

November 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development & Arts Committee
From: Asha Venkataraman, Council Central Staff
Subject: CB 119408: Facilities fees legislation

On November 27, the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development & Arts Committee (CRUEDA) will discuss [Council Bill \(CB\) 119408](#), which amends the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to authorize the Director of the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) to set and charge fees for all cultural spaces that ARTS owns or operates. This memorandum describes the current facilities for which ARTS is collecting fees and the proposed change to the SMC.

Background

The SMC currently authorizes the ARTS Director to set fees and charges that compete with market prices at a comparable venue for the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (LHPAI). ARTS collected about \$69,000 in rental income from LHPAI in 2017, and projects that it will collect \$72,000 annually through 2021. ARTS uses these funds to offset the cost of temporary and intermittent staff hired to staff events. ARTS uses any revenues collected in excess of staff costs for facilities needs, including janitorial services, painting, and flooring.

CB 119408

ARTS is expanding its operation to other spaces, including its move to King Street Station and operation of cultural space in that location. This legislation broadens the scope of the Director's authority to set fees and charges for all the cultural spaces owned and operated by ARTS to account for this expansion. ARTS has not yet projected how much it plans to collect in fees from King Street Station, as it needs more time to understand how the space will be programmed. ARTS is planning to set rates and project revenue in the first quarter of 2019. It plans to use revenue in the same way it does for LHPAI – to support staffing for events and to meet facilities needs.

Next Steps

If the CRUEDA committee recommends passage by Council on November 27, Council will vote on CB 119408 on December 3.

cc: Kirstan Arestad, Central Staff Director
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