

2018 RSJI Accomplishments

Office of Arts & Culture



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Commitment to Racial Equity

- “[A]n anti-racist work practice that centers the creativity and leadership of people of color - those most impacted by structural racism - to move toward systems that benefit us all”
- Commitment and guidepost to accountability
- Co-signed by the Seattle Arts Commission



ARTS' Racial Equity Toolkits

In 2018, the ARTS office engaged deeply in:

Public Development Authority

- Intermediary organization used to:
 - Make space for cultural uses
 - Partner on ownership with community
 - Hold and preserve cultural space

King Street Station

- Realization of the public space which opened March 23rd, 2019 as a result of toolkit recommendations



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Challenges

The Institution

- Balancing the need and urgency that the institution of government provides with wanting to be thorough in our practices
- Move at the speed of trust rather than the speed of deadlines
- Taking time to fully implement and reflect on the RET process before next year's deadlines

Capacity

- As our work grows, how are we ensuring that we can support our staff which remains relatively small

Grants System

- As a funding organization, we have been working without a functioning granting platform



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Cultural Space

Build Art Space Equitably (B.A.S.E.) Cohort

- First cohort graduated in April 2019
- Twelve-month, 33-person cohort made up entirely of POC
- Capacity-building at the request of communities of color around cultural space development including stabilization, growth, and sustainability

Public Development Authority

- Centers cultural spaces as the heart of successful neighborhoods and community ownership as a goal
- Intermediary organization used to:
 - Make space for cultural uses
 - Partner on ownership with community
 - Hold and preserve cultural space



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The Creative Advantage

Expansion Into Arts Pathways

- Restoring arts access in 61 out of 102 schools since 2013
- Launched in the Southeast Arts Region (21 schools) in 2018
- Launched Media Arts Skills Center school year course at Seattle World School in 2018
- Expanding into two new north-end pathways in 2019

2017 – 2018 Evaluation Report Findings

- Expanding Arts Education Access in elementary and secondary schools
- Increasing 21st Century Skills and Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Providing and Deepening Quality of Arts Partnerships
- Positively Impacting School Culture



**THE CREATIVE
ADVANTAGE**
ARTS EDUCATION NOW. INNOVATIVE MINDS TOMORROW.



Creative Strategies Initiative

Launch

- Launched the Creative Strategies Initiative
 - Component of RSJI's new culture shift strategy
 - Uses arts and culture based approaches to build racial equity in non-arts areas

Turning Commitment into Action for Environmental Justice

- One of five Creative Strategies Initiative projects initiated in 2018
- Partnership between ARTS, OSE, and SPU
- The Racial Equity Cohort was comprised of environmental policy influencers from historically white-led organizations at the request of the POC Environmental Justice Committee
 - 6.5 full days
 - Hands-On, immersive activities and group work
 - Deepened abilities to practice and advocate for racial equity



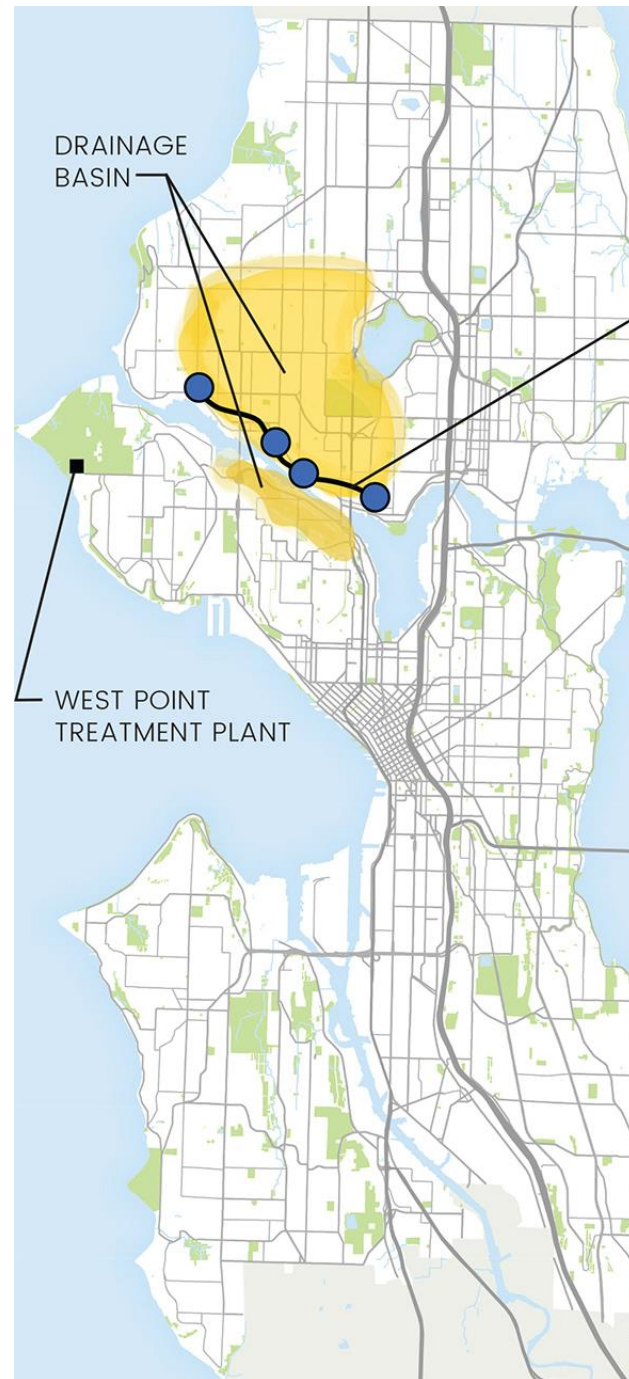
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Public Art

Ballard Ship Canal Water Quality Project

- In partnership with the Seattle Public Utilities, ARTS commissioned artwork for SPU's Ship Canal Water Quality Project Pump Station for four sites
- A site specific call was made for an artwork to honor Coast Salish Culture at the Salmon Bay Pump Station at 24th AVE NW & Shilshole Ave NW in Ballard
- Additionally, during the selection process, the panel selected Indigenous artists for the remaining three sites



Jeffrey Veregge (Port Gamble S'Klallam),
Ballard Ship Canal Water Quality Project



Preston Singletary (Tlingit) and David Franklin,
Fremont/Queen Anne Ship Canal Water Quality Project



RYAN! Feddersen (Confederated Tribes of the Colville),
Wallingford Ship Canal Water Quality Project



King Street Station

Public Space

- Community Outreach Process and Planning to further define the office's commitment to Racial Equity
- An adaptive hub housing:
 - Gallery Space
 - Living Room
 - Performance Spaces
 - Administrative Offices
 - Meeting Rooms
 - Artist in Residence Studio / Program

Advisors

- Newly formed group of community leaders and arts/culture enthusiasts who are working with ARTS staff to ensure programming:
 - Centers Racial Equity
 - Represents and Welcomes Diverse Communities
 - Showcases Many Creative Disciplines



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King Street Station (cont): yəhaw'

- The title yəhaw is drawn from the Coast Salish story of people from many tribes uniting around a common cause and lifting the sky together
- Curators Tracy Rector, Asia Tail, and Satpreet Kahlon used a decolonized curatorial process, inviting all Indigenous individuals living in the region to participate
- The gallery features work from over 200 exhibitors and involved a yearlong project that includes
 - Satellite installations,
 - Performances
 - Workshops
 - Trainings
 - Artists-In-Residence
 - Art Markets
 - Publications
 - Partner Events
 - at more than twenty-five sites across Coast Salish territories and beyond. Increased ability to use arts and culture to bring about racial justice in key policy areas



“The Creator has left the sky too low. We are going to have to do something about it, and how can we do that when we do not have a common language? ... We can all learn one word, that is all we need. That word is yəhaw, that means to proceed, to go forward, to do it.” – taqʷšəblu / Vi Hilbert (Upper Skagit) in her telling of Lifting the Sky



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2019: A look ahead

Racial equity IS our work

Arts and culture are effective, necessary strategies to achieve racial equity

- New realizations around public spaces
- Continuation of the BASE Cohort
- Drafting policies for a PDA
- Creative Careers Cohort
- Full-Time racial equity coordinator
- Workplace Values + The Shape of Trust performances



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