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CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE _____
COUNCIL BILL _____

..title
AN ORDINANCE relating to the annual budget of the Office of Arts and Culture; amending
Section 5.40.120 of the Seattle Municipal Code.
..body
WHEREAS, in November 2002, Ordinance 121006 reorganized the Seattle Arts Commission
(SAC) into a new Executive department, the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs (now
called the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS)); recreated SAC as an advisory body; set
forth duties of ARTS and SAC, and the budget role of SAC; and affirmed ARTS use of
20 percent of the City’s Admission Tax revenues; and
WHEREAS, in November 2009, Ordinance 123155 increased the portion of the Admission Tax
revenue directed to ARTS from 20 percent to 75 percent, and established these revenues,
rather than General Fund resources, as the key source for ARTS funding; and
WHEREAS, Ordinance 123155 clarified that the City Council’s dedication of a portion of the
City’s Admission Tax revenues to arts and culture was intended to provide a “relatively
stable, reliable and dedicated revenue stream to fund [ARTS] core programs”; and
WHEREAS, Ordinance 123460 clarified the list of funding priorities, required that ARTS
develop fiscal policies related to the use of Arts Account funds, and supported short-term
use of funds for Department of Parks and Recreation uses until the end of 2012; and
WHEREAS, the Mayor’s proposed budget for 2016 increases the portion of the Admission Tax
revenue directed to ARTS from 75 percent to 80 percent, which affects Section 5.40.120
of the Seattle Municipal Code; and
NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subsection 5.40.120.A of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last
2 amended by Ordinance 124539, is amended as follows:

3 **5.40.120 Receipts to General Subfund and Arts Account**

4 A. All receipts from the admission tax levied in this Chapter 5.40 shall be placed in the
5 General Subfund of the General Fund, except that ~~((75))~~ 80 percent of all admission tax receipts
6 shall be deposited into the Arts Account of the General Subfund of the General Fund.

7 * * *

8
9 Section 2. The City hereby establishes the goal of dedicating 100 percent of the
10 Admission Tax revenue to the Office of Arts and Culture, if the City's financial condition
11 remains strong and revenue growth is sufficient to offset the resulting loss of General Fund
12 resources. It is Council's intent that ~~t~~his goal ~~will~~ be achieved through a phased approach in
13 which future ordinances that increases the share of Admissions Tax revenues dedicated to Arts in
14 graduated steps so as to minimize the General Fund impact in any given year. Specifically, the
15 Council's intent is to deposit 90 percent of the Admission Tax revenue in the Arts Account of the
16 General Subfund of the General Fund in 2017 and 100 percent of the Admission Tax revenue in
17 the Arts Account of the General Subfund of the General Fund in 2018.

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Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this ____ day of _____, 2015.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

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2 (Seal)

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