



# Seattle Arts Commission Priorities



# HopeCorps Program

Connects under- and unemployed workers in the creative industries with opportunities, specifically around these topic areas:

- Public Health
- Mental Health & Healing
- Food Security
- Storytelling, Media, & Journalism
- Arts Education
- Social Cohesion & Belonging



**BUDGET** \$2M

\$1.5M City Funds  
\$500k NEA Grant

## IMPACT

100+ Workers employed for 6-12 months,  
earning \$15-\$30K



[HOME](#)[COMMUNITY RESOURCES](#)[ARTIST CALL](#)[BLOG](#)[LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT](#)

Beloved is a multi-media and arts driven campaign poised to deliver us four phases spanning 12-weeks beginning in February 2022. Each phase explores gun violence in-depth beginning with identifying *The Problem* of gun violence as a symptom of illness (or infection) caused by systemic inequality. Beloved will also explore *The History* of gun violence by exposing root causes and exploring local and national data trends. *The Solutions* to end gun violence will discuss King County Public Health's regional approach to gun violence prevention and treatments. Beloved will conclude by exploring the ideation of a world without gun violence, *The Beloved Community*.



Katoya R Palmer  
Mar 23 · 2 min

### In moving art display, Beloved arranges 1,405 roses to highlight toll of local gun violence

On March 10, 2022, the Beloved Campaign launched "Roses & Collage," its first art activation. The living exhibit consisted of 1,405 roses.

19 views 0 comments



Katoya R Palmer  
Mar 23 · 2 min

### Dear Beloved: Self-Value = Identity Awareness A Love Letter To Explain Why You Must Matter To You!

By Chardonnay Beaver Dear [insert name], You, yourself, deserve love as much as everyone else in the existence of humanity. But he means.

11 views 0 comments



Katoya R Palmer  
Mar 23 · 7 min

### Local communities consider history, both recent and distant, in attempt to understand gun violence

By Rosette Royale Ask Reco Bembry about the history of gun violence and how it affects local communities, and he says: All lives matter.

21 views 0 comments







# Cultural Facilities Fund

Awards funding to Seattle arts, heritage, cultural and arts service organizations with facility projects that create greater access for those who have been (and are) inequitably excluded from owning, managing and leasing property.

Communities of color have had the least access to controlling cultural space. This fund has prioritized projects that eliminate this disparity.



Applicants have been able to request up to \$100,000 to support pre-capital, capital, and post-capital project expenses.

## **STATUS**

2020: Paused so funds could be used for COVID recovery relief funds for community

2021: Funds supported the Cultural Space Agency PDA

2022: ARTS is reviewing opportunities in the area



# Square Feet Seattle

**Hosted by ARTS with Facilities and Equitable Development Committee of Arts Commission**

Community event and engagement event which discusses strategies to combat the growing cultural affordability crisis in Seattle.

In past years, Square Feet Seattle has included a participatory budgeting activities which has resulted in some amazing community-focused initiatives.

**Idea for the Cultural Space Agency PDA came from Square Feet discussions!**





# Tiny Cultural Space

Tiny Cultural Space gives new life to surplus city property to build tiny structures which house cultural activities.

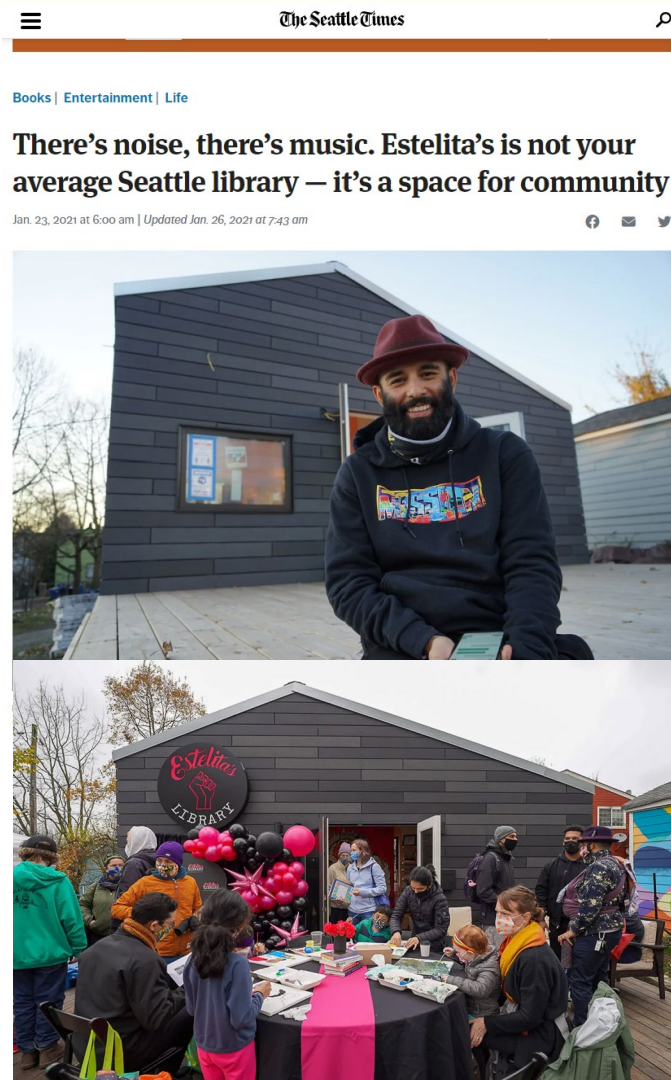
Built in collaboration with **Sawhorse Revolution**, a nonprofit teaches youth the power of carpentry and craft.

## SUCCESS STORY: Estelita's Library (2021)

A justice-focused community library and bookstore to heal, uplift, and serve oppressed communities of Seattle.

## IN PROGRESS: Deaf Spotlight (2022)

Inspires and showcases Deaf Culture and Sign Languages through the arts.









CULTURALSACE.AGENCY



# VALUES

## **KEEP RACE IN THE ROOM**

CENTER THE NEEDS OF HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED  
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

## **ASSETS ARE NOT ALWAYS FINANCIAL**

VALUE THE WEALTH OF NON-FINANCIAL CAPITAL FOUND  
IN CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

## **ALWAYS BE LEARNING**

QUESTION DOMINANT ASSUMPTIONS AND ENGAGE IN A  
COHORT MODEL OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

## **BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH**

FACILITATE REAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BY COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN VULNERABLE  
NEIGHBORHOODS

## **WHO DECIDES WHO DECIDES?**

CREATE TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING PATHWAYS WHEREIN  
POWER FLOWS FROM THE BOTTOM UP

# LEADERSHIP

## THE CONSTITUENCY

BASE GRADUATES ARE ELIGIBLE

CORE OF THE SPACE AGENCY



Leadership  
Nomination  
Committee

Property  
Investment  
Committee

Programming  
Partnerships  
Committee

# GOVERNANCE

## THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CULTURAL SPACE AGENCY



**Tim Lennon**, Executive Director, Langston  
**Cassie Chinn**, Executive Director, Wing Luke Museum  
**Nia Arunga**, Owner, Seaweed Int'l  
**Julie-C**, founder, Forever Safe Spaces  
**Melina Rivera**, Technology Access Foundation



**Vivian Phillips**, founder, Arté Noir  
**Geneiva Arunga**, spoken word artist  
**Nyema Clark**, founder, Nurturing Roots  
**Sarah Wilke**, Director of Planning, Meany Hall  
**Sergio Max Legon-Talamoni**, owner, La Union Studio



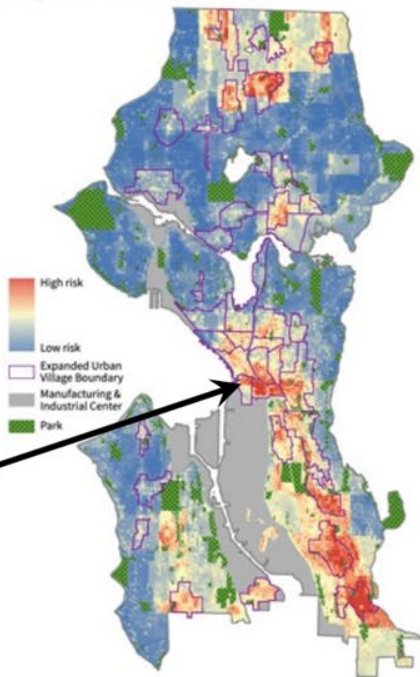
**Coté Soerens**, founder, Cultivate South Park  
**Afua Kouyate**, founder, Adefua  
**CM Ruiz**, founder, Nii Modo  
**Randy Engstrom**, independent consultant  
**Michael Seiwerath**, executive director, SEED



# STATION SPACE



Displacement Risk Index



# STATION SPACE

## Property Description

- **Property Type:** Historic Train Station (King Street Station)
- **Context:** Border of Chinatown / ID and Stadium District
- **Square Footage:** ~10,000 square feet
- **Building Age:** 1906, upgraded 2013

## Site Control Options

- Mutually Offsetting Benefit Lease (public benefit lease; minimal cash)
- Transfer of Jurisdiction (ownership of entire building)

## Capital Needs

- Currently seismically refitted cold shell
- Upgrade all mechanical, electrical, and other systems
- New gender-neutral bathrooms
- Program Improvements to include: three recording studios; two media classrooms; two rehearsal rooms; arts retail and exhibit space; admin space; mixing chamber; dedicated community use space

## Potential Program

- Creative Youth Empowerment Lab
- Anchor Tenants to include:
  - Totem Star
  - Jackson Street Music Program
  - Red Eagle Soaring
  - Wh!psmart
  - Rhapsody Project

## Timeline

- Design and fundraising currently underway
- Enter permit pipeline in Q3 2021
- Aiming for ribbon-cutting in Q2 2023

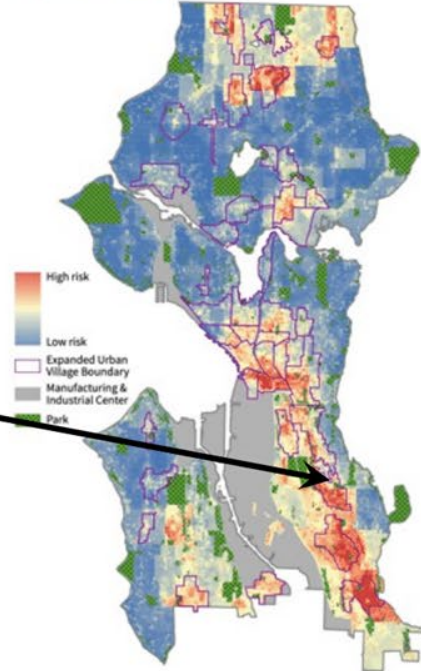
## Risk Assessment

- Limited income to support maintenance & operations outside of lease rates on second and third floors
- Youth presence onsite increases need for vigilant monitoring of safety issues
- Amtrak has been an unreliable partner, at times goals seem misaligned

# COLUMBIA CITY THEATER



Displacement Risk Index





# COLUMBIA CITY THEATER

## Property Description

- **Property Type:** Historic Vaudeville Theater and Bar
- **Square Footage:** 5,000
- **Building Age:** 1920
- **Context:** In the Columbia City Historic District and the Columbia-Hillman Arts District

## Site Control Options

- Available for purchase at below market rate
- Seller-financed deal
- 6-month right of first refusal

## Capital Needs

- Currently on the City's list of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings – need to verify level of work completed.
- Kitchen renovation / expansion
- Equip recording & broadcast studio

## Intended Program

- Tony Benton and Rainier Avenue Radio are exploring programming models for the space
- Music, theater, film, dance, and other performing arts
- Youth training programs related to media arts
- Expansion of commercial kitchen to pivot bar to all-ages small restaurant

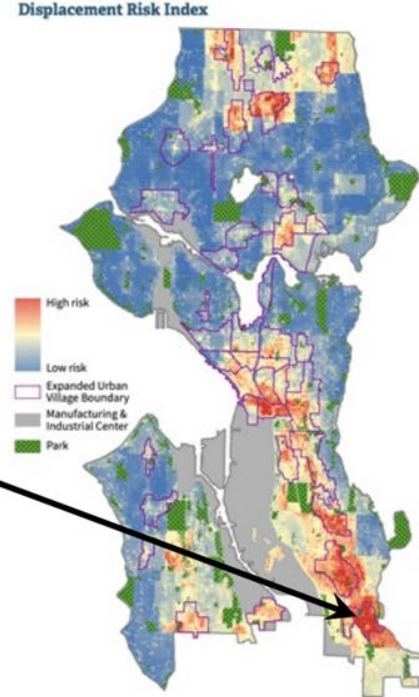
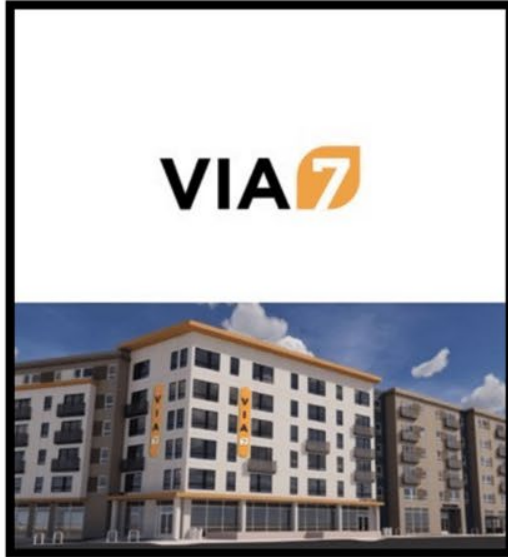
## Timeline

- Currently available, owner has offered right of first refusal
- Pending Letter of Intent with Tony Benton

## Risk Assessment

- Building is identified as a URM and there is a need to verify level of work completed
- Currently two properties, wrapping around Tutta Bella, makes this an awkward shape
- Assembly uses in historic structures potentially need to be completely re-thought post-COVID

# VIA 7: A Cultural Anchor for Rainier Beach



# VIA7: A Cultural Anchor for Rainier Beach

## Property Description

- **Property Type:** Ground floor commercial space in a new mixed-use affordable housing project
- **Context:** Heart of Rainier Beach, across Rainier from the community center, behind RB High School
- **Square Footage:** 12,000 square feet
- **Building Age:** To be completed ~2025

## Site Control Options

- Commercial condominium site acquisition
- Purchased in partnership with NW Tap and Union Cultural Center

## Capital Needs

- Space to be delivered as cold shell
- Programmatic tenant improvements to include:
  - Classroom Spaces
  - Community Kitchen
  - Performance and Gathering Space
  - Exterior community garden space
  - Administrative space

## Potential Program

- Bringing together two community-based dance schools, connected to the African diaspora: NW Tap Connection and the Union Cultural Center
- Dance classes for learners of all ages in both American tap dance and Afro-Brazilian capoeira
- Culinary cultural traditions celebrated through the kitchen and garden

## Timeline

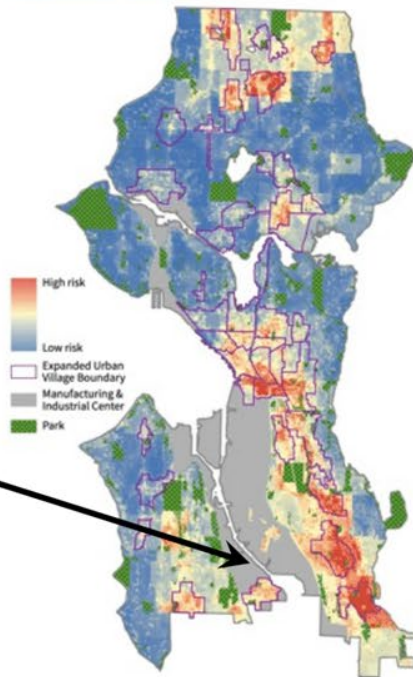
- Partners are committed
- Funding asks are pending
- LOI drafted and pending Q3 2021
- Aiming for ribbon-cutting in Q4 2024

## Risk Assessment

- Time-tested but small organizations taking on ownership for the first time
- Youth presence onsite increases need for vigilant monitoring of safety issues
- Neighborhood has historically had significant public safety concerns



# EL BARRIO



# EL BARRIO

## Property Description

- **Property Type:** Three parcels, including four buildings and a large parking lot
- **Context:** South Park is a neighborhood experiencing enormous change and growth, and one which is nearly half Latinx, the densest Latinx neighborhood in Seattle.
- **Square Footage:** Roughly 15,000 feet between four buildings, and a 10,000 square-foot surface parking lot
- **Building Age:** A variety of building ages, primarily from 1904 and 1948 with updates and additions

## Site Control Options

- Purchase of all parcels; alternately we are exploring potentially purchasing one and optioning the smaller pieces

## Capital Needs

- The buildings can continue to operate in their present state as “naturally-occurring affordable space.”
- Ongoing maintenance and the addressing of some significant deferred maintenance will be required
- ADA compliance needs to be addressed

- Cultivate South Park is the community partner leading this project. They are interested in maintaining the current uses and naturally occurring affordability in these buildings in the near-term.
- Longer term, Cultivate South Park is interested in developing the sites as a mixed-use development including affordable housing, commercial space for neighborhood small business, and cultural space.
- Reclaim the South Park Hall as a community arts space

## Timeline

- Purchases could happen as quickly as a deal can be negotiated and funded.
- Properties currently have income that could balance any needed financing. Development timeline TBD.

## Risk Assessment

- Multiple property types with varying needs
- Deferred maintenance potentially significant
- Event space hard to program and maintain during COVID
- Neighborhood in transition

## Potential Program

OVERVIEW

