4Culture's online portal (either partial or final), and staff
421 review invoices for accuracy and required supporting materials (e.g., report on project activities,
422 invoices/receipts, proof of 4Culture recognition, and photo documentation).
- 423 • Invoice payments typically happens within 3-5 weeks.
- 424 • Once final invoices are submitted, the contract is closed out in the CRM and in the accounting
425 department's system.
- 426 • If awardees don't request reimbursement for the full amount, the program staff will confirm
427 with the awardee that all funds will not be used and notify Accounting that the funds will not be
428 distributed.

429 **L. Leveraging 4Culture’s Strengths**

430 4Culture’s long history as public cultural funder means that it has developed relationships with cultural
431 groups and communities throughout the County. For Doors Open, 4Culture will leverage its existing
432 infrastructure – administrative, financial, and social – and strengthen it with the incredible opportunities
433 that this new source of funding will provide.

434 **Established Engagement and Communications Channels**

435 For every grant and public art program, 4Culture’s Communications department works with grant
436 managers to identify the audiences to reach to increase applications and recipients. The strategies
437 employed are often specific to each program, and include targeted outreach to underserved
438 communities, language communities, and communities specific to the discipline of the grant.

439 4Culture maintains an online list of its current, upcoming, and ongoing funding opportunities. The
440 4Culture website will be updated to include funding opportunities and associated timelines and grant
441 award announcements for the Doors Open program.¹⁷ Additionally, 4Culture will develop a listserv
442 where interested community members may subscribe to electronically receive this information as well
443 as general Doors Open program updates.

444 **Equity Priorities for Outreach, Engagement and Communications**

445 In 2020, to align the communications work with 4Culture’s racial equity goals, 4Culture’s
446 communications team set a goal to reach Black and Indigenous communities for every grant program.
447 Since that time, with the addition of geographic inclusion and equity investments, and other efforts to
448 lead with racial equity in our programming, 4Culture has seen increases in funding totals to these
449 communities. Since 2021, 4Culture’s demographic data shows that the percentage of applications and
450 recipients in King County Spanish-speaking and AAPI communities is lower than the population rate in
451 King County’s census data. Because of this, we have increased outreach to these communities and plan
452 to continue to focus on these areas.

453 In 2020, with the shutdown of in-person outreach due to the pandemic, 4Culture instituted a language
454 access policy and a communications campaign to explain to the public that anyone with language-access
455 needs can contact hello@4Culture.org and our main phone line to request translation services. This
456 messaging was translated into King County’s five most spoken languages. Staff handle these requests to
457 make sure the person’s needs are met and tracked through the entire process. This has resulted in
458 mainly ASL, Spanish, and Chinese translations services for grant workshops, information sessions, and
459 print translation.

460 In implementing the Doors Open program, 4Culture will also seek to increase outreach, engagement,
461 and participation to include LGBTQ+, the disability community, youth, and immigrant and refugee
462 populations.

¹⁷ 4Culture. Year At-A-Glance. URL: <https://www.4culture.org/grants-artist-calls/year-at-a-glance/>. Last accessed on October 8, 2024.

463 **4Culture's Outreach Engagement Strategies**

464 The following sections outline several of the
465 outreach and engagement strategies 4Culture uses
466 in its engagement work and will employ for Doors
467 Open.

468 *Content Focused Strategies*

- 469 • Listening Sessions
- 470 • Grant Workshops
- 471 • General Information Sessions
- 472 • Website, email, and social media

473 *Visibility Focused Strategies*

- 474 • Hello 4Culture outreach events
- 475 • Tabling at community events
- 476 • Print and online advertising and
477 promotional materials

478 *Language Focused Strategies*

- 479 • Partner with community organizations and ambassadors for outreach events and workshops
- 480 • Community-based advertising
- 481 • Translated materials and subtitled online workshops

482 *Geographic Access Focused Strategies*

- 483 • Partner with organizations and individuals to increase visibility.
- 484 • Advertise grants in community news outlets and blogs.

485 *BIPOC Community Focused Strategies*

- 486 • Partner with organizations and individuals to increase visibility.
- 487 • Advertise grants in BIPOC community media serving King County.

488 **Strategies in Action**

489 *Hello 4Culture*

490 In 2025, 4Culture will re-launch its monthly community outreach series, [Hello 4Culture](#) to focus on
491 Doors Open. Pre-COVID, our Hello 4Culture program took us to cities and towns across King County to
492 hear the community's ideas, questions, and concerns. Communities with the least access to 4Culture's
493 resources and the lowest number of applicants and recipients were prioritized by analyzing 4Culture and
494 King County census data.

495 In 2020, 4Culture moved the outreach series online and partnered with cultural organizations across
496 King County and Washington State to provide monthly info sessions on topics ranging from COVID relief
497 funding applications to mutual aid for artists.

Example Outreach Partnerships

- Se Habla Media
- Wa Na Wari Walk the Block
- Rainier Valley Creative District Artist Resource Fair
- Artist of Color Expo and Symposium
- Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery
- El Rey 1360 AM
- Local Services, Unincorporated King County
- Cinco de Mayo, Redmond
- Federal Way Community Festival
- Kenmore Town Square

498 For Doors Open, Hello 4Culture will focus ordinance objectives to reach economically and geographically
499 underserved communities and locations. To do this, 4Culture will leverage the [Communities of](#)
500 [Opportunity Composite Index Map](#) and will continue to develop multilingual materials and language
501 access practices.

502 *Tabling and Outreach Events*

503 4Culture regularly tables at community events where the cultural sector is the main audience and is
504 expanding to science and technology education events. We also table at community events focused on
505 serving BIPOC and rural communities located in King County.

506 *Email and Social Media*

- 507 • Email announcement to past applicants
- 508 • Announcements in eNews (usually twice during lifecycle of grant)
- 509 • Posted to social media (x, Facebook, Instagram)
- 510 • Announced in community news outlets and blogs to reach all geographic areas of King County,
511 examples include Bellevue Reporter (and all Sound Publishing online and print outlets),
512 Shoreline Area News, I Love Kent, and related South King County affiliate blogs.

513 *Technical Assistance*

514 4Culture uses a variety of methods to make sure that each program’s potential applicants have ample
515 opportunities to get their questions answered, such as through the following resources:

- 516 • [Online and in-person grant application workshops](#) (free, drop-in, events held throughout the
517 County); and
- 518 • [Manage Your Grant](#) resource page, a dedicated spot for applicants to track their application and
519 make sure they have everything they need for a successful grant process.

520
521 4Culture’s website is accessible for the vision-impaired, including all linked PDF documents. ASL
522 translation services are available on request. 4Culture commits to removing linguistic, cultural, and
523 procedural barriers in applying for Doors Open funding opportunities that organizations commonly face
524 in successfully applying for government funding and will solicit community feedback for continued
525 improvements and incorporate learnings from its broader community outreach and engagement efforts.

526 **M. Support Network Consulting Roster**

527 The increased funding available through Doors Open will greatly impact cultural organizations. While we
528 anticipate most of these impacts being positive, it’s possible that within these moments of tremendous
529 organizational growth, change, and evolution, many organizations will face unique challenges and
530 unfamiliar risks. 4Culture plans to provide additional scaffolding and support to help organizations
531 manage the risk and opportunities associated with the potential influx of increased funding. 4Culture
532 will support cultural organizations needing consulting assistance for crisis situations by referring them to
533 the consultant roster and funding some hours of consulting assistance.

534 Cultural organizations will have access to a consultant roster and will receive an allocation of consultant
535 hours based on their eligibility, with the intent that all grantee organizations will have the opportunity to
536 access consultant services through the roster and that organizations are allotted an appropriate number

537 of hours to meet their stated need. Organizations that choose not to use the entirety of their allotted
538 consultant hours will agree to allow those hours to be allotted to other grantees requesting consultant
539 time. Below are the anticipated roster topic areas with topics specific to emergency/crisis needs
540 highlighted.

541 **Roster Topic Areas**

- 542 • Financial Emergency Planning
- 543 • Cultural Facilities
- 544 • Strategic Planning
- 545 • Organizational Design and Management
- 546 • Financial Planning and/or Strategy
- 547 • Human Resources
- 548 • Interpretive Planning
- 549 • Leadership and Board Optimization
- 550 • Board/Board Relations
- 551 • Communications, Marketing, Branding
- 552 • Fundraising/Development
- 553 • DEAI
- 554 • Legal Services
- 555 • Accessibility (language, ADA, facilities, mobility)

556
557 4Culture is developing this roster and has tentative launch plans for Q1-Q2 2025, depending on Doors
558 Open Implementation Plan approval.

559 **N. Special Focus on Science and Technology Outreach**

560 4Culture has a long history of supporting organizations advancing science and technology through our
561 existing funding programs. This includes organizations whose missions reflect the technological history
562 of our region, such as MOHAI and the Museum of Flight, both of which 4Culture has funded for many
563 years via Projects, Sustained Support, Collections Care, and Cultural Equipment funding programs. In
564 addition, 4Culture has supported numerous projects that have explored the intersection of arts and
565 technology through Tech-Specific (a site-specific funding program) and Special Projects funding
566 programs. These established relationships have proven invaluable in informing our work for Doors
567 Open.

568 With the possibility of new King County funding for science focused organizations, 4Culture staff
569 launched a research project in the fall of 2019 to interview local science organizations regarding their
570 needs, funding priorities, programming, anticipated capital projects, and the health of the field in
571 general. Unfortunately, this work was cut short due to the pandemic.

572 But the foundation laid by that plan was continued in the formation in January 2024 of a [Science &](#)
573 [Technology Group](#) consisting of representatives of local science organizations from various disciplines,
574 different size budgets, and regions of the county.

575 This group has met monthly since January 2024, providing insights into the field, and discussing
576 important questions regarding the development of a new set of science and technology focused funding
577 programs.

578 Topics of discussion for the group have included questions that affect the field:

- 579 • What would your organization prioritize with additional funding: kinds of programming, capacity
580 building, facilities, equipment, or other?
- 581 • What strategies does your organization employ to expand outreach to underserved
582 communities?
- 583 • What are the key issues in the regional science and technology field?
- 584 • What organizations and communities should be participating in this group that are not currently
585 represented?
- 586 • What are the professional development needs of individuals working in regional science and
587 technology cultural organizations?
- 588 • How can 4Culture protect against funding pseudoscience?
- 589 • How do you encourage the development of an understanding of scientific inquiry as a lifetime
590 pursuit rather than a “requirement” to be set aside upon graduation from high school?
- 591 • What metrics have you found most useful in communicating the success of your programming?
592

593 To date, some initial observations from these discussions in the group, in individual interviews, and
594 other stakeholder conversations revealed following strengths and challenges:

- 595 • Science organizations have made significant investments in programming for K-12, many with a
596 focus on Title 1 public schools.¹⁸
- 597 • Science and technology focused organizations in the region share similar needs to other cultural
598 organizations: investing in capital facilities, offering competitive salaries for staff, engaging
599 underserved communities, delivering programming at additional venues in communities, and
600 other items.
- 601 • Misinformation has damaged the public's understanding of science. Rebuilding the public's
602 trust in and understanding of science is a challenge.
- 603 • There is an ongoing shortage of qualified educators in science and technology. The increase in
604 the cost of living in King County has made staffing science and technology focused organizations
605 more difficult.
- 606 • Transportation costs associated with travel to organizations' venues can be a barrier to
607 participation in programming.

608 **Science and Technology Grants**

609 Science and technology grants will fund cultural organizations whose mission statement includes an
610 explicit focus on science or technology. Organizations with a primary purpose of advancing and
611 preserving zoology (such as a zoo or an aquarium) must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and
612 Aquariums or supporting an organization accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

613 Science and technology grants do not support the following activities:

- 614 • The conduct of primary research not directly providing experiences to the general public
- 615 • Medical and public health practice, including but not limited to medical treatment, medical or
616 nutritional advice, or medical instruction.
- 617 • Pseudoscience, defined for this purpose as any system of beliefs or concepts that exhibits
618 characteristics, including but not limited to, the ability to be proven untrue or falsifiable by
619

¹⁸ "Title I public schools" refers to Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA), which provides supplemental financial assistance to school districts for children from low-income families.

620 observable facts, lacking a research framework that tests and revises ideas based on observable
621 facts, and/or has been demonstrated to be false by observable facts.

622
623 Doors Open is a new opportunity for 4Culture to fund cultural organizations in direct support of their
624 science and technology programming. To ensure adequate resources are dedicated to this task,
625 4Culture established a Science and Technology Department, beginning with hiring a Science and
626 Technology Director. The director will recruit a Science and Technology Program Manager as well as a
627 Science and Technology Support Specialist. The department director is also charged with helping lead
628 outreach to potential applicants. That outreach and engagement will include:

- 629 • Continued meetings of the Science & Technology Group through the early summer of 2024
- 630 • Recruiting and developing a formal advisory committee by the fall of 2024
- 631 • Convening a gathering of science and technology groups in the second half of 2024
- 632 • Conducting a landscape survey and analysis of the field in the winter/spring of 2024.

633 **O. Special Focus on Economic Revitalization**

634 The Doors Open Program has the potential to revitalize and transform commercial centers around King
635 County into vibrant and inclusive cultural centers. Commercial centers, particularly those that are
636 experiencing post-pandemic challenges, such as reduced commercial activity, vacant storefronts, limited
637 foot traffic, a sense of despair, increased crime, and increased illicit drug use, will benefit from expanded
638 access to cultural facilities and programs of cultural organizations that will be possible because of the
639 Doors Open Program. By funding cultural organizations in King County, it is expected that the Doors
640 Open Program will have a positive effect on public safety, addiction recovery, neighborhood
641 beautification, recreation, and commercial activity in key commercial centers and change the negative
642 narratives surrounding beleaguered neighborhoods to promote a sense of safety, cultural vibrancy,
643 cleanliness, and resilience instead.

644 The Doors Open Program can:

- 645 • Build coalitions of cultural organizations and leaders to work together to align resources and
646 unify plans for revitalizing commercial centers around the region by leveraging 4Culture's
647 existing administrative, financial, and social infrastructure.
- 648 • Incentivize connectivity and cross-programming between cultural organizations to facilitate
649 partnerships and increase access for King County residents through the Building for Equity and
650 Launch grant programs.
- 651 • Improve the recruitment and retention of cultural workers through the Countywide Initiatives
652 grant program.
- 653 • Promote arts and culture as an economic asset in commercial centers.
- 654 • Activate public spaces, retail corridors, and underutilized or vacant spaces as venues for arts and
655 culture to enhance the vibrancy and economy of commercial centers.
- 656 • Enhance the vibrancy and economy of commercial centers by activating public spaces, retail
657 corridors, and underutilized or vacant spaces as venues for arts and culture.

658
659 Through these programmatic and funding actions, Doors Open will initiate transformative and lasting
660 change in King County by improving access to arts, science, and heritage resources, revitalizing the local
661 economy, and reimagining the vibrancy and identity of commercial and cultural centers.

662 3. Doors Open and Implementation Plan Community 663 Engagement

664 4Culture aims to maintain our trust, confidence, and credibility with the cultural community in
665 distributing Doors Open revenue, as we have done over several decades with Lodging Tax and 1% for
666 the Art supported programs. We are a public funder with community-focused goals and outcomes.

667 Because the cultural sector has a history of underinvestment and many organizations are in challenging
668 economic circumstances, 4Culture provides regular and consistent proactive updates to all stakeholder
669 groups and will do so throughout implementation and roll out of programs. 4Culture also provides a
670 strong set of resources and information available online to make it easy for stakeholders to find the
671 information they need.

672 To know more about the depth and breadth of 4Culture’s regular slate of communications, outreach,
673 and engagement strategies, please see [Established Engagement and Communications Channels](#).
674 [4Culture will employ these strategies in its administration of Doors Open](#).

675 The following list is a summary of Implementation Plan-specific outreach taking place from January 2024
676 to June 2024 – the point of plan submittal.

- 677 • In person gatherings with cultural community groups: 22
- 678 • Online general info sessions (with ASL interpretation and translated into Spanish): 3
- 679 • In person gatherings with language/ethnic/racial community groups: 8
- 680 • In person gatherings with municipal groups: 5
- 681 • Gatherings with cultural leader groups: 14

682 4. Doors Open 2024: One-Time Capital and Operating 683 Support

684 A. One-Time Capital Grant Program: Doors Open Facilities

685 Program Summary

686 Doors Open Facilities grants will provide funding for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space
687 that houses and facilitates cultural work in King County. The fund prioritizes projects that can begin
688 construction or acquisition within two years of being awarded funds (by December 31, 2026).

689 This grant builds from the funding and strategies established by 4Culture and King County’s [Building for](#)
690 [Equity initiative](#). The Doors Open capital grant program will support cultural building projects and
691 create a pathway to racial equity in cultural facilities funding. To help achieve this goal, applicants must
692 show an ongoing commitment to racial equity and equitable development, and applicants with project
693 budgets over \$10M will be required to meet a Cultural Space Contribution Requirement, where they
694 provide space or technical assistance as part of their public benefit.

695 Facility project requests may be made in proportion to the Facility Project size, as indicated below.
696 Applications and Contracts will have commensurate sets of reporting agreements and partner
697 contribution agreements to the project size.

- 698 • Projects under \$250,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of total project costs.
- 699 • Projects between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of project costs
700 for first \$250,000 and 50% of project costs between \$250,001 and \$1,000,000.
- 701 • Projects between \$1,000,001 and \$10,000,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of project
702 costs for first \$250,000, 50% of project costs between \$250,001 and \$1,000,000, and 15% of
703 project costs between \$1,000,001 and \$10,000,000.
- 704 • Projects greater than \$10,000,000: Applicants may request up to 100% of project costs for first
705 \$250,000, 50% of project costs between \$250,001 and \$1,000,000, 15% of project costs
706 between \$1,000,001 and \$10,000,000, and 5% of project costs over \$10,000,001. The maximum
707 request for this pool is \$2,500,000.

708
709 In addition to the Base Awards, which are determined based on the panel score as applied to the
710 requested amount, applications are eligible for an Advancing Equity and Geographic Inclusion bonus.
711 Each application may have an additional percentage of funding added to their allocation if they are
712 either outside the City of Seattle, or if the facility is in a 2020 U.S. Census tract area with a Community of
713 Opportunity index percentile of 60% or greater.

714 Additionally, if an organization does not score high enough to receive a Base Award, it may still be
715 eligible for a Geographic Inclusion bonus, and thus the application may still be funded in part.

716 **Program Allocations**

717 An estimated total of \$32.9M will be available for the Doors Open Facilities Grant, to be awarded to
718 organizations applying within different project sizes. Based on previous facility grant cycles, 4Culture
719 anticipates between 175 to 225 total applications for facility funding and will aim to fund the top scoring
720 10%-20% in each project size category.

721 A minimum of 25% of this Operating Support program will be allocated to cultural organizations with a
722 primary location outside of the City of Seattle; and a minimum of 10% will be allocated to cultural
723 organizations with a primary location within a 2020 U.S. Census tract area with a Community of
724 Opportunity index percentile of 60% or greater or provide services to vulnerable populations as defined
725 in the implementing ordinance.

726 **Program Criteria**

727 Doors Open one-time capital grant criteria established by Ordinance 19710 include Quality; Feasibility;
728 Project Impact, Public Benefit; and Equity. 4Culture also included Qualifications and Economic Impact as
729 grant criteria.

730 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

731 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
732 [section](#). Applications will be available for a minimum of five weeks, allowing applicants as long as
733 possible to gather the information required.

734 4Culture staff will do their best to answer questions and help Doors Open Facilities applicants in
735 advance. We anticipate hundreds of applications for this program and encourage applicants to prepare
736 early to meet the deadline and take advantage of the support staff can provide.

737 In addition to staff support, 4Culture has hired several Community Connectors, who will help applicants
738 prepare for their application, including how to go about getting proposals required for application such
739 as architectural and design estimates; how to frame a project for the review panel; advice on choosing
740 the right scale of project (potentially consolidating several smaller projects into “Accessibility Needs,”
741 for example, or picking only the “HVAC Improvements” part of a larger project to propose); and aiming
742 applicants towards best practices and commonly accepted structures for capital budgeting. These
743 Connectors will work proactively to reach out to potential applicants as well as providing an open
744 calendar where applicants can make appointments for consultation.

745 Each Project size category will have a panel, consisting of five members, with the King County Council
746 and the Executive each appointing one member to each panel, to review those applications. Panelists
747 will have approximately three weeks to conduct their reviews.

748 Panel sessions will be held over a 1-to-3-day period, depending on the quantity of applications received.
749 During this period, each panel will talk about the proposals and recommend funding for selected
750 proposals to 4Culture’s Advisory Committees and Board based on the criteria outlined above.

751 **B. One-Time Operating Support Program**

752 **Program Summary**

753 The 2024 ~~one-time operating~~ **One-Time Operating Support** program provides operating and
754 programmatic dollars to meet the day-to-day needs of cultural organizations. Funding is intended to
755 provide programs and services for public benefit. Awards are provided as operating support consistent
756 with the requirements of Ordinance 19710, and unrestricted to specific purposes allowing cultural
757 organizations to deploy resources to their most emergent operating needs or where they will be most
758 impactful for the delivery of the organization’s mission. Grant awardees are required to provide proof
759 of the public benefits of cultural programming produced. Ineligible program expenses, such as capital
760 expenses and major equipment, are identified in the grant contract.

761 **Program Allocations**

762 There are four funding disciplines, between which an estimated \$32.9 million will be awarded. The
763 anticipated number of applicants per discipline, based on historical data and field scans are as follows:

- 764 • Heritage – approximately 90 applicants
- 765 • Historic Preservation – approximately 30 applicants
- 766 • Arts - approximately 500 applicants
- 767 • Science and technology - approximately 80 applicants

768
769 Award amounts will be determined based on a combination of:

- 770 • Budget size
- 771 • Average score, as determined by the panel

- 772 • an Advancing Equity Bonus, for those cultural organizations who are focusing on vulnerable
773 communities, especially those that are disproportionately impacted by structural racism
774 • Eligibility for Geographic Inclusion Bonus (inclusive of both Outside Seattle and COO status)
775

776 A minimum of 25% of this Operating Support program will be allocated to cultural organizations with a
777 primary location outside the City of Seattle; and a minimum of 10% will be allocated to cultural
778 organizations with a primary location is within a 2020 U.S. Census tract area with a Community of
779 Opportunity index percentile of 60% or greater or provide services to vulnerable populations as defined
780 in Ordinance 19710.

781 **Program Criteria**

782 Ordinance 19710 requires that proposals be evaluated based on the contributing to the organization's
783 stability, public benefit, equity, and artistic substance. 4Culture also added program economic impact as
784 a criterion.

785 **Application Prompts**

786 The application has been developed with an eye toward balancing the need to provide enough
787 information to the panel to make an informed recommendation about funding, while keeping barriers
788 low and the process accessible for cultural organizations which may not have a professionalized grant
789 writing team.

790
791 4Culture staff will do their best to help applicants. We anticipate applications in the hundreds for this
792 program and will encourage applicants to prepare early to meet the deadline and take advantage of the
793 support staff can provide.

794 Applicants will also be asked to provide the following information:

- 795 • Organization description
796 • Description of community served
797 • Programming description
798 • Description of organization governance or decision-making practices
799 • Description of public benefit

800 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

801 Like the applications for the one-time capital grant program, applications for the one-time operating
802 support program will be available for a minimum of five weeks, allowing applicants as long as possible to
803 gather the information required. The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel,
804 Award, and Approval Process section](#).

805 Each of the discipline areas¹⁹ will have at least one panel and up to four panels, depending on the
806 number of applications received. Like the panels convened for the one-time capital grant program,
807 each panel will have five members, with one member appointed by the King County Council and one
808 member appointed by the Executive. Each panel will consist of working professionals in the fields, who
809 represent all parts of King County, sizes of organizations, and different points of view.

810

¹⁹ Heritage (excluding historic preservation), arts, science, and historic preservation.

811 **2024 One-Time Operating Support Contract and Payment Process**

812 4Culture will contract with the 2024 One-Time Operating Support awardees for them to provide in 2025
813 the services and the public benefits described in the awardees' September 2024 applications and upon
814 which the awardees were selected in December 2024 to receive this one-time grant.

815 The contract will allow for awardees to receive advance payment for 2025 services and public benefits
816 to be supported by 2024 tax proceeds. The contracts will include specific reporting requirements
817 necessary for auditing accountability and program evaluation. The contract will also reserve 4Culture's
818 right to recoup all or part of the advance payment and withhold future payment, if the contract terms
819 are not met.

820 These same awardees were also selected for Sustained Support grants to provide services and public
821 benefits in 2026 and 2027 as part of the triennial application process described at Section 2. E. These
822 awardees will receive support of their 2026 and 2027 activities through the contract and payment
823 processes set out in Section 2. K.

824 **C. Engagement and Communications Strategy for 2024 Doors Open One-Time Grant**
825 **Programs**

826 Outreach will be targeted to underrepresented communities based on prior award and applicant pool
827 demographics. Guided by 4Culture's Communications priorities, these efforts include targeted outreach
828 and engagement including communications in multiple languages to broad-based community networks
829 and media outlets within 4Culture's network.

830 Most of 4Culture's capital grant programs are long-standing, and our existing communication strategies
831 employ a racial equity lens to target outreach to underserved communities to encourage them to apply
832 for funding. For more detail on how we'll leverage existing communication channels, see [Established](#)
833 [Engagement and Communications Channels](#). A special focus will be on reaching and engaging Science
834 and Technology cultural organizations that are newly eligible for Cultural Facilities programs. For more
835 detail on these outreach strategies, see [Special Focus on Science and Technology Outreach](#).

836 **Technical Assistance Workshops**

837 4Culture will offer a series of virtual workshops open to all potential applicants, to provide information
838 on program guidelines, the application process and answer questions, discuss project details, and review
839 draft applications.

840 All workshops will be held remotely. For those who are unable to attend, a workshop recording will be
841 available. Workshop recordings are translated into Spanish and Chinese subtitles.

842 5. Doors Open 2025-2031

843 A. Sustained Support

844 Program and Allocation Summary

845 The Doors Open operating support program, which
846 4Culture will call "Sustained Support," provides
847 three-year grants to meet the ongoing needs of
848 cultural organizations. These awards provide funds
849 unrestricted to a specific purpose²⁰ to cultural
850 organizations that have a track record of delivering
851 programs and services for the benefit of the public.
852 With funds for basic annual expenses such as rent,
853 utilities, and payroll, organizations can deploy
854 resources to their most emergent needs.

855 4Culture offers Sustained Support in each of the
856 four funding program areas: heritage, arts, science,
857 and historical preservation (also referred to as the four disciplines). Applicants must choose one of the
858 four areas which best fits their mission and programs.

859 Applicants must have a minimum two-year operating history for Heritage and Historical Preservation
860 Sustained Support; they must have a minimum three-year operating history for Arts Sustained Support.

861 Program Criteria

862 *Heritage*

863 These awards provide operating support to cultural organizations that have a track record of delivering
864 heritage programs and services, for the benefit of the public. Reviewers use the following criteria:
865 Resilience; Public Benefit, Equity, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Heritage Priorities.

866 *Historic Preservation*

867 These awards provide operating support to cultural organizations that have a track record of delivering
868 historic preservation programs and services, for the benefit of the public. Reviewers use the following
869 criteria: Resilience; Public Benefit, Equity, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Preservation
870 Priorities.

871 *Arts*

872 These awards provide operating support to cultural organizations that have a track record of delivering
873 artistic cultural programs and services for the benefit of the public. Reviewers use the following criteria:
874 Resilience; Public Benefit, Equity, Community Impact, and Economic Impact and Artistic Substance.

Sustained Support

Estimated annual funding: \$48.5 million

Objective: Meet the ongoing needs of cultural organizations

Strategy: Provide predictable, multi-year funding assistance for operations, including assistance with rent, utilities, payroll, and other basic annual expenses

Key Reporting Metrics: Number of awards and total funding over time by organization; Number of awardees and total funding over time by geography (Zip Code and Council district) and discipline

²⁰ Funds must be used consistent with the requirements of Ordinance 19710.

875 **Science and Technology**

876 Operating funds for science and technology cultural organizations provide operating support to
877 organizations to deliver programs and services for the benefit of the general public, King County
878 residents as well as visitors. For these grants, reviewers will look to the following criteria: Resilience,
879 Public Benefit, Equity, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Science and Technology Priorities.

880 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

881 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
882 [section](#). Award amounts have three components:

- 883 • A base award determined by the recipient cultural organization’s budget size.
- 884 • A possible additional award based on overall panel score.
- 885 • A possible Geographic Investment based on geographic location and/or an Equity investment
886 based on organization’s score on the Equity criterion.

887
888 If a cultural organization is selected for funding, the Program Manager will work with the cultural
889 organization to create a grant contract outlining a Scope of Services and Public Benefit for each
890 consecutive year. Cultural organizations that receive Sustained Support funding are typically paid
891 annually upon completion of one or more of the Public Benefit activities described in their grant
892 contract.

893 4Culture plans to announce awards prior to the end of July 2025 and will provide an on-ramp to new
894 applicants for the duration of the cycle every fall (tentatively September). These are target timelines and
895 4Culture will have flexibility to adjust them to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

896 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

897 4Culture’s existing Sustained Support operating grant programs are long-standing, and our existing
898 communication strategies employ a racial equity lens to target outreach to underserved communities to
899 encourage them to apply for funding. For more detail on how we’ll leverage existing communication
900 channels, see [Established Engagement and Communications Channels](#).

901 A special focus will be on reaching and engaging Science and Technology cultural organizations that are
902 newly eligible for operating grant programs. For more detail on these outreach strategies, see [Special](#)
903 [Focus on Science and Technology Outreach](#).

904 Like our other programs, 4Culture will offer digital and non-digital engagement to assist potential
905 applicants with understanding the program and technical assistance throughout the application process.
906 This will also include opportunities to receive one-on-one support from 4Culture staff. Typically, this
907 comes in the form of feedback on individual applications, technical assistance, and offering general
908 guidance on understanding and interpreting program criteria and eligibility requirements.

909 Outreach is focused on underrepresented communities based on prior award and applicant pool
910 demographics. Guided by 4Culture’s Communications priorities, these efforts include open application
911 periods of 6-8 weeks; at least three workshops sharing guidelines, criteria, and the application process;
912 and engagement including communication in multiple languages to broad-based community networks
913 and media outlets within 4Culture’s network.

914 **Public Benefit Reporting**

915 To receive reimbursement, all Sustained Support recipients provide documentation on the public
916 benefits provided, as detailed in the [Doors Open Public Benefit Reporting Framework section](#). This
917 reporting metric is collected by 4Culture for annual reporting and is evidence of the General Public
918 Benefit and Equity and Geographic Inclusion Benefit requirements.

919 **B. Public School Cultural Access**

920 **Program Summary**

921 The Doors Open Public School Cultural Access Program will provide King County public school students
922 with greater and more equitable access to science, arts heritage and historic preservation learning from
923 our county's rich array of cultural organizations.

924 Beginning in 2025, all public schools and tribal schools in King County's 19 school districts will have
925 access to an online roster of science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation cultural organizations that
926 provide on-site and off-site cultural education programs in and out of the school day. Funding for
927 programs will be provided directly to cultural organizations, and free field trip transportation will be
928 provided to schools in districts with a 40% or higher free and reduced lunch rate.

929 Increased student access to cultural learning and experiences correlates with higher levels of academic
930 achievement in high school and college and higher levels of civic engagement such as voting and

931 volunteering.²¹ A 2019 study found that
932 elementary students who received increased
933 access to education programs from cultural
934 organizations and teaching artists had decreased
935 disciplinary rates, improved their writing
936 achievement, and that students' compassion for
937 others increased.²²

938 Cultural learning experiences can lead to better
939 outcomes for students in King County, and this is
940 why 4Culture is committed to implementing the
941 Doors Open Public School Cultural Access Program
942 with the following goals and values:

- 943 • All King County public school students can
944 access engaging and enriching experiences
945 that positively impact their wellbeing,
946 performance in school, and overall growth
947 and development.
- 948 • Prioritization of increased access to
949 cultural experiences and activities for
950 students from communities that have been
951 disproportionately impacted by racism and
952 other systems of oppression.
- 953 • Prioritization of increased access to
954 students in schools that are located
955 outside of established cultural centers.
- 956 • Commitment of outreach and engagement
957 of community cultural organizations that are led by and staffed by people from communities
958 that have been disproportionately impacted by racism and other systems of oppression.
- 959 • Prioritization of cultural organizations that are located outside of established cultural centers.
- 960 • Commitment to build and improve relationships between public schools and cultural
961 organizations throughout King County.
- 962 • Collect data to improve both the quantity and quality of cultural education programs provided
963 by cultural organizations to schools.

964 **Goals and Priorities for the Cultural Education Programs Roster**

965 Establishing a central database for public school educators to find no-cost on-site and off-site cultural
966 learning opportunities for their students is central to 4Culture's Public School Cultural Access Program.

967 **Roster Goals:**

- 968 • Enable teachers and other school staff to find science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation
969 education programs that align with their classroom and school learning goals.
- 970 • Enable teachers and other school staff to find science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation
971 education programs from cultural organizations that reflect their school communities.

²¹ James Catterall, 2012.

²² Daniel H. Bowen, 2019.

Public School Cultural Access

Estimated annual funding: \$14.6 million

Objective: Increase public school student access to cultural educational experiences through partnership between cultural organizations and the schools

Strategies:

- Develop database of appropriate on-site and off-site cultural experiences for public schools
- Provide funding to sustain and extend the offerings of cultural organizations through programs provided at schools and at cultural facilities and venues of the cultural organizations
- Provide funding for transportation to cultural facilities and venues for eligible school districts

Key Reporting Metric: Number of schools, classes participating in Public School Cultural Access Program, Number of awardees and total funding over time by geography (Zip Code, Council district, and school district)

- 972 • Provide information and support to teachers and other school staff that reduces their barriers to
- 973 initiating, planning, and implementing cultural field trips and partnerships.
- 974 • Provide information and support to cultural organizations that reduce their barriers to engaging
- 975 with public schools.
- 976 • Provide a basis for establishing sustained relationships between schools and cultural
- 977 organizations for the benefit of students.

978 **Roster Priorities:**

- 979 • Educators will be able to search and filter to find science, arts, heritage, and historic
- 980 preservation programs that meet their specific learning goals and time parameters.
- 981 • Educators will be able to clearly know if their school is eligible for free transportation funding to
- 982 off-site cultural experiences. They will also know what the process is for requesting free
- 983 transportation through their district.
- 984 • Cultural organizations will be able to provide descriptive program information for the roster so
- 985 that educators have a clear sense of the value and requirements of each program.
- 986 • Cultural organizations will be able to update their program information on the roster at least
- 987 annually.
- 988 • New cultural organizations will be able to add programs to the roster at least annually.

989 **Process for Data Collection and Delivery to Public Schools and Cultural Organizations**

990 The process for data collection to populate the roster of cultural organizations to partner with schools,
 991 which will include the following steps:

- 992 1. Outreach to cultural organizations to submit entries for the roster
 - 993 a. 4Culture will put out a call for submissions using 4Culture's cultural organizations list
 - 994 and lists of current partners provided by schools and districts during school stakeholder
 - 995 engagement
 - 996 b. Cultural organizations will fill out an automated form to establish eligibility. If they are
 - 997 found eligible, they will proceed to a submission form where they input data to
 - 998 populate the roster. (see #3)
- 999 2. Cultural organization school partner eligibility
 - 1000 a. Meet all cultural organizational structural requirements for Doors Open
 - 1001 b. Align with at least one of the discipline definitions
 - 1002 c. Provide a minimum of one Public Benefit
 - 1003 d. Provide a minimum of one Equity Inclusion Public Benefit and/or a minimum of one
 - 1004 Geographic Inclusion Public Benefit
 - 1005 e. Must agree to meet all the partnership requirements of the district with which the
 - 1006 program is occurring. Examples of district requirements may include staff background
 - 1007 checks and required liability insurance.
- 1008 3. Roster Data Collection
 - 1009 a. Eligible cultural organizations will provide organization and program information
 - 1010 through an online portal on the 4Culture website.
 - 1011 b. Prior to the initial launch of the roster, cultural organizations will have a minimum of
 - 1012 five weeks to complete their data to allow sufficient time to gather required
 - 1013 information. During this time, technical assistance will be available on the website,
 - 1014 through online webinars, and through email and phone support from 4Culture staff.

- 1015 c. Organization and program information for the roster will include [Note that additional
1016 fields may be added based on continuing stakeholder engagement with teachers and
1017 district staff.]:
- 1018 i. Cultural organization name,
 - 1019 ii. Discipline: Science, Arts, Heritage, Historical Preservation
 - 1020 iii. Sub-discipline, such as Biology, Engineering, Dance, Music, History,
 - 1021 iv. List of school districts and tribal schools that they serve,
 - 1022 v. Grade levels they serve,
 - 1023 vi. Program name (cultural organizations will be able to list multiple programs as
1024 needed),
 - 1025 vii. Program type (field trip, in-school single performance/event, in-school
1026 residency),
 - 1027 viii. Program description,
 - 1028 ix. Alignment to state curriculum standards, if applicable,
 - 1029 x. Student time needed for program,
 - 1030 xi. Educator planning time needed for program,
 - 1031 xii. Number of students program can accommodate,
 - 1032 xiii. Languages available for learning experiences,
 - 1033 xiv. Experience with special education students,
 - 1034 xv. Accessibility features available for program such as ASL interpretation,
1035 wheelchair accessibility, assistive technology,
 - 1036 xvi. Race/ethnicity/accessibility information about program staff,
 - 1037 xvii. Estimated cost of program (for 4Culture, not visible to schools)
 - 1038 xviii. Cultural organization's contact information
 - 1039 xix. Link to program registration
 - 1040 xx. Downloaded program information such as photos, videos, case studies, lesson
1041 plan.
- 1042 4. Cultural organizations also need information about schools in King County.
- 1043 a. Some information about schools can be uploaded annually from the Office of the
1044 Superintendent for Public Instruction and other information will have to be obtained
1045 from schools via survey.
 - 1046 b. Survey information is marked with an asterisk. Cultural organizations will be able to
1047 search and filter for specific types of schools.
 - 1048 i. School name
 - 1049 ii. District
 - 1050 iii. Principal
 - 1051 iv. Address, phone number
 - 1052 v. Grades in school
 - 1053 vi. Size of school
 - 1054 vii. If school is eligible for free transportation for off-site cultural programs.
 - 1055 viii. Students' percentages for race/ethnicity, languages spoken, free and reduced
1056 lunch status, students experiencing homelessness, special education
 - 1057 ix. If there is a partnership liaison, their name and contact information*
 - 1058 x. Link to school website*

1059 **Goals and Priorities for Funding for Cultural Education Programs**

1060 The cultural education programs funding structure is designed with a goal of sustaining, deepening, and
1061 extending cultural education partnerships between cultural organizations and schools. Many King

1062 County cultural organizations already provide engaging and rigorous education programs. Doors Open
1063 Program moneys will ensure that existing partnerships with schools can be sustained through the
1064 budget reductions that many schools are currently facing. Doors Open Program moneys will expand
1065 access to additional schools to bring existing cultural programs to their students, and over time will
1066 enable cultural organizations to build out new education programs to provide more access to King
1067 County public school students. Just as in the establishment of the roster, 4Culture will work to provide
1068 support to educators and cultural organizations to reduce barriers to accessing the benefits of the
1069 program. 4Culture's recently hired Cultural Education Program Manager will be a resource for
1070 matchmaking between educators and cultural organizations and for technical assistance in developing
1071 partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

1072 **Priorities**

1073 The cultural education programs funding structure is designed to ensure that:

- 1074 • Schools and cultural organizations clearly communicate and develop shared learning goals and a
1075 program plan to ensure that students' learning needs are met.
- 1076 • 4Culture gathers relevant data to improve processes for schools and cultural organizations over
1077 time and to study the impact of increasing cultural education access on students and
1078 communities.

1079 **Process**

- 1080 1. Once a teacher or other school staff contacts a cultural organization to initiate a partnership, the
1081 organization and the teacher will complete a brief online memorandum of understanding (MOU).
1082 Technical assistance from 4Culture is available to both find relevant cultural organizations and
1083 complete the MOU. The MOU form will be accessible from the 4Culture website. The MOU will
1084 gather data that will be used in the grant application such as the type of learning experience, the
1085 school, and how many students will be served. The MOU must be signed by a representative from
1086 the cultural organization, the public-school educator, and a school administrator (principal or
1087 assistant principal), or school district representative.
- 1088 2. After an MOU is signed, the cultural organization will apply via an online portal to 4Culture for a
1089 grant.
- 1090 3. To be responsive to school scheduling needs, 4Culture will design a panel review process with timing
1091 that ensures responsiveness and flexibility. Feedback from the cultural organizations and school
1092 stakeholders will inform the design.
- 1093 4. Upon completion of the MOU scope of work, a brief survey will automatically be sent to the teacher
1094 and the cultural organization r to confirm that the partnership occurred and gather feedback for
1095 partnership and process improvements.
- 1096 5. The cultural organization will submit an invoice for reimbursement of the cost of the program.

1097 **Goals and Priorities for Funding Public School Transportation**

1098 In accordance with RCW 82.14.525, school districts with at least 40% of the student population eligible
1099 for federal free and reduced-price school meals (FRL) will have access to transportation funding to
1100 attend programs and activities. Because transportation costs have been identified as a barrier for
1101 schools to student access to field trips, 4Culture's priority is that all schools with 40% FRL or higher are
1102 eligible for transportation funds, regardless of their district, receive free transportation for cultural
1103 education field trips.

- 1104 • All school districts with 40% or more FRL rates have access to transportation funds. This applies
- 1105 to 189 schools in 8 districts (Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Muckleshoot Tribal School,
- 1106 Renton, Skykomish, Tukwila)
- 1107 • If there are sufficient funds, we will include all schools with 40% or more FRL rates to have
- 1108 access to transportation funds, even if the district in which the school is located does not have
- 1109 an overall district rate of 40% or more FRL. This applies to 68 schools in 8 additional districts.
- 1110 The school districts and school count in each district are: – Bellevue (6), Enumclaw (1), Issaquah
- 1111 (2), Lake Washington (1), Northshore (2), Seattle (46), Shoreline (4), and Vashon (1).
- 1112 • If there are sufficient funds, we will include all schools in all districts that face significantly higher
- 1113 transportation costs due to distance from cultural centers.
- 1114 • Process for reserving bus transportation is clear and streamlined for teachers.
- 1115 • Process for receiving payment for transportation by district or bus company is clear and reliable.

1116 **Process for Delivery of Transportation Funds**

1117 The 19 King County school districts use a variety of transportation models. Some districts own and

1118 operate their own fleet of busses, while others contract with a bussing company. Through stakeholder

1119 engagement with district transportation leaders, 4Culture will design a system so that teachers in each

1120 district can request bus transportation in the method that is appropriate for their district and the district

1121 or bus company can invoice 4Culture for the cost. 4Culture’s Finance and Legal teams will also be

1122 engaged in the design of the delivery process.

1123 **Tentative Program Timeline, 2024-2025**

May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
School stakeholder engagement; refine roster + transportation design									
	Cultural organizations stakeholder engagement								
		Website + roster design requirements complete	Website + roster built						
					- Beta test website w/ school staff + cultural organizations - Hire Public Schools Cultural Access Program Manager	Cultural organizations submit roster info		- Soft launch website, roster to schools - Monthly panel review begins	Launch event for district and school staff in person at a cultural organization space

1124 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1125 4Culture’s communication strategy includes a stakeholder engagement component for the 2024

1126 planning year and a communications plan component for the 2025 launch of the Doors Open Public

1127 Schools Cultural Access Program.

1128 **2024 Stakeholder Engagement for Public Schools Cultural Access Program Design**

1129 The goals of Public Schools Program stakeholder engagement approach are to:

- 1130 • Understand the current barriers across the districts to school and district partnerships with
1131 science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation organizations.
- 1132 • Identify what has worked well to inform required functions for the roster and the funding
1133 partnership mechanism.
- 1134 • Identify the information schools need in a roster to serve their curricular needs as well as the
1135 needs of their specific populations of students, including information about races/ethnicities of
1136 staff, languages spoken, accessibility, experience with special education students, and
1137 geographies served.
- 1138 • Identify the barriers that cultural organizations have in forming and maintaining partnerships
1139 with schools and how Doors Open’s design could help mitigate those barriers to strengthen
1140 public education partnerships.
- 1141 • Identify the information that science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation organizations
1142 need about schools and what tools they may need to access that information.

1143 *Stakeholders and engagement methods:*

- 1144 • District Superintendents
 - 1145 ○ Goals: To build their understanding of Doors Open and 4Culture and to obtain their
 - 1146 support in engaging with other district staff.
 - 1147 ○ Methods: Utilize Puget Sound Educational Services District as an existing touchpoint.
- 1148 • District Curriculum Managers and Teachers on Assignment for science, visual and performing
1149 arts, social studies (including ethnic studies and Native American studies) language arts, Career
1150 and Technical Education
 - 1151 ○ Goal: Understand what information school staff needs related to content and curriculum
 - 1152 to make a partnership choice.
 - 1153 ○ Methods: Online focus groups, by content area or geography.
- 1154 • School and Community Partnerships and Engagement Managers
 - 1155 ○ Goals: Identify barriers to partnership and what schools and educators need to
 - 1156 encourage partnership at a systems level. Identify existing partnerships with science,
 - 1157 arts, and heritage organizations.
 - 1158 ○ Methods: 1-1 conversations, on-line focus group.
- 1159 • Teachers and other school staff who make partnership decisions
 - 1160 ○ Goals: Identify barriers and needs. Identify existing successful partnership models. Beta
 - 1161 testing for website and on-line roster.
 - 1162 ○ Methods: On-line focus groups with stipends provided for work outside of the school
 - 1163 day. May be grouped elementary/secondary, geography, content areas.
- 1164 • Transportation Managers
 - 1165 ○ Goals: Understand the cost and process for funding school transportation to cultural
 - 1166 partner facilities.
 - 1167 ○ Methods: 1-1 interviews.
- 1168 • Science, Arts, Heritage, Historic Preservation Education Cultural Organizations:
 - 1169 ○ Goals: Gather functionality needed for roster and funding mechanism from a partner
 - 1170 perspective.

1171 ○ Method: Focus groups with a variety of types, organization sizes, and locations.

1172 **2025 Public Schools Cultural Access Launch**

1173 There will be three main strands of communication: district and school staff, cultural organizations and
1174 the King County general public.

1175 ***Communications with Districts and Schools***

1176 **Goal:** Inform district and school staff about the program and give them a consistent easy way to access
1177 the roster

1178 **Message:** Partnering with King County science, arts, and heritage community organizations will increase
1179 student engagement, expand the breadth and depth of student learning, and bridge cultural gaps.

1180 Through Doors Open, there are hundreds of no-cost programs with King County science, arts, and
1181 heritage community organizations and free field trip transportation is available to many schools.

1182 **Strategies:** Work with school district communications departments to add persistent links on district and
1183 school staff web pages. District staff eNews, emails via curriculum managers. In-person launch event at a
1184 cultural partner space.

1185 ***Communications with Cultural Organization about Public School Cultural Access Program***

1186 **Goal:** Inform science, arts, heritage, and historic preservation cultural organizations about the funding
1187 and roster opportunities.

1188 **Message:** More than \$10M is available annually to provide free science, arts and heritage education
1189 programs to King County public school and tribal school students. This is an opportunity to sustain,
1190 deepen and extend cultural education to students across the county.

1191 **Strategy:** Email outreach through 4Culture’s existing cultural organizations list augmented by
1192 organizations that schools report already partnering with. Webinars and technical assistance by 4Culture
1193 staff to provide information and answer questions.

1194 ***Communications with Public***

1195 **Goal:** Raise awareness of Doors Open Public Schools Cultural Access Program in the general public,
1196 especially those connected to public education (students, families, school staff)

1197 **Message:** Partnering with King County science, arts, and heritage community organizations will increase
1198 student engagement, expand the breadth and depth of student learning, and bridge cultural gaps.

1199 Through Doors Open, there are hundreds of no-cost programs with King County science, arts, and
1200 heritage community organizations and free field trip transportation is available to many schools.

1201 **Strategy:** Media campaign that includes an in-person event for school leaders, educators, students,
1202 families, cultural organizations and media to raise public and educator awareness of the program.

1203

1204 **Table of role descriptions: school districts, cultural orgs, 4Culture**

School Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform program design [transportation managers, curriculum managers] • Support communication about program to school staff [communication managers]
School Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform program design through focus groups and beta testing, pre- and post-launch • Utilize cultural organization roster to arrange programs for students • Collaborate with cultural organization to plan programs and complete no-cost partnership agreement (or MOU) • Implement cultural learning programs with partnering cultural organization • Complete brief post-partnership survey
Cultural Organization Education Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform program design through focus groups and beta testing, pre- and post-launch • Provide data to populate roster with organizational and education program details • Assign staff to monitor school program requests • Collaborate with requesting school staff to plan programs and complete no-cost partnership agreement (or MOU) • Implement cultural learning programs with school staff • Complete brief post-partnership survey • Receive funds
4Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct stakeholder engagement with staff from schools and cultural organizations to inform program design. • Design, implement and maintain website, roster, funding mechanisms for transportation and cultural organizations. • Create conditions to foster positive, long-term relationships between schools and cultural organizations.

1205 **Public Benefit Reporting for Public Schools Cultural Access Program**

1206 Doors Open Public School Cultural Access Program grant recipients are required to meet at least one
 1207 general Public Benefit requirement and one Equity or Geographic Inclusion Benefit requirement. Of
 1208 these, the most relevant to the Public Schools Cultural Access Program are:

- 1209 • Providing cultural educational programs and experiences at a cultural organization's own
 1210 facilities or in schools or other cultural facilities or venues; (GENERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT)
- 1211 • Providing arts, science, heritage, and historic preservation career building opportunities for
 1212 youth through internships and apprenticeships or other means; (GENERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT)

- 1213 • Providing free access to curriculum-related arts, science, heritage and historic preservation
- 1214 programs for public school students throughout the county at school and at cultural sites with
- 1215 emphasis on underserved students; (EQUITY INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1216 • Providing cultural programming to communities outside the city in which a cultural organization
- 1217 is primarily located, either directly or in partnership with other cultural organizations, or public
- 1218 schools, or through other means. (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)

1219
 1220 Data on Public Benefits will be collected through the MOU that the cultural organizations and schools
 1221 complete to receive funding. Public Benefits data will include data that illustrates the immediate
 1222 benefits of programs to King County public school students and staff as well as benefits for the cultural
 1223 organizations. 4Culture will also gather data to show the longer-term benefits of engaging in learning
 1224 through community partnerships with cultural organizations to King County students and communities.

1225 ***Metrics related to benefits to public school students include:***

- 1226 • Number of students participating in programs by program type, category, discipline
- 1227 • Number of students participating in programs by school FRL rate (EQUITY INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1228 • Number of students participating in programs by county council district, Zip Code, school district
- 1229 (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1230 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations for education programs by school, school
- 1231 district, schools where at least 40% of students are eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch
- 1232 program (FRL)

1233 ***Metrics related to benefits to public schools and staff include:***

- 1234 • Number of schools, classes participating in programs by program type, category, discipline
- 1235 • Number of schools, classes participating in programs by school FRL rate (EQUITY INCLUSION
- 1236 BENEFIT)
- 1237 • Number of schools, classes participating in programs by county council district, Zip Code, school
- 1238 district (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1239 • Number of busses and amounts paid to school districts for transportation by district, school,
- 1240 county council district
- 1241 • Number of professional development programs by school, district, cultural category, discipline
- 1242 • Number of teachers participating in professional development by school, district, cultural
- 1243 category, discipline

1244 ***Metrics related to benefits to cultural organizations include:***

- 1245 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations by program type, category, discipline
- 1246 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations by organization size, demographics of
- 1247 leaders, staff (EQUITY INCLUSION BENEFIT)
- 1248 • Application and award levels to cultural organizations by county council district, Zip Code, school
- 1249 district, school (GEOGRAPHIC INCLUSION BENEFIT)

1250 ***Metrics to understand Doors Open’s impact and to inform improvements to the Doors Open Public***
 1251 ***School Cultural Access Program include:***

- 1252 • Number of cultural organizations that are listed on the roster by category (science, arts, heritage
- 1253 and historic preservation) and discipline (e.g., zoology, computer science, music, theatre)

- 1254 • Number of educational programs listed by type (field trip, in school), category, discipline,
- 1255 • Traffic to roster
- 1256
- 1257 Additional metrics to grow understanding of the impact of programs on students will be added after
- 1258 consulting with evaluation staff.

1259 **C. Public Free Access**

1260 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1261 The Public Free Access program aims to reduce the
 1262 significant barrier that admission fees pose to
 1263 many King County residents, particularly
 1264 underserved communities, in accessing quality,
 1265 relevant cultural and science experiences.
 1266 Reimbursements are provided to cultural
 1267 organizations to help cover the costs of providing
 1268 free and reduced cost programming throughout
 1269 the year.

Public Free Access

Estimated annual funding: \$14.6 million

Objective: Increase access to cultural offerings

Strategy: Reimburse cultural organizations for free and reduced-cost access experiences

Key Reporting Metric: Number of free and/or reduced cost attendants, Number of awardees and total funding over time by geography (Zip Code and Council district)

1270 **Program Criteria**

1271 Grants may be used to support free and reduced cost attendance at arts, heritage, historic preservation,
 1272 or science experiences that meet the following criteria:

- 1273 • Mission-based and meaningfully engages the attendee in the mission.
- 1274 • Provides an identical experience to attendees paying a standard fee.
- 1275 • Produced by the applicant organization.
- 1276 • Open and advertised to the general public without restriction or limitation by invitation, such
- 1277 that anyone who wishes to visit/attend/participate/purchase a ticket may do so.
- 1278 • In-person at venues in King County where head counts are taken and recorded.

1279 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1280 Maintaining a focus on equitable access to funding, the Public Free Access program minimizes the
 1281 burden of applying by automatically pre-qualifying current Doors Open Sustained Support grant
 1282 recipients, if they meet all other program eligibility requirements. The Sustained Support panel process
 1283 effectively serves as the panel process for Public Free Access grants, meaning that being awarded an
 1284 operating support grant for the current year provides eligibility to apply for a Public Free Access
 1285 program grant for the same year if the applicant provides cultural experiences consistent with the
 1286 program criteria and guidelines.

1287 Applicants are required to complete a short application providing necessary information, including but
 1288 not necessarily limited to the following items:

- 1289 • Number of free and reduced cost attendance and total other paid attendance provided by the
- 1290 applicant during the previous calendar year.
- 1291 • How attendance was counted.

- 1292 • What documentation of the attendance is preserved.
- 1293 • List of the cultural experiences in the current calendar year the applicant plans to offer free or
- 1294 reduced cost participation.
- 1295 • How the applicant will prioritize providing free or reduced cost access to cultural experiences for
- 1296 members of King County's underserved communities.

1297 Public Free Access grants for the current year are based on the free and reduced cost attendance
 1298 provided in the previous calendar year that meets the program criteria and guidelines.

1299 In addition, applicants, located outside Seattle, located in, and primarily serving a King County
 1300 Community of Opportunity, with the smallest operating budgets, and/or other indicators correlated with
 1301 a limited access to funding, receive an equity investment increasing the grant amount over and above
 1302 what would have been awarded otherwise. The increased grant amount for equity can only be used to
 1303 support free and reduced cost programming.

1304 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1305 To receive reimbursement, all Public Free Access recipients provide documentation on the number of
 1306 free and/or reduced cost attendance provided. This reporting metric is collected by 4Culture for annual
 1307 reporting and is evidence of the General Public Benefit and Equity and Geographic Inclusion Benefit
 1308 requirements.

1309 **D. Building for Equity**

1310 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1311 The Doors Open allocation for Building for Equity
 1312 encompasses 4Culture’s facilities, facility-focused
 1313 capacity building, and other capital grant
 1314 programs. 4Culture’s current Building for Equity
 1315 initiative was built to center communities that have
 1316 historically faced barriers to purchasing and
 1317 stewarding cultural space, and provides a
 1318 combination of funding, tailored support, and
 1319 strategic partnerships.

1320 Through Building for Equity, 4Culture's priority is to
 1321 act as a "first-in" funder for capital facility projects.
 1322 By providing funding for new projects, 4Culture is
 1323 able to play a unique role in catalyzing
 1324 development of cultural infrastructure, enabling
 1325 projects to move from conception to reality, and
 1326 helping cultural organizations leverage additional
 1327 resources. Many cultural sector funders focus on close-out or "cross-the-line" investments, so by serving
 1328 as a "first-in" funder, 4Culture is fulfilling a gap in cultural funding. Additionally, because the Building for
 1329 Equity program has an annual application cycle, once a project has gotten off the ground, a grantee can
 1330 continue applying year after year until project completion.

Building for Equity

Estimated annual funding: \$9.7 million

Objective: To support cultural building projects and create a pathway to equitable facilities funding.

Strategies:

- Provide funding for cultural and science organizations to acquire, build, and renovate buildings, to purchase equipment
- support organizational capacity building for meeting facility goals
- Foster equitable development throughout all corners of King County

Key Reporting Metric: Number and type of projects funded over time by geography (Zip Code and Council district)

1331 Doors Open will enable 4Culture’s existing Building for Equity funding programs to grow. A new program
1332 will be initiated, focusing on facilities that serve Native communities and share Native cultures.

1333 The Doors Open Building for Equity allocation will also bring additional resources and a renewed focus
1334 on equitable funding strategies in 4Culture’s Equipment, Landmarks Capital, and Emergency/Unforeseen
1335 Capital programs.

1336 Building for Equity includes the following programs.

1337 **Building for Equity: Facilities** provides funding for building, remodeling, and buying specialized space
1338 that houses and facilitates cultural work in King County. Cultural Facilities grants are available to eligible
1339 King County-based nonprofit cultural organizations with a demonstrated long-term control of physical
1340 site. Two specialized programs beneath this include:

1341 **Anchoring Community** for facility projects with budgets larger than \$10 million, and

1342 **Native Cultural Facilities** supports projects including land acquisition, renovations, and new
1343 construction that advances the preservation, expression, and vitality of Native culture.

1344 **Building for Equity: Program Development** (formerly called Capacity Building) invests in a cultural
1345 organization’s development, allowing them to secure their long-term facility needs. These grants may
1346 fund a wide range of activities that increase a cultural organization’s capability to advocate and plan for,
1347 fundraise for, lease, acquire, repair, remodel, and/or construct space suitable for their programming in a
1348 sustainable, long-term manner.

1349 **Equipment** funds the purchase and installation of equipment that can be considered as fixed assets,
1350 including computer hardware.

1351 **Landmarks Capital** funds rehabilitation of designated historic landmark properties in King County that
1352 are owned and/or stewarded by eligible Doors Open cultural organizations.

1353 **Emergency/Unforeseen grants** meet a wide variety of unexpected facility needs for cultural
1354 organizations, and our funds are only available for actual costs incurred to repair or renovate cultural
1355 spaces.

1356 **Program Criteria**

1357 **Building for Equity: Facilities** criteria for facility projects with budgets of \$10 million and under include
1358 Quality and Qualifications, Feasibility, Project Impact, and Public Benefit, Economic Impact, Community
1359 Impact, and Advancing Equity. Funding levels will be determined during the funding process based on
1360 revenue availability and applicant need.

1361 **Building for Equity: Anchoring Community** criteria for facility projects with budgets larger than \$10
1362 million include Quality and Qualifications, Feasibility, Project Impact and Public Benefit, Economic
1363 Impact, Community Impact, and Advancing Equity. An additional eligibility requirement is a
1364 demonstrated commitment to Equity in Development and Construction Practices. Funding levels will be
1365 determined during the funding process based on revenue availability and applicant need.

1366 **Building for Equity: Project Development** criteria include Quality and Qualifications, Feasibility, Impact
1367 and Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Advancing Equity. An additional eligibility requirement
1368 for Capacity Building applicants is being located in a Community of Opportunity or outside of Seattle; or
1369 the organization’s primary mission or programs must support historically marginalized communities.

1370 **Equipment** criteria include Quality, Feasibility, Project Impact, Economic Impact, Community Impact,
1371 and Advancing Equity.

1372 **Native Cultural Facilities** funding criteria are currently under development. A Native Cultural Facilities
1373 Advisory Council is working with 4Culture staff to refine funding criteria. The Advisory Council is a group
1374 of five community-based professionals with deep ties or personal experience with the Native
1375 community, experience in community-based projects, equitable funding platforms or grant-making
1376 program development, neighborhood, community, and/or facility project development, and cultural
1377 organizations.

1378 **Landmarks Capital** criteria include Quality, Feasibility, Public Benefit, Economic Impact, Advancing
1379 Equity, Community Impact, and Program Priorities. The Program Priorities criterion allows the
1380 Landmarks Capital program to adapt to time-sensitive needs and specific gaps in funding for historic
1381 preservation. Additionally, the project must focus on the rehabilitation of a designated landmark
1382 property.

1383 **Emergency/Unforeseen** criteria include Quality, Feasibility, Community Impact, and Project Impact and
1384 Public Benefit. Additionally, projects must meet eligibility criteria as follows:

1385 Emergency:

- 1386 • A pressing situation that would cause a facility or landmark to be threatened, or to suffer severe
1387 economic consequences due to conditions outside of the applicant's control.
- 1388 • A threat to the safety of patrons or staff.
- 1389 • A catastrophic event or natural disaster.

1390

1391 Unforeseen Opportunity:

- 1392 • An opportunity that was not available at the time of the last application deadline and that will
1393 no longer be available to the applicant by the next application deadline.
- 1394 • Will allow an organization an unexpected opportunity to significantly advance its goals and
1395 mission.

1396 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1397 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
1398 [section](#). Each grant program and cycle have a different pool of applicants and projects. Grant
1399 recommendations for Building for Equity Facilities, Building for Equity Capacity Building, Equipment, and
1400 Landmarks Capital funding are made by separate panels.

1401 The application and review process for Native Cultural Facilities funding is currently under development
1402 under the guidance of a Native Advisory Council.

1403 4Culture sets aside a limited amount of capital grant funding for Emergencies and Unforeseen
1404 Opportunities, outside of the regular grant cycle. Applications for Emergency/Unforeseen Opportunity
1405 funding are reviewed by the relevant 4Culture Advisory Committee in advance of their regular meeting,
1406 and typically the applicant joins the committee for an interview. Advisory Committee members evaluate
1407 whether the project meets 4Culture's definition of an Emergency or Unforeseen Opportunity, and they
1408 consider the project's merits using the criteria of Quality, Feasibility, Equity, and Public Benefit. Grant
1409 payments are made upon request for reimbursement for qualifying expenses; the applicant must submit
1410 copies of their invoices to 4Culture to document the expenses. While the emphasis of Building for

1411 Equity is "first-in" funding, 4Culture may reimburse grant recipients for project costs incurred up to two
1412 years prior to the application date, but not for any expenses incurred prior to January 1, 2024.

1413 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1414 Most of 4Culture’s capital grant programs are well-established, and 4Culture's networks and
1415 communication strategies employ a racial equity lens to target outreach to underserved communities
1416 and encourage them to apply for funding.

1417 Outreach is focused on underrepresented communities based on prior award and applicant pool
1418 demographics. Guided by 4Culture’s Communications priorities, these efforts include open application
1419 periods of 6-8 weeks; at least three workshops sharing guidelines, criteria, and the application process;
1420 and engagement including communication in multiple languages to broad-based community networks
1421 and media outlets within 4Culture’s network.

1422 A special focus will be on reaching and engaging Science and Technology cultural organizations that are
1423 newly eligible for Building for Equity Facilities, Building for Equity Capacity Building, Equipment, and
1424 Emergency/Unforeseen programs.

1425 In addition, 4Culture’s Native Advisory Council will advise on outreach and engagement strategies for
1426 the Native Cultural Facilities program.

1427 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1428 **Anchoring Community** grants require cultural organizations provide arts, culture, science and/or
1429 heritage programs, services, or opportunities as a public benefit for a period of at least 10-years as
1430 specified in the agreement governing the award.

1431 During that time, as public health regulations permit, the public will regularly have access to the cultural
1432 organization’s facility or primary location and will benefit from participation in specific arts, culture,
1433 science and/or heritage opportunities provided by the cultural organization.

1434 The cultural organization must widely publicize its public benefit performances, events and programs
1435 throughout King County and track the number of public benefit events and audiences served by such
1436 programs.

1437 As part of the public benefit to be provided by this grant, cultural organizations agree to participate in a
1438 cohort focused on equitable development practices. The goal of this cohort is to implement, measure,
1439 and evaluate equitable development practices throughout the planning, development and/or
1440 construction a facility project in a peer learning setting. Facilitated by 4Culture’s team this cohort will
1441 meet regularly for a duration of 3 years including an annual presentation of goals, outcomes, and
1442 practices in a Community of Practice with equitable development practitioners in King County.

1443 Additionally, grantees agree to participate in a quantifiable Space Contribution program facilitated by
1444 4Culture. The intent of this program is to encourage resource-sharing and partnership between Building
1445 for Equity constituents. The grantee will offer free access to technical assistance, use of facility space or
1446 other equivalent benefits over a designated period with a Building for Equity Project Development or
1447 Launch grantee.

1448 **Building for Equity Capacity Building** grants require cultural organizations provide the following
1449 potential cultural opportunities as public health regulations permit:

- 1450 • Regularly scheduled cultural programs produced by the cultural organization offered to King
1451 County residents and visitors, either live or through virtual means.
- 1452 • Access to special events or educational programs offered by the cultural organization.
- 1453 • Participation/engagement of the cultural organization’s staff, board and/or volunteers in
1454 training that prepares them to better serve their community and increase their skills in planning
1455 for and managing capital projects.

1456 The cultural organization must widely share its public benefit performances, events, and programs
1457 throughout King County and track the number of public benefit events and audiences served by such
1458 programs.

1459 **Equipment** grants require cultural organizations to provide the following types of potential
1460 opportunities to the public, with the equipment over a period of at least 10 years:

- 1461 • Regularly scheduled free or pay-what-you-can access to rehearsals, previews and/or
1462 performances; or historic space, exhibits, and/or programs enabled by the equipment supported
1463 by this grant.
- 1464 • Regularly scheduled free or reduced-price admission to displays or collections enabled by using
1465 the equipment supported by this grant.
- 1466 • Regularly scheduled public programs produced by the grantee and offered to King County
1467 residents and visitors at other sites.
- 1468 • Access to educational programs produced by the grantee that are targeted to underserved King
1469 County populations such as students, senior citizens, or vulnerable populations as defined by
1470 Ordinance 19710.

1471
1472 The **Landmarks Capital** program’s public benefit centers on the rehabilitation and long-term
1473 stewardship of designated landmarks. A cultural organization that receives a Landmarks Capital grant
1474 must agree to maintain the property as landmark in perpetuity, and to maintain the property in good
1475 condition for a minimum of 10 years. The recipient must abide by local historic preservation regulations,
1476 which typically include a requirement for design review of any proposed changes, and adherence to the
1477 Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

1478 **Emergency/Unforeseen** public benefit varies slightly by program area but parallels the public benefit
1479 requirements of Building for Equity Facilities and Landmarks Capital programs.

1480 **E. Countywide Initiatives**

1481 Countywide Initiatives will support cultural
1482 workforce and career development for King
1483 County's cultural practitioners through
1484 funding to cultural organization that provide
1485 "cultural support services." Cultural support
1486 services are investments in people, without
1487 whom the cultural sector would not exist. A
1488 healthy workforce will strengthen the arts
1489 and culture ecosystem and, in turn, improve
1490 the cultural experience available to the
1491 residents and visitors of King County and
1492 revitalize communities.

1493 Countywide initiatives will use the framework
1494 of cultural support services to support
1495 cultural practitioners. Cultural support
1496 services refer to the constellation of
1497 programs, resources, and networks that support capacity building for cultural organizations and cultural
1498 practitioners in King County.

- 1499 • **Capacity building** is the generation of resources or support intended to help an organization,
1500 group, or individual enhance their ability to fulfill their mission or purpose (i.e., any activity or
1501 support that is focused on the success and sustainability of an organization or the practitioner
1502 rather than specific programs.)
- 1503 • **Cultural practitioners** are the collection of artists; administrators, professionals, and volunteers
1504 of cultural institutions and culture-focused public agencies; owners or stewards of historic
1505 structures and landscapes; culture bearers; technical specialists; and creative professionals and
1506 workers with specialized skills needed in the cultural ecosystem.

1507 4Culture has historically played a supporting role in cultural support services, though it may not have
1508 considered this an explicit function of the organization. Studies by ArtsFund, 4Culture, and others
1509 between 2018 and 2022 highlight a need for a more systemic and sustained approach to cultural
1510 support services to enable the cultural sector to thrive during the regional affordability crisis.²³ In 2020,
1511 understanding and providing a systemic approach to cultural support services for individual practitioners
1512 was included as one of King County's Cultural Plan Goals: "Foster racial equity, agency, and collaboration
1513 for cultural practitioners to build a stronger cultural sector." The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the
1514 need greatly, shuttering many venues, pushing cultural practitioners out of the region, and creating
1515 social and creative isolation.

Countywide Initiatives

Estimated annual funding: \$6.8 million

Objective: Support regional initiatives for cultural workforce development

Strategies:

- Multi-year project-based funding for organizations providing cultural support services for cultural practitioners
- Support for cultural workforce and career development

Key Reporting Metric: Number and location (Zip Code and Council district) of cultural support providing programs; Number of participants completing the programming and/or service by geography (Zip Code and Council district)

²³ ArtsFund Social Impact Study, 2018; King County 4Culture Task Force Report, 2018; 4Culture Cultural Health Study, 2021; and Puget Sound Regional Council's Arts and Culture Economic Recovery Strategy, 2022.

1516 **Cultural support services, Post-Pandemic**

1517 A landscape scan of cultural support services conducted
1518 by BERK Consulting in 2023 found that cultural support
1519 services offerings are most challenged by funding and
1520 staffing constraints among cultural support services
1521 providers. Cultural support services are most robust in
1522 Seattle where providers are concentrated, and where
1523 funding and programming is augmented by the City of
1524 Seattle. Cultural support services opportunities are often
1525 found through social media or through word-of-mouth,
1526 and there is no accepted countywide hub for
1527 communication of opportunities.

1528 Cultural support services offerings 4Culture is best
1529 equipped to support include:

1530 **Pathways.** Training, education, and skill-building
1531 opportunities that are affordable and accessible across
1532 career stages, disciplines, and regions.

1533 **Community-building.** Cultural practitioners want
1534 community building and mentorship, such as
1535 cooperatives or communities of practice to connect with
1536 other cultural practitioners.

1537 **Professional services.** Individual cultural practitioners need professional services such as legal counsel,
1538 professional photography and marketing, trademarking, and tax advice. These services, when available,
1539 may not be tailored to the unique needs of cultural workers or affordable.

1540 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1541 Countywide Initiatives will help 4Culture provide transformative funding to cultural organizations that
1542 provide cultural support services to support cultural workforce development for cultural practitioners in
1543 all disciplines and throughout the county. Countywide Initiatives funds will provide multiyear project-
1544 based grants to increase capacity for cultural support services providers to support individual
1545 practitioners of all cultural disciplines. Additionally, 4Culture will develop a cultural support roster to
1546 connect cultural support service providers to cultural practitioners.

1547 **Program Criteria**

1548 The recipients of cultural support service grant funding will be:

- 1549 • Cultural organizations with a primary purpose to provide programs, resources, and networks
1550 that support capacity building for cultural organizations and cultural practitioners in King
1551 County.
- 1552 • Cultural organizations that provide or would like to provide cultural support services, but do not
1553 include it as their primary mission focus. For projects proposed by these cultural organizations
1554 (that are not primarily field service providers), the proposed project must benefit more than the
1555 staff, membership, or audience of the applicant organization.

**Examples of Cultural Support
Service Providers in King
County**

- Artist Trust
- Shunpike
- Arte Noir
- Maple Valley Creative Arts Council
- African American Writer's Alliance
- Centro Cultural Mexicano
- Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
- Historic Seattle
- yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective
- Ethnic Heritage Council
- Museum Educators of Puget Sound
- TeenTix

1557 Countywide Initiatives will prioritize support for cultural organizations and projects that are (1) based or
1558 will take place outside of Seattle and support diversity in geography, (2) in a Community of Opportunity,
1559 or (3) serving vulnerable populations, for funding and support.

1560 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1561 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
1562 [section](#). Grant contract terms will be at least 3 years, to allow for appropriate length of planning before
1563 implementation and help sustain projects for one or two interactions.

1564 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1565 4Culture conducted extensive outreach in the development of Countywide Initiatives. In addition to
1566 working across all advisory committees, 4Culture partnered with eight organizations throughout the
1567 county to gain insight from the cultural practitioners they serve. In April 2024, 4Culture hosted a
1568 community convening for all cultural support services partners involved in the development of the
1569 cultural support services landscape scan to provide additional review and feedback.

1570 Partner organizations for the early development of Countywide Initiatives includes:

- 1571 • African American Writer's Alliance
- 1572 • Centro Cultural Mexicano
- 1573 • Festal
- 1574 • King County Historic Preservation Program
- 1575 • Maple Valley Arts Council
- 1576 • Powerful Voices
- 1577 • Wing Luke Museum YouthCAN
- 1578 • yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective

1579 In 2025, 4Culture will run an open roster call to ensure we connect with as many cultural support
1580 services providers in the county as possible. We will target grant outreach to known cultural support
1581 services providers from the 2024 landscape scan and new providers, with an emphasis on communities
1582 often underfunded by 4Culture. Like our other programs, 4Culture will offer digital and non-digital
1583 engagement to assist potential applicants with understanding the program and technical assistance
1584 throughout the application process.

1585 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1586 Recipients of Countywide Initiatives funding will report on how funding helped with implementation of
1587 capacity-building projects or activities to support cultural practitioners. Data collected will include:

- 1588 • Number of programs and/or services provided
- 1589 • Number/attendance for practitioners that participated in their cultural organization's
1590 programming and/or services
- 1591 • Location of programming and/or services
- 1592 • Number of partnerships between cultural organizations facilitated

1593 **F. Launch**

1594 **Program and Allocation Summary**

1595 The Launch program is focused on new and
1596 emerging, Doors Open-eligible cultural or
1597 science cultural organizations in King County,
1598 with a goal to ensure that all geographic areas
1599 of the county and all communities in the
1600 county have access to cultural experiences.

1601 Launch will provide grants for start-up costs
1602 and multi-year operating support to new and
1603 emerging cultural organizations, paired with
1604 capacity building and technical assistance.

1605 New cultural organizations will have a
1606 pathway to receiving Sustained Support,
1607 which is only available to cultural

1608 organizations with a minimum 2-year operating history for heritage and preservation and 3-year
1609 operating history for arts. Cultural organizations that have previously received Sustained Support but
1610 have had 501c3 status for less than 3 years and are hiring paid staff for the first time, can apply for a
1611 limited-time boost in operating support, along with capacity building services to enable their growth and
1612 stability.

1613 An additional priority of this program is increasing access to cultural space, especially for cultural
1614 organizations that have historically faced barriers to purchasing and stewarding cultural space. The
1615 Launch program will explore leveraging 4Culture’s existing capital programs, including Building for
1616 Equity Facilities and the Preservation Action Fund, to increase access to cultural space for new and
1617 emerging organizations.

1618 Launch will prioritize grants for new collaborative ventures of existing cultural organizations to
1619 incentivize connectivity and cross-programming between cultural organizations to facilitate partnerships
1620 and increase access for King County residents.

1621 **Program Criteria**

1622 The Doors Open Ordinance states:

1623 "New or emerging cultural organization" means a cultural organization formed, and operating
1624 exclusively for exempt purposes, as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit no more than three years prior to
1625 seeking funding under the Door Open Program."

1626 For the purposes of the Launch program, 4Culture further defines "**new organizations**" as Doors Open-
1627 eligible cultural organizations that are less than three years old and have not previously been awarded
1628 Sustained Support funding.

1629 For the purposes of the Launch program, 4Culture further defines "**emerging organizations**" as Doors
1630 Open-eligible cultural organizations that have had 501c3 status for less than three years, and are hiring

Launch

Estimated annual funding: \$2.9 million

Objective: Ensure that all geographic areas of the county and all communities in the county have access to cultural experiences

Strategies: Grants for start-up costs and multi-year operating support to new and emerging organizations, paired with capacity building and technical assistance

Key Reporting Metric: Number of awards and total funding over time to new organizations by geography (Zip Code and Council district) and discipline; Number of new organizations that gain eligibility to Sustained Support

1631 paid, regular staff for the first time. Emerging organizations may have received Sustained Support
1632 previously.

1633 **New collaborative ventures** among existing cultural organizations are also eligible for funding as new
1634 organizations, but they must have a decision-making body and structure that is independent of the
1635 participating cultural organizations. 4Culture will provide technical assistance to support existing
1636 organizations in forming new collaborative ventures.

1637 Additionally for a specific cultural event or use, in accordance with Ordinance 19710, a cultural entity
1638 that does not have 501c3 status may contract with a fiscal sponsor cultural organization to be eligible
1639 for Launch Program funding.

1640 The Launch Program will focus on ensuring that all geographic areas of the county and all communities
1641 in the county have access to cultural experiences. The program will prioritize cultural organizations and
1642 cultural entities that are (1) based outside of Seattle and support diversity in geography, (2) in a
1643 Community of Opportunity (COO), or (3) serving a vulnerable population as well as new collaborative
1644 ventures for funding and support.

1645 Program criteria for selecting new and emerging cultural organizations, as well as fiscally sponsored
1646 cultural entities to be funded will include: Quality and Innovation, Public Benefit, Advancing Equity,
1647 Feasibility, Economic Impact, Community Impact, and Goals. For these purposes, innovation is defined
1648 as providing programming or services that current cultural organizations do not offer, demonstrating a
1649 new idea or concept in the cultural organization's field, or providing new services to currently
1650 underserved geographic areas or communities. The goals criteria will require a cultural organization to
1651 show clearly stated goals to achieve what the cultural organization considers success and a method to
1652 measure that success.

1653 **Application, Panel, and Award Process**

1654 The application process will be as described in the [Application, Panel, Award, and Approval Process](#)
1655 [section](#). Grant contract terms will be 2-3 years, to help sustain new and emerging cultural organizations
1656 or support the fiscally sponsored cultural entity until the next Sustained Support application round for
1657 which they will be eligible.

1658 **Engagement and Communications Plan**

1659 4Culture will conduct an extensive outreach and engagement process beginning in 2024 and continuing
1660 into 2025. Priorities for this engagement include:

- 1661 • Outreach will include opportunities for both digital and non-digital engagement.
- 1662 • Geographic reach of engagement will be countywide, with an emphasis on rural and
1663 underserved communities.
- 1664 • Language access will be prioritized based on 4Culture analysis of demographic data indicating
1665 communities that are underserved with cultural funding.

1666
1667 Outreach and engagement for the Launch program will include technical support for the formation of
1668 new cultural organizations, to help build a pipeline of applicants that will be competitive for New
1669 Organization grants.

1670 **Public Benefit Reporting**

1671 Like Sustained Support recipients, New and Emerging cultural organizations, as well as the fiscal sponsor
1672 cultural organization will report on the public benefit of their activities over the course of each year that
1673 they receive funding. This may include metrics such as visitation numbers, volunteer hours, or audiences
1674 served. The public benefit reported by Launch-funded cultural organizations can include capacity-
1675 building work that leads to growth in reach and impact. Public benefit can also include free and reduced
1676 cost programs and services that increase access to culture and science, especially for underserved
1677 communities.

1678 **G. Outside of Seattle Program and**
1679 **Communities of Opportunity Program**

1680 Ensuring continued and expanded access to cultural
1681 facilities and cultural programming located in and
1682 serving economically and geographically
1683 underserved populations is a key objective of the
1684 Doors Open Program and is a long-held value at
1685 4Culture. Built into each of the six Doors Open
1686 programs is the requirement that the recipient
1687 cultural organization provide Equity and/or
1688 Geographic Inclusion Benefits, in addition to the
1689 General Public Benefit requirement.

1690 In addition, the ordinance sets aside funds to
1691 ensure that at least 25% of Doors Open Program
1692 funding supports cultural organizations outside of
1693 established cultural centers and that of all Doors
1694 Open funding, a minimum of 10% goes towards
1695 cultural organizations in Communities of
1696 Opportunity or serving vulnerable populations.

1697 In accordance with Ordinance 19710, the goals for
1698 this funding are:

- 1699 1. Overcoming economic and geographic inequities that limit access to the arts, science, and
1700 heritage experiences by expanding access to programs and activities at cultural organizations in
1701 the county, such that audiences represent the diversity of the county;
1702 2. Stronger relationships between local communities and cultural organizations that result in the
1703 creation of programs and activities that are mutually beneficial;
1704 3. Making the boards, staff, and programming of cultural organizations more representative of the
1705 diversity existing within the county; and
1706 4. Ensuring that the Doors Open Program distributes a total of at least one million dollars to
1707 cultural organizations in each county council district each year.
1708

**Communities of Opportunity
Composite Index Map**

To identify the locations for equity investments, 4Culture leverages the [Communities of Opportunity Composite Index](#). This index is a publicly available research tool with data compiled by Public Health – Seattle & King County. This work stems from a partnership funded by Best Starts for Kids, King County, and the Seattle Foundation.

The COO Composite Index was first developed in 2012 and includes a set of indicators for different health and socioeconomic domains to examine their combined impact on community health and well-being.

4Culture has been using this Composite Index Map to help practice its equity investments since 2020.

1709 **Outside of the City of Seattle**

1710 Cultural organizations with a primary location outside of Seattle City limits will receive additional
1711 geographic inclusion funds. At least 25% of all Doors Open funding will be distributed to cultural
1712 organizations outside the City of Seattle.

1713 **Communities of Opportunity**

1714 Cultural organizations that are located in a Community of Opportunity are eligible for additional funds.
1715 The Communities of Opportunity (COO) index includes a set of health and socioeconomic indicators to
1716 gauge community health and well-being. 4Culture aligns equity investments with the COO index to
1717 identify the areas of King County in greatest need of support. At least 10% of all Doors Open funding will
1718 be distributed to cultural organizations located in a Community of Opportunity or serving one or more
1719 vulnerable populations.

1720 **6. Measuring and Evaluating Doors Open Outcomes**

1721 Doors Open gives 4Culture the opportunity to hire its first full-time Evaluator. This position was filled in
1722 mid-2024 and is helping 4Culture to improve data collection, reporting, and reflection processes and is
1723 helping to ensure that Doors Open programs are accountable to the public. Key reporting metrics listed
1724 for each program may be revised upon review by the Evaluator.

1725 The Evaluation Manager is working with community partners to develop a Doors Open Program results-
1726 based accountability evaluation framework.

1727 **Methodology for Assessment and Evaluation**

1728 The Assessment Report’s evaluation framework will specifically address the effectiveness of the Doors
1729 Open Program funding in achieving the following outcomes:

- 1730 a. expanding cultural organizations' operations, offers of discounted and free admission, and
1731 public school cultural access, and supporting newly built and expanded cultural facilities;
- 1732 b. advancing equitable access to cultural organizations throughout King County and removing
1733 barriers to access faced by many segments of the county population;
- 1734 c. fostering the creation and development of new cultural organizations throughout King County,
1735 reducing geographic barriers and ensuring that residents have improved access to cultural
1736 organization resources; and
- 1737 d. supporting the growth and development of cultural centers throughout King County to promote
1738 healthy and vibrant communities.

1739 As part of measuring program access, the evaluation framework will describe how measures of
1740 geographic diversity, including Zip Code, will be used to inform program success. 4Culture will also
1741 recommend a strategic approach to improve the ability of local arts organizations and 4Culture to collect
1742 demographic and geographic origin data on program participants.

1743 The assessment and evaluation of the impact of Doors Open funding will draw from multiple methods
1744 (mixed methods approach) and levels of analysis of stakeholders. The following table summarizes the
1745 different levels, methods, and data sources 4Culture will leverage.

1746

Levels of Data Analysis	Methods	Potential Sources
Grantee and Applicant Impact Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive statistics on the category/discipline, organizational demographics and geographic dispersion of awarded grantees; • Qualitative data includes in-depth case studies, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, content analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant and Awardee data • Photographic submissions • Site visits by external reviewers • Local press • Staff insights
Audience and Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey data • Organizational partners working with schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience and attendee survey data • Youth satisfaction surveys through org partnerships
Creative Workforce Sector Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical data • Supplemental surveys • Partnering with reputable research partners will be key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ArtsFund and other regional partners • American Community Survey • Creative Vitality Index / WESTAF data
King County Residential Polling/ Opinion Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text or email polling using statistically representative sample of residents

1747

1748

1749 **Assessment Report Requirements**

1750 As required by Ordinance 19710, 4Culture will develop an Assessment Report and reporting process that
1751 addresses the effectiveness of program funding. In developing this Report and reporting process, it will
1752 work with following groups:

- 1753 • Qualified evaluation personnel
- 1754 • Staff from cultural organizations
- 1755 • King County cultural consumers
- 1756 • School districts
- 1757 • 4Culture staff
- 1758 • 4Culture Board of Directors
- 1759 • 4Culture’s Local Arts Agencies network (LAA)
- 1760 • Sound Cities Association

1761 In accordance with Ordinance 19710, the Assessment Report will include:

- 1762 • An overview of evaluation personnel, methodology, and practices.
- 1763 • Funding distribution data by council district and Zip Code.
- 1764 • Planned vs actuals for program allocations, year past and year ahead.
- 1765 • Data and findings on public benefit outcomes for King County residents.
- 1766 • Data and findings on Public School Cultural Access Program, broken down by council district and
1767 Zip Code, and by percentage of schools eligible for Doors Open transportation funding.
- 1768 • Data and findings on cultural organizations located in and serving Communities of Opportunity.
- 1769 • Data and findings on capacity building and growth for cultural organizations located and serving
1770 communities outside of Seattle.
- 1771 • Recommendations for future improvements or changes to Doors Open Program processes,
1772 criteria, and reporting requirements.

1773 **Timeline for Assessment Report**

1774 4Culture plans to deliver the required assessment report in 2029. This will provide time to gather and
1775 analyze data which will inform the Doors Open renewal process in 2030. At the time of transmittal to
1776 the King County Council, a copy of the assessment report will be submitted to the Regional Policy
1777 Committee and its members and alternates for briefing. Prior to the official Assessment Report, 4Culture
1778 will integrate Doors Open Program reporting with its regular cycle of reporting on budget and funding
1779 activities to the Executive and the King County Council.

1780 **Evaluating the Doors Open Program Impact and Annual Reporting**

1781 As stated above, 4Culture will incorporate updates on Doors Open in 4Culture's published annual report
1782 and budget report submitted to the Executive and the King County Council through the duration of the
1783 Doors Open Program. A copy of the annual report will be submitted to the Regional Policy Committee
1784 and its members and alternates for briefing.

1785 Transmittal of 4Culture's 2024 annual report should include the draft evaluation framework that will be
1786 used to measure the impact of the Doors Open Program with the goal of allowing the King County
1787 Council to provide feedback on development of the evaluation framework. Beginning with the 2025

1788 report, 4Culture's annual report should include progress reports measuring the Doors Open Program
1789 impact.

1790 4Culture's annual reports should also show the breakdown of Doors Open funding allocations according
1791 to Doors Open requirements, including the requirement that at least 25% of program funding be
1792 awarded to cultural programming and projects outside of Seattle and that 10% be awarded within
1793 Communities of Opportunity or to cultural organizations serving vulnerable populations. The geographic
1794 breakdown should also include the total number of grant applicants and recipients and total awarded
1795 for each of the six program areas by Zip Code and by Council district. In order to identify growth
1796 opportunities, annual reports should identify any areas of underspending due to unclaimed awards or
1797 lack of eligible programs and projects.

1798 **2024 One-Time Operating Support Grant Contracts Reporting**

1799 4Culture shall report to the Council regarding its success in meeting the expectation that contracts with
1800 awardees of the 2024 One Time Operating Support grants, totaling, approximately \$32.9 million, have
1801 been issued to awardees by March 31, 2025. The report shall detail with respect to each awardee: if a
1802 contract has been issued to the awardee, when the contract was issued, if the contract is fully executed
1803 by both the awardee and 4Culture. The report shall also detail as to each awardee for which a contract
1804 has not been issued, the steps to be taken by either 4Culture, the awardee, or both to expedite issuance
1805 of a contract. 4Culture shall electronically transmit this contract update written report to the Clerk of
1806 the Council by April 30, 2025. The Clerk of the Council shall retain an electric copy and provide an
1807 electric copy to all Councilmembers, the Council chief of staff, and the lead of the Committee of the
1808 Whole, or its successor.

1809 4Culture shall report to the Council regarding its success in meeting the expectation that payments to
1810 awardees of the 2024 One Time Operating Support grants, totaling, approximately \$32.9 million, have
1811 been made by June 30, 2025. The report shall detail with respect to each awardee receiving payment:
1812 the amount of the payment and the date the payment was issued. For payments not made by June 30,
1813 2025, the report shall detail with respect to each awardee having not been issued a payment: the
1814 amount of the payment outstanding, the reasons the payment has not been made, and the steps to be
1815 taken to expedite the issuance of the payment. 4Culture shall electronically transmit this payment
1816 written report to the Clerk of the Council by July 31, 2025. The Clerk of the Council shall retain an
1817 electric copy and provide an electric copy to all Councilmembers, the Council chief of staff, and the lead
1818 of the Committee of the Whole, or its successor.

1819

1820

1821 **7. Appendices**

1822 **A. Itemization of Doors Open Start-Up Costs**

1823 The table below reflects Doors Open expenditures incurred by 4Culture between December 5, 2023, and
1824 March 31, 2024.

Item	Cost	Note
Existing Staff – Doors Open time allocation	\$531,050	Employee allocation % range: 0% - 80%. Average time allocation 31%.
Indirect Costs - Occupancy/IT	\$134,705	Indirect costs parallel salary allocations; thus 31% of total allocable indirect costs
New staff	\$29,471	2024 Doors Open Project Director through 3/31
Consulting expenses	\$24,950	
Legal and accounting	\$17,817	
Other	\$7,753	Includes professional fees for design, outreach and marketing, and office equipment and supplies
Total	\$745,746	

1825 **B. 2024 Board Directors**

1826 **Staci Adman: Kenmore (District 1)**

1827 Staci is an artist who lives and creates in Kenmore, WA. She graduated from the University of
1828 Washington with a BFA in painting and now works in a wide variety of media. She has enjoyed sharing
1829 her love of art with children and youth for a couple of decades. She currently teaches adult glass and
1830 fiber classes at The Schack Art Center in Everett and her work is found in several local galleries. Staci had
1831 the honor of being a co-creator of the Kenmore Mural Project in Kenmore, WA in 2016 and has created
1832 several public art projects around Woodinville sponsored by the Woodinville Rotary’s Peace Pole
1833 project.

1834 **Catherine Nueva España, Vice President: Seattle (District 4)**

1835 Catherine Nueva España is a consultant with experience in arts, design, and creative practices. She helps
1836 leaders recognize personal values and create a practice of sustaining collaborations. She has been
1837 interim executive director at On the Boards and EarthCorps, executive director at Velocity Dance Center,
1838 and a board member at Khambatta Dance Company. She serves as a board commissioner for ArtsWA
1839 and serves on a variety of grant panels. España received her BA from Wellesley College, and her MA in
1840 Dance Studies from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London.

1841 **Leanne Guier: Pacific (District 7)**

1842 Leanne Guier is the retired mayor of Pacific, Washington, where she served from July 2013 until
1843 December 2023. Leanne has also worked as the Political Coordinator for the UA Plumbers and
1844 Pipefitters Local. She has served on a variety of King County Regional Committees, including Water
1845 Control, Transportation, Growth Management, and Flood Control. In 2019, she was elected President of
1846 the Sound Cities Association (SCA). Leanne also spearheaded construction of 3 War Memorial sites along
1847 the Interurban Trail.

1848 **Angie Hinojos: Redmond (District 3)**

1849 Angie Hinojos is the Executive Director and co-founder of Centro Cultural Mexicano in Redmond. Angie
1850 is a Trustee for Cascadia College, and Chair of the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. She
1851 is a Public Artist and a passionate advocate for social and racial justice. She received a degree in
1852 Architecture from UC Berkeley and utilizes her experience with art and culture to strengthen community
1853 bonds. As a community organizer, Angie has focused on equity in education to increase access to higher
1854 education for underserved communities.

1855 **Khazm Kogita, Member-at-Large: Seattle (District 8)**

1856 Khazm “King Khazm” Kogita is a multidisciplinary artist, music producer, and community organizer who's
1857 a prominent figure in the Hip-Hop community in Seattle and internationally. His work to unify and
1858 empower the communities is demonstrated through over 25 years of art and service. Khazm is Executive
1859 Director of 206 Zulu, a Seattle Disability Commissioner, a Here & Now Project Board Member, and
1860 Manager of Washington Hall.

1861 **Afua Kouyaté: Seattle (District 2)**

1862 Afua Kouyaté is a teaching and performing artist specializing in cultural arts leadership, emphasizing
1863 therapeutic engagement. As the Executive Director of Adefua Cultural Education Workshop, she is
1864 viewed as one of Seattle’s treasures, a leader in the cultural arts sector, and dedicated to the
1865 community. Afua is renowned for building educational pathways for youth and families for African
1866 cultural experiences. Afua presents a full year of programming in the of study of arts, history, and
1867 culture.

1868 **Seth Margolis: Seattle (District 8)**

1869 Seth Margolis is the Director of Education Operations for the Boeing Academy for STEM Learning at The
1870 Museum of Flight in Seattle and has worked at heritage organizations in the United States and Canada.
1871 He teaches museum education for the UW Graduate Program in Museology, serves on the advisory
1872 board for the Museum Studies Certificate Program, and is a member of the 4Culture Heritage Advisory
1873 Committee.

1874 **Frank Martin: Skykomish (District 3)**

1875 Frank Martin is the managing principal of the Chain Companies and has been a recipient of a 4Culture
1876 Preservation grant to restore the Skykomish Theater into what is now known as Onemish Lodge, an
1877 extended stay basecamp in the heart of the Great Northern Corridor. Prior to Chain, Frank was a Senior

1878 Program Manager at Microsoft, Senior Project Manager for Investco Financial Corporation, and
1879 Construction Manager for a general contractor in Seattle.

1880 **Bryan Ohno: Kent (District 5)**

1881 Bryan Ohno is the Director of Soos Creek Studio, a contemporary ceramic studio that creates sustainable
1882 use pottery, and trains the next generation of youth potters. Bryan’s career has led him to direct two art
1883 galleries in Tokyo and Seattle. He was also the founding director of MadArt. Bryan previously served on
1884 4Culture’s Art Advisory Committee. Bryan received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from the
1885 University of Puget Sound. Bryan also serves on the Kent Arts Commission.

1886 **AC Petersen: Kirkland (District 6)**

1887 AC Petersen has been choreographing and producing dance/theatre works since 1983. She is a volunteer
1888 book narrator at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library and worked in communications and
1889 media relations with the UW Libraries. While at the Northwest Asian American Theatre, she worked
1890 with individual artists from Asia and Pacific Island regions in creating new interdisciplinary works. She
1891 was a founding co-editor of DanceNet, a publication for the region’s dance community, from 1990-2000,
1892 and has a BA in Architecture from the University of Washington.

1893 **Natasha Rivers, Secretary: Renton (District 5)**

1894 Natasha Rivers is the Senior Sustainability & Measurement Manager at BECU where she is developing a
1895 strategic framework around their social impact and commitment to philanthropy, diversity, equity, and
1896 inclusion. Natasha has served on the boards of the Seattle Children’s Theatre, Seattle Urban League
1897 Young Professionals, and Treehouse for Kids. In 2022, Rivers was named one of Seattle’s 40 Under 40 by
1898 the Puget Sound Business Journal. She is a Leadership Tomorrow alum and Partner with Social Venture
1899 Partners (SVP). Natasha earned her PhD in Geography from UCLA with a focus on contemporary sub-
1900 Sharan African migration.

1901 **Latha Sambamurti: Redmond (District 6)**

1902 Latha Sambamurti is the producer and Artistic, Outreach and Development Director of several large-
1903 scale arts and culture festivals in Washington. She is an educator, trained musician, band leader, and
1904 winner of Kirkland Performance Center’s You Rock award for community service. Sambamurti has been
1905 a Washington State Arts Commissioner and a Redmond Arts & Culture Commissioner/Chair. She serves
1906 as a board director for several state and regional cultural organizations. Sambamurti holds a master’s
1907 degree in English Literature.

1908 **Steven Schindler, Treasurer: Issaquah (District 3)**

1909 Steven Schindler is a partner with Perkins Coie, where he represents individuals and families in personal
1910 and estate planning strategies. His practice also includes working with individuals and groups to form
1911 charitable organizations and advising existing charitable organizations on a variety of legal and tax
1912 matters. He serves on several boards, including the Atlantic Street Center, End of Life Washington, and
1913 Powerful Schools, Inc, and is a member of the 2018 cohort of Leadership Tomorrow. Steven joined the
1914 4Culture Finance Committee in 2020.

1915 **Neil Strege: Renton (District 9)**

1916 Neil Strege is Vice President of the Washington Roundtable, a public policy research and advocacy group
1917 comprised of senior executives of major Washington state employers. Before joining the Roundtable,
1918 Neil worked at the King County Council and as a Member of Congress. He is a graduate of Washington
1919 State University and a lifelong resident of Washington State. Neil serves on the board of the YMCA
1920 Youth and Government program and is the Vice Chair of the Washington Research Council.

1921 **Eugenia Woo, President: Seattle (District 2)**

1922 Eugenia parlayed a lifelong interest in architecture, history, cities, and communities into a career in
1923 historic preservation, serving as Historic Seattle’s Director of Preservation Services since 2009. She
1924 develops and implements preservation policies and initiatives; provides technical assistance; engages in
1925 community outreach; and coordinates broad advocacy efforts. In 2022, Eugenia was honored with an
1926 Advocacy Award of Excellence from US Docomomo. Eugenia was a 4Culture Historic Preservation
1927 Advisory Committee member from 2015-2020, serves on the Governor’s Advisory Council on Historic
1928 Preservation, and is a co-founder and current Treasurer of Docomomo US/WEWA.

1929 **Ex Officio Members**

- 1930 • Councilmember Claudia Balducci, District 6
- 1931 • Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, District 8
- 1932 • Councilmember Sarah Perry, District 3
- 1933 • Brian J. Carter, 4Culture

1934 **C. 2024 Advisory Committee Members**

1935 **Arts**

1936 **Amy Dukes, Issaquah (District 3)**

1937 Amy Dukes is the Arts Program Administrator for the City of Issaquah. In this role, she oversees the
1938 community arts granting program, manages the public art program, contributes to policy development,
1939 participates in the Local Arts Agency Network, and serves as the liaison to the mayor-appointed Arts
1940 Commission. She has worked in the arts and philanthropic sectors since 1995 in the Seattle area,
1941 Southern CA, and NYC.

1942 **Sudeshna Sen: Seattle (District 3)**

1943 An Indian American filmmaker, Sudeshna grew up in India and Japan before moving to the United States
1944 for graduate school. Her films have premiered at SIFF, Outfest Los Angeles, New York Indian Film
1945 Festival, and Vancouver South Asian Film Festival. Sudeshna is a member of Alliance of Women
1946 Directors, Women in Film and serves on the board of the Seattle International Film Festival.

1947 **Lauren Superville: Seattle (District 7)**

1948 Born and raised in New Jersey, Lauren Superville is an Individual Giving Officer at the Seattle Opera. Her
1949 background is in project coordination and creating and managing successful community events. She is

1950 leveraging her passion for relationship building by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders
1951 including staff, donors, and board members for the Opera’s mid-level giving program.

1952 **Bryan Ohno: Kent (District 5)**

1953 Bryan Ohno is the Director of Soos Creek Studio, a contemporary ceramic studio that creates sustainable
1954 use pottery, and trains the next generation of youth potters. Bryan’s career has led him to direct two art
1955 galleries in Tokyo and Seattle. He was also the founding director of MadArt. Bryan previously served on
1956 4Culture’s Art Advisory Committee. Bryan received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from the
1957 University of Puget Sound. Bryan also serves on the Kent Arts Commission.

1958 **Jessica Ramirez: SeaTac (District 7)**

1959 Jessica Ramirez is the Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator for the City of SeaTac, and participates
1960 in their Arts, Culture and Library Advisory Committee, which is the citizen advisory committee charged
1961 to advise the City Council on topics related to art and culture. In addition, Jessica represents City of
1962 SeaTac in the quarterly Local Arts Agency Network meetings.

1963 **Heritage**

1964 **Christina Arokiasamy: Kent (District 5)**

1965 Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Christina Arokiasamy is renowned for her culinary skills, as a
1966 spice expert and as an award-winning cookbook author. She was Malaysia’s first-ever official Food
1967 Ambassador to the United States and brings with her over 25 years of world class culinary expertise as a
1968 former chef of various Four Seasons Resorts throughout Southeast Asia. Christina is a passionate
1969 advocate for cultural heritage practitioners in King County.

1970 **Teofila “Teya” Cruz-Uribe: Burien (District 8)**

1971 Teya is the Director of the Sea Mar Museum of Chicano/a/Latino/a Culture and the Health Center
1972 Administrator of the Sea Mar Adolescent Medical Clinic. Teya has an MA in Museology from the
1973 University of Washington’s (UW) Museology Program, and an M.A.I.S. in Russian, Eastern European &
1974 Central Asian Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies at University of Washington.

1975 **Suzanne Greathouse: Kenmore (District 1)**

1976 Suzanne Greathouse is the President of Kenmore Heritage Society and brings over 30 years of
1977 experience working with a broad spectrum of individuals, businesses, corporations, and universities. A
1978 Kenmore resident since 2014, Suzanne serves as a Bothell/Kenmore Chamber of Commerce
1979 Ambassador, Kenmore Planning Commissioner and is on the boards of the Northshore Senior Center
1980 and EvergreenHealth Foundation. Suzanne is focused on evolving the Heritage Society into a vibrant,
1981 inclusive, and fun organization.

1982 **Rachael McAlister: Auburn (District 7)**

1983 Rachael McAlister is the Director of the White River Valley Museum in Auburn, WA. Before taking on the
1984 role of director in 2018 she served as the Museum’s Curator of Education for seven years. She holds a

1985 Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from Belmont University and a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Johns
1986 Hopkins University. McAlister's work includes extensive arts and heritage programming, municipal
1987 leadership, strong cultural partnerships, energized and engaged staff, and a commitment to racial justice
1988 and equity.

1989 **Seth Margolis, Board Representative: Seattle (District 8)**

1990 Seth Margolis is the Director of Education Operations for the Boeing Academy for STEM Learning at The
1991 Museum of Flight in Seattle and has worked at heritage organizations in the United States and Canada.
1992 He teaches museum education for the UW Graduate Program in Museology and serves on the advisory
1993 board for the Museum Studies Certificate Program.

1994 **Temi Odumosu: Seattle (District 2)**

1995 Temi Odumosu is an interdisciplinary scholar and curator at the UW iSchool. Her research and curatorial
1996 work are engaged with the visual and affective politics of slavery and colonialism, race, and visual coding
1997 in popular culture, postmemorial art and performance, image ethics, and politics of cultural heritage
1998 digitization. Odumosu holds a PhD and Master of Philosophy in art history from the University of
1999 Cambridge and contributes to a variety of international research networks and initiatives.

2000 **Historic Preservation**

2001 **Stefanie Barrera: Seattle (District 2)**

2002 Stefanie Barrera is an architectural designer at SMR Architects focusing on affordable housing projects.
2003 While working on her Master of Architecture at the University of Washington, Stefanie interned for
2004 4Culture's Beyond Integrity Group. Her interest in historic preservation emanates from a curiosity to
2005 learn about other cultures, and the connection between cultural significance and place.

2006 **Justin Ivy: Seattle (District 2)**

2007 Justin Ivy is the owner of Heritage Art Glass, a Seattle-based stained and leaded glass studio specializing
2008 in repair, restoration, and new historic reproduction windows. Working with a wide array of clientele,
2009 from homeowner to developer to church board, he has been involved with projects in many of the
2010 Puget Sound region's historic structures.

2011 **Robyn Mah: Shoreline (District 1)**

2012 Robyn Mah is a principal at I.L. Gross Structural Engineers and has made historic building rehabilitation a
2013 cornerstone of her career. Robyn's recent renovation and adaptive reuse projects include Mercy
2014 Magnuson Place (Building 9) at Magnuson Park and YWCA's 5th and Seneca Building in Seattle.

2015 **Frank Martin, Board Representative: Skykomish (District 3)**

2016 Frank Martin is the managing principal of the Chain Companies and has been a recipient of a 4Culture
2017 Preservation grant to restore the Skykomish Theater into what is now known as Onemish Lodge, an
2018 extended stay basecamp in the heart of the Great Northern Corridor.

2019 **Dawn Moser: Auburn (District 7)**

2020 Dawn Moser lives in south King County and is a gallery guide at the Washington State History Museum
2021 and a land use planner. Dawn has worked in land use planning and community development in Oregon,
2022 Washington, and Utah, engaging and informing community members about historic preservation.

2023 **Huy Pham: Seattle (District 8)**

2024 As the Executive Director of APIAHiP: Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, Huy
2025 leads the national nonprofit organization in its mission to protect historic places and cultural resources
2026 significant to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans through historic preservation and heritage
2027 conservation. Huy is eager to continue his work collaborating with government agencies, nonprofit
2028 organizations, community members and groups, developers, stakeholders, and policymakers to apply a
2029 progressive preservation ethic to their work at the local, state, and national levels.

2030 **Public Art**

2031 **Sonia-Lynn Abenojar: Seattle (District 2)**

2032 Sonia-Lynn Abenojar is co-founder of La Union Studio, an architectural and interior design studio based
2033 out of Seattle, Washington. Her interdisciplinary experience in urban planning and design, community
2034 engagement, and project management led her to a career in cultural placemaking and inclusive design.
2035 Abenojar is passionate about the built environment; she holds a BA in Architecture + Community Design
2036 from the University of San Francisco and a Master of City Planning degree from UC Berkeley.

2037 **Leo Saul Berk: Seattle (District 2)**

2038 Leo Saul Berk is an artist who examines the transformative potential of exceptional architecture to
2039 positively shape our lives. He is a recipient of the Artist Trust Arts Innovator Award, Betty Bowen Award,
2040 and Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Washington. Berk has held solo exhibitions at the Frye
2041 Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, Institute of Visual Arts at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and
2042 Seattle Art Museum.

2043 **Kamari Bright: Seattle (District 4)**

2044 With the goal of creating something that starts the process of healing, Kamari Bright is a
2045 multidisciplinary artist with works that have been received across the US, Greece, France, Mexico,
2046 Germany, & Canada. The 2022 Artist Trust Fellowship Award for Black Artists recipient is currently
2047 working on a manuscript connecting the influence of Christian folklore on present-day misogyny, and a
2048 videopoem extrapolating collective trauma and its connection to land stewardship.

2049 **Catherine Nueva España, Board Representative: Seattle (District 4)**

2050 Catherine Nueva España is a consultant with experience in arts, design, and creative practices. She helps
2051 leaders recognize personal values and create a practice of sustaining collaborations. She has been
2052 interim executive director at On the Boards and EarthCorps, executive director at Velocity Dance Center,
2053 and a board member at Khambatta Dance Company. She serves as a board commissioner for ArtsWA

2054 and serves on a variety of grant panels. España received her BA from Wellesley College, and her MA in
2055 Dance Studies from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London.

2056 **Kate Fernandez: Seattle (District 2)**

2057 Kate Fernandez is an artist, cultural producer, and educator. She currently works as the Director of
2058 Interpretation & Visitor Experience at the University of Washington's Burke Museum.

2059 **Tommy Gregory: SeaTac (District 5)**

2060 Tommy Gregory is a practicing artist and the Sr. Manager and Curator for the Port of Seattle, where he
2061 oversees conservation, commissions, and acquisitions as well as temporary exhibitions at Seattle-
2062 Tacoma International Airport.

2063 **Philippe Hyojung Kim: Seattle (District 2)**

2064 Philippe Hyojung Kim (he/him/they) is a Seattle-based artist, curator, and educator. He is a member of
2065 SOIL, a co-founder/curator of Specialist, a Fine Arts faculty member at Seattle Central College, and a
2066 curator for Washington State Arts Commission. Philippe grew up in a small town outside of Nashville,
2067 TN, and moved to Pacific Northwest in 2013. He currently lives and works in Seattle's North Beacon Hill
2068 neighborhood with his husband, Drew, and their dog, Jack.

2069 **Keith McPeters: Seattle (District 8)**

2070 Keith McPeters is a Principal at GGN, a landscape architecture studio based in Seattle. A diverse design
2071 background allows Keith to merge architecture and landscape architecture with his interests in art,
2072 music, and history. His design advisor role at GGN involves him in the concept and design phases of
2073 many projects across the studio. He received his BS in Architecture and Master of Landscape
2074 Architecture degrees from the University of Virginia.

2075 **Science**

2076 **Arthur Bednar (Seattle, District 4)**

2077 Arthur is a lifelong learner and museum enthusiast that joined The Museum of Flight in 2014, serving in
2078 a variety of roles leading and supervising STEM programming for K-12 youth within the greater Puget
2079 Sound region. Currently he serves as a Senior Program Manager overseeing the Boeing Academy for
2080 STEM Learning Core Programs. He holds a MA in History from The University of North Florida.

2081 **Stephanie Bohr (Seattle, District 4)**

2082 Stephanie has worked in the zoo, aquarium, and museum field for more than twenty years. She is the
2083 Director of Learning Programs and Partnerships at Woodland Park Zoo, where she leads three teams
2084 that create programs for children, teens, and adults both at the zoo and in Seattle communities.
2085 Stephanie is a proud alumna of North Carolina State University, where she earned a BS in Zoology and
2086 MEd in Science Education.

2087 **Kent Chapple (Seattle, District 4)**

2088 Kent is the Education Program Manager at Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center in Carnation, WA. He
2089 was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest (Portland, OR), and has over 17 years of experience
2090 designing and delivering environmental education and science programming, including Northwest
2091 cultural and natural history, organic farming, foodshed, watershed and marine science education. Kent
2092 earned his BS in Biology from Southern Oregon University and his Masters in Education from the
2093 University of California Santa Cruz.

2094 **Felipe Vera (Seattle, District 8)**

2095 Felipe Vera is a Portfolio Manager and Program Coordinator in the Communications Division at the
2096 Gates Foundation. As co-lead of the Latinos in Philanthropy Employee Resource Group and an active
2097 member of the Out for Good & Allies (LGBTQIA+) and Disabilities Advocacy Group ERGs, Felipe is deeply
2098 committed to fostering workplace inclusion and advocating for underrepresented communities.

2099 **Freeda Warren (Seattle, District 4)**

2100 Freeda is Pacific Science Center’s Chief Advancement Officer and a seasoned expert in nonprofit
2101 fundraising and communications. With over three decades of experience, she’s a powerhouse in driving
2102 impact through marketing, public relations, fundraising, and more. Freeda holds a Juris Doctor degree
2103 from Seattle University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies and U.S.
2104 History from the University of California, Davis.

2105 **Rosie Wilson-Briggs (Burien, District 8)**

2106 Rosie Wilson-Briggs is the School Programs Manager at the Environmental Science Center in Burien. She
2107 holds a Masters degree in Urban Environmental Education from Antioch University, and a certificate in
2108 Scientific Illustration from the University of Washington. She has worked with many regional
2109 environmental organizations, including the Seattle Aquarium, the UW Botanic Gardens, and the
2110 Schooner Adventuress. Rosie is focused on reducing systemic barriers to environmental education, and
2111 on supporting communities in their unique relationships to the outdoors.

2112 **Science and Technology Working Group Participants**

- 2113 • Derek Baker, Seattle Aquarium
- 2114 • Jeff Bauknecht, Museum of Flight
- 2115 • Stephanie Bohr, Woodland Park Zoo
- 2116 • Kent Chapple, Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center
- 2117 • Paul Chiocco, Pacific Science Center
- 2118 • Gladis Clemente, Villa Comunitaria
- 2119 • Jennifer Dumlao, Seattle Aquarium
- 2120 • Kim Kotovic, Seattle Universal Math Museum
- 2121 • Paul Meijer, Birds Connect Seattle
- 2122 • Bianca Perla, Vashon Nature Center
- 2123 • Grace Reamer, Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
- 2124 • Dana Riley Black, Museum of Flight
- 2125 • Arthur Ross, Technology Access Foundation

- 2126 • Kate Sorensen, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society
- 2127 • Chloe Wightman, Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- 2128 • Amy Zarlengo, Pacific Science Center



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Policy Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	5	Name:	Sherrie Hsu Jake Tracy Brandi Paribello
Proposed No.:	2025-B0037	Date:	March 12, 2025

SUBJECT

A briefing on Proposed Ordinance (PO) 2025-0070, which would place on the August 5, 2025, ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.5 billion in total over the six-year period; and on Proposed Motion (PM) 2025-0077, which would adopt a funding allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 levy.

SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance (PO) 2025-0070 would place on the August 5, 2025, ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.5 billion in total over the six-year period. In comparison, the current 2020-2025 Park Levy is expected to generate approximately \$851 million over the six-year period, based on OEFA’s August 2024 forecast.¹

The levy would support:

- King County Parks operations and maintenance;
- King County Parks capital program;
- King County cities, towns, and park districts;
- Woodland Park Zoo;
- Seattle Aquarium;
- Seattle Waterfront Park;
- Memorial Stadium; and
- Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants.

¹ The current levy generated \$115.7 million in 2020, \$253.6 million in 2021-2022, an estimated \$307.9 million in 2023-2024, and is expected to generate \$169.8 million in 2025.

The initial levy rate is proposed at 24.43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), with a proposed limit factor based on inflation growth² plus population growth. For the owner of a King County single-family home with a median 2024 AV of \$844,000, an initial levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV would cost this owner approximately \$206.19 annually (\$17.18 per month) in property tax in 2026. This would be approximately \$39.67 more per year (\$3.31 more per month) than the current levy for the same homeowner.

Proposed Motion (PM) 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 levy.

The staff report identifies policy issues for consideration by the Council and committee members. Council staff and legal review are ongoing.

The proposed levy was transmitted to the Council on February 11, 2025, and has been dually referred first to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and second to the Regional Policy Committee.

If approved by the Council, the levy proposal would be placed before voters at the August 5, 2025, election. The last regular Council meeting at which the Council could act as a non-emergency and with maximum processing time would be April 1, 2025; with minimum processing time, it would be the April 22, 2025, Council meeting. The last regular meeting at which the Council could act as an emergency would be the May 2, 2025, Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

Tax Levies and Levy Lid Lifts in Washington. State law limits a taxing district (e.g., King County) to a 1% increase in regular property taxes per year plus the value of new construction ("the standard limit factor").³ However, state law provides a mechanism by which taxing districts can exceed this limit – a majority of voters must approve such an increase through a proposition placed on a general or special election ballot.

There are four kinds of levy lid lifts for regular property tax levies, as discussed below.⁴

Single-Year Temporary Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The levy lid is increased by more than 1% in the first year and is subject to the standard limit factor in subsequent years. • Once the number of years specified in the levy proposition have elapsed, the levy rate returns to what it would have been had the lift never been approved.
Single-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The levy lid is increased by more than 1% in the first year and is subject to

² Consumer Price Index for wage earners (CPI-W) for Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton.

³ RCW 84.55.010. The limit also allows an additional dollar amount for AV resulting from new construction and other exceptional cases.

⁴ The following discussion is based on RCW 84.55.050, WAC 458-19-045, and guidance from the Municipal Research and Services Center found at <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Finance/Revenues/Levy-Lid-Lift.aspx>. In all cases described, levies are subject to statutory maximums as prescribed by state law.

Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift	the standard limit factor in all subsequent years.
Multi-Year Temporary Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levy lid lift states the levy rate for the first year. The levy rate is increased by more than 1% in each of two to six years and is subject to the standard limit factor in subsequent years. Once the number of years specified in the levy proposition have elapsed, the levy rate returns to what it would have been had the lift never been approved.
Multi-Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levy lid is increased by more than 1% in each of two to six years and is subject to the standard limit factor in all subsequent years.

Levy Rate, Levy, and Limit Factor. A levy rate, levy, and limit factor are defined below.

- The *levy rate* is the rate of the property tax, set per \$1,000 AV.
- The *levy* is the total amount of property tax collected.
- The *limit factor* is the amount by which the total levy amount may not exceed in subsequent years. For a multi-year levy lid lift, the limit factor does not have to be the same for each year.

Prorationing. State law⁵ establishes a maximum aggregate property tax rate of \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for counties, cities, fire districts, library districts, and certain other junior taxing districts. If a taxing district reaches its statutory rate limitation, that district can only collect the amount of tax revenue that would be produced by that statutory maximum levy rate.

- In other words, if the aggregate of taxing districts exceeds the \$5.90 limit, the tax district's levies would have to be reduced so that the \$5.90 aggregate collection limit is not exceeded.
- Reductions are made in accordance with a district hierarchy established under state law.⁶
- In general, countywide levies are the most senior taxing districts and would be the last to be reduced, or pro-rated, under state law.⁷

Supplantation Considerations. Prior to 2024, a non-supplantation limitation under state law⁸ meant that proceeds from levy lid lifts could only be used for new programs and services under the specific purpose of the levy lid lift as identified in the ballot title; and for existing programs and services, as long as levy money was used to supplement, but not supplant, existing funds. This meant that levy lid lift proceeds could not be used to support services that the county already provided. From 2015 through 2022, there was

⁵ RCW 84.52.043.

⁶ RCW 84.52.010

⁷ State law currently removes regular park and recreation district property tax levies from the \$5.90 limit if levied on an island within a county with a population over two million (i.e., Vashon Island). This exemption, unless changed by state law, expires January 1, 2027. (Chapter 117, Laws of 2021)

⁸ RCW 84.55.050.

a moratorium pausing the non-supplantation restriction in counties with a population over 1.5 million – such as King County.⁹

The passage of House Bill 2044 during the 2024 legislation session eliminated this non-supplantation restriction for levies. This means that local governments can now use voter-approved levy lid lifts for ongoing expenses, in addition to new programs and services, that support the levy lid lift's specified purpose.

Property Tax Exemption. State law allows cities and counties the option to exempt eligible senior citizens, veterans with disabilities, and others with disabilities from the regular property tax increase resulting from a levy, subject to meeting eligibility criteria and receiving application approval.¹⁰

History of the Parks Levy. Prior to 2003, the King County parks system relied mainly on General Fund (then called “Current Expense Fund”) moneys. In 2003, the General Fund was facing \$52 million shortfall, attributed to growth in the cost of providing services, particularly in mandated criminal justice related functions, an economic recession, and an erosion of the county's tax base. Large deficits were predicted into the foreseeable future.

2002 Business Transition Plan. In 2002, to prevent the closure of the parks system, King County convened the Metropolitan Parks Task Force, a community advisory group that was asked to help develop a business transition plan for the County's parks. Major recommendations, which were codified in Ordinance 14509, included focusing on the County's regional role; becoming more entrepreneurial, by seeking revenues from fees and sponsorships; and finding community partners.

2003 Parks Levy. In 2003, following significant reductions in General Fund support for King County's parks and open space system, King County voters approved a 4.9 cent, four-year levy to support operations and maintenance for regional and rural parks. At the same time, the County implemented other strategies from the business transition plan, including transferring 56 urban parks and pools to local governments by the end of 2007.

2007 Parks Levies. In August 2007, voters approved two six-year parks levies:

- **Operating Levy:** A 5 cent operating levy was adopted to fund maintenance and operations for regional and rural parks. This levy was projected to raise approximately \$16 million in its first year, and had inflation built in so that levy revenues would keep pace with inflationary pressures.

⁹ Chapter 296, Laws of 2021.

¹⁰ *Guide to Property Tax Exemptions for Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, and Disabled Veterans.* King County Department of Assessments. URL: <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/assessor/documents/guide-to-property-tax-exemptions-for-senior-disabled-and-veterans.pdf?rev=aaa4b4d03cb146b6a961b4e531565ab5&hash=479455066CC8A083AE9B12C296316E13>. Last accessed on February 13, 2025.

- Open Space & Trails Levy: A 5 cent capital levy was adopted to fund expansion of the regional parks and open space system. This levy was split into three parts:
 - 60% to King County to acquire and preserve regional trails and natural areas, including funding for community partnership projects;
 - 20% to cities for trails, parks, and open space; and
 - 20% to Woodland Park Zoo for environmental education, conservation, and capital improvement projects.

The King County Parks Division (“Parks”) continued to implement its business transition plan, transferring 31 more parks and pools to local cities between 2007 and 2012.

2013 Parks Levy. In August 2013, King County voters approved a new, 18.91 cent six-year parks levy with an annual limit factor tied to the consumer price index. The levy included 14.89 cents to continue the programs of the expiring levies and an additional 4.02 cents for new and enhanced programs.

2019 Parks Levy. In 2019, Ordinance 18890¹¹ placed on the August 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy to support parks and open space throughout King County. The ordinance set an initial levy rate of 18.32 cents per \$1,000 of AV and is currently expected to generate approximately \$852 million over the life of the levy, to fund various projects and programs including:

- Up to \$8 million of the levy proceeds for a capital construction project at the Seattle Aquarium;
- Up to \$44 million of the levy proceeds to for pool maintenance, capital improvements and construction;
- Up to \$22 million of the levy proceeds for integrated floodplain management;
- 47% of the remaining proceeds for acquisition of open space, continued development of regional and other public trails, other capital improvement projects and major maintenance of the county’s open space system, and community partnerships and grants;
- 40% of the remaining proceeds for King County’s parks system operations and maintenance, with no more than \$10 million of this amount being used for targeted equity grants;
- 8% of the remaining proceeds for distribution to the towns and cities of King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital improvement projects; and
- 5% of the remaining proceeds for environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo.

At the same time the Council passed Ordinance 18890, it also passed a companion motion, Motion 15378,¹² which adopted an allocation plan for levy moneys, as well as guidance for four new grant programs. The allocation plan for the 2020-2025 Parks Levy is Attachment C to Motion 15378.

¹¹ File No. 2019-0084

¹²File No. 2019-0142

Summary of Outreach. Community engagement and outreach materials provided by Executive staff show that Parks conducted 21 engagement events in March and April 2024, both in-person and virtual, for the proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy. Comparatively, Parks conducted 54 in-person engagement events for the current levy. Executive staff state that, although they were not categorized as formal engagement events, the Parks Mobile Engagement Team spent several days each week in February through April of 2024 soliciting in-person feedback in parks and trails across King County. According to staff, over 4,800 people across all nine King County Council districts participated in surveys and Parks staff also met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive additional feedback about the levy proposal.

In January 2024, Parks established the King County Parks Levy Community Advisory Committee which met nine times to provide guidance on developing the 2026-2031 Parks Levy. Based on review of current levy funding and activities, and feedback from forums and surveys, the Committee recommended funding the following priorities:

- **Safety and Belonging:** increase funding for maintenance and infrastructure; provide multi-language signing and wayfinding; collaborate, engage, and partner with local communities in a substantive and culturally appropriate way.
- **Equity:** distribute levy funds based on an assessment of community needs, gaps, and equitable outcomes; improve accessibility for people with disabilities; expand hours for parks and trails; provide multi-language signing and wayfinding.
- **Climate Resilience & Mitigation:** prioritize open space acquisition to protect existing ecosystems; fund strategic and regional trail connections that provide transportation alternatives for commuters and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; increase tree canopy, open space acquisitions, and forest stewardship in concrete “hot zones” in urban and underserved communities.
- **New Parks, Trails, & Recreation Opportunities:** focus on trail improvements and “last mile” additions to connect communities; increase grant funding for local communities; more equitably distribute pass-through funding; provide additional support for sports infrastructure and programming in underserved communities.

ANALYSIS

Financials. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070 would place on the August 5, 2025, ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.5 billion in total over the levy period. This is a multi-year temporary levy lid lift, meaning that funding would not continue after the six-year period expires.

Proposed Rate and Limit Factor. The initial levy rate is proposed at **24.43 cents** per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), with a limit factor set as the combined percentage change in the prior year’s Seattle consumer price index for wage earners (CPI-W) and estimated population growth in King County. This is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Estimated Limit Factor: Inflation Plus Population Growth

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
CPI-W (Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton) ¹³	2.68%	2.49%	2.46%	2.41%	2.43%	2.68%
Estimated King County Pop. Growth ¹⁴	0.92%	0.93%	0.87%	0.80%	0.72%	0.92%
<i>Estimated Limit Factor</i>	3.60%	3.41%	3.33%	3.22%	3.15%	3.20%

Estimated Collections. Table 2 shows the estimated levy revenue for each year of the levy, based on the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis's (OEFA) August 2024 forecast for levy proceeds and presuming a limit factor based on the combined percentage change in the prior year's Seattle consumer price index for wage earners (CPI-W) and estimated population growth in King County. With these assumptions, the total projected revenue over the six-year levy period is **\$1.5 billion**.

For comparison, the current 2020-2025 levy had an initial rate of **18.32 cents** per \$1,000 AV in 2020, with a limit factor set as the combined percentage change in the prior year's Seattle CPI-W and estimated population growth in King County. The current 2020-2025 levy is expected to generate approximately **\$851 million** over the six-year levy period, based on OEFA's August 2024 forecast.¹⁵ This is approximately a 5% increase over the originally projected amount of \$810 million.

Table 2 also shows the estimated effective levy rate for each year of the levy period. For the current levy, the effective levy rate (which is calculated based on the limit factor, AV, and new construction) as of 2025 is 19.73 cents per \$1,000 AV.¹⁶ If, hypothetically, the current levy was extended into 2026 at a status quo continuation (applying the 2026 limit factor and AV assumptions to the 2025 levy collections), the effective rate for 2026 would have been 19.52 cents.

Note that the March 2025 OEFA forecast is expected to be adopted by the Forecast Council in March 2025. Council staff will provide updated analysis and highlight any changes when the latest forecast is adopted. Based on the draft March 2025 OEFA forecast, total anticipated levy collections over six years is still \$1.5 billion. The annual estimates are shown below.

¹³ Inflation from Seattle CPI-W June Value in OEFA March 2024 Forecast.

¹⁴ Population forecast from OEFA March 2024 Forecast.

¹⁵ The current levy generated \$115.7 million in 2020, \$253.6 million in 2021-2022, an estimated \$307.9 million in 2023-2024, and is expected to generate \$169.8 million in 2025.

¹⁶ Based on August 2024 OEFA Forecast.

**Table 2. Estimated Annual Parks Levy Collections and Effective Levy Rate
(August 2024 OEFA Forecast)**

	Current Levy	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Estimated Proceeds ¹⁷	\$170 million	\$226 million	\$238 million	\$245 million	\$261 million	\$273 million	\$285 million
Estimated Effective Levy Rate ¹⁸ (per \$1000 AV)	\$0.1973	\$0.2443	\$0.24150	\$0.23896	\$0.23621	\$0.23260	\$0.22971

Estimated Annual Parks Levy Collections and Effective Levy Rate (Draft March 2025 OEFA Forecast)

	Current Levy	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Estimated Proceeds ¹⁹	\$170 million	\$220 million	\$232 million	\$246 million	\$258 million	\$271 million	\$285 million
Estimated Effective Levy Rate ²⁰ (per \$1000 AV)	\$0.1973	\$0.2443	\$0.2503	\$0.2547	\$0.2595	\$0.2614	\$0.2666

Impact to Household with Median-Valued Home. For the owner of a King County single-family home with a median AV of \$844,000 (based on 2024 assessed values²¹), an initial levy rate of **24.43 cents** per \$1,000 AV would cost this owner approximately **\$206.19** annually (\$17.18 per month) in property tax.

- For comparison, the effective levy rate of the current levy was approximately 19.43 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2024, which would cost the same homeowner approximately \$163.99 annually. For 2025, the effective levy rate of the current levy is approximately **19.73 cents** per \$1,000 AV, which would cost the same homeowner approximately **\$166.52** annually based on 2024 assessed values.
- To this homeowner, comparing the proposed 2026 rate with the effective 2025 rate, the proposed levy represents an approximate increase of \$39.67 annually (\$3.31 per month).

¹⁷ Based on August 2024 OEFA Forecast.

¹⁸ The effective levy rate is a function of assessed value, new construction, and the limit factor.

¹⁹ Based on Draft March 2025 OEFA Forecast.

²⁰ The effective levy rate is a function of assessed value, new construction, and the limit factor.

²¹ According to Executive staff, this value comes from Median Assessed Value (AV) by Levy or District data, provided by the King County Assessor’s Office. The tax roll was certified by the Assessor’s Office on January 27, 2025.

Prorating Considerations. Based on current prorating analysis from the OEFA's August 2024 forecast, it is not currently expected that the proposed levy would have a prorating impact on other taxing districts. In other words, levy suppression and prorating are not currently projected as an issue for the proposed levy as transmitted.

Prorating mitigation is not identified as an eligible levy expenditure in the PO. Whether or not to designate a specific reserve out of levy proceeds in the PO for any potential prorating mitigation would be a policy choice.

Based on the August 2024 OEFA forecast, assuming an initial parks levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2026, there would be about \$1.09 of room in 2026, and between \$0.73 to \$1.09 in the next six years, before the closest district would hit the \$5.90 limit. During the 2026-2031 time frame, the closest levy district to reaching the \$5.90 limit would be Vashon Island, with about \$0.73 of room in 2027.²² This calculation includes the AFIS levy renewal passed in early 2025. The Executive is expected to transmit a proposed EMS levy renewal later in 2025; EMS levies are not subject to the \$5.90 limit.

Funding Categories Overview. This section provides an overview of the proposed levy allocations as stated in the PO, as well as the more detailed proposed investments listed in a proposed allocation plan that is Attachment 2 to this staff report. (Note that the allocation plan is not explicitly referenced in the PO and therefore is not part of the legislation; this level of detail would not be adopted by adopting the ordinance. PM 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 levy.)

Proposed Allocations as Stated in Proposed Ordinance. PO 2025-0070 would allocate levy proceeds for the following purposes, which are explicitly stated in the ordinance language:

- Up to \$42 million for Woodland Park Zoo;
- Up to \$15 million for Seattle Aquarium;
- Up to \$9 million for Friends of Waterfront Park;
- Up to \$2.5 million for Memorial Stadium;
- Up to \$30 million for Parks Capital and Open Space Grants; and
- Up to \$46 million for Aquatic Facilities Grants.

Note that the “up to” language in these allocations means that anywhere between \$0 and the maximum amount listed could be spent. The Executive’s proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive does intend to spend the maximum for each of these categories.

Of remaining levy proceeds (approximately \$1.35 billion), PO 2025-0070 would explicitly allocate money as follows:

²² State law currently removes regular park and recreation district property tax levies from the \$5.90 limit if levied on an island within a county with a population over two million (i.e., Vashon Island). This exemption, unless changed by state law, expires January 1, 2027. (House Bill 1034, Chapter 117, Laws of 2021)

- 43% of remaining proceeds for operations and maintenance of the open space system²³ and for the Healthy Communities and Parks Grants Program;²⁴
- 48% of remaining proceeds to parks acquisition, conservation, stewardship, capital improvement, community partnerships and grants, and the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center;²⁵ and
- 9% of remaining proceeds to towns, cities, and parks districts.

Proposed Allocation Plan. Executive staff have provided a proposed allocation plan, which is Attachment 2 to this staff report and summarized in Table 3. Note that the proposed allocation plan is neither explicitly referenced in, nor identified as an attachment to the transmitted PO, and therefore this level of detail would not be adopted by adopting the ordinance.

Whether to amend the ordinance to adopt the proposed allocation plan, introduce a companion motion to adopt the proposed allocation plan, and/or to include additional specific allocations in the PO, is a policy choice for members to consider. For the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, the Council adopted, simultaneous to levy ordinance adoption,²⁶ a companion motion²⁷ that included the adopted current levy allocation plan (referred to herein as the “2020-2025 Parks Levy motion.”)

For the proposed 2026-2031 levy, a proposed companion motion (Proposed Motion 2025-0077) has been introduced. Proposed Motion 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan attached to the motion. While the attachment to the motion is currently the Executive’s proposed allocation plan, members may choose to amend the allocation plan; this would be a policy choice.

The Proposed Motion would stipulate that the amounts in the allocation plan may be modified when deemed advisable or necessary in the judgment of the Council, through adoption of an appropriations ordinance. If the Executive wished to make changes to allocations within the allocation plan, a report would be required to be submitted to the Council detailing the proposed changes. This process mirrors what was adopted in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy Motion. These processes are also policy choices.

²³ Defined in Section 1 as “the system that includes parks, trails, natural areas, resource lands, and structures or buildings owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department of natural resources.”

²⁴ No more than \$30M to Healthy Community and Parks Grants, formerly known as Targeted Equity Grants.

²⁵ Executive staff state that inclusion of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in this category is an error, and that it was intended to be an off-the-top allocation of up to \$22 million.

²⁶ Ordinance 18890.

²⁷ Motion 15378.

Table 3. Executive Proposed Allocation Plan for 2026-2031 Parks Levy

Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnerships		\$117 million
	Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46 million
	Parks Capital and Open Space	\$30 million
	Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly known as Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30 million
	Community Partnerships and Grants ²⁸	\$11 million
Pass-Through		\$209 million
	King County cities, towns, and park districts	\$119 million
	Woodland Park Zoo	\$42 million
	Seattle Waterfront	\$9 million
	Seattle Aquarium	\$15 million
	Memorial Stadium	\$2.5 million
	Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center ²⁹	\$22 million
King County Parks Operations and Maintenance		\$551 million
	Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517 million
	Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4.3 million
	Safety Program Expansion	\$3.2 million
	Asset Management Program	\$4.1 million
	Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10.4 million
	Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4.8 million
	Jobs & Housing Program	\$5 million
	Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1.8 million
King County Parks Capital Program		\$624 million
	Climate resilience and stewardship	\$217.5 million
	Regional trails and other public trails system	\$179 million
	New park development and improvements	\$51 million
	Active recreation repair and renovation	\$177 million
Election Costs		\$1.5 million
Additional assumed costs		\$18 million
	Fixed income exemption ³⁰	\$3 million
	1% undercollection assumption ³¹	\$15 million

²⁸ Defined in Section 1 as "the program through which King County provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit."

²⁹ Executive staff state that inclusion of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center was intended to be an off-the-top allocation of up to \$22 million; its inclusion in the PO under Section 4.E (as part of the capital distribution) was an error and was intended to be included under Section 4.D.

³⁰ As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

³¹ According to Executive staff, the 1% undercollection assumption is a consistent rate assumed countywide with other levies. The first four years of the Parks levy has seen less than 1% of the undercollection rate. Though FY 2024 year-end reconciliation is still underway and is expected to be finalized by April 2025, FY 2024 shows a little over that rate, consistent with the trajectory in the King County 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Comparison with Current Parks Levy. Table 4 summarizes a comparison of the current 2020-2025 Parks Levy and the proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy.

Table 4. Comparison of Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

	2020-2025 Parks Levy Adopted Allocations	2020-2025 Parks Levy Actual Investment³²	Proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy Investment (Allocation Plan³³)
Levy Rate			
Initial Levy Rate	Initial rate of 18.32 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2020; Effective rate is 19.73 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2025		Initial rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV
Total Levy Collection over 6-year period	\$810 million	\$851 million	\$1.5 billion
Estimated Annual Cost to Homeowner of Median-Valued King County Home	\$166.52 ³⁴		\$206.19 ³⁵
Pass-Through Investments			
Woodland Park Zoo	\$36 million	\$39 million	\$42 million
Seattle Aquarium	\$8 million	\$8 million	\$15 million
Seattle Waterfront	<i>Not in current levy</i>	<i>Not in current levy</i>	\$9 million
Memorial Stadium	<i>Not in current levy</i>	<i>Not in current levy</i>	\$2.5 million (in first two years)
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$8 million	\$8 million	\$22 million
Cities, Towns, and Park Districts ³⁶	\$60 million	\$62 million	\$119 million
King County Parks operations and maintenance	\$277 million	\$299 million	\$551 million
King County Parks capital program			
Climate resilience, conservation, and stewardship	\$98.5 million	\$102.2 million	\$217 million
Regional and other public trails system	\$165.65 million	\$170.15 million	\$179 million
New park development and improvements	<i>Not in current levy</i>	<i>Not in current levy</i>	\$51 million
Active recreation repair and renovation	\$41.5 million	\$55.2 million	\$177 million
Grants			
Parks Capital and Open Space Grant (Cities)	\$25 million	\$25 million	\$30 million
Aquatic Facilities Grant	\$36 million	\$36 million	\$46 million
Healthy Communities and Parks Grant (formerly Targeted Equity Grant)	\$10 million	\$10 million	\$30 million
Community Partnership Grants	\$9.57 million	\$9.8 million	\$11 million
Open Space River Corridors Grant	\$22 million	\$22 million	<i>Not continued</i>

³² Based on current levy forecast within the August 2024 OEFA forecast. FY 2024 expenditures are expected to be finalized by April 2025. FY 2025 expenditures are expected to be finalized by April 2026.

³³ Note that the proposed allocation plan is not explicitly referenced in the proposed ordinance, and therefore this level of detail would not be adopted by adopting the ordinance.

³⁴ Based on effective 2025 levy rate and 2024 median assessed value.

³⁵ Based on proposed 2026 levy rate and 2024 median assessed value.

³⁶ Park Districts were not included in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

Operations and Maintenance. After off-the-top distributions for educational and civic venues, two grant programs, and election costs, the PO specifies that 43% of the remainder of Parks Levy moneys would be used for:

- Operations and maintenance of the County’s Open Space System, and
- Healthy Community and Parks Grants program, which is referred to as the Target Equity Grant program in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

The PO would set a maximum of \$30 million that could be expended on the Healthy Community and Parks Grants program, with no minimum spending amount specified. Further details on this program can be found in the Grant Programs section of this staff report.

The PO and its attachments do not provide any further specificity on how funding in this category would be spent. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive intends to spend the maximum-allowed \$30 million on the Healthy Communities and Grants Program, leaving an estimated \$550.6 million for operations and maintenance of the County’s open space system. This represents a roughly 84% increase in funding for this category compared to current forecasts for the 2020-2025 levy. Executive staff states that \$33 million of the increase is due to inflationary pressures increasing the cost to maintain current service levels. Further information can be found in Attachment 4 to this staff report.

The following subsections break down the Executive’s planned spending on operations and maintenance as contained in the proposed allocation plan.

Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery, and Internal Supports. The vast majority (\$517 million or 93%) of operations and maintenance funding would go towards maintaining the current King County open space system. The allocation plan states that this money would cover the system’s day-to-day operational needs, including but not limited to personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, and administrative costs.

The \$517 million in this category also includes \$2.4 million that would be split between the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. These three programs are currently funded by Parks Levy dollars. The Parks Levy Operations Financial Plan,³⁷ which was transmitted with the PO but not formally attached to the levy ordinance, provides the following breakdown of funding for these programs:

- King County Search and Rescue - \$1.2 million (double what was initially planned for the 2020-2025 investment, but level funding with that which began in the 2023-2024 biennial budget)³⁸
- WSU Cooperative / 4-H - \$906,000 (level funding with current)

³⁷ Attachment 11 to this staff report.

³⁸ Executive staff state that the \$600,000 figure in the Operations Financial Plan is incorrect.

The amount going to the King County Fair is not explicitly stated, but subtracting the \$2.4 million listed in the proposed allocation plan for these programs from the numbers above would leave \$300,000 for the King County Fair. For comparison, the allocation plan adopted by the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion set aside \$300,000 for the Fair over the life of that levy.

Parks Patrol Expansion. King County Parks currently has a service level agreement with the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) to provide a Parks Patrol Program through which two KCSO deputies are assigned full time to the King County parks system. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would spend \$4.3 million over the life of the levy to expand the program. Executive staff state that the expansion would include increased enforcement and education related to parks rules by adding two additional deputies over the levy period. They further state that the proposed expansion of this program would help to continue to address safety issues, provide quick response times, and consistent communication for concerns raised by staff or the public about the parks system.

Safety Program Expansion. According to Executive staff, Parks' safety program currently supports personnel, equipment, and training to implement a modern, comprehensive safety program for the division. Goals of the Safety Program include accident and injury prevention, ensuring compliance with safety regulations, and promoting a proactive and team-oriented safety-first culture. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would spend \$3.2 million over the life of the levy to expand the program. Executive staff state that this expansion would enable Parks to invest funds into planning, training, comprehensive workplace and practice evaluations, targeted safety program and initiative development, and procedures.

Asset Management Program. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would spend \$4.1 million on an asset management program. Council staff have requested further details on the asset management program, which will be included in the next staff report.

Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program. According to Executive staff, the Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program incorporates the department's enforcement of land use guidelines to comply with the permit system requirements in K.C.C 14.30. The proposed funding would support property services, permitting for use of Parks property, and enforcement of the Parks Land Use Guidelines,³⁹ which Parks does not currently have resources to do. The Parks Land Use Guidelines require the Parks to review and make recommendations on Special Use Permit applications requesting use of Parks' property for non-park purposes.

Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion. The 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion directed the Executive to develop a plan to implement Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

³⁹ King County Parks: Land Use Guidelines October 2020. Last accessed February 19, 2025. https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ls05t2bj3gk7tybd3xax7/KCP_Land_Use_Guidelines.pdf?rlkey=fqq5q6u3fnf71a7q688ed12xl&e=2&dl=0

beginning in 2020. The YCC is currently active as a summer internship program and, according to its website,⁴⁰ youth interns participate in the following activities:

- Engage in discussions about the intersections of race and the environment;
- Lead conversations with other interns on self-selected topics;
- Develop and build-upon career skills such as writing, public speaking, and interviewing;
- Become familiar with land management practices and the multiple facets of a park agency;
- Network with Parks staff, community leaders, and environmental professionals;
- Explore solutions to problems impacting human and environmental health; and
- Participate in workshops about local environmental challenges.

The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would expand the YCC by investing an additional \$4.8 million. Council staff have requested additional information on what the expansion would entail, and how much funding the YCC is planned to receive from the Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery, and Internal Supports subcategory absent this expansion. This information will be included in the next staff report.

Jobs and Housing Program. The Jobs and Housing Program was established by the Council in the COVID 7 budget⁴¹ passed in 2021, using Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) dollars. This initiative was intended to support a jobs and rehousing program for individuals experiencing homelessness. Funding was housed in the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB).

The Jobs and Housing Program began operations in 2021 and provided temporary jobs, career preparation, and housing and support services within King County and other local organizations. These temporary jobs lasted up to one year and included paid ORCA transit pass and other transportation assistance, housing support, career support, and coaching services for one year. Of the 87 temporary jobs provided, 37 of were with King County Parks.

The 2025 Annual Budget⁴² appropriated the last of the CLFR funding for the Jobs and Housing Program, with the program intended to sunset at that time. Simultaneously, however, the budget appropriated \$851,000 to continue the Parks portion of the program, known as the Parks Beautification Program, through 2025, using solely Parks Levy moneys.

The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would use \$5 million of operations and maintenance funding to continue the Jobs and Housing program through the life of the levy. This represents roughly level annual funding with that appropriated for 2025. Executive staff have confirmed that the \$5 million only includes the “jobs” portion of the Jobs and Housing program, and that Parks is not currently responsible for

⁴⁰ King County Parks: Youth Conservation Corps. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kcpyouthcorps.org/>

⁴¹ Ordinance 19289.

⁴² Ordinance 19861.

housing or support services but will evaluate potential partnerships with other agencies for continued collaboration. PSB has been responsible for working with housing and service providers on this program; however, as mentioned above, PSB's CLFR funding is expected to be exhausted in 2025.

Tribal, Indigenous, and Historic Interpretive Program. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would use \$1.8 million in operations and maintenance funding for a new Tribal, Indigenous, and Historic Interpretive Program. The allocation plan states that this program would "support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships and improve conservation and recreational planning." Executive staff state that this program is the result of a recommendation by the Community Advisory Committee to strengthen partnerships with Tribal organizations and to collaborate with Tribes to better achieve common objectives.

They further state that the program would be developed in partnership with area tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations, and that resources would be invested in, but not limited to, the following:

- Improving conservation and recreational planning so that public use can be better balanced with protecting and honoring traditional cultural places;
- Supporting storytelling and interpretation that honors site-based history and context; and
- As appropriate, feasible, and if desired by those Parks would be working with, incorporating traditional cultural knowledge and practices in land management efforts and programs.

Capital Projects and Aquatic Center. After off-the-top distributions for educational and civic venues, two grant programs, and election costs, the PO specifies that 48% of the remainder of Parks Levy moneys would be used for:

- Acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of additional open space lands, natural areas, resource or ecological lands, rights of way for regional trails, and urban green spaces;
- Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other public trails;
- Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement of open space system infrastructure;
- The community partnerships and grants program; and
- Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

The PO and its attachments do not provide any further specificity on how much money would be appropriated to each of these categories or what projects they might entail. Executive staff state that proposed allocations are not explicitly enumerated in the ordinance as they are planning-level estimates and may change in the future.

Executive staff state that the inclusion of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in this 48% category was an error, and that it was intended to be an off-the-top allocation of up to \$22 million for major maintenance capital investments to the Aquatic Center.

The Executive’s proposed allocation plan provides further information on the expected allocations, which are discussed below. Further details on The Community Partnerships and Grants program can be found in the Grant Programs section of this staff report.

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center. The Executive’s proposed allocation plan states that \$22 million is expected to go to the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center over the life of the levy. Executive staff state that, as the facility is 35 years old, there are significant deferred maintenance and end of lifecycle needs that would be covered by this funding.

Climate Resilience and Stewardship. The Executive’s proposed allocation plan creates a new subcategory, “Climate Resilience and Stewardship,” that replaces the “Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation” subcategory in the adopted 2020-2025 Parks Levy allocation plan (Motion 15378) and includes several of the same spending items.

Table 5 below shows the difference between the 2020-2025 adopted allocation plan and the 2026-2031 proposed allocation plan for this subcategory.

Table 5. Comparison of Climate Resilience and Stewardship/Open Space Acquisition Funding, Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

Subcategory	2020-2025 Allocation Plan (\$123.5 million)	2026-2031 Proposed Allocation Plan (\$217.5 million)⁴³
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$78 million	\$96 million
Towns and Cities Open Space	\$25 million	Now categorized as Parks Capital and Open Space Grants (\$30 million)
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$18 million	\$20 million
Fish Passage Program	Not included	\$10 million
Climate Resilience	Not included	\$33 million
Environmental Stewardship	Not included	\$58.5 million
Water Access Acquisition on Lake Washington	\$2.5 million ⁴⁴	Not included

Each of these subcategories is discussed in more detail below.

King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation and Stewardship (\$116 million). The proposed allocation plan estimates that \$96 million would be used for King

⁴³ Total does not include Parks Capital and Open Space Grants, which are proposed to move to another category.

⁴⁴ The allocation was directed to be used for properties located in proximity to the Burke-Gilman Trail. Waterfront property near the Burke-Gilman Trail in the City of Lake Forest Park was acquired.

County's acquisition and conservation of open space lands, with an additional \$20 million proposed for stewardship of lands acquired with this money.

Attachment B to the PO includes Acquisition Guidelines for Parks Levy funding used to acquire open space and natural lands⁴⁵ in coordination with the County's Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) program. Attachment B gives the following process, which aligns with the process the Executive uses currently (but was not spelled out in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy ordinance or motion):

1. Early each calendar year, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) would set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds for the following fiscal year.
2. Staff would generate proposals for the use of these funds, taking into account opportunities to leverage resources with funding from Conservation Futures, as well as from other local, state, and federal funding sources.
3. An overall proposal allocating the open space funds to specific projects would be developed and discussed with the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (CFAC) that is responsible for developing CFT funding recommendations.
4. Taking the CFAC's recommendations into account, DNRP would develop a proposed budget for these parks levy funds.
5. The DNRP-proposed budget for parks levy funding would be reviewed by the County Executive, and ultimately County Council, as part of the overall budget process for the following year.

Council staff has asked Executive staff whether the entire \$96 million is intended to be subject to this process, or whether some subset of the \$96 million is not expected to be spent in coordination with the CFT program. Council may wish to clarify exactly what funding is subject to Attachment B.

As noted in Table 5, the allocation plan for the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion⁴⁶ also included funding for towns and cities open space. Via the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion, the Council directed establishment of the Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program, and the \$25 million was used for those purposes. The current proposal for the Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program is discussed in the Grant Programs section of this staff report.

Fish Passage Program (\$10 million). The Fish Passage Restoration Program removes barriers for salmon to reach historic spawning and rearing habitat in order to restore healthy populations. Executive staff have confirmed that the \$10 million would only be used for work on Parks-owned properties or land where Parks has easements. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding is expected to supplement the \$10 million.

Executive staff state that the fish passage projects anticipated for the 2026-2031 levy are consistent with the Motion 15378 Report. Between 2022 and 2024, Parks

⁴⁵ Neither of these terms is defined in the PO. In the County's Open Space Plan, "open space" is a catch-all term, of which "natural areas" is a subset meaning "ecological lands managed almost exclusively for environmental protection and enhancement."

⁴⁶ Motion 15738.

completed eight projects that remedied ten fish passage barriers. The 2026-2031 Levy proposal provides funding for eight additional projects, with further fish passage projects needing completion after 2031.

Climate Resilience (\$33 million). Investments in climate resilience would include the following.

- *Parks' Forest Stewardship Program and Projects.* Parks' Forest Stewardship webpage⁴⁷ states that Parks manages over 29,000 acres of public forest land, 3,800 of which are designated as working forests. Types of stewardship actions listed there include development of stewardship plans, variable thinning management, red alder conversion, and root rot treatment.
- *Potential Stormwater Park Pilot Projects.* Stormwater parks are community facilities that both manage stormwater from a larger area and provide recreational opportunities.⁴⁸ Executive staff state that the locations of the pilot projects have not been identified yet, and that identifying sites would be part of a scoping and feasibility study effort that would be completed jointly between Parks Division and Water and Land Resources Division.
- *Establishment of a Climate Response Fund.* The proposed allocation plan states that this fund would support community response projects and programming. Executive staff state that projects and programming could include, but wouldn't be limited to:
 - Adding electric vehicle charging stations for both county-fleet and public vehicles at parks;
 - Converting existing Parks facilities that still run on fossil fuels to electric;
 - Adding solar panels to existing Park facilities;
 - Adding air-conditioning to publicly accessible Park facilities;
 - Urban tree planting projects; and
 - Adding splash pads, misters and/or sprinklers at parks.

Environmental Stewardship (\$58 million). The proposed allocation plan states that investments in environmental stewardship will support:

- Early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition;
- Structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits;
- Improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions;
- Natural resource and site management planning;
- Multi-benefit river corridor projects; and
- Landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

Regional and Other Public Trails. The proposed allocation plan includes \$179 million in investments for regional trails and other public trails. In comparison, the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion included \$165.7 million in investments to this category.

⁴⁷ King County Parks: Forest Stewardship. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/natural-working-lands/forest-stewardship>.

⁴⁸ Puget Sound Regional Council: Stormwater Parks. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/stormwater-parks>

Table 6. Comparison of Regional and Other Public Trails Funding, Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

Subcategory	2020-2025 Allocation Plan (\$165.65 million)	2026-2031 Proposed Allocation Plan (\$179 million)
Eastrail	\$50.5 million	\$65 million
Lake to Sound Trail	\$16 million	\$55 million
Green River Trail North Extension	\$6 million	\$6 million
Interurban Trail South	\$5.5 million	\$8 million
Soos Creek Trail	\$4 million	\$7 million
Other New Regional Trails		\$38 million
East Lake Sammamish Trail	\$32 million	
Capital improvements for existing regional trail system	\$18 million	
Green to Cedar Rivers Trail North A	\$9 million	
Regional trails acquisition	\$2 million	
Foothills Trail	\$5 million	
East Lake Sammamish Trail – Redmond Light Rail Extension	\$4 million	
Wayne Golf Course Trail Connector Improvements	\$2 million	
Interurban Trail to Burke Gilman Connection	\$7.5 million	
Interurban Trail Connection	\$150,000	
Kirkland Green Loop Trail	\$2.5 million	
Missing Link of Green River Trail	\$1.5 million	

The proposed allocation plan includes the following investments:

Eastrail (\$65 million). The proposed levy would support construction of two additional segments of Eastrail, construction of an Eastrail connection to Coulon Park, paving the Central Wilburton segment, and completing design on the Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.

Eastrail is anticipated to be an uninterrupted 42-mile trail that would connect Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville, Snohomish, and Redmond. Approximately 16 miles are open, of which 7.5 miles are owned by King County. Trail segments currently under construction⁴⁹ are the Wilburton Trestle,⁵⁰ the I-90 Bridge Trail segment,⁵¹ and the Central Wilburton Trail Segment.⁵²

⁴⁹ King County Parks: Eastrail. Last accessed February 15, 2025. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/capital-projects/eastrail>

According to Executive staff, the proposed \$65 million allocation to Eastrail would support the I-90 Steel Bridge Crossing, Central Wilburton Paving, 124th to 145th Interim Trail, Coulon Park North Entrance to South Entrance, Coulon Park North Entrance to Mile Post 5, and Mile Post 5 to Ripley Lane.

Lake to Sound Trail (\$55 million). The proposed levy would support construction of two additional segments of the Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport. The Lake to Sound Trail is a multi-jurisdiction, multiple segment trail that extends 16 miles from the Cedar River at Lake Washington in Renton to Des Moines Beach Park on Puget Sound.

Green River Trail Extension – North (\$6 million). The proposed levy would support construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle. The Green River Trail is a regional trail of more than 19 paved miles from the south edge of Seattle to the City of Kent, passing through industrial lands near the Duwamish Waterway in Tukwila to the broad Green River Valley. The North extension project would extend the existing Green River Trail north from Cecil Moses Park in Tukwila, along West Marginal Place South, to the Seattle City limits near South Park.⁵³

Interurban Trail South Investments (\$8 million). The proposed levy would complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South. The Interurban Trail links Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Algona, and Pacific along a 14-mile trail following the Interurban Rail Line.

Soos Creek Trail (\$7 million). The proposed levy would support construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and plan for future Soos Creek Trail segments. The Soos Creek Trail is a 6-mile paved trail in the East Hill area of Kent with a gentle grade for strolls, bicycle rides, and horse rides.⁵⁴

Other New Regional Trails (\$38 million). Of this amount, \$18 million would support planning, acquisition, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections, including, but not limited to: Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

The remaining \$20 million would support emergent needs on the regional trail system, including, but not limited to: surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

⁵⁰ Construction started May 2024; anticipated opening summer 2026; costs \$37 million, of which \$20.5 million came from the 2020-2025 Parks Levy; other funding sources are Amazon, Washington State, City of Bellevue, and Kaiser Permanente.

⁵¹ Construction 2028-2030; anticipated opening 2030; costs \$49 million, of which \$2 million came from the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, along with a \$25 million federal RAISE Grant and \$12 million from Washington State's Climate Commitment Act.

⁵² Construction 2025-2026; anticipated opening 2026; costs \$2.5 million funded by Amazon.

⁵³ King County Parks: Green River Trail North Extension. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/capital-projects/green-river-trail-north-extension>

⁵⁴ King County Parks: Soos Creek Trail. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/trails/leafline-trails/soos-creek-trail>

New Park Development and Improvements. The proposed allocation plan includes \$51 million in investments for new park development and improvements.

Dog Parks (\$3 million). According to Executive staff, King County Parks completed a Draft Dog Park Feasibility Study in 2024. One of the prioritization criteria for locations assessed in the study was whether a community identified off-leash parks as a need in the King County Department of Local Services Community Needs Report. Based on this, feasible sites identified in that study include:

- North Shorewood Park
- Lake Geneva Park
- Skyway Park (if it aligns with the Community Center plan)

Executive staff state that King County Parks is also actively looking for potentially suitable locations on Vashon Island and in Fairwood near Petrovitsky Park.

As background, Ordinance 19771, passed in 2024, adopted several changes to King County Code Title 7, including allowing off-leash dog parks at County parks other than Marymoor Park.

Lakeland Park North (\$10 million). This would support design and construction of a 20-acre nature park at Lakeland North Urban Park between Auburn and Federal Way including trails, nature-based play area, shelter, restroom and parking.

Skyway Park Planning and Community Center (\$13 million). This would support design, construction, and initial operational costs at Skyway Park Community Center. Approximately \$20 million in additional funding would be needed for construction and is expected to come from REET and bond financing.

Backcountry Trail: new trails (\$3 million). According to Executive staff, new trails may be created at the sites that are listed under Major Maintenance and would also be created at future sites to be acquired.

Ballfield and Sports Courts: new facilities (\$3 million). According to Executive staff, potential projects may include adding pickleball courts at existing parks, adding recreational cricket facilities at existing parks, and adding light to existing courts or fields.

Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion (\$19 million). This would support design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation, and Other Park Repair and Renovation. The proposed allocation plan includes \$177 million in investments to active recreation repair and renovation, and other pair repair and renovation. In comparison, the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion included \$41.5 million in investments to this category.

Major maintenance existing infrastructure (\$90 million). This includes:

- General Infrastructure: \$23 million
- Playground rehabilitation: \$7 million
- Play amenities rehabilitation: \$6 million
- Parks building system rehabilitation: \$8 million
- Ballfield synthetic turf replacement: \$12 million
- Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation: \$2 million
- Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation: \$6 million
- Backcountry trail rehabilitation: \$6 million
- Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation: \$12 million
- Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.): \$8 million

ADA and accessibility rehabilitation (\$12 million). According to Executive staff, these projects would be identified by the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which are currently in progress.

Regional trails rehabilitation (\$55 million). This would support keeping the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

Marymoor Park rehabilitation:(\$16 million). This would fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

Sunset Park Renovation and Repair (\$4 million). According to Executive staff, the exact updates are still to be determined as part of a public engagement process, but may include, restroom renovation, parking improvements, court and field improvements, and adding additional amenities such as play area.

Grants Programs. The PO includes four grant programs that would be funded through the 2026-2031 Parks Levy. All four programs are continuations of existing grant programs, though modifications are proposed to three of the four. One program from the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, the Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program, is not proposed to continue. Table 7 below compares funding in the allocation plan of the current 2020-2025 Parks Levy and the allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy.

Table 7. Comparison of Grant Program Funding, Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

Program Name	2020-2025 Allocation Plan (\$102.57 million)	2026-2031 Allocation Plan (\$117 million)
Parks Capital and Open Space Grants (PCOS)	\$25 million ⁵⁵	\$30 million
Aquatic Facilities Grants	\$36 million	\$46 million
Healthy Communities and Parks Grants ⁵⁶	\$10 million	\$30 million
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$9.57 million	\$11 million
Open Space – River Corridors Grants	\$22 million	\$0

Table 7 shows that varying levels of increases are proposed for four of the programs, the largest of which would be a tripling of funding for the Healthy Communities and Parks Grants. Executive staff state that since 2022, the Healthy Communities and Parks Program received 404 applications requesting \$50.7 million, but King County was only able to approve about a quarter of the requests, or 105 applications (\$6.53 million), due to limited funding availability. This led the Parks Levy Oversight Board to recommend an increase in total funding for this grant program in the next levy to meet current and future demand. Executive staff state that their community engagement found support for increasing grant funding generally as well.

Executive staff state that the Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program is not proposed to continue because “during this program’s request for application cycles in 2022 and 2023 in the current levy period, there were not enough applicants to use all the allocated funding. Over half of the grants awarded in this program went to King County Parks or Water and Land Resources (WLR) Division (17 of 31). Parks and WLR plan to continue open space river corridor work without the grant program in the next levy cycle under several program areas, including the Environmental Stewardship Program and the Climate Resilience Program.”

For the PCOS, Aquatic Facilities, and Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Programs, the Executive proposes new program requirements through Attachment A to the PO. Existing program requirements, including eligible entities, eligible project types, advisory committee makeup, and selection process and criteria, are currently set by Ordinance 19166 (“the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance”). Analysis is ongoing as to whether the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance would need to be repealed in order to prevent conflicts with Attachment A to the PO.

As Tables 8, 9, and 10 show, the current programs have requirements around their advisory committees, project selection criteria, and approval process that are not included in Attachment A to the PO. Executive staff state that they propose to set those

⁵⁵ Note that in the 2020-2025 Allocation Plan, this is named “Towns and Cities Open Space” under the Open Space Acquisition category.

⁵⁶ Called “Targeted Equity Grant Program” in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

parameters internally for the 2026-2031 levy period, and anticipate making the following changes:

1. Defining a consistent grant framework in terms of goals;
2. Establishing consistent biennial grants cycles; and
3. Providing Council notification of awards, rather than Council approval.

Further detail on Executive's staff's proposed changes can be found in the Policy Issues section of this staff report. Whether to add guidance or requirements on these topics, with or without changes to what is in the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance, is a policy choice.

Because Attachment A is a formal attachment to the PO, the guidelines contained therein would not be able to be changed throughout the six-year levy period. This is also a policy choice.

Details of each grant program are discussed below.

Parks Capital and Open Space (PCOS) Grants. The PCOS Grant Program was a new program under the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. The PO defines the program as one that "provides moneys to metropolitan park districts, towns, or cities located in King County to achieve capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair, or replacement of parks or recreation infrastructure."

The PO includes an off-the-top allocation of up to \$30 million for the PCOS Grant Program. The proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive intends to spend the full \$30 million over the levy period.

Table 8. below shows the key elements of the program, as described in Attachment A to the PO, compared to the existing program under the 2020 Parks Levy Grant Ordinance. Yellow highlighting indicates areas of difference between the existing program and proposed one.

Table 8. PCOS Grant Program Requirements Comparison⁵⁷

Program Element	2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance Requirements	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Attachment A Requirements
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts • Public entities that serve King County
Eligible Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects to develop new or existing parks/trails/open space, at any stage • Acquiring land for parks/trails/open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects to develop new or existing parks/trails/open space, at any stage • Acquiring land for parks/trails/open space⁵⁸
Advisory Committee	Representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • School Districts • Nonprofit Organizations Council gives input on representatives	No advisory committee structure given
Project Selection Criteria	Criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.	No additional criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee makes recommendations • Executive transmits grant funding ordinance biennially 	No approval process given

Adding other public entities as an eligible entity, and removing eligibility of agricultural open space, is a policy choice.

Aquatic Facilities Grants. The Aquatic Facilities Grant Program was a new program begun under the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. The PO defines the program as one that “provides moneys to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects, including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, and construction; and major maintenance repair or replacement projects.”

⁵⁷ Terms are summarized here; Council staff has noted inconsistency in terminology though could be rectified.

⁵⁸ Except land primarily in agricultural use.

The PO includes an off-the-top allocation of up to \$46 million for the Aquatic Facilities Grant Program. The proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive intends to spend the full \$46 million over the life of the levy.

Table 9 shows the key elements of the program, as described in Attachment A to the PO, compared to the existing program under the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance. Yellow highlighting indicates areas of difference between the existing program and proposed one.

Table 9. Aquatic Facilities Grant Program Requirements Comparison

Program Element	2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance Requirements	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Attachment A Requirements
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts • School districts • Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts • School districts • Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities • Nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities
Eligible Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stages of capital projects related to public aquatic facilities, including land acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stages of capital projects related to public aquatic facilities, including land acquisition⁵⁹
Advisory Committee	Same advisory committee as PCOS Grant Program	No advisory committee structure given
Project Selection Criteria	Criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.	No additional criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee makes recommendations • Executive transmits grant funding ordinance biennially 	No approval process given

Adding nonprofits as an eligible entity is also a policy choice. Executive staff state that nonprofit-operated aquatic facilities are present but not numerous in King County, citing Whitewater Aquatics, which runs the Evergreen Aquatic Center in White Center as one example. Executive staff state that “opening the grant program to nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities will increase access to aquatics for King County residents.”

⁵⁹ The exact terminology used is different between the 2020 Parks Grant Ordinance and Attachment A, but they are understood to cover the same project types.

Healthy Communities and Parks Grants. The Targeted Equity Grant Program was a new program established under the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. The PO would rename this program to “Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Program” and define it as a program that “provides moneys in order to achieve equitable opportunities and access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County and King County towns and cities.”

The PO includes up to \$30 million for the Healthy Communities and Parks Program, under the 43% allocation that also includes operations and maintenance of King County’s open space system. Council staff has inquired as to why this program is part of a percentage allocation, whereas the PCOS and Aquatic Facilities Grant Programs are off -the-top allocations. The proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive intends to spend the full \$30 million over the life of the levy.

Table 10 shows the key elements of the program, as described in Attachment A to the PO, compared to the existing program under the 2020 Parks Levy Grant Ordinance. Yellow highlighting indicates areas of difference between the existing program and proposed one.

Table 10. Targeted Equity/Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Program Requirements Comparison⁶⁰

Program Element	2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance Requirements	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Attachment A Requirements
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King County • Cities and towns • Tribal Organizations • Nonprofit organizations • Community organizations without a 501(c)(3) status partnering with a fiscal agent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Tribal Organizations • Nonprofit organizations • Community organizations without a 501(c)(3) status partnering with a fiscal agent • Metropolitan park districts
Eligible Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building/Outreach/Planning • Land Acquisition in specific communities of need⁶¹ • Capital projects or programs that address unmet needs in underserved areas • Projects providing access for those with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition; • Feasibility study; • Planning and design; and/or • Construction.
Advisory Committee	<p>Representatives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and park districts • Open Space Equity Cabinet • Nonprofit and community-based organizations <p>Council gives input on representatives</p>	<p>No advisory committee structure given</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.</p>	<p>No additional criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.</p>
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee makes recommendations • Executive transmits grant funding ordinance annually 	<p>No approval process given</p>

King County is proposed to be removed as an eligible entity and metropolitan park districts added. Council staff has inquired about the reasoning for these changes. Changes to eligible entities is a policy choice.

⁶⁰ Terms are summarized here based on Council staff understanding of Executive intent; Council staff has noted inconsistency in terminology that could be rectified.

⁶¹ Either opportunity areas under K.C.C. 26.12 or areas determined to have been based on the Determinants of Equity.

Council staff asked Executive staff whether there was an intent to change the eligible project types, or if the categories proposed in Attachment A, along with verbiage about “traditionally underserved areas and communities” in the program purpose section, are intended to capture the same range of projects contained in the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance. Executive staff state the intent is that the same types of projects be eligible as currently.

Community Partnerships and Grants. The PO would direct that an unspecified amount of money from the 48% allocation, which also includes capital projects and the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center, be used for the Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) program. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive plans to use \$11 million for the CPG program over the life of the levy. In previous levies, the CPG program amount has not been explicitly stated in the ordinance, and this practice is continued in the PO. Whether to add a funding amount for the CPG program in the PO is a policy choice.

The CPG Program originated in 2002. The goals of the CPG program, as adopted by the Council in 2003, are:

- Address present and future regional public parks, sports, and recreation facility needs without new tax funded operations and maintenance costs;
- Empower user groups, sports associations, and other community-based organizations to leverage their commitment, passion, and resources into long-term, high quality, self-sustaining public parks, sports, and recreation facilities; and
- Develop a region-wide support network of users, organizations, and citizens, in general, whose successes are interconnected with the political, financial, and operational successes of the region’s parks, sports, and recreation system.⁶²

The PO defines the CPG program as “the program through which King County provides moneys to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations, and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating, or maintaining a recreation facility or public park in unincorporated King County and King County towns and cities for public benefit.”

For a typical CPG project, King County contributes the use of park land, as well as a grant to support the project. The community partner contributes the additional capital and in-kind resources needed to develop or renovate the facility, and signs a lease or use agreement with the County, through which it commits to carry out the operations, maintenance, and programming for the facility for a set period of time.

King County code sets the requirements for when Council involvement is required in disbursement of a CPG grant, shown in Table 11.⁶³

⁶² Motion 11680

⁶³ K.C.C. 7.08.110

Table 11. Community Partnership and Grants – Council Involvement

Private Investment Amount	Council Involvement
<\$10,000	None
\$10,000 - \$99,999	Notification 30 days prior to signing of agreement to Transportation, Economy, and Environment chair and Councilmember in whose district the project is located
>\$100,000	Council approval by ordinance

City, Town, and Park District Distributions. King County cities and towns received funding from the past three voter-approved levies. The 2020-2025 levy allocated 8% of levy proceeds to these entities. The proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy would increase the allocation to 9% of levy proceeds and add certain park districts within King County to the allocation list. Administrative costs are set at 1% of the allocation, which is \$190,000 for cities, towns, and park districts. Executive staff state that certain parks districts were added as recipients of the annual minimum allocation based on feedback from the Community Advisory Committee. Under the current levy, these parks districts were eligible for levy moneys if the district applied for grants supported by the levy. Staff state that these parks districts are parks and recreation service providers for specific geographic areas that own and operate parks but that are not directly supported by King County Parks or city/town parks.

Table 12 provides a high-level comparison of the proposed distributions in the 2026-2031 Parks Levy and the current levy.

Table 12. City, Town, and Park District Distributions, Proposed Levy vs. Current Levy

	2020-2025 Current Levy	2026-2031 Proposed Levy
Allocation Percentage & Dollar Amount	8% (\$60 million)	9% (\$119 million)
Annual Minimum Allocation	\$25,000 annually to each city, and an additional \$75,000 annually to each city with a population greater than 4,000.	\$100,000 to each town and city in King County, as well as Fall City Metropolitan Park District, Si View Metropolitan Park District, and Vashon Park District.
Allocation of Remainder	50% distributed in proportion to each town or city's population; 50% distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city.	60% would be distributed in proportion to each town or city's population; 40% would be distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city.

Table 13 shows the total six-year pass-through allocations for each city, town, and park district in the current levy under the current parks levy, in a status quo scenario for the proposed levy, in the Executive-proposed new levy with a split of 60% in proportion to population/40% in proportion to assessed parcel values, and a scenario in which the new levy pass-through allocation remains a 50/50 split.

Executive staff state that the rationale for changing the remainder allocation from a 50/50 split to 60/40 was to more equitably distribute the levy proceeds to communities across King County. Staff state that smaller towns and cities would still receive an increase in annual levy distributions due to the increase in minimum annual allocation to \$100,000; staff state this would offset the impacts of changing the remainder allocation formula.

Table 13. City, Town, and Park District Allocation Comparison

Jurisdiction	Current Parks Levy Allocation (6-year total, 2020-2025)	Status Quo Scenario (6-year total, 2026-2031)	Executive Proposal Allocation Formula: 60% Pop / 40% AV (6-year total, 2026-2031)	Executive Proposal w/ Current Formula 50% Pop / 50% AV (6-year total, 2026-2031)
Algona	\$210,510	\$292,097	\$736,398	\$733,755
Auburn	\$1,901,032	\$3,655,252	\$3,596,019	\$3,475,892
Beaux Arts Village	\$161,301	\$176,539	\$622,761	\$624,981
Bellevue	\$4,661,610	\$10,137,999	\$9,148,563	\$9,578,066
Black Diamond	\$734,293	\$915,363	\$900,894	\$896,850
Bothell	\$1,397,709	\$2,473,284	\$2,277,614	\$2,363,312
Burien	\$1,426,232	\$2,540,264	\$2,528,210	\$2,426,360
Carnation	\$190,045	\$244,039	\$690,645	\$688,519
Clyde Hill	\$302,846	\$508,933	\$897,611	\$937,861
Covington	\$942,767	\$1,404,931	\$1,400,041	\$1,357,677
Des Moines	\$1,109,525	\$1,796,533	\$1,795,407	\$1,726,290
Duvall	\$758,890	\$973,127	\$958,361	\$951,222
Enumclaw	\$808,935	\$1,090,648	\$1,087,137	\$1,061,844
Fall City MPD	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Federal Way	\$2,099,470	\$4,121,249	\$4,155,022	\$3,914,533
Hunts Point	\$206,498	\$282,676	\$703,964	\$724,887
Issaquah	\$1,480,034	\$2,666,609	\$2,521,995	\$2,545,287
Kenmore	\$1,055,812	\$1,670,397	\$1,620,659	\$1,607,559
Kent	\$2,912,018	\$6,029,381	\$5,925,949	\$5,710,646
Kirkland	\$2,833,374	\$5,844,697	\$5,401,809	\$5,536,805
Lake Forest Park	\$868,282	\$1,230,015	\$1,194,994	\$1,193,029
Maple Valley	\$1,084,866	\$1,738,626	\$1,715,841	\$1,671,782
Medina	\$371,554	\$670,282	\$1,017,526	\$1,089,738
Mercer Island	\$1,424,720	\$2,536,714	\$2,286,070	\$2,423,018
Milton	\$181,778	\$224,625	\$670,605	\$670,244

Newcastle	\$896,063	\$1,295,252	\$1,244,737	\$1,254,437
Normandy Park	\$742,228	\$933,997	\$911,929	\$914,390
North Bend	\$765,516	\$988,687	\$965,495	\$965,869
Pacific	\$709,879	\$858,032	\$858,030	\$842,884
Redmond	\$2,440,512	\$4,922,128	\$4,560,158	\$4,668,396
Renton	\$2,463,220	\$4,975,455	\$4,853,794	\$4,718,591
Sammamish	\$2,138,362	\$4,212,581	\$3,923,342	\$4,000,503
SeaTac	\$1,095,634	\$1,763,912	\$1,764,761	\$1,695,584
Seattle	\$16,494,538	\$37,925,610	\$35,738,135	\$35,734,393
Shoreline	\$1,650,740	\$3,067,484	\$3,003,754	\$2,922,629
Si View MPD	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Skykomish	\$153,082	\$157,237	\$606,904	\$606,812
Snoqualmie	\$873,949	\$1,243,323	\$1,212,419	\$1,205,556
Tukwila	\$1,087,392	\$1,744,556	\$1,663,988	\$1,677,364
Vashon PD	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Woodinville	\$927,672	\$1,369,483	\$1,301,957	\$1,324,310
Yarrow Point	\$221,534	\$317,986	\$736,503	\$758,125
TOTAL	\$61,784,423	\$119,000,000	\$119,000,000	\$119,000,000

Notes:

WA OFM Population: Sourced from the Washington Office of Financial Management's April 1 population estimate for 2024. Any cities partially in other counties are allocated funding based on the portion of the population living within King County.

KCAO Taxable AV: Based on the tax rolls as of October 2024. The calculation assumes that the ratio of both population and assessed value between the cities remains fixed throughout the duration of the levy.

Current Parks Levy Allocation: \$25K/yr to all cities and towns; \$75K/yr to all cities and towns with populations greater than 4,000; remaining disbursement according to formula (50/50 split between population and total assessed value).

Status Quo Scenario: Using same formula as "Current Parks Levy Allocation," with funds totaling \$119M.

Executive Proposal Allocation: \$100K/yr to all cities, towns, and park districts largely serving unincorporated areas; remaining disbursement according to adjusted formula (60/40 split between population and total assessed value).

Executive Proposal w/ Current Formula: Same as "Executive Proposal Allocation," using current formula for comparison (50/50 split between population and total assessed value).

Council staff analysis on comparisons between the proposal and the current levy are ongoing.

Educational and Civic Venue Distributions. The Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium have both received distributions in past levies; the zoo in the past three levies, and the aquarium in the current levy. The 2026-2031 Parks Levy provides allocations to those venues, as well as new allocations to Friends of Waterfront Park and Memorial Stadium; Executive staff state "alignment with Parks Levy goals" as the rationale for making distributions to each of these organizations. Tables 14 and 15 below compare the allocations to the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium as proposed and in the current levy.

Table 14. Woodland Park Zoo Allocation Comparison

		2020-2025 Current Levy	2026-2031 Proposed Levy
Dollar Amount Allocated		\$36 million	Up to \$42 million
Allowed Uses		<p>Environmental education, emphasizing accessibility to traditionally underserved populations throughout the County;</p> <p>Horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;</p> <p>Conservation of threatened species; and</p> <p>Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.</p>	<p>Environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;</p> <p>Horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;</p> <p>Conservation of threatened species; and</p> <p>Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.</p>

Executive staff state that additional specific use of the allocation includes community learning and engagement programs, family engagement programs, program-funded admissions and transportation for School to Zoo, volunteer engagement, education program registration and management, visitor research and program evaluation, empathy initiatives, creative services/signage, zoo keeper talks and tours (raptor program), website development and support, and information technology support of zoo programs.

Table 15. Seattle Aquarium Allocation Comparison

	2020-2025 Current Levy	2026-2031 Proposed Levy
Dollar Amount Allocated	\$8 million	Up to \$15 million
Allowed Uses	Capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts.	Environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; Maintenance of buildings and grounds; Conservation of threatened species; and Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.

According to Executive staff, more specific uses of the Seattle Aquarium allocation include supporting school groups, offering free community tickets, discounts for seniors and tribal members, summer camps, scholarships, beach naturalist program, Cedar River salmon journey program, community science program, youth ocean advocates program, Community Day events, urban kelp research, microplastic research, and symposiums around species reintroduction, habitat restoration, and ocean policy.

New in the proposed levy are the following allocations:

- Up to \$9 million for distribution to Friends of Waterfront Park, which shall be used solely for: accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; support for a clean and safe environment; free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships; and
- Up to \$2.5 million for distribution to the Memorial Stadium project, which shall be used solely for capital costs. Seattle Public Schools (SPS), the City of Seattle, and One Roof Stadium Partnership (a consortium of Seattle Kraken, One Roof Foundation, and Climate Pledge Arena) plan for a new multiuse student and community events facility to replace the 77-year-old Memorial Stadium with a new facility for year-round athletics, education, entertainment, and a focus on expanding the ways the stadium serves students and other youth from all backgrounds. Funding from sources other than the Parks Levy include:
 - \$66.5 million from the 2022 SPS Capital Levy;
 - \$41 million from the City of Seattle; and
 - \$4 million in state funding.

One Roof Stadium Partnership will invest in, design, build, operate, and maintain the new stadium, with SPS continuing to own the stadium and maintain priority use.

Administrative costs are set at 1% of the allocation which totals \$685,000 for educational and civic venues.

When asked whether these venues were eligible for or have received proceeds from the Doors Open Levy, Executive staff stated initial research into this program confirmed that Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium are eligible to apply for funding via that levy, but because the funding amounts were capped at certain dollar amounts (i.e., \$1 million for these large organizations), those proceeds were deemed insufficient to supplement or replace funding from the Parks Levy.

Oversight Board. Parks levy oversight boards have been in place since the 2004-2007 Parks Levy to monitor the expenditures of levy proceeds.

The structure and nomination process of the board has not changed from the current levy and is as follows:

- Nine members with each Councilmember nominating a candidate for the board who resides in the Councilmember's district no later than March 31, 2026.
- The Executive must appoint the candidate by May 31, 2026. If the Executive does not meet that deadline, the Executive must request that the Councilmember nominate another candidate by June 30, 2026.
- All members must be confirmed by the Council.
- Members may not be elected or appointed officials of any unit of government, however individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or commission are eligible.

Duties of the board include reviewing and reporting on the expenditure of levy proceeds in 2026 to the Executive, the Council, and the Regional Policy Committee by December 31, 2027, and then annually thereafter. The board expires on December 31, 2032.

Exemptions. As in the current levy, the proposed levy allows exemption for low-income senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax increase on their residences if they have been approved for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381. Taxpayers who have combined disposable income of \$84,000 or less AND meet one of the following requirements as of December 31st of the year before the taxes are due would be exempt:

- At least 61 years of age or older;
- Retired from regular gainful employment due to a disability; or
- Veteran of the armed forces of the United States receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at one of the following:
 - Combined service-connected evaluation rating of 80% or higher.
 - Total disability rating for a service-connected disability without regard to evaluation percent.

Executive staff state that exemptions are already removed from the assessed value that is assumed in the proposed levy revenue model and do not impact the total estimated revenue for the levy period at the proposed rate. The \$3 million listed in the proposed levy allocation plan is a forecast of the cost to the levy of new exemptions being added to tax rolls and/or changes in assessed value that make exempt property a larger overall share of total assessed value.

Table 16 shows the value of current property tax exemptions across King County, according to the most recent data from the King County Assessor. In total, based on assessed values (AV) for 2025, \$128.2 billion of property has an exemption and if it were taxed at the proposed levy rate of \$0.2443 per \$1,000 in AV, the exempted property would generate approximately \$31.3 million annually in levy revenue, or approximately \$188 million in revenue over the life of the proposed levy.

Table 16. Total Countywide Property Tax Exemptions, By Type

Exemption Type	Total Appraised	Total Taxable	Exempt Assessed Value	Estimated Levy Revenue Reduction from Exemption (2026)	Six-year total*
Current Use	\$3,514,574,105	\$2,308,003,056	\$1,206,571,049	\$294,765	\$1,768,592
Exempt (mostly Gov-owned)**	\$109,319,435,407	\$20,750,700	\$109,298,684,707	\$26,701,669	\$160,210,012
Senior	\$18,978,189,170	\$12,620,050,594	\$6,358,138,576	\$1,553,293	\$9,319,760
Home Improvement	\$415,554,000	\$387,141,200	\$28,412,800	\$6,941	\$41,647
Historic Property	\$979,620,500	\$336,143,782	\$643,476,718	\$157,201	\$943,208
Multi-family tax exemption	\$69,985,440	\$18,162,900	\$51,822,540	\$12,660	\$75,961
Multiple Exemptions	\$21,621,927	\$11,487,388	\$10,134,539	\$2,476	\$14,855
Non-Profit	\$10,595,600,951	\$24,685,952	\$10,570,914,999	\$2,582,475	\$15,494,847
No Exemptions	\$829,378,195,296	\$829,378,195,296	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property Exemptions	\$19,945,334,465	\$19,927,374,340	\$17,960,125	\$4,388	\$26,326
Total	\$993,218,111,261	\$865,031,995,208	\$128,186,116,053	\$31,315,868	\$187,895,209

*Six-year estimate assumes no AV growth or changes in levy rate due to inflation or population growth.

**Exempt is primarily government owned, but also includes some Multifamily Property Tax Exempt (MFTE) and non-profit exemptions.

If members wish for processing costs for tax exemptions to be an eligible use of levy proceeds, the levy ordinance would need to be amended.

Policy Issues. This section briefly summarizes key policy issues identified by Council Staff for the Council’s consideration. Additional information on these topics can be found in the Analysis section of the staff report.

Levy Rate. The proposed initial levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV would represent an increase over the status quo rate, which would have been approximately 19.52 cents

per \$1,000 AV if the current levy rate and limit factor were extended into 2026 and future years. In other words, if hypothetically, the current levy was extended into 2026 at a status quo calculation (applying the 2026 limit factor and assessed value assumptions to the 2025 levy collections), the effective rate for 2026 would have been 19.52 cents. The proposed initial levy rate for the 2026-2031 Parks Levy represents a policy choice for members.

Specificity in the Levy Ordinance. The Executive transmitted a proposed allocation plan, which gives detail on specific projects, programs, and funding amounts that are not included in the PO or its attachments. In other words, this level of specificity is not included in the legislation before the Council. As a result, the County could, at a later date, choose not to fund these projects or programs, or change the funding amounts. Depending on the level of specificity, these changes might not be immediately apparent in a budget ordinance.

Executive staff state that proposed allocations are not explicitly enumerated in the ordinance as they are planning-level estimates and may change in the future.

Whether to amend the ordinance to adopt the proposed allocation plan, introduce a companion motion to adopt an allocation plan, and/or to include additional specific allocations in the PO, is a policy choice for members to consider.

For the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, the Council adopted, simultaneous to levy ordinance adoption,⁶⁴ a companion motion⁶⁵ that included the allocation plan.

For the proposed 2026-2031 levy, a proposed companion motion (Proposed Motion 2025-0077) has been introduced. Proposed Motion 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan attached to the motion. While the attachment to the motion is currently the Executive's proposed allocation plan, members may choose to amend the allocation plan; this would be a policy choice.

The Proposed Motion would stipulate that the amounts in the allocation plan may be modified when deemed advisable or necessary in the judgment of the council, through adoption of an appropriations ordinance. If the Executive wished to make changes to allocations within the allocation plan, a report would be required to be submitted to the Council detailing the proposed changes. This process mirrors what was adopted in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy Motion. These processes are also policy choices.

Changes to Town/City/Park District Allocations. The PO would increase the minimum annual allocation for all towns and cities to \$100,000 from a population-based range of \$25,000 to \$75,000, adds certain parks districts to the list of recipients eligible for the minimum annual allocation, and changes the allocation of the remainder from a 50/50 split to 60% distributed in proportion to each town or city's population and 40% distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city. Whether to approve these changes or maintain the allocations under the current levy is a policy choice for members.

⁶⁴ Ordinance 18890.

⁶⁵ Motion 15378.

New Educational and Civic Venue Funding Recipients. Increases to funding levels for the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium, as well as adding new allocations to Friends of the Waterfront Park and Memorial Stadium, are policy choices for the members.

Grant Program Changes. The PO increases funding maximums (to varying degrees) for four existing grant programs, and eliminates one existing grant program, the Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program. These changes are a policy choice.

For the PCOS, Aquatic Facilities, and Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Programs, guidance related to advisory committee structure, project selection criteria, and approval process would not be carried forward into the new levy. Executive staff state that they intend to set these processes internally for the current levy. Executive staff provided the following anticipated changes to the current process:

1. *Defining a consistent grant framework in terms of goals*
 - i. *Ordinance 19166 legislation uses terms interchangeably and inconsistently (goals, priorities).*
2. *Establishing consistent biennial grants cycles*
 - ii. *Reduce burden for applicants (extensive requirements to apply, contract, report, etc.).*
 - iii. *Allows for larger number of grant funds available within given request for application timeframe.*
3. *Establishing a streamlined grant approval process so that grantees can receive awards sooner*
 - iv. *Provide notification of the award to Council verses legislative approval (similar to Youth and Amateur Sports Grants).*
 - v. *The legislative process can take several months which impacts distribution of funds to grantees; grantees have provided feedback that this delay is an obstacle for their organizations to begin work on key parks and recreation projects. Currently, it can take anywhere from 6-8 months from application to receipt of funds.*

Whether to formally adopt committee structure, project selection criteria, and approval processes for these three grant programs, with or without changes, is a policy choice.

For the same three programs, changes are proposed to eligible entities and projects. These changes are a policy choice.

Overall Allocations. The PO would make changes to various allocations compared to the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. These allocations could be modified or other allocations could potentially be included by members. Depending on their nature, changes to allocations could potentially necessitate reductions or changes to the estimated amounts for the currently planned programming found in the proposed allocation plan.

Attachments A and B. Attachment A (General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs) and Attachment B (Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban

Green Space Acquisition Guidelines) specify processes and eligibility criteria for use of levy proceeds for grant programs and open space acquisitions. Because these processes and criteria would be part of the levy ordinance, the County would not be able to deviate from them in the future once approved by voters. Whether to adopt these guidelines as part of the ordinance or adopt them by companion motion (if one were introduced) is a policy choice.

ANSWERS TO COUNCILMEMBER QUESTIONS FROM 2/26 BFM

- 1. Regarding property tax exemptions, how effective has the county been in enrolling people? What is that process? Do we know how many people are being missed and is there any type of outreach or assistance available to bring more people into the program?**

A 2020 proviso report showed that in 2019, there were 1,808 applications. Approximately 94% of applications were approved. The process of applying for a property tax exemption is either through an online portal⁶⁶ or through paper copies.

According to a December 2024 report by the King County Auditor,⁶⁷ the Department of Assessments has created a comprehensive customer service strategy which includes customer communications, outreach, application support, and creating and maintaining a positive working environment for the team. The strategy includes equity goals like supporting taxpayers regardless of language, resources, or abilities. The King County Assessor's website provides a guide to property tax exemptions.⁶⁸

- 2. How close are we to the \$5.90 limit that would trigger prorationing?**

Based on the August 2024 OEFA forecast, assuming an initial parks levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2026, there would be about \$1.09 of room in 2026, and between \$0.73 to \$1.09 in the next six years, before the closest district would hit the \$5.90 limit. During the 2026-2031 time frame, the closest levy district to reaching the \$5.90 limit would be Vashon Island, with about \$0.73 of room in 2027.⁶⁹ This calculation includes the AFIS levy renewal passed in early 2025. The Executive is expected to transmit a proposed EMS levy renewal later in 2025; EMS levies are not subject to the \$5.90 limit.

- 3. What is included in this levy proposal related to operating support for trail safety?**

According to Executive staff, Parks will soon launch its first Parks Ranger Program to help inform trail users about safe trail practices. The Levy proposal includes funding to sustain and grow Parks' Ranger and safety programs. In addition, Parks implements targeted educational campaigns about trail etiquette when needs arise, which Parks' Community Investments & Engagement team will continue to implement in the next levy.

⁶⁶ [Property Tax Exemption Portal](#)

⁶⁷ *Second Follow-up on Property Tax Exemptions: Stronger Systems Needed to Meet Demand*, pg. 3.

⁶⁸ [Guide to Property Tax Exemptions](#)

⁶⁹ State law currently removes regular park and recreation district property tax levies from the \$5.90 limit if levied on an island within a county with a population over two million (i.e., Vashon Island). This exemption, unless changed by state law, expires January 1, 2027. (House Bill 1034, Chapter 117, Laws of 2021)

4. Can you provide further information on the planned trail lighting investments in the CIP list (trail intersection lighting emergent needs) including locations and dollar amounts if known? Are there any other planned investments in lighting?

According to Executive staff, the proposed levy includes \$20M for emergent need projects that arise during the levy period. This includes potential lighting projects. The emergent needs programmatic project is, by design, structured to allow for flexibility as needs arise across the system. As such, locations for lighting investments in 2026-2031 are not yet identified.

Other planned investments in lighting are contingent upon the determination to extend regional trail hours beyond the current time frame of thirty minutes before sunrise and thirty minutes after sunset. This is currently under review.

6. Can you provide a list of the locations of the fish passage barrier removal projects that will be undertaken with the funding for this ordinance? How much additional money would be needed to complete work on all 50ish Parks fish passage barriers? What is the cost and feasibility for completing all the fish passage barrier removal projects?

According to Executive staff, the proposed upcoming fish passage projects are still in the planning stage, and so all information provided is based on planning level estimates. As estimates become firmer, it is possible more projects can be added to the 6-year workplan.

Based on current information, the proposed \$10 million would be allocated to the fish passage project listed below:

- Snoqualmie Valley Trail – Tributary to Horseshoe Lake, north of NE Carnation Farm Rd (FPS-2373)
- Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park – Red Town Trailhead at Coal Creek (FPS-2258 & FPS-1513)
- Foothills Trail – Tributary to Boise Creek (FPS-8175)
- Lower Newaukum Creek Natural Area – Tributary to Newaukum Creek (FPS-13689)

These are planning level cost estimates; however, in current dollars, the total cost for each Parks fish passage project ranges from approximately \$1-5M. The most expensive projects are typically associated with regional trails and roads that cross deep ravines created by streams. On the lower end of the cost range are projects that simply remove a culvert altogether because a crossing is no longer needed. Parks estimates that the total cost to remedy all 50 of the remaining fish passage barriers would range in cost from \$100-250M in current dollars.

7. Please provide a list of participants that advised the levy proposal.

Members of the Community Advisory Committee represented the following organizations or groups:

- Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
- Eastrail Partners
- Federal Way Black Collective
- Issaquah Alps Trail Club
- King County Parks Directors – Multiple Cities
- King County Play Equity Coalition
- Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
- Leafline Trails Coalition
- Living Well Kent
- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Open Space Equity Cabinet
- Pacific Northwest Swim
- Parks Levy Oversight Board
- REI
- Seattle Aquarium
- Seattle Parks Foundation
- Si View Metro Parks District
- Skyway Coalition
- SnoValley Chamber of Commerce
- The Wilderness Society
- Trust for Public Land
- Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust
- White Center Community Development Association
- Woodland Park Zoo

8. What is the current allocation per city or town?

This information is provided in Table 16 of the staff report.

**9. How does this proposal address unmet regional needs in parks spaces?
How are historically underserved areas addressed?**

According to Executive staff, During the community engagement process, which included direct engagement with the community and feedback from the Community Advisory Committee, “improving safety and belonging” was identified as a priority for underserved communities. The proposed Levy has a focus on major maintenance, much of which is targeted in underserved communities, which is a key component of making parks feel safe and welcoming.

In response to community feedback, the proposed Levy would invest significant funds for park rehabilitation and development in underserved communities, thus increasing recreational access. Sites for this work include:

- \$10M for the development of a new park near Federal Way (Lakeland North).
- \$19M to convert the existing South County Ballfields complex to synthetic turf, thus increasing access to recreational facilities in South King County.
- \$13M to complete the design and begin construction of the Skyway Community Center.

- \$4M to rehabilitate Sunset Park based on community engagement and input.
- Over \$76M is proposed to advance planning, design, and construction of regional trails connecting communities in South King County to the larger regional trail network, including Lake to Sound Trail, Green River Trail Extension North, Interurban Trail South, and Soos Creek Trail.
- As part of the “Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship” allocation category, funds are also included to be responsive to community requests to activate and improve access to parks and recreation in Opportunity Areas.

10. What is the capacity of Parks to complete these investments in six years? How many additional FTEs would be hired to complete the levy work and at what cost?

Executive staff are working on a response on this question.

ANSWERS TO COUNCILMEMBER QUESTIONS FROM 2/12 BFM (Briefing from Executive Staff)

1. Can you provide a detailed list of proposed investments?

This information is provided in Attachment 3 to this staff report.

2. Was the proposed increase in funding for grant programs due to the proposals not being able to meet demand?

According to Executive staff, yes, this was due to the proposals not being able to meet demand. The Parks Levy Oversight Board found that since 2022, the Communities and Parks Fund has received 404 applications requesting \$50.7 million. King County was only able to approve about a quarter of the requests, or 105 applications (\$6.53 million), due to limited funding availability. This led the Parks Levy Oversight Board to recommend an increase in total funding for this grant program in the next levy to meet current and future demand. Additionally, feedback through many of the engagement activities from partners, community advisory committee, the public, and the Parks Levy Oversight Board, identified that an increase in Parks grant programs would be beneficial. The Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program is not proposed to continue due to lack of demand.

3. What was the rationale for changing from 50%/50% to 60%/40% in the towns/cities allocation formula?

According to Executive staff, the adjusted formula for towns/cities (60%/40%) was changed to more equitably distribute the levy proceeds to communities across King County. Smaller towns and cities would still receive an increase in annual levy distributions by receiving a minimum of \$100,000/year, which would offset the impacts by changing the existing formula.

4. Please provide a breakdown of the actuals spent in each category of the current parks levy over the 2020-2025 period, shown side-by-side with proposed allocation plan?

This information is provided in Table 4 of this staff report.

5. For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

This information is provided in Attachment 4 to this staff report.

6. How does the fish passage work align with the scoping motion? How much more will there be to do if the work funded under the levy is all completed?

According to Executive staff, the fish passage projects proposed in the 2026-2031 Levy are consistent with the Motion 15328 Report. Between 2022-2024, Parks completed eight projects that remedied ten fish passage barriers. The 2026-2031 Levy proposal provides funding for eight additional projects, with further fish passage projects needing completion after 2031.

Since the 2021 Report, the Countywide Fish Passage Restoration Program has generated a capital work plan that targets fish passage work at County-owned barriers prioritized based on benefits for salmon and kokanee. Moving past 2031, Parks plans to continue to remedy Parks' barriers that block salmon access to meaningful upstream habitat (which is represented by about 50 known barriers on Parks-owned parcels).

7. Can you provide a breakdown of non-Parks Levy funding for the Skyway community center, whether the project is fully funded, and when completion is expected?

According to Executive staff, the total estimated planning level cost for the community center is \$40 million:

- Existing funding: \$8 million (from 2021-2022 King County budget)
- Proposed 2026-2031 levy funding: \$13 million
- REET 2 funding: \$19 million (may include some level of debt financing)

The estimated completion and opening year is 2030. Budget requests for this project would follow standard review and approval processes.

8. Can you provide the details of any cricket-specific investments planned?

According to Executive staff, the \$3M *Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)* line item under "New Park Development Improvements" heading is intended to provide funding to develop new facilities in our existing parks. Specific projects have not yet been identified for this line item, as a community engagement process would be used to inform projects. Facilities to support recreational cricket could be funded using this line item.

Additionally, South County Ballfields would be converted to multi-use artificial turf fields. An assessment will be done to determine what types of uses would be beneficial to have at these fields (i.e. lacrosse, cricket, soccer, etc.).

SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070 was transmitted to the Council on February 11, 2025, and has been dually referred first to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and second to the Regional Policy Committee.

The BFM and RPC chairs have agreed to the schedule below:

Action	Committee/ Council	Date	Amendment Deadlines
<i>Transmittal</i>		2/11/25	
<i>Exec Staff Briefing</i>	<i>BFM</i>	2/12/25	
<i>Discussion only</i>	<i>BFM</i>	2/26/25	
<i>Discussion only</i>	<i>BFM</i>	3/12/25	
<i>Briefing (Legislation still in BFM control)</i>	<i>RPC</i>	3/12/25	
<i>Discussion and Possible Action</i>	<i>BFM</i>	3/26/25	<i>Striker direction: March 19</i> <i>Striker distribution: March 21</i> <i>Line AMD direction: March 24</i>
<i>Discussion and Possible Action</i>	<i>Special RPC</i>	4/3/25	<i>Striker direction: March 28</i> <i>Striker distribution: March 31</i> <i>Line AMD direction: April 1</i>
<i>Final Action</i>	<i>Full Council</i>	4/15/25	
<i>Final Action (with courtesy delay)</i>	<i>Full Council</i>	4/22/25 ¹	

Following action by the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and Regional Policy Committee, the legislation would then go to Full Council for final approval. The following are key full Council meeting deadlines⁷⁰ to place this measure on the August 5, 2025, ballot:

- Last regular Council meeting assuming maximum processing time: April 1, 2025.
- Last regular Council meeting assuming minimum processing time (requires Executive to sign on same day): April 22, 2025.
- Last special Council meeting to pass the ordinance as an emergency: May 2, 2025.
- Deadline for King County Elections to receive effective ordinance: May 2, 2025.

INVITED

- John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070 (and its attachments)
2. Parks Levy Executive-Proposed Allocation Plan for 2026-2031
3. King County Parks Anticipated CIP Project Investments List
4. King County Parks Inflation Analysis
5. Transmittal Letter
6. Fiscal Note
7. Park Levy Sub-fund Financial Plan
8. Parks Capital Program
9. Parks Levy Operations Financial Plan
10. King County Parks Map of Project Highlights
11. Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2025
12. Proposed Motion 2025-0077 (and its attachment)

⁷⁰ Council Clerk's memorandum on Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2025 (Attachment 11).



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Ordinance

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Proposed No. 2025-0070.1

Sponsors Dembowski and Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on August 5, 2025, of a proposition
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy
5 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of
6 six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than
7 \$0.2443 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in
8 the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King
9 County inflation plus population index published by the
10 King County office of economic and financial analysis, or
11 the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in
12 years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and
13 operating King County's open space system; improving
14 parks, recreation, access and mobility in the King County
15 open space system by acquiring lands and continuing to
16 develop regional trails; improving parks and trails in and
17 acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and
18 cities in King County; funding environmental education,
19 maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland

20 Park Zoo; funding environmental education, maintenance
21 and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium;
22 funding development, maintenance, and programming for
23 Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital
24 improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County
25 residents.

26 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

27 1. King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks
28 and trails that consists of thirty-two thousand acres of parklands and more
29 than one hundred eighty-five miles of regional trails. The county provides
30 regional trails, regional recreational facilities, regional natural areas,
31 regional parks, and local parks in unincorporated areas. Examples of
32 regional and local county parks and trails include Marymoor park, Cougar
33 Mountain Regional Wildland park, Steve Cox Memorial park, Dick
34 Thurnau Memorial park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center,
35 and the Sammamish River trail.

36 2. Parks, natural areas, and trails contribute to a high quality of life. A
37 robust system of parks and trails provides: physical, social, and mental
38 health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation
39 and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and
40 retain skilled workers; increased climate resilience; environmental benefits
41 like clean water and healthy habitat and cultural resource protection

42 through open space conservation. King County's open space system
43 provides all these benefits to King County residents and businesses.

44 3. The 2002 Parks Business Transition Plan, adopted by the King County
45 council and enacted by Ordinance 14509, became the blueprint for
46 establishing the regional open space system we have today. Building on
47 that blueprint, the county has adopted open space plans, which have
48 provided the framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning,
49 development, stewardship, maintenance, and management of its complex
50 system of parks, regional trails, and acres of open space. The latest open
51 space plan was updated in 2022 and adopted by Ordinance 19501.

52 4. In implementing the open space plan, the parks and recreation division
53 of the department of natural resources and parks has successfully focused
54 its lines of business on regional parks and trails, backcountry trails, natural
55 lands, and local parks in unincorporated King County and has
56 implemented business practices that generate revenue from park system
57 assets by implementing or increasing user fees and establishing corporate
58 and community partnerships that enhance park amenities and leverage
59 public and private dollars to improve parks and increase access to parks.

60 5. Consistent with the recommendations of past parks-related task forces
61 and community advisory committees, the county has sought voter-
62 approved levies on four prior occasions: in 2003, enacted by Ordinance
63 14586, to provide maintenance and operating funding for the parks and
64 recreation division for 2004 through 2007; in 2007, enacted by Ordinance

65 15759, to provide funding for maintenance and operations as well as
66 funding for open space acquisition, regional trail development, the
67 Woodland Park Zoo and for King County towns and cities for use in their
68 open space acquisition and trail projects for 2008 through 2013; in 2013,
69 enacted by Ordinance 17568, to provide funding for maintenance and
70 operations as well as for open space acquisition, asset maintenance and
71 improvement, parks and trails projects, the Woodland Park Zoo and for
72 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
73 2014 through 2019; and in 2019, enacted by Ordinance 18890, to provide
74 funding for maintenance and operations as well as for open space
75 acquisition, asset maintenance and improvement, parks and trails projects,
76 the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, aquatic facilities, and for
77 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
78 2020 through 2025. Voters approved the funding measures on all four
79 occasions that they were on the ballot. The voter-approved levies have
80 helped keep the open space system clean, safe, and open.

81 6. Tribal nations are co-managers with the county in managing our shared
82 public lands, waters, and resources. The county recognizes that this
83 relationship is informed and guided by the treaty rights which many tribes
84 exercise within King County. The department of natural resources and
85 parks has undertaken many actions with tribes as comanagers in an effort
86 to foster mutual respect, and establish regular and meaningful
87 communication, cooperation, and consultation with tribal officials in

88 developing and executing state and King County policies that have tribal
89 implications. The county has an ongoing goal to strengthen the
90 government-to-government relationship with tribes that share territory
91 with and have interests in King County

92 7. The 2020 through 2025 voter-approved parks, trails, and open space
93 replacement levy provides approximately eighty-five percent of the
94 operating budget of the parks and recreation division, with approximately
95 fifteen percent generated through business activities and entrepreneurial
96 efforts. King County general fund support to the parks and recreation
97 division was eliminated as of 2011.

98 8. The community partnerships and grants program enacted by Ordinance
99 14509 enhances parks amenities by partnering with parks and recreation
100 organizations. Since the inception of the community partnership and grant
101 program in 2003, more than seventy projects representing more than
102 seventy million dollars' worth of new, enhanced, or preserved public
103 recreation facilities have been completed, with only twenty-two million
104 dollars of King County capital investment.

105 9. The Woodland Park Zoo received distributions from the past three
106 voter-approved levies to supplement zoo operating revenue for education
107 and conservation programs, horticulture and maintenance, and capital
108 improvements. Levy proceeds distributed to the zoo provided
109 environmental education, programming and transportation focusing on
110 accessibility for underserved areas, supported thousands of students-

111 annually, and benefitted residents throughout King County. Levy
112 proceeds also provided conservation and animal care for threatened
113 Pacific Northwest species.

114 10. The Seattle Aquarium received distributions from the past voter-
115 approved levy for capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify
116 the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts by bringing visitors
117 face-to-face with tropical species native to the Coral Triangle and by
118 housing approximately three thousand five hundred sustainably sourced
119 tropical fish and invertebrates, including rays, sharks, mangroves, and up
120 to 30 species of coral.

121 11. The removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct provided an unprecedented
122 opportunity to create new green space in the heart of Seattle. The
123 resulting waterfront park is a twenty-acre public space stretching from
124 Belltown to Pioneer Square, providing the entire region lasting economic,
125 social, and environmental benefits. Seattle Waterfront park will link
126 iconic attractions including Olympic Sculpture park, Pike Place Market,
127 the Seattle Aquarium, the Colman Dock ferry terminal, Pioneer Square,
128 stadiums, and surrounding neighborhoods.

129 12. The Memorial Stadium project will create an innovative multi-
130 purpose student and community events facility at Seattle Center. That
131 transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the city of
132 Seattle, providing an improved venue for local and regional sports and
133 events.

134 13. King County towns and cities received funding from the past three
135 voter-approved levies. In 2008 through 2013, towns and cities could use
136 levy proceeds for open space and natural lands acquisition and
137 development of town or city trail projects that supported connections to
138 the regional trail system with distributions being contingent upon an equal
139 or greater contribution of matching moneys from the recipient town or city
140 for the same project. In the 2014 through 2019 and the 2020 through 2025
141 levies, types of uses for the distribution to King County towns and cities
142 were broadened to provide flexibility and better meet the parks and
143 recreation needs of cities.

144 14. Parks levy oversight committees were established to monitor the
145 expenditures of the proceeds from the 2004 through 2007, 2008 through
146 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through 2025 levies. Annual
147 committee review has concluded that the county has complied with all
148 levy requirements.

149 15. During the 2008 through 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through
150 2025 levy periods, the process for developing, reviewing, and
151 recommending potential conservation futures tax and parks levy
152 acquisition projects has maximized acquisitions for open space, natural
153 lands, and regional trail rights of way due to the similar objectives for the
154 conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition programs. Parks levy
155 open space funding distributed to King County is a critical component of
156 match for county applications for conservation futures tax funding. The

157 process for conservation futures tax outlined in K.C.C. 26.12.010
158 maintains transparency, accessibility, and consistency of the distribution
159 of conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition funds for the public,
160 stakeholder groups, government agencies, and officials.

161 16. King County is growing rapidly as a region. In 2024, King County's
162 population increased by more than thirty thousand people; over the next
163 ten years, the county is expected to grow by another two hundred fifty
164 thousand people. Recent trend reports indicate that participation in
165 outdoor recreation continues to grow, increasing by more than four
166 percent nation-wide in 2023. More and more people are using King
167 County parks and trails, which puts greater pressure on the system. As
168 development increases to accommodate population growth, the risk of
169 losing natural lands and green spaces throughout the county grows. Those
170 valuable lands contribute to King County residents' high quality of life.
171 The cost of land to accommodate this growth and preserve open spaces is
172 also increasing. Today is the opportune time to address future needs of
173 residents by investing in our parks and trails and accelerating conservation
174 of open space.

175 17. In King County, many communities have experienced a history of
176 inequitable and limited regional investments in parks, recreation, and open
177 space, limiting the ability of residents to lead healthy lives.
178 Approximately five hundred thousand King County residents live without
179 ready access to, parks, recreation, and open spaces. There is a need to

180 address disparities in access to parks, recreation, and open space for
181 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with
182 disabilities. This proposal provides an opportunity to address parks and
183 recreation needs of these traditionally underserved areas and communities,
184 including people with disabilities.

185 18. Recognizing growth in population, increased use of parks and trails
186 and the need to address disparities to prepare the 2026 through 2031 levy,
187 the parks and recreation division conducted outreach to obtain feedback on
188 the current park system and future parks and recreation needs for all King
189 County residents. In March and April 2024, parks and recreation division
190 staff conducted twenty-one in-person and virtual community engagement
191 events and hosted two online surveys across eight languages. Participants
192 represented all geographic areas of the county including towns and cities,
193 business, recreation, community, and environmental interests. More than
194 four thousand eight hundred people across all nine King County Council
195 districts participated in the surveys. Parks and recreation division staff also
196 met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive
197 additional feedback about the levy.

198 19. Feedback from engagement events, online surveys, and meetings
199 showed support for the King County open space system and defined
200 measures of success. Four themes emerged as top priorities: safety and
201 belonging; new parks, trails, recreation, and infrastructure; equity,
202 representation, inclusion, and access; and maintenance, repairs, and

203 staffing. Feedback supported funding for King County towns' and cities'
204 parks and recreation programs; expansion of the regional trails system;
205 and natural lands conservation.

206 20. From January through July 2024, parks and recreation division staff
207 convened a Community Advisory Committee tasked with recommending
208 how to preserve King County's system of parks, trails, and open space
209 after the 2019 through 2025 levy expires. The Community Advisory
210 Committee also advised staff about how best to meet the growing parks
211 and recreation needs in King County and the region. Representing King
212 County Boards, cities, non-profit organizations, community and
213 environmental interests, businesses, and sports, the Community Advisory
214 Committee met nine times to provide guidance on developing the 2026
215 through 2031 levy.

216 21. The King County executive took into consideration information
217 obtained from this engagement, the region's growing population, increased
218 use of parks and trails across King County, and the lack of parks,
219 recreation, and open space in some communities, and has put forth this
220 proposal that acknowledges the changing landscape and the need to grow
221 the open space system to keep up with regional demand. This proposal is
222 also consistent with the goals and priorities of past levy task forces.

223 22. This proposal would exempt low-income senior citizens, disabled
224 veterans, and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax
225 increase on their residences resulting from a levy authorized by this

226 ordinance if they have been approved for an exemption under RCW
227 84.36.381.

228 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

229 SECTION 1. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this
230 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

231 A. "Aquatic facilities grants program" means the program through which King
232 County provides moneys to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects,
233 including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, and construction; and
234 major maintenance repair or replacement projects.

235 B. "Community partnerships and grants program" means the program through
236 which King County provides moneys to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations,
237 and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing,
238 operating, or maintaining a recreation facility or public park in unincorporated King
239 County and King County towns and cities for public benefit.

240 C. "Conservation" means protection of natural and resource lands from
241 development through fee or easement acquisition, restoration of natural functions, and
242 administration of incentives for landowners that voluntarily preserve open space.

243 D. "Conservation futures tax program" means the program defined in K.C.C.
244 chapter 26.12.

245 E. "Educational and civic venues" means the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle
246 Aquarium, Seattle Waterfront park, and Memorial Stadium.

247 F. "Healthy community and parks grants program" means the program through
248 which King County provides moneys in order to achieve equitable opportunities and

249 access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and communities,
250 including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County and King
251 County towns and cities.

252 G. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and
253 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
254 law.

255 H. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy,
256 any interest earnings on the moneys, and the proceeds of any interim financing following
257 authorization of the levy.

258 I. "Limit factor" means the most recent published King County office of
259 economic and financial analysis King County inflation plus population index, or the
260 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, whichever is greater.

261 J. "Open space system" means the system that includes parks, trails, natural
262 areas, resource lands, and structures or buildings owned or otherwise under the
263 jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department of natural resources.

264 K. "Parks capital and open space grants program" means the program through
265 which King County provides moneys to metropolitan park districts, towns, or cities
266 located in King County to achieve capital improvement projects and major maintenance
267 repair, or replacement of parks or recreation infrastructure.

268 L. "Parks district" means the active metropolitan park districts under chapter
269 35.61 RCW and parks and recreation service areas under chapter 36.68 RCW in King
270 County.

271 M. "Town or city parks system" means any building or other structure related to
272 parks or recreation; operations and maintenance of parks, trails, and open space such as
273 natural areas, resource or ecological lands, and other parks or recreation property owned
274 or otherwise under the jurisdiction of a town or city within King County.

275 SECTION 2. Levy submittal to voters. To provide necessary moneys for the
276 purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council shall submit to
277 the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy
278 in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive
279 years, with collection commencing in 2026, at a rate not to exceed \$0.2443 per one
280 thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar amount
281 of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the levy amounts in year two
282 through six shall be calculated. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a
283 regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

284 SECTION 3. Deposit of levy proceeds. The levy proceeds shall be deposited
285 into a dedicated subfund of the parks and recreation fund, or its successor.

286 SECTION 4. Eligible expenditures. If approved by the qualified electors of the
287 county, levy proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

288 A. Costs incurred by the county that are attributable to the parks, recreation,
289 trails, and open space levy elections;

290 B. Distributions to educational and civic venues, limited to the following
291 facilities:

292 1. Up to forty-two million dollars for distribution to the Woodland Park
293 Zoological Society which shall be used solely for: environmental education with an

294 emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including
295 people with disabilities; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;
296 conservation of threatened species; and development of conservation and education
297 strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change;

298 2. Up to fifteen million dollars for distribution to the Seattle Aquarium which
299 shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to
300 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;
301 maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of threatened species; and
302 development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and
303 habitats from climate change;

304 3. Up to nine million dollars for distribution to Friends of Waterfront Park,
305 which shall be used solely for: accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and
306 communities, including people with disabilities; support for a clean and safe
307 environment; free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and
308 inclusive community partnerships; and

309 4. Up to two million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to the
310 Memorial Stadium project, which shall be used solely for capital costs;

311 C. Up to thirty million dollars for the parks capital and open space grants
312 program;

313 D. Up to forty-six million dollars for the aquatic facilities grant program; and

314 E. The remainder for the following purposes:

315 1. Forty-three percent of levy proceeds for maintenance and operations of King
316 County's open space system and the healthy community and parks grants program, but no

317 more than thirty million dollars may be used for the healthy community and parks grants
318 program;

319 2. Forty-eight percent of levy proceeds for:

320 a. Acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of additional open space lands,
321 natural areas, resource or ecological lands, rights of way for regional trails, and urban
322 green spaces;

323 b. Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other
324 public trails;

325 c. Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement
326 of open space system infrastructure;

327 d. Community partnerships and grants program; and

328 e. Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center;

329 3. Nine percent of levy proceeds for distribution to towns, cities, and parks
330 districts in King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital
331 improvement projects, of which amount:

332 a. One-hundred thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each town,
333 city, and the following parks districts that predominantly serve unincorporated King
334 County: Fall City Metropolitan Park District, Si View Metropolitan Park District, and
335 Vashon Park District; and

336 b. Of the remainder, sixty percent shall be distributed in proportion to each
337 town or city's population and forty percent shall be distributed in proportion to the
338 assessed value of parcels within each town or city;

339 4. Of the levy proceeds in subsections B., C., D., E.2.d., and E.3. of this section,
340 a portion shall be retained by the county to be used for expenditures related to
341 administration of the distribution of levy proceeds. Eligible administrative expenditures
342 shall include all costs and charges to the parks and recreation division or the county
343 associated with or attributable to the purposes listed in subsections B., C., D., E.2.d., and
344 E.3. of this section as well as sections 6 and 7 of this ordinance.

345 SECTION 5. Call for special election. In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,
346 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with
347 the primary election on August 5, 2025, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular
348 property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director
349 of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state
350 constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the
351 said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council
352 shall certify that proposition to the King County director of elections in substantially the
353 following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for
354 the proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:

355 King County

356 Proposition No. 1

357 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy

358 The King County council passed Ordinance _____ concerning
359 replacement of an expiring parks levy. If approved, this proposition
360 would fund county, city, park district, and town parks; open space, trails,
361 recreation, public pools, and educational and civic venues. It would

362 reauthorize an additional six-year property tax beginning in 2026 at
363 \$0.2443 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, use the 2026 levy amount to
364 compute annual increases in 2027-2031 by the King County inflation plus
365 population index or the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is
366 greater, exempting qualifying seniors, veterans, and disabled persons per
367 RCW 84.36.381. Should this proposition be:
368 Approved? _
369 Rejected? _
370 **SECTION 6. Distributions.** Each distribution of levy proceeds to a King County
371 town or city, park district, the Woodland Park Zoological Society or its successor, the
372 Seattle Aquarium or its successor, the Seattle Waterfront park, and Memorial Stadium
373 project partners or their successor for the eligible purposes identified in section 4 of this
374 ordinance shall be subject to the execution of a contract between the county and each
375 entity for the same purposes. Distribution of levy proceeds shall be subject to the
376 execution of a contract for: publicly owned pool capital improvement projects, major
377 maintenance repair, replacement projects or aquatics programming; capital improvement
378 projects and major maintenance repair or replacement projects to parks or recreation
379 infrastructure in metropolitan park districts, towns or cities; and acquisition, conservation
380 and stewardship of additional natural areas, resource or ecological lands, rights of way
381 for regional trails and urban green spaces. General requirements for levy grant programs
382 are included in Attachment A to this ordinance. Distribution of levy proceeds to King
383 County for open space acquisition purposes shall be in accordance with the annual
384 conservation futures tax process for the development, review and recommendation to the

385 King County council as set for in the open space and natural lands acquisition process,
386 which is included in Attachment B to this ordinance.

387 **SECTION 7. Parks levy oversight board established.**

388 A. If the proposition in section 5 of this ordinance is approved by the qualified
389 electors of King County, a parks levy oversight board shall be appointed by the
390 executive. The board shall consist of nine members. Each councilmember shall
391 nominate a candidate for the board who resides in the councilmember's district no later
392 than March 31, 2026. If the executive does not appoint by May 31, 2026, the person
393 nominated by a councilmember, the executive must request that the councilmember
394 should by June 30, 2026, nominate another candidate for appointment. Members shall be
395 confirmed by the council. Members may not be elected or appointed officials of any unit
396 of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or
397 commission would be eligible to serve on the parks levy oversight board.

398 B. The board shall review the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on
399 achieving the purposes of this proposition. On or before December 31, 2027, the board
400 shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the
401 regional policy committee on the expenditure of levy proceeds for 2026. Thereafter, the
402 board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and
403 the regional policy committee annually. Any report to the King County council under
404 this section shall be made in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the
405 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all
406 councilmembers. The board expires December 31, 2032.

407 **SECTION 8. Exemption.** The additional regular property taxes authorized by
408 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW
409 84.36.381.

410 **SECTION 9. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
411 King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the
412 election on August 5, 2025, and any other acts consistent with the authority and before
413 the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

414 **SECTION 10. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application

415 o any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
416 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines, B. Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs

Any project funded by parks levy proceeds must allow for regular public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

1. Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the parks capital and open space grant program to:

1. Develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities; and/or
2. Acquire park land.

Eligible Entities

1. King County cities and towns;
2. Metropolitan park districts geographically located in King County; and/or
3. Public entities that serve unincorporated King County.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received for capital projects to develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Feasibility study;
2. Planning and design; and/or
3. Construction.

Lands acquired using parks levy funding are for the following purposes:

1. Active recreational uses (e.g., athletic fields, sports courts, ballfield turf projects, etc.);
 2. Passive recreational uses (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, birdwatching, etc.);
 3. Local trails; and/or
 4. Open space lands, except if the land is primarily in agricultural use. Agriculture can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds (e.g., community garden, patch), as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access.
-

2. Aquatic Facilities Grant Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the aquatic facilities grant program, which provides funding opportunities to develop new and/or improve existing aquatic facilities in King County.

Eligible Entities

1. King County towns and cities;
2. Metropolitan park districts;
3. Public Schools districts;
4. Nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities; and/or

5. Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to develop new and/or improve existing aquatics facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Land acquisition;
 2. Feasibility study;
 3. Planning and design; and/or
 4. Construction.
-

3. Healthy Communities and Parks Fund Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the Healthy Communities and Parks Fund grant program, which provides funding opportunities to increase access to and use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in traditionally underserved areas and communities, as well as to build internal capacities of community-based partners who provide recreation to these areas and communities.

Funding is for the following purposes:

1. Develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities; and/or
2. Provide programs focusing on recreation, sports, play, and physical activity.

Eligible Entities

1. Non-profit organizations;
2. Small or emerging community organizations without a 501c3 status, through a partnership with a fiscal agent;
3. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
4. King County towns and cities; and/or
5. Metropolitan park districts.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Land acquisition;
2. Feasibility study;
3. Planning and design; and/or
4. Construction.

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to provide programs are to be focused on recreational programming (e.g., swim programs, youth sports leagues, etc.).

Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

The overall approach for funding allocation and coordination with the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) program for the acquisition of open space and natural lands through the countywide parks levy is as follows:

1. Early each calendar year, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) will set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds for the following fiscal year.
2. Staff will generate proposals for the use of these funds, taking into account opportunities to leverage resources with funding from Conservation Futures, as well as from other local, state, and federal funding sources.
3. An overall proposal allocating the open space funds to specific projects will be developed and discussed with the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (CFAC) that is responsible for developing CFT funding recommendations. These discussions are expected to occur in the spring, the same timeframe during which the CFAC annually reviews CFT project proposals. This will create an opportunity for the CFAC to provide an advisory recommendation regarding allocation of these parks levy funds.
4. Taking the CFAC's recommendations into account, DNRP will develop a proposed budget for these parks levy funds.
5. The DNRP proposed budget for parks levy funding will be reviewed by the County Executive, and ultimately County Council, as part of the overall budget process for the following year.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	
Election Costs	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$18,000,000
Fixed income exemption ¹	\$3,000,000
1% undercollection assumption	\$15,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront²	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium³	\$2,500,000
Pools	\$22,000,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$22,000,000
Grants and Community Partnerships	\$117,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly named Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46,000,000
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$11,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance⁴	\$550,600,000
Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517,000,000
Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4,300,000
Safety Program Expansion	\$3,200,000
Asset Management Program	\$4,100,000
Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10,400,000
Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4,800,000
Jobs & Housing Program	\$5,000,000
Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1,800,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$217,500,000
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$96,000,000
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$20,000,000
Fish Passage Program ⁵	\$10,000,000
Climate Resilience ⁶	\$33,000,000
Environmental Stewardship ⁷	\$58,500,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System⁸	\$179,000,000
Eastrail	\$65,000,000
Lake to Sound Trail	\$55,000,000
Green River Trail Extension - North	\$6,000,000
Interurban Trail South investments	\$8,000,000
Soos Creek Trail	\$7,000,000
Other New Regional Trails ⁹	\$38,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements¹³	\$51,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	
Dog Parks	\$3,000,000
Lakeland Park North	\$10,000,000
Skyway Park Planning and Community Center	\$13,000,000
Backcountry Trails (new trails)	\$3,000,000
Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)	\$3,000,000
Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion	\$19,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$177,000,000
Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure¹⁰	
General infrastructure	\$23,000,000

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

<i>Playground rehabilitation</i>	\$7,000,000
<i>Park amenities rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Parks building system rehabilitation</i>	\$8,000,000
<i>Ballfield synthetic turf replacement</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trail rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.)</i>	\$8,000,000
ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation	\$12,000,000
Regional Trails Rehabilitation¹¹	\$55,000,000
Marymoor Park Rehabilitation¹²	\$16,000,000
Sunset Park Renovation and Repair	\$4,000,000

1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

2. New levy investment that support accessibility for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; maintenance and operations of facilities and grounds; offering free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships.

3. This allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

4. Of this allocation, 93% funds the day-to-day operational needs to maintain the park system (personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, administrative costs, etc.). \$2.4M shall be allocated for the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. Additional funding to be allocated for critical programs and services to manage the growing parks system and enhance safety and belonging for park users. These programs include the expansion of the service level agreement with King County Sheriff's Office to fund the Parks Patrol Program; the expansion of the Parks Safety Program for ongoing implementation of safety related elements within the park system, i.e., regulatory compliance and trainings for onsite staff; and expansion of the Youth Conservation Corps summer internship program.

New investments include:

- Funding for the continuity of the Jobs and Housing Program due to sunseting of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) funding in 2024.
- Funding for the enforcement of Parks Land Use Guidelines on park lands and regional trail segments to protect capital investments, open space acquisitions, and new properties and easements in support of environmental preservation.
- Funding to support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships, and improve conservation and recreational planning.

5. The Fish Passage Program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

6. Climate resilience investments will support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community response projects and programming as identified.

7. Environmental stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

8. This allocation provides funding for Regional and Other Public Trails System including:

- Construction of two additional segments of Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport.
- Construction of two additional segments of Eastrail, an Eastrail connection to Coulon Park, paves Central Wilburton segment, and completes design on Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.
- Construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle.
- Complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South.
- Construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and planning for future Soos Creek Trail segments.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

9. Of this allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

\$20M of this funding will be used for emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

10. Capital major maintenance programs keep parks clean, safe, and open and include, but are not limited to: rehabilitation of play areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, as well as coordination with other agencies who have infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, WSDOT). A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

11. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that will support design, construction, and initial operational costs. Additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded with a combination of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and bond financing. Funding allocated for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

12. This program keeps the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

13. This allocation will fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

Parks Capital Program 2026-2031 Levy Investments

Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure (\$177M)

General infrastructure (\$23M)

- Parking lot repair and rehabilitation projects at several parks including, Dockton Park, Preston Athletic Fields, Petrovitsky Park, Coalfield Park, and Steve Cox Memorial Park.
- Pathway repair and rehabilitation projects at several parks including Dockton Park, Tolt MacDonald Park, Five Mile Lake.
- Rehabilitation of the Bike Park at Dick Thurnau Park.

Playground rehabilitation (\$7M)

- Preston Athletic Fields
- Lake Geneva Park
- Redmond Ridge Park
- Big Finn Hill Park (2–5-year-old)
- Soos Creek Park (Gary Grant Park)
- Steve Cox Memorial Park

Park amenities rehabilitation (\$6M)

- North Shorewood Park amenities rehabilitation
- Countywide picnic table replacements
- Countywide kiosk and wayfinding signage rehabilitation
- Restroom Building Improvements (rehabilitation, replacement, or additions)
 - Tolt MacDonald Park
 - Cottage Lake Park
 - Dockton Park
 - Redmond Ridge Park
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessments and emergent needs

Parks building system rehabilitation (\$8M)

- Tolt MacDonald Park Yurt replacements
- Urgent repairs and rehabilitation (e.g., HVAC, windows, flooring, kitchen facilities, roofs) from in 2024 facility assessment report for the following buildings:
 - Steve Cox Park Community Center (i.e., Log Cabin)
 - Grace Hansen Community Center
 - Preston Community Center
 - Clise Mansion
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessment and emergent needs

Ballfield synthetic turf replacement (\$12M)

- Ravensdale Park (Multipurpose Fields 2 & 3)
- Marymoor Park Soccer Fields (1 – 4) and Ballfields (1 & 2)
- Jim Ellis Memorial Regional Park Soccer Fields 1 & 2
- Big Finn Hill Park Multi-Purpose Field
- Steve Cox Memorial Park Multipurpose Fields 2 & 3 and Mel Olsen Stadium Ballfield 1

Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation (\$2M)

- Cottage Lake Pool repairs and rehabilitation
- Repairs and rehabilitation of existing docks and/or boat ramps at:
 - Cottage Lake
 - Lake Joy
 - Lake Geneva
 - Five Mile Lake
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessment and emergent needs

Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation (\$6M)

- Ballfield fencing replacement projects
 - Ravensdale Park
 - Tolt MacDonald park
 - Steve Cox Park
 - Petrovitsky Park
- Countywide aluminum bleachers replacement (to meet current safety standards)
- Ballfield light pole replacement

Backcountry Trail rehabilitation (\$6M)

- Frog Holler Forest
- Black Diamond Open Space
- Ring Hill Forest
- Taylor Mountain Forest
- Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area
- North Green River Park (Titus Pit)
- Glendale Forest
- Union Hill Forest
- Auburn Narrows Natural Area

Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation (\$12M)

- Rehabilitation and/or replacement of non-fish bearing drainage culverts at:
 - Skyway Park
 - Black Diamond Open Space
 - Five Mile Lake

- Maury Island Marine Park
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessment and emergent needs

Other agency projects (\$8M)

Other public agencies frequently construct and/or impact assets on parks property. The funds in this program would be used for coordination and collaboration with these other agencies on projects that affect parks property. Some examples of current projects where King County Parks is working with other agencies include:

- Sound Transit: Downtown Redmond Light Rail Extension project which affects and connects directly to Marymoor Park
- WSDOT Projects including:
- I-405, SR 522 Vicinity to SR 527 Express Toll Lanes Improvement Project which involves building two bridges over the West Sammamish River Trail near Bothell and reconstructing the trail.
- State Route 18 Widening project which involves project elements and impacts affecting Taylor Mountain Natural Area and Preston Mill Park.
- City of Kenmore: State Route 522 Cat Whisker Creek Fish Passage project which affects the Burke Gilman Trail in the City of Kenmore.
- King County Water and Land Resources Division: Lower Frew Levee Setback Project which is located in and affects Tolt MacDonald Park and the Snoqualmie Vally Trail.
- King County Road Services Division: Replacement of the Boise X Connection Bridge #3055A which affects the Foothills Trail.

ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation (\$12M)

Projects to be identified by the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan currently in-progress

Regional Trails Rehabilitation (\$55M)

- Bridge and Trestle Rehabilitation and Replacement Projects
 - Cedar River Trail (Bridge 2266-5)
 - Sammamish River Trail Site (2156-8)
 - Soos Creek Park And Trail (2250-5)
 - Snoqualmie Valley Trail Site (Boxley Bridge 2178-45)
 - Preston Snoqualmie Trail #3 (2277-2)
- Countywide on-going Trail Rehabilitation programs
 - pavement restriping program
 - access control repairs and replacement
 - pavement repair, overlay, and root barrier
- Countywide intersection lighting program at priority locations for safety
- Site Management Plan development
 - Burke Gilman Trail
 - Sammamish River Trail
- Additional projects to be identified by emergent needs

Marymoor Park Rehabilitation (\$16M)

Updates to critical infrastructure are including, but not limited to,

- Improved wayfinding signage
- Utilities including water, sewer, electrical, fiber
- Pedestrian facilities including dedicated pathways and safe roadway crossings
- Roadway including rehabilitation and safety improvements for traffic flow and parking
- Velodrome rehabilitation
- Concert venue improvements and updates
- Restrooms improvements
- Building rehabilitation (may also be funded partially from the Building system rehabilitation program)

Sunset Park Renovation and Repair (\$4M)

The exact updates are still to be determined as part of a public engagement process, but may include, restroom renovation, parking improvements, court and field improvements, adding additional amenities such as play area.

New Park Development and Improvements (\$51M)

Dog Parks (\$3M)

- North Shorewood Park
- Lake Geneva Park
- Skyway Park (if it aligns with the Community Center plan)

Lakeland Park North (\$10M)

Design and construction of a 20-acre nature park at Lakeland North Urban Park between Auburn and Federal Way including trails, nature-based play area, shelter, restroom and parking.

Skyway Park Planning and Community Center (\$13M)

Total estimated Planning Level Project Cost (i.e., includes design, permitting, construction) for the community center is \$40M. The funding plan is as follows.

Existing Funding (approximately):	\$ 8 M (from 2021/2022 King County Budget)
Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Funds:	\$13 M
<u>REET 2 funding:</u>	<u>\$19 M</u> (may include some level of debt financing)
Total:	\$40 M

Backcountry Trails (new trails) (\$3M)

New trails may be created at the sites listed above under Major Maintenance and would also be created at future sites to be acquired.

Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities) (\$3M)

Potential projects may include:

- Adding pickleball courts at existing parks
- Adding recreational cricket facilities at existing parks
- Adding light to existing courts or fields

Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion (\$19M)

South County Ballfields

Regional and Other Public Trails System (\$179M)

Eastrail (\$65M)

- I-90 Steel Bridge Crossing (Bellevue): Design and Construct
- Central Wilburton Paving (Bellevue): Design and Construct
- 124th to 145th Interim Trail (Woodinville): Design and Construct
- Coulon Park North Entrance to South Entrance (Renton): Design and Construct
- Coulon Park North Entrance to Mile Post 5 (Renton/Bellevue): Design and Construct
- Mile Post 5 to Ripley Lane (Renton/Bellevue): Design to be shovel ready for 2032

Lake to Sound Trail (\$55M)

- Segment D: Design and construct (1.67 miles in Renton)
- Segment E: Design and construct (0.68 miles in Renton)
- Segment F1: Design and construct (0.93 miles in Tukwila)
- Segment F2: Design be shovel ready for 2032 (1.68 Tukwila to SeaTac)
- Segment G: Design to be shovel ready for 2032 (connects Lake to Sound to Eastrail at Coulon)

Green River Trail Extension - North (\$6M)

Establishes a safe and continuous trail north from Cecil Moses Park in Tukwila along West Marginal Place South to the Seattle City limits.

Interurban Trail South investments (\$8M)

Funding completes the major rehabilitation of entire corridor.

Soos Creek Trail (\$7M)

- Construct Segment 5A of Soos Creek Trail at the north end of Lake Youngs.
- Begins planning and design for future trail connections (Soos Creek – Lake Meridian – Jenkins Creek)

Other New Regional Trails (\$38M)

- Planning and preliminary design for future trail connections Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.
- Emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements. This is also where improvements for extended trail hours could be funded from if it moves forward.

King County Parks Levy Proposal - For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

Question #32. For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

During the current levy period, Parks has faced inflationary cost increases to both operating and capital budgets. The proposed Parks levy renewal intends to balance those future inflationary increases while allocating funds to projects and programs with community benefit.

The table below outlines the categories of the proposed allocation plan and shows the allocation amounts under three scenarios; the levy allocations under the adopted rate, the levy allocations under the current rate, and the levy allocations under the proposed rate. Additional information about the increased distributions is included for key categories.

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center (KCAC) - KCAC is a 35 year old facility with end of lifecycle repairs, replacements, and deferred maintenance needs that are significant for Lights On, Doors Open. KCAC is also a revenue generating facility that contributes to Parks business revenue targets. Over the course of the current levy, \$4M of unbudgeted repair and replacement costs were incurred. Costs for planned work within the 2020-2025 levy were two to three times more than 2019 estimates. As Parks sunset the current levy, the \$22M in the levy proposal would potentially catch up on known deferred maintenance projects that are imperative for the facility's ongoing operations, including annual host site engagements.

Community Partnerships and Grants - The Community Partnerships and Grants program partners with community organizations to develop a wide range of projects on Parks property, typically capital projects. Similar to the Parks Capital Improvement Program, there has been volatile inflationary costs for materials, supplies, and contracted labor costs.

King County Operations and Maintenance - 55% (\$302M) of Operations and Maintenance accounts for current service levels. To maintain the current levels of service, an increase of \$33M (6%) is needed over the six year period. This accounts for outyear inflationary costs related to wages, employee benefits, internal service growth rates, general operating supplies, and the costs of running a park system that tend to cost more than typical inflation such as utilities and contractor rates. The Operations and Maintenance proposal also accounts for investing \$182M (33%) to increase the capacity to take care of the growing park system, including new and aging assets and acquisitions aligned with the Land Conservation Initiative. \$33.6M (6%) accounts for new and expanded programs.

August 2024 OEFA Forecast	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Seattle CPI-W	2.96%	2.62%	2.84%	2.60%	2.49%	2.51%
Estimated King County Population Growth	0.93%	0.92%	0.90%	0.88%	0.87%	0.85%
= Limit Factor (CPI + Population Growth)	3.89%	3.54%	3.74%	3.48%	3.36%	3.36%

Climate Resilience and Environmental Stewardship - These two new portfolios were added that are not in the current levy distributions. Within those portfolios, new investments include a Climate Response Fund, Stormwater Park, Multi-benefit River Corridor projects in partnership with the DNRP Water and Land Resources Division, Natural Resource Planning (mitigation sites and wetland delineation), Environmental Remediation, and funding for maintenance facility acquisitions and improvements.

Regional and Other Public Trails System & Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation - Volatility in the construction market and inflation in materials, supplies, and construction labor has historically impacted capital improvement projects county-wide. Of this Regional and Other Public Trails System allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie

King County Parks Levy Proposal - For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	Adopted Levy Rate (August 2019) 18.32	Current Levy Rate (August 2024) 19.54	Proposed Distribution
Election Costs	\$3,000,000	\$737,000	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$10,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$18,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$36,000,000	\$39,000,000	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront	\$0	\$0	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$22,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grant Program)	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$36,000,000	\$36,000,000	\$46,000,000
Open Space-River Corridors	\$22,000,000	\$22,000,000	\$0
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$9,570,000	\$9,800,000	\$11,000,000
King County Towns and Cities	\$60,000,000	\$62,000,000	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance	\$277,000,000	\$299,000,000	\$551,000,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$98,500,000	\$102,154,000	\$217,000,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System	\$165,650,000	\$170,154,000	\$179,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$51,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$41,500,000	\$55,155,000	\$177,000,000



King County

Dow Constantine
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 TTY Relay: 711
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February 11, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
 Chair, King County Council
 Room 1200
 C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am pleased to transmit to you a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, place a measure on the August 5, 2025, primary election ballot to reauthorize the King County's Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy (Parks Levy). The current Parks Levy expires at the end of 2025. If approved by King County voters, a renewed Parks Levy would enable King County's parks and trails system to remain clean, safe, and open while making strategic investments as our region grows.

The proposed ballot measure asks King County voters to authorize a property tax levy lid lift to maintain and operate King County's parks system, acquire open space, develop regional trails, and increase access to parks and recreation for all King County residents. If passed, it would also provide funding to King County cities, towns, and park districts for local parks, trail development, and operations, as well as to the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium, and Seattle Waterfront Park for environmental and education programs. As proposed, the renewed Parks Levy would increase the property tax rate to 24.43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, generating approximately \$1.5 billion over the six-year period (2026-2031). Compared to the current levy, this would represent an approximately \$3.44 increase per month for homeowners of a median value home based on 2024 home values.

In developing the legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) convened a Parks Levy Community Advisory Committee and undertook a robust community engagement process that included 21 community events and meetings with many interested parties. DNRP briefed each King County Councilmember office and offered briefings to all cities in the County. Online surveys in eight languages were completed by more than 4,800 community members. DNRP incorporated this community and partner input into the legislation and levy planning.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

February 11, 2025

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The proposed renewed levy measure will support:

- Continued care of King County’s extensive system of more than 200 parks, 185 miles of regional trails, and 32,000 acres of open space;
- Growth, connection, and stewardship of regional open space natural lands and urban green spaces, which increases climate resilience, habitat connectivity, and recreation opportunities;
- Further development of the regional trails system and improved mobility through completion of essential trail connections and maintaining existing trails; and
- Making parks and recreation opportunities more accessible for all who live, work, or play in King County.

The proposed legislation continues to invest upstream where needs are greatest. It supports community partnerships through capital, operating, and programming dollars for parks that serve communities of opportunity. The proposed renewed levy also continues and expands the Healthy Communities and Parks grant program to build capacity and increase access to green space and public recreation opportunities in underserved areas.

The proposed legislation furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by managing and restoring parks and other natural lands to maximize biological carbon storage. Through investments in natural lands conservation, forest stewardship, and other capital projects, the proposed legislation will increase community resilience to a changing climate.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County preserve and protect our existing parks and trails system, build upon and maximize the benefits of levy investments to date, and strategically address our region’s current and future needs. Attached to this letter are the King County Parks Levy Proposed Allocation Plan, as well as the King County Parks Capital Program and Parks Operating Financial Plan for reference.

If your staff have questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4526.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

February 11, 2025

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP

2025 FISCAL NOTE

Ordinance/Motior 2025-XXXX
 Title: 2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal
 Affected Agency and/or Agencies: Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
 Note Prepared By: Andrea Smith, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP
 Date Prepared: February 4, 2025
 Note Reviewed By: Elka Peterson Horner, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget
 Date Reviewed: February 10, 2025

Description of request:

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on August 5, 2025, a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than \$0.2443 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year and limiting annual levy increases to local inflation and population growth in the five succeeding years.

Revenue to:

Agency	Fund Code	Revenue Source	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Parks Levy Collection Sub-Fund/Parks and Recreation	1455	Property Tax Levy Lid Lift (Net) ^{1,2}	\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000
TOTAL			\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Expenditures from:

Allocation Category	Fund Code	Department	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Reimbursement of Election Costs ³	1455	DNRP	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Woodland Park Zoo ⁴	1455	DNRP	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000
Seattle Aquarium ⁵	1455	DNRP	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Seattle Waterfront ⁶	1455	DNRP	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Memorial Stadium ⁷	1455	DNRP	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (formerly TEG) ⁸	1451	DNRP	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants (CPG) ⁸	3581	DNRP	\$29,000,000	\$29,000,000	\$29,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts ⁹	1455	DNRP	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$39,000,000
King County Parks Operations & Maintenance ¹⁰	1451	DNRP	\$164,000,000	\$189,000,000	\$216,000,000
King County Parks Capital Program ¹¹	3581	DNRP	\$193,000,000	\$215,000,000	\$238,000,000
TOTAL			\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Expenditures by Categories

	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Reimbursement of Election Costs	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Wages/Benefits ¹²	\$98,000,000	\$113,000,000	\$130,000,000
Supplies/Services ¹²	\$76,000,000	\$86,000,000	\$96,000,000
Capital Outlay	\$222,000,000	\$244,000,000	\$267,000,000
Other Transfers ¹³	\$64,500,000	\$62,000,000	\$61,000,000
TOTAL	\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Does this legislation require a budget supplemental? Yes/No Yes, if the proposed ballot measure is approved by voters.

Notes and Assumptions:

- The levy period covers 2026 through 2031. The fiscal note shows a levy rate of 24.43¢ per \$1,000 assessed value (AV) in the first year, 2026. Subsequent revenue is calculated as prior year collections multiplied by the limit factor, plus revenue from new construction built during the year. Forecast assumptions for assessed value, new construction, local inflation (CPI-W), and population growth are from the August 2024 Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) and PSB projections.
- Total revenues are net levy proceeds. Gross levy proceeds are total revenues estimated to be generated with a 24.43¢ levy rate, before undercollection and exemption assumptions are applied. Assumed exemptions/undercollection are the exemption of qualifying households per RCW 84.36.381, and a one percent undercollection rate assumed countywide for property taxes.
- Election costs will be paid by the General Fund in 2025 and reimbursed from levy proceeds in 2026 if the ballot is approved.
- Distribution to the Woodland Park Zoo shall be no more than \$42M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

5. Distribution to the Seattle Aquarium shall be no more than \$15M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

6. Distribution to the Seattle Waterfront shall be no more than \$9M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

7. Distribution to the Memorial Stadium shall be no more than \$2.5M over the first two years of the levy (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds). The allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

8. Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs and Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) over the six years is as follows:

\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants)

\$30M – Capital Projects & Acquisitions (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$11M - Community Partnerships and Grants refers to "the program through which King County provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit" (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

9. 9% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the towns and cities in King County (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

10. 43% of the remaining revenue funds King County Parks operations and maintenance, 4-H Program support, KC Fair, and King County Search and Rescue operations. This includes assumed exemptions and undercollections.

11. 48% of the remaining revenue is allocated to the Capital Improvement Program to fund the following capital portfolios:

Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship (\$218M)

Regional and Other Public Trails (\$179M)

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation (\$177M)

New Park Development and Improvements (\$51M)

It also includes \$22M for Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

**2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal Financial Plan
Parks Levy Collection Sub-Fund/000001455**

Category	2021-2022 Actuals	2023-2024 Adopted Budget	2026-2027 Projected	2028-2029 Projected	2030-2031 Projected
Beginning Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
2026-2031 Levy Proceeds (Gross)	-	-	462,000,000	505,000,000	554,000,000
Assumed Exemptions/Undercollection	-	-	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)
Total Revenues	-	-	456,000,000	499,000,000	548,000,000
Expenditures					
Reimbursement of Election Costs	-	-	1,500,000	-	-
Woodland Park Zoo	-	-	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Seattle Waterfront	-	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Memorial Stadium	-	-	2,500,000	-	-
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (<i>formerly TEG</i>)	-	-	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants (CPG)	-	-	29,000,000	29,000,000	29,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	-	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	39,000,000
King County Parks Operations & Maintenance	-	-	158,000,000	183,000,000	210,000,000
King County Parks Capital Program	-	-	193,000,000	215,000,000	238,000,000
Total Expenditures	-	-	456,000,000	499,000,000	548,000,000
Estimated Underexpenditures					
Other Fund Transactions					
Total Other Fund Transactions	-	-	-	-	-
Ending Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves					
Total Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-
Ending Undesignated Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-

Financial Plan Notes

This is a new sub-fund within Parks and Recreation 1450. Accordingly, there are no 2021-2022 Actuals or 2023-2024 Adopted Budget.

This 2026-2031 levy lid lift will replace the 2020-2025 levy lid lift which is collected in sub-fund 1454.

Outyear revenue and expenditure inflation assumptions are consistent with figures provided by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB) and/or the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA).

Revenues Notes:

- Levy rate of 24.43¢ per \$1,000 assessed value (AV) in the first year. Subsequent revenue is calculated as prior year collections multiplied by the limit factor, plus revenue from new construction built during the year. Forecast assumptions for assessed value, new construction, local inflation (CPI-W), and population growth are from the August 2024 OEFA and PSB projections.
- Limit factor is the percentage rate annual collections are allowed to grow. For this proposal, it is the combined percentage change in the Seattle consumer price index for wage earners (CPI-W) and estimated population growth in King County. Specific rates are outlined in the table below.
- Gross levy proceeds are total revenues estimated to be generated with a 24.43¢ levy rate, before undercollection and exemption assumptions are applied.
- Assumed Exemptions/Undercollection means the exemption of qualifying households per RCW 84.36.381, and a one percent undercollection rate assumed countywide for property taxes.
- Total revenues are net levy proceeds.

Expenditure Notes:

- Figures shown are rounded to the nearest million dollars, as a result percentages presented in this plan may not be precise as described below. Actual distributions will follow the percentages listed below.
- Election costs will be paid by the General Fund in 2025 and reimbursed from levy proceeds in 2026 if the ballot is approved.
- Distribution to the Woodland Park Zoo shall be no more than \$42M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Seattle Aquarium shall be no more than \$15M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Seattle Waterfront shall be no more than \$9M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Memorial Stadium shall be no more than \$2.5M over the first two years of the levy (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

- Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs and Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) over the six years is as follows:

\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants)

\$30M – Capital Projects & Acquisitions (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$11M - Community Partnerships and Grants refers to "the program through which King County provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit" (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

- 9% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the towns and cities in King County (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

- 43% of the remaining revenue funds King County Parks operations and maintenance, 4-H Program support, KC Fair, and King County Search and Rescue operations.

- 48% of the remaining revenue is allocated to the Capital Improvement Program for continued and expanded regional trail development; open space acquisition and stewardship; community partnerships and grants; and recreation repair and renovation, including playgrounds, ballfields, and backcountry trails. This also includes \$22M for Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

Reserve Notes:

- The purpose of this fund is to distribute levy proceeds to various organizations. There are no reserves for this fund.

This plan was updated by Andrea V. Smith on February 4, 2025 and Elka Peterson Horner on February 10, 2025.

2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal - Allocation of Levy Proceeds

	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated	2028 Estimated
King County Levy Proceeds ¹	108,000,000	114,000,000	119,000,000
Total Funding	\$108,000,000	\$114,000,000	\$119,000,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System ²	26,000,000	27,000,000	29,000,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship ³	31,000,000	34,000,000	35,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation ⁴	29,000,000	30,000,000	33,000,000
Levy Grants and Community Partnerships Grants ⁵	14,500,000	14,500,000	14,500,000
New Park Development and Improvements ⁶	7,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Allocations	\$107,500,000	\$113,500,000	\$119,500,000

Notes

1. Section 4.E.2 of the proposed ordinance allocates 48% of remaining levy proceeds for a series of eligible uses and describes the planned projects within the subcategories. The allocation of funding for these projects is based on project readiness, additional funding opportunities from future grants or work with partner agencies, changing conditions, and other factors.

2. Regional Trails System refers to the "acquisition and development of rights of ways for regional trails" including the Lake to Sound Corridor (\$65 million), Lake to Sound Trail (\$55M), Interurban Trail South (\$8M), Soos Creek Trail (\$7M), and other trails. The system includes a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments including Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail (\$18M). The system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and other trail-related improvements.

3. Open Space Acquisition refers to the distribution of levy proceeds to King County and King County cities for the acquisition of open space lands, natural areas, resource or ecological lands and urban green spaces", in accordance with the acquisition guidelines in Attachment A of the proposed ordinance. Climate resilience investments will support stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community resilience. Stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition, including site improvements; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance. Fish Passage projects are also funded through REET funding.

4. Active Recreation Repair and Renovation refers to "major maintenance repair, replacement and improvement projects that keep parks clean, safe, and open such as, rehabilitation of playgrounds, ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, and other infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, Washington State Department of Transportation). The program includes projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected to be supported by the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

5. Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs over the six years is as follows:
\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants); \$30M – Capital Projects & Programs Fund distributed in accordance with Attachment B of the proposed ordinance.

\$11M is allocated to the Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) program. CPG refers to "the program that provides funding to neighborhood-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of capital facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit" (the county shall retain a 50% distribution of levy proceeds).

6. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that is currently under construction. Additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded via the 2025-2026 levy. Funding for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ball Field.

to the Parks Capital Portfolio

2029 Estimated	2030 Estimated	2031 Estimated	2026-2031 Total
125,000,000	131,000,000	136,000,000	733,000,000
\$125,000,000	\$131,000,000	\$136,000,000	\$733,000,000
31,000,000	32,000,000	34,000,000	179,000,000
37,000,000	39,000,000	41,000,000	217,000,000
35,000,000	35,000,000	37,000,000	199,000,000
14,500,000	14,500,000	14,500,000	87,000,000
9,000,000	9,000,000	10,000,000	51,000,000
\$126,500,000	\$129,500,000	\$136,500,000	\$733,000,000

ible uses. This document illustrates the allocation of the eligible projects is subject to change based on factors such as project conditions, emergent needs, and strategic goals.

' Proposed projects and estimated funding include: Eastside Rail Green River Trail Extension North (\$6M), as well as investments to and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, An additional \$20M will fund emergent needs on the regional trail l intersection improvements.

ies for the "acquisition, conservation and stewardship of additional with the open space, natural lands and urban green space support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential response projects and programming as identified. Environmental n; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation management planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and nded and expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax

ovement of parks system infrastructure". Proposed program areas clay areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, , as well as coordination with other agencies who have A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent ; supplemented with REET funding. This includes \$22M for

↳ Acquisitions; and \$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants to be

m through which King County provides monies to recreation-
n of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation
all amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and

will support design, construction, and initial operational costs.
with a combination of REET and bond financing. Funding allocated
ields in Federal Way.

Financial Plan
Parks and Recreation Operating Fund/000

Category	2023-2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted
Beginning Fund Balance	19,355,065	28,096,719
Revenues		
King County Parks Levy Proceeds	115,159,287	68,791,754
Federal Shared Revenues	518,185	-
Business Revenue	13,436,272	7,909,683
Parks Open Space and Trails Levy Revenue	-	1,226,878
Parks Open Space and Zoo Levy Revenue	-	29,893
Interest Earnings and Other Miscellaneous	588,709	96,000
Total Revenues	129,702,453	78,054,208
Expenditures		
Parks Operations & Maintenance	124,772,839	84,327,582
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (formerly TEG)	6,932,741	1,941,243
WSU Cooperative / 4-H	289,427	151,000
King County Search and Rescue	240,738	200,000
Total Expenditures	132,235,745	86,619,825
Estimated Underexpenditures		
Other Fund Transactions		
Total Other Fund Transactions		
Ending Fund Balance	16,821,773	19,531,102
Reserves		
Cash Flow Reserve	16,529,468	5,413,739
Rainy Day Reserves		
Targeted Equity Grants Carry Forward	2,449,871	
Total Reserves	18,979,339	5,413,739
Reserve Shortfall	-	-
Ending Undesignated Fund Balance	-	14,117,363

Financial Plan Notes

2023-2024 Actuals reflects preliminary year-end data for 2024 as reported in the GL-10 report 2/5/2025.

Revenues Notes:

- The 2020-2025 King County Parks Levy expires at the end of 2025. Revenue estimates beyond 2025 are b

- Business revenue includes user fees and entrepreneurial efforts to support the park system and reduce three percent annually.

- Miscellaneous revenue includes interest earnings, delinquent levy proceeds from the previous levy term, 2031 has been proposed at 1% for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds

Expenditure Notes:

- Parks will continue to contribute \$151,000 funding, on a reimbursement basis, to the Washington State L in King County and \$200,000 funding on a reimbursement basis, to King County Search and Rescue Associ

Reserve Notes (see next page):

- The Cash Flow Reserve is set to three-months of budgeted expenditures, in compliance with Motion 1376 collected in the second quarter of each year. This reserve stabilizes the fund's cash balance from dipping t October.

- The Rainy Day Reserve is set to 90 days of expenditures at the end of the levy period, in compliance with Management Policy.

This plan was updated by Andrea V. Smith February 5, 2025 and Elka Peterson Horner on February 10, 2025

001451

2026-2027 Projected	2028-2029 Projected	2030-2031 Projected
8,914,050	23,095,331	30,308,221
164,355,080	184,353,338	204,767,098
-	-	-
8,146,973	8,391,383	8,643,124
-	-	-
-	-	-
100,800	105,840	111,132
172,602,853	192,850,561	213,521,354
147,919,572	175,135,671	194,528,743
10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
302,000	302,000	302,000
200,000	200,000	200,000
158,421,572	185,637,671	205,030,743
-	-	-
23,095,331	30,308,221	38,798,832
19,802,697	23,204,709	25,628,843
		25,277,763
3,000,000	4,500,000	1,500,000
22,802,697	27,704,709	52,406,606
-	-	-
292,635	2,603,512	-

ased on a 24.43 cent proposed levy renewal option.

he burden on taxpayers. Starting in 2026, the target is to grow by

and a levy administration fee. A levy administration fee for 2026-
i).

University Cooperative Extension in order to operate the 4-H program
ation for its operations.

i4, because the main revenue for this fund is a property tax which is
elow zero before the property tax payments are made in April and

otion 13764 and the King County Comprehensive Financial

5.

2026
-2031

KING COUNTY PARKS LEVY



LEGEND

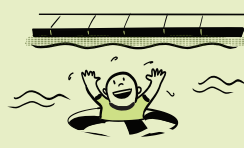
- Backcountry Trail + Forestry
- Bridge & Trestle
- Existing Regional Trail
- Fish Passage
- Forestry
- Infrastructure Rehab
- Regional Trail Improvement
- Play Area
- Site with Major Capital Investment
- Synthetic Turf Replacement
- Seattle Aquarium & Waterfront Park
- Woodland Park Zoo

King County
PARKS
Your Big Backyard

For visualization purposes only—locations and details are approximate.



\$119M in pass-through funds to cities, towns, and parks districts
RPC MTG Materials



\$46M for Aquatic Facilities Grants



\$30M for Healthy Communities and Parks Fund Grant



\$30M for City Capital and Open Space Grant

\$11M in Community Partnerships and Grant Program



\$12M in ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation
March 12, 2025



King County

MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2024

TO: All Councilmembers
All Council Staff

FM: Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

RE: Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2025

The deadlines for adoption of ballot measures for 2025 elections are in the table below. This schedule is predicated on the Council meeting as set out in the current Council Rule 4 (KCC 1.24.035), including first 4 Tuesdays a month as well as no Council meetings being held during the December 2024 recess (Dec. 11, 2024, through Jan. 2, 2025), the second week of April 2025 (April 7-11), or in the first two weeks of August 2025 (Aug. 4-15)

2025 Election Dates

	<u>2/11¹</u>	<u>4/22¹</u>	<u>8/5²</u>	<u>11/4³</u>
Last regular council meeting with maximum processing time (25 days)	11/12/24	1/21/25	4/1/25	7/8/25
Last regular council meeting with minimum processing time (10 days)	12/3/24 ⁴	2/11/25 ⁴	4/22/25 ⁴	7/22/25
Last regular council meeting to pass as emergency	12/10/24	2/18/25	4/22/25	7/23/25
Last special council meeting to pass as emergency	12/13/24	2/21/25	5/2/25	8/5/25
Election Division deadline for receiving effective ordinance	12/13/24	2/21/25	5/2/25	8/5/25

1. Based on effective ordinance filed with Elections 60 days before the election. RCW 29A.04.321

2. Based on effective ordinance filed with Elections no later than the Friday, which in 2025 is May 9, immediately before the first day of regular candidate filing, which in 2025 is May 12, the Monday two weeks before Memorial Day. RCW 29A.24.050; RCW 29A.04.321

3. Based on effective ordinance filed with Elections no later than the primary, which in 2025 is August 5. RCW 29A.04.321.

4. **This would require that the adopted ordinance be signed by the Chair, Clerk and Executive on the day of the meeting.**

Note: This schedule does not apply to Charter amendments. Because Charter § 800 provides that ordinances proposing amendments to the Charter are not subject to executive veto, such ordinances have an effective date (10 days after enactment by the Council) that differs from the effective date of an ordinance that is subject to executive veto.



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 12

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0077.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2026 through
2 2031 for the purpose of: maintaining and operating King
3 County's open space system; improving parks, recreation,
4 access, and mobility in the King County open space system
5 by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional
6 trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by
7 metropolitan parks districts, towns, and cities in King
8 County; funding environmental education, maintenance,
9 and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo;
10 funding environmental education, maintenance and
11 conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding
12 development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle
13 Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at
14 publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

15 WHEREAS, King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks
16 and trails that consists of thirty-two thousand acres of parklands and more than one
17 hundred eighty-five miles of regional trails, and

18 WHEREAS, the county provides regional trails, regional recreational facilities,
19 regional natural areas, regional parks, and local parks in unincorporated areas, which are
20 parts of King County's "open space system," and

21 WHEREAS, a robust open space system contributes to a high quality of life, and

22 WHEREAS, the open space system provides: physical, social, and mental health
23 benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation and tourism; economic
24 growth for private businesses that must attract and retain skilled workers; increased
25 climate resilience; environmental benefits like clean water and healthy habitat; and
26 cultural resource protection through open space conservation, and

27 WHEREAS, for the benefit of all King County residents, in February 2025, the
28 executive transmitted to the council Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070, which would submit
29 to the qualified electors of King County a property tax levy on an August 2025 special
30 election ballot for the purpose of: maintaining and operating King County's open space
31 system; improving parks, recreation, access, and mobility in the King County open space
32 system by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional trails; improving parks and
33 trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns, and cities in King
34 County; funding environmental education, maintenance, and conservation programs at
35 the Woodland Park Zoo; funding environmental education, maintenance, and
36 conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and
37 programming for Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at
38 publicly owned pools;

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

40 A. It is the intent of the council that levy proceeds be used for the operations,
41 projects, and programs and in such allocations, as provided in Attachment A to this
42 motion.

43 B. The moneys allocated to operations, projects, and programs listed in
44 Attachment A to this motion may be modified when deemed advisable or necessary in the
45 judgment of the council. Implementation or completion of any project or program listed
46 in Attachment A to this motion will not be required if the council determines that it has
47 become inadvisable or impractical. The council will make such a determination through
48 action on appropriations ordinances.

49 C. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks report
50 to the council annually by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2026, if it anticipates
51 requesting a reallocation of moneys for projects or programs listed in Attachment A to
52 this motion in the following year. The report should be electronically filed with the clerk
53 of the council, who will retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all

54 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the chief policy officer. The last report
55 should be filed by September 30, 2031.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. Parks Levy Executive-proposed Allocation Plan

Attachment A - Parks Levy Executive-proposed Allocation Plan

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	
Election Costs	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$18,000,000
Fixed income exemption ¹	\$3,000,000
1% undercollection assumption	\$15,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront²	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium³	\$2,500,000
Pools	\$22,000,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$22,000,000
Grants and Community Partnerships	\$117,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly named Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46,000,000
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$11,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance⁴	\$550,600,000
Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517,000,000
Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4,300,000
Safety Program Expansion	\$3,200,000
Asset Management Program	\$4,100,000
Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10,400,000
Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4,800,000
Jobs & Housing Program	\$5,000,000
Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1,800,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$217,500,000
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$96,000,000
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$20,000,000
Fish Passage Program ⁵	\$10,000,000
Climate Resilience ⁶	\$33,000,000
Environmental Stewardship ⁷	\$58,500,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System⁸	\$179,000,000
Eastrail	\$65,000,000
Lake to Sound Trail	\$55,000,000
Green River Trail Extension - North	\$6,000,000
Interurban Trail South investments	\$8,000,000
Soos Creek Trail	\$7,000,000
Other New Regional Trails ⁹	\$38,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements¹¹	\$51,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	
Dog Parks	\$3,000,000

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

<i>Lakeland Park North</i>	\$10,000,000
<i>Skyway Park Planning and Community Center</i>	\$13,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trails (new trails)</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion</i>	\$19,000,000

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$177,000,000
Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure¹⁰	
<i>General infrastructure</i>	\$23,000,000
<i>Playground rehabilitation</i>	\$7,000,000
<i>Park amenities rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Parks building system rehabilitation</i>	\$8,000,000
<i>Ballfield synthetic turf replacement</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trail rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.)</i>	\$8,000,000
ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation	\$12,000,000
Regional Trails Rehabilitation¹²	\$55,000,000
Marymoor Park Rehabilitation¹³	\$16,000,000
Sunset Park Renovation and Repair	\$4,000,000

1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

2. New levy investment that support accessibility for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; maintenance and operations of facilities and grounds; offering free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships.

3. This allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

4. Of this allocation, 93% funds the day-to-day operational needs to maintain the park system (personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, administrative costs, etc.). \$2.4M shall be allocated for the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. Additional funding to be allocated for critical programs and services to manage the growing parks system and enhance safety and belonging for park users. These programs include the expansion of the service level agreement with King County Sheriff's Office to fund the Parks Patrol Program; the expansion of the Parks Safety Program for ongoing implementation of safety related elements within the park system, i.e., regulatory compliance and trainings for onsite staff; and expansion of the Youth Conservation Corps summer internship program.

New investments include:

- Funding for the continuity of the Jobs and Housing Program due to sunseting of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) funding in 2024.
- Funding for the enforcement of Parks Land Use Guidelines on park lands and regional trail segments to protect capital investments, open space acquisitions, and new properties and easements in support of environmental preservation.
- Funding to support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships, and improve conservation and recreational planning.

5. The Fish Passage Program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

6. Climate resilience investments will support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community response projects and programming as identified.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

7. Environmental stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

8. This allocation provides funding for Regional and Other Public Trails System including:

- Construction of two additional segments of Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport.
- Construction of two additional segments of Eastrail, an Eastrail connection to Coulon Park, paves Central Wilburton segment, and completes design on Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.
- Construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle.
- Complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South.
- Construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and planning for future Soos Creek Trail segments.

9. Of this allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

\$20M of this funding will be used for emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

10. Capital major maintenance programs keep parks clean, safe, and open and include, but are not limited to: rehabilitation of play areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, as well as coordination with other agencies who have infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, WSDOT). A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

11. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that will support design, construction, and initial operational costs. Additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded with a combination of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and bond financing. Funding allocated for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

12. This program keeps the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

13. This allocation will fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.