

4CULTURE 2013 BUDGET PROVISIO

Ordinance 17476, Section 87, Proviso P1: Of this appropriation, \$75,000 may not be expended or encumbered until 4Culture transmits a report and a motion that acknowledges receipt of the report and the motion is passed by the council. The motion shall reference the proviso's ordinance, ordinance section, proviso number and subject matter in both the title and body of the motion.

4Culture must file the motion and report by August 1st, 2013, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the government accountability and oversight committee or its successor.

The report shall certify and the motion shall acknowledge receipt of the certification and report from 4Culture that it has conducted outreach to unincorporated areas and cities in King County that are not served by a city arts, heritage or cultural commission. In addition to the certification, the report must identify the parks and recreation agencies, youth and senior programs, social and human service providers and other organizations that 4Culture conducted outreach to in an effort to increase the infrastructure and institutional capacity of communities that have historically been underrepresented in the award of 4Culture grant funds.

4CULTURE RESPONSE

The Proviso asks 4Culture to describe its outreach to unincorporated areas of the county and cities without arts, heritage or cultural commissions. In fact, there are very few places in King County that don't have active arts programs, local history museums, or significant county landmarks eligible for bricks and mortar capital funding or public art.

Introduction

As we reported last year, 22 cities in King County have formally approved arts commission or councils. Some are agencies of the city government, most frequently housed within Parks and Recreation Programs and some are nonprofits authorized by the city to provide cultural programs or festivals for the local community. Cities without formal arts commissions, however, often have informal arrangements with arts groups who serve their citizens, and may have local history museums or heritage societies without permanent facilities. For example, Kenmore does not have an arts commission, but it has the Arts of Kenmore, a city sanctioned group that achieved non-profit status and has held annual art shows and supported arts education projects every year. 4Culture awarded funds to Arts of Kenmore in 2013 to help them produce four exhibits at the Kenmore City Hall art gallery. Kenmore also has a Historical Society that maintains a collection of photos, oral histories and artifacts, and presents monthly history programs and presentations in the Kenmore Community Club. In 2013, 4Culture funded a project by a local resident that celebrated the early hydroplane races that occurred for many years on the Sammamish Slough before the boat races moved to Lake Washington as part of Seafair. It was a wildly successful program that took place in Kenmore City Hall and was attended by many of the now elderly boat racers who also displayed their boats. Many current residents of King County probably have no awareness that the hydroplane races originally occurred on a winding river.

Woodinville also does not have an arts commission, but it has a local historical society, Woodinville Heritage Society, and a theatre company, Woodinville Repertory Theatre, that received financial support from 4Culture to equip a new theatre space in a tile company storeroom. We are now actively engaged with Woodinville Rep and the city of Woodinville as they determine what future uses may be for the former

Woodinville Schoolhouse, advocating for community space that can include a small theatre.

Newcastle had a local historical society for many years that disbanded several years ago. 4Culture staff met in 2013 with local officials to reinvigorate the Newcastle Historical Society, which has requested funding from 4Culture to restore a local cemetery.

North Bend has no formal arts commission, but it has one terminus of a wonderful train museum, Northwest Railway Museum, which has received extensive funding from 4Culture through Heritage Sustained Support, Special Projects and Cultural Facilities. Its director serves on the 4Culture Preservation Advisory Committee. The Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum is located in North Bend. It too receives annual support from 4Culture through Heritage Sustained Support. 4Culture's Preservation Program has funded the restoration of the City owned Tolgate Farm House in North Bend. In addition, we've provided support for the North Bend Theatre, the McGrath Hotel, Bank of North Bend (Cook Realty), and the Masonic Hall (Unity Lodge), all of which are in private ownership.

Black Diamond has a local history museum housed in a former train depot that has received capital support from 4Culture. The City of Black Diamond has applied for and received funding for restoration of a historic cemetery, which is a King County Landmark. A local private property owner has accessed support from 4Culture to restore the Pigani House, one of the last remaining miners' houses of this historic mining community.

4Culture provided financial support for moving the Tolt Historical Society in Carnation from a senior center to Carnation Farm.

Cities that have no formal arts commissions or councils, no historical museums, no current landmarks or public art projects are actually very few, and we know that each of them is also the home to artists and has history important to King County. Medina, Clyde Hill, Algona, Yarrow Point, Hunts Point and Beaux Arts have all been the subject of exhibits and publications supported by 4Culture through the Eastside Heritage Center, MOHAI or White River Valley Museum, and/or have residents who have been supported by our Individual Artists Program.

Outreach

4Culture staff is constantly reaching out to develop new applicants in all of our program areas, extend our reach into new communities and strategically targeting new ways to reach those who may be unable or unwilling to seek 4Culture support.

Unincorporated Area Councils

In 2013, 4Culture staff attended unincorporated area council meetings to share our funding opportunities and seek their assistance in reaching people and organizations in unincorporated King County:

- West Hill Community Association; Jim Kelly, May 6, 2013
- Four Creeks Community Council; Jim Kelly, June 19, 2013
- Maple Valley Community Council, Jim Kelly, July 1, 2013
- Upper Bear Creek Unincorporated Area Council; Debra Twersky, July 23, 2013
- North Highline Unincorporated Area Council; Jim Kelly, October 3rd, 2013 (scheduled)

We have a long history of support to West Hill, Maple Valley and Upper Bear Creek for their community festivals, and supported activities in those communities during 2013. Staff did not meet with the Vashon Island Unincorporated Area Council, because 4Culture has extensive engagement in Vashon, which is home to many artists, arts organizations, heritage museums and county landmarks. 4Culture funds Vashon Allied Arts through Sustained Support and Cultural Facilities; Vashon-Maury Island Historical Society and Museum, Open Space (privately owned performance space, home to the UMO Ensemble). We have been actively involved in support of Friends of Mukai Farm and Garden to resolve a long dispute over stewardship of a historic Japanese agricultural complex.

In the past two years, 4Culture has met with numerous social and human services organizations and community based ethnic organizations to help us reach new refugee and immigrant populations. They include, but are not limited to:

- Institute for Community Leadership – diverse youth leadership development program in East Kent;
- Festal Community Groups – suburban festival outreach initiative;
- Center for Children & Youth Justice – development of a music training program for at-risk youth in Kent;
- Turkish Cultural Festival;
- Filipino Association of Seattle – developing a Filipino Cultural Center in Rainier Beach;
- Fiji Multi-Cultural Association of Washington – NWGlobalFest – a small Festival Program highlighting Fiji culture;
- King County Youth Programs and Superior Court Community Programs – to launch 4Culture Youth Connects;
- Leadership Institute of South Puget Sound – Presentation about arts and culture in south King County to 35 future leaders;
- White Center CDA – to fund a Cambodian New Year’s Festival;
- Dia le los Muertos – provided technical assistance to facilitate an application and fundraising efforts;
- Maiwut South Sudan Refugee Services – sponsored a Sudanese Cultural Festival in Kent;
- Neighbor-to Neighbor, Seattle Foundation south county human services provider (Judy de Barros);
- Chong WA Benevolent Association – Seattle International District to discuss landmark facility grant;
- One America – Washington New Americans - a festival on Flag Day in Columbia City for new citizens from diverse populations;
- Tukwila Human Services (Evie Boykan) – outreach to diverse populations in Tukwila;
- SeaTac Service Providers Roundtable – collaboration of five south county human service providers;
- Kim Kamara – Cultural Liaison to Indigenous/Native community;
- Tibetan Association of WA – to discuss development of a Tibetan Cultural Center;
- South County Human Services Connection (Nathan Phillips) – outreach to south county social and human service providers;
- Saltwater State Park arts programs (Des Moines) – met with park ranger Jimmy Johnson to discuss culturally specific festival presentation in the park;
- Matt Griffin Community Center (SeaTac) – met with staff to encourage applications for youth art programs;
- Refugee Women’s Alliance (Kent) – to explain funding opportunities to encourage cultural expression in new communities.

New Initiatives

4Culture is primarily a funder working collaboratively with arts and cultural presenters, local arts agencies and community groups to achieve goals in support of the county's Equity and Social Justice mandate.

New Criteria

In 2013 4Culture amended its Arts and Heritage Projects funding criteria to specifically include "benefit to underserved communities" as one of the seven criteria for funding. Language was added to the application criteria to define "underserved" as including "groups and individuals of suburban and rural King County, low-income, youth, seniors, limited physical abilities, recent immigrants, minority race or ethnicity."

Local Arts Agency Interagency Collaborations

Recognizing that King County cities were grappling with how to conduct outreach to new populations, in 2013 4Culture built on a 2012 Wallace Foundation grant designed to increase arts participation in diverse communities. 4Culture decided to focus efforts on stimulating greater collaboration between the LAA network and other municipal departments and/or community agencies engaged with outreach to diverse populations, including health, social service and emergency service, such as police and fire to explore ways that the arts could intersect with or enhance the work that these agencies were already doing. We invited applications from suburban city LAAs to develop projects that were sustainable and would positively impact new or underserved communities. 4Culture funded four projects in east, north and south county:

- Bellevue – Based on a recent Bellevue area demographic survey of ethnically and culturally diverse local artists and arts practitioners, the Bellevue Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department are collaborating to facilitate a local network of ethnically based communities supporting re-grants for public projects, joint programs and promotional efforts;
- Fall City – In response to a persistent problem of offensive racist and hate graffiti on the Snoqualmie River Bridge and nearby park facilities, Fall City Arts and Fall City Historical Society are engaging a diversity of local organizations in the design and creation of community murals reflecting the beauty, pride and cultural expression of the Snoqualmie Tribe, the Hmong and Latino communities that work the local farms;
- Maple Valley – Called the Urban Park Alley Project, project developers will install a rain garden (with matching funds from the adjacent QFC) in a neglected alleyway to convert it to a much needed community gathering place and after school art/performance venue for the diverse youth culture in the Tahoma School District.
- Shoreline – Based on the outcome of a 2012 survey of ethnic populations living in the city of Shoreline, the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council is offering an on-line mini-grants program for individuals who wish to share their skills and/or cultural traditions through teaching classes or workshops for the community.

Arts & Social Change Conference

In 2012, 4Culture collaborated with the Washington State Arts Commission, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, the Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative and the American Association of Cultures to sponsor the first local symposium designed to increase arts participation for immigrant and refugee and underserved populations. There were more than 250 attendees from across King County and beyond. The organizers decided that a three-day conference was just the beginning. In 2013, an Arts and Social Change component was added to the annual state-wide Cultural Congress, which was held in late April this year at Seattle Center. The conference had the highest attendance in history, largely credited to the interest in this

topic. In September of this year a potluck dinner will be held in Madrona Park to build on the success of the conference and plan for an additional gathering later in the fall. The success of these gatherings is indicative of how the arts are looking to provide leadership in bridging the divides that separate diverse cultures.

Open 4Culture

4Culture has examined its funding practices to identify obstacles to participation by diverse communities, especially new immigrants and refugees. 4Culture relies on annual application deadlines for its eleven funding programs. We ask for extensive information about the project seeking financial support, the project budget, community served, additional support from other funding entities, and support materials that demonstrate the competence of the applicants or applicant organizations. The process requires extensive planning by the applicant. Deadlines usually precede the actual dates of the projects by several months. Experience teaches us that many communities create projects almost spontaneously. They are not planning months ahead. The information required is intimidating to some who are largely first-time applicants.

In 2013, 4Culture launched Open4Culture, a simple one-page application that can be submitted anytime during the year and is reviewed by a panel of staff every month. 4Culture only requires that the application be submitted six weeks prior to the event seeking support. Grants are up to \$1,500, which can be used to park for park rental fees, rental of sound equipment or a temporary stage, food, publicity and artist fees. The intent is to engage a new set of applicants who can then be nurtured to be successful in the annual funding program process. To be eligible, art projects must take place outside the city of Seattle. Heritage projects may take place anywhere in King County.

Artists Up

Artists Up is a collaboration with the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture and Artist Trust to welcome Latina/o artists of all disciplines (dance, literary, music, public art, media, visual and theatre) for a bi-lingual informational series about how to successfully apply for funding from the three sponsoring agencies. Over three Monday evenings in July, attendees were given resources, funding tips and networking opportunities to encourage them to reach out to us for financial assistance to develop publicly accessible projects in the community. This program will continue next year with a focus on another cultural specific community. The goal is to increase access and better serve ALL artists in Seattle and King County.

Vets Restore

Designed by 4Culture preservation and arts staff, Vets Restore offers a new education and career development opportunity in the field of historic preservation to King County veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Participants are trained to perform the valuable work of renewing and revitalizing America's historic building stock. Partners in the program are 4Culture, King County Veterans Program, Historic Seattle and Seattle Central Community College's state-of-the art Wood Technology. Veterans will receive:

- Certificate of Completion in Preservation & Remodel Carpentry from Seattle Central Community College (a new degree program) with an option to pursue an AAS degree or Certificate in Carpentry;
- Paid internship working with local construction companies at significant historic building restoration sites;
- Veteran support services, including case management, guidance counseling, tools, gear and transportation;
- Job placement assistance in the field of historic building rehabilitation.

Cultural Infrastructure Outside Seattle

A significant obstacle to arts participation in suburban and rural communities outside the city of Seattle is the lack of cultural infrastructure. North, east and south county have fewer spaces for cultural programs and activities than Seattle, with its varied and multiple performing arts facilities, museums, galleries, dance and small theatre spaces and converted warehouse spaces. 4Culture is working to address that situation with partners in each area of the county who are intent on developing cultural infrastructure.

North King County

Woodinville Repertory Theatre was founded in 1998 by *Northern Exposure* actress Peg Phillips. Over the years it has produced many productions in a variety of venues that were adapted for theatre performances. In 2013, 4Culture provided funding for the company to purchase lighting equipment to convert space in the Denali Tile warehouse for performances, the first time Woodinville Rep will have its own home.

4Culture has also provided funding to the **North Shore Performing Arts Center Foundation** for the acquisition of theatre lighting and sound equipment that allowed for non-profit performance companies to rent the facility for community productions. The facility is owned by the Northshore School District, which has agreed to let the foundation program the space when it is not being used by the district.

4Culture has provided stage equipment for **Third Place Commons** in Lake Forest Park and provided funds for the **Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council** to remodel leased space for a gallery in the same shopping center.

4Culture provided more than \$125,000 to enable the **Shoreline Historical Society** to relocate its museum, which documents the history of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, to a new space after the Shoreline School District evicted SHM from its home in the Ronald Schoolhouse, which the district needed to expand the high school.

South King County

There is a lack of cultural space in South King County, which inhibits the growth of cultural opportunities in the area. 4Culture is working with suburban cities to address this.

4Culture is a part of the planning group with officials in Federal Way to support the development of the **Federal Way Civic Center**, a proposed 700-seat theatre and conference complex that would house organizations of the seven-member Federal Way Performing Arts Coalition and could be utilized by four Federal Way High Schools for theatrical production. Currently, there are no theatres in the Federal Way schools. 4Culture awarded Federal Way \$150,000 for architectural and engineering expenses and is prepared to award substantial capital funds when the theatre gets the green light from the Federal Way Council. South King County needs another theatre space. The Auburn Performing Arts Center, also in a high school is the most used facility in South County, but will be closing for 14 months after the 2014 school year for a major renovation. The other large facility in south county is the Highline Performing Arts Center, which seats 900, but is costly to community groups to rent.

The **Highliners**, a musical theatre program for high schooler students in Burien, currently shares a small

200 seat theatre with **Burien Little Theatre**. The facility is in need of upgrades. 4Culture has supplied theater lighting and sound equipment, stage curtains and other equipment, but cannot provide capital support because the City of Burien does not want to invest in that facility.

4Culture staff continues to work with Derek Speck, the economic development manager for the city of Tukwila, on developing and designing cultural space in the planned **Tukwila Village**. The city has now required the private developer for this major mixed use project to include both a 2000 square foot space for community and cultural uses, as well as exterior artwork and a performance stage area that will be used by artists of the diverse communities residing in Tukwila, to create, display and sell artwork reflective of a variety of forms of cultural expression.

4Culture recently provided major out-of-cycle funding for **Puget Sound Access** for their work to renovate **Carco Theatre** as they take over operation of that important performing arts resource in Renton. 4Culture was the first funder for this new collaboration, which will result in additional resources for community arts groups and artists throughout that area to use the theater and to record performances for work samples and broadcasts in the six cities (Auburn, SeaTac, Renton, Tukwila, Burien, Kent) that are covered by Puget Sound Access cable services.

4Culture continues support for development of the **Highline Historical Museum**, also in Burien, to display the extensive collection of artifacts that interpret the development of Highline, which encompasses several south county cities that comprise the Highline School District.

In 2012, 4Culture's Public Art program worked with the **City of Maple Valley** to craft and adopt a public art ordinance and governing documents for a new city supported arts commission.

East King County

The lack of affordable space for creative expression also impacts cultural opportunities on the eastside.

4Culture has made major awards towards the construction of the **Bellevue Youth Theatre**, was the major funder for the relocation of **Studio East** in Kirkland and supported the artists' store and cooperative gallery in Issaquah, **Art East**, all with capital funding. 4Culture is a leader in providing funding to develop cultural infrastructure in all areas of the county.

Conclusion

2013 has been a time of significant new initiatives and introductions to new communities. We have been serving artists, heritage specialists and historic site owners for two decades in King County. As demographics shift, we realize that our programs need innovation to reach new communities, and the commitment of time to build relationships with new partners. 4Culture is currently developing a baseline to assess what have been the most successful and cost effective new strategies for our funding programs. We are dependent upon willingness of local partners, and upon political changes in local governments. In 2014 we look forward to building on our most successful efforts and reinforcing our work in suburban and rural King County.