

OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget

Policy Considerations

Select Budget Committee | October 17, 2024

Asha Venkataraman, Analyst

Budget Summary (\$ in 000s)

	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	% Change	2026 Proposed	% Change
Operating Appropriations by BSL					
Arts and Cultural Programs	\$12,000	\$12,000	0.1	\$10,100	(18.2)
Cultural Space	\$1,000	\$900	(13.0)	\$900	1.1
Leadership and Administration	\$4,700	\$5,200	10.5	\$5,400	3.6
Public Art	\$4,900	\$5,200	5.8	\$5,200	1.2
Operating Subtotal	\$22,900	\$23,600	2.9	\$21,600	(8.4)

Budget Summary (\$ in 000s)

	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	% Change	2026 Proposed	% Change
Appropriation Totals (Operating + Capital)					
Total Appropriations	\$22,900	\$23,600	2.9	\$21,600	(8.4)
Total FTE	41	44	5.8	44	0
Revenues					
General Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Other Source(s)	\$31,560	\$10,928	(65.4)	\$7,753	(29)
Total	\$31,560	\$10,928	(65.4)	\$7,753	(29)

Policy Consideration

1. Ongoing admissions tax appropriation to SPR and CEN

The 2025-2026 Proposed Budget would replace General Fund of \$884,000 in SPR for Downtown Buskers, Arts in Parks, and Teen Performing Arts with admissions tax and replace General Fund and Seattle Center Fund of \$1.3 million in CEN for Festál, Northwest Folklife Festival, and cultural administration staff with admissions tax on an ongoing basis.

Options:

- A. Make appropriations swapping admissions tax for General Fund and Seattle Center Fund one-time in 2025 or over the biennium rather than ongoing
- B. No change

Policy Consideration

2. Downtown Activation Plan (DAP) funding

The 2025-2026 Proposed Budget would appropriate \$2.5 million in one-time admissions tax funds in 2025 to support DAP for implementation in 2026.

Options:

- A. Reduce proposed appropriations and use funding for other Council priorities
- B. Impose a proviso on proposed appropriations to align with Council priorities
- C. No change

Budget Legislation

1. CBO Admissions Tax 2024 Amendments ORD

This legislation would amend the code to allow: 1) admissions tax funds to be appropriated to ARTS for the operation of the office in addition to current uses; 2) any revenues collected from the admissions tax to be appropriated to any department to use for arts-related purposes; and 3) remove the requirement to develop policies with the opportunity for the Seattle Arts Commission to comment on drafts and submit them to Council for approval via resolution.

Options:

- A. Pass
- B. Amend and pass as amended
 - 1. Limit the scope of the changes to which departments can directly receive appropriations:
 - a. Include a sunset date or time-limited period
 - b. Choose a minimum percentage of admissions tax to be guaranteed to ARTS with the remaining amounts to be available to be appropriated to other departments
 - 2. Do not strike 5.40.120.C and require updates to ARTS fiscal policies to continue receiving Council approval with consultation with the Seattle Arts Commission.
- C. Do not pass

Questions?