

Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee
Councilmember Budget Proposals | Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS)

Number	Title	Sponsor	Packet Page
ARTS-001-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$100,000 GF for creative spaces and low-income artist support in Capitol Hill	Hollingsworth	2
ARTS-002-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$100,000 GF for a Black choreography showcase	Rinck	3
ARTS-003-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$500,000 GF for theater upgrades	Kettle	4
ARTS-004-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$1.75 million GF to fund Black community cultural festivals	Strauss	6
ARTS-005-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$200,000 GF to fund venue improvements for cultural film venues	Nelson	8
ARTS-006-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$90,000 GF for Brewery District murals through Hope Corps Program	Strauss	9
ARTS-007-A-1	Proviso \$200,000 Arts and Culture Fund in ARTS to support the installation and completion of the Sadako Renewal Project	Rivera	10
ARTS-008-A-1	Increase ARTS by \$190,000 GF to archive and preserve the historically significant Black Scholar Journal	Rinck	11
ARTS-009-A-1	Decrease ARTS by \$2 million Arts and Culture Fund and increase ARTS by \$2 million Arts and Culture Fund to make arts-related appropriations to SPR and CEN one-time	Rinck	12

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-001-A

Increase ARTS by \$100,000 GF for creative spaces and low-income artist support in Capitol Hill

SPONSORS

Joy Hollingsworth, Rob Saka, Alexis Mercedes Rinck

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(100,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(100,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) by \$100,000 GF in 2026 (one-time) for an organization that operates creative and cultural spaces, serving primarily low-income artists, such as Forever Safe Spaces. This funding is intended to support events and programming such as art workshops, creative marketplaces, open studios, or educational and networking events in Capitol Hill.

ARTS administers several grant programs, such as the Centering Art and Racial Equity (CARE) grant program to support artists and cultural spaces in Seattle. ARTS is currently reviewing applications to distribute \$2.2 million in 2026 program funding for CARE. ARTS received 320 applications and is anticipating funding between 240 and 320 grants to artists and organizations.

ARTS also administers the Cultural Facilities Fund to support 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. This program is funded at \$400,000, and ARTS has convened a community review panel to review 88 applications for this funding.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$100,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-002-A

Increase ARTS by \$100,000 GF for a Black choreography showcase

SPONSORS

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Mark Solomon, Joy Hollingsworth

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(100,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(100,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) by \$100,000 GF in 2026 (one-time) for an organization that empowers and supports Black artists, such as the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas, to support a Black choreography showcase.

ARTS administers several grant programs, such as the Centering Art and Racial Equity (CARE) program, to support artists and cultural spaces in Seattle. ARTS is currently reviewing applications to distribute \$2.2 million in 2026 program funding for CARE. ARTS received 320 applications and are anticipating funding between 240 and 320 grants to artists and organizations.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$100,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-003-A

Increase ARTS by \$500,000 GF for theater upgrades

SPONSORS

Robert Kettle, Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Sara Nelson

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(500,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(500,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Arts and Culture by \$500,000 GF (one-time) for infrastructure improvements to nonprofit theatres dedicated to experiences and spaces that champion film discovery and arts education such as Seattle International Film Festival venues, for accessibility and safety improvements, expansion of youth programming, and facility improvements.

ARTS administers several grant programs, such as the Centering Art and Racial Equity (CARE) grant program to support artists and cultural spaces in Seattle. ARTS is currently reviewing applications to distribute \$2.2 million in 2026 program funding for CARE. ARTS received 320 applications and is anticipating funding between 240 and 320 grants to artists and organizations.

ARTS also administers the Cultural Facilities Fund to support 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. This program is funded at \$400,000, and ARTS has convened a community review panel to review 88 applications for this funding.

Typical awards for both programs average between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$500,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-004-A

Increase ARTS by \$1.75 million GF to fund Black community cultural festivals

SPONSORS

Dan Strauss, Rob Saka, Joy Hollingsworth

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(1,750,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(1,750,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) by \$1.75 million GF (one-time) for organizations supporting Black community festival programming, such as Juneteenth, Umoja Fest, and organizations like the Pacific Northwest Jazz Association, founded in 2024.

ARTS administers several competitive grant programs, such as the Centering Art and Racial Equity (CARE) grant program to support artists and cultural spaces in Seattle. ARTS is currently reviewing applications to distribute \$2.2 million in 2026 program funding for CARE. ARTS received 320 applications, and they are anticipating funding between 240 and 320 grants to artists and organizations.

ARTS also administers the Cultural Facilities Fund to support 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. This program is funded at \$400,000, and ARTS has convened a community review panel to review 88 applications for this funding.

Typical awards for both programs average between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$1,750,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-005-A

Increase ARTS by \$200,000 GF to fund venue improvements for cultural film venues

SPONSORS

Sara Nelson, Mark Solomon, Alexis Mercedes Rinck

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(200,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(200,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) budget by \$200,000 GF (one-time) for venue improvements for an organization dedicated to cultural storytelling, such as Tasveer, a nonprofit focused on South Asian film. Tasveer recently purchased the former Ark Lodge Cinema building in Columbia City with funding provided by Doors Open.

ARTS administers several competitive grant programs, such as the Centering Art and Racial Equity (CARE) grant program to support artists and cultural spaces in Seattle. ARTS is currently reviewing applications to distribute \$2.2 million in 2026 program funding for CARE. ARTS received 320 applications, and are anticipating funding between 240 and 320 grants to artists and organizations.

ARTS also administers the Cultural Facilities Fund to support 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. This program is funded at \$400,000, and ARTS has convened a community review panel to review 88 applications for this funding.

Typical awards for both programs average between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$200,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-006-A

Increase ARTS by \$90,000 GF for Brewery District murals through Hope Corps Program

SPONSORS

Dan Strauss, Mark Solomon, Joy Hollingsworth

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(90,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(90,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) by \$90,000 GF (one-time) for murals in the Ballard Brewery District as part of the Hope Corps program.

The Hope Corps program supports Seattle's creative workforce by funding job opportunities that also contribute to the well-being and revitalization of Seattle's diverse communities. The program has received one-year extensions every year since its inception and has delivered numerous creative activations throughout the city. The 2026 Proposed Budget adds \$350,000 to make Hope Corps permanent. This Council Budget Amendment (CBA) would increase that by \$90,000 for murals in the Ballard Brewery District in partnership with local business owners.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$90,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-007-A

Proviso \$200,000 Arts and Culture Fund in ARTS to support the installation and completion of the Sadako Renewal Project

SPONSORS

Maritza Rivera, Joy Hollingsworth, Sara Nelson

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$0	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$0	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would impose a proviso on \$200,000 Arts and Culture Fund in the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) for support for a project that will replace previously stolen or vandalized art in public space in Seattle, such as the Sadako Renewal Project.

The Sadako Renewal Project is a community-led effort to replace a bronze statue, stolen in 2024, which memorialized Sadako Sasaki, a 12-year-old girl who died of cancer likely caused by the bombing of Hiroshima. The statue was located in Peace Park.

The Japanese community is fundraising for the replacement of the stolen artwork. This proviso is meant to match and provide final funding needed to complete the project. The Sadako Renewal Project has selected artist Saya Moriyasu to create the replacement artwork and this funding is intended to go toward the fabrication, installation and completion of this piece. This proviso would reduce the overall funding to ARTS for its competitive grant programs, but would not necessarily impact grant funding amounts in 2026.

This CBA would impose the following proviso:

“Of the appropriation in the 2025 budget for the Office of Arts and Culture, \$200,000 is appropriated solely for a project that will replace previously stolen or vandalized art in public space in Seattle, such as the Sadako Renewal Project and may be spent for no other purpose.”

ATTACHMENT: No

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-008-A

Increase ARTS by \$190,000 GF to archive and preserve the historically significant Black Scholar Journal

SPONSORS

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Mark Solomon, Joy Hollingsworth

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$(190,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(190,000)	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would increase proposed appropriations to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) by \$190,000 GF in 2026 (one-time) for an organization that functions as a community library and gathering space focused on social justice, ethnic studies, and liberation movements, such as Estelita's library, to purchase, archive, and preserve the historically significant Black Scholar Journal from the University of Washington.

ARTS administers several grant programs, such as the Centering Art and Racial Equity (CARE) grant program, to support artists and cultural spaces in Seattle. ARTS is currently reviewing applications to distribute \$2.2 million in 2026 program funding for CARE. ARTS received 320 applications, and is anticipating funding between 240 and 320 grants to artists and organizations.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	00100-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$190,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

ARTS-009-A

Decrease ARTS by \$2 million Arts and Culture Fund and increase ARTS by \$2 million Arts and Culture Fund to make arts-related appropriations to SPR and CEN one-time

SPONSORS

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Joy Hollingsworth, Dan Strauss

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$0	
Other Funds	\$0	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$0	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Amendment (CBA) would provide a technical correction to the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) 2026 Proposed Budget, making Admission Tax transfers to Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and Seattle Center (CEN) one-time instead of ongoing.

In the 2025 Adopted Budget, Council acted to retain ARTS' sole authority to administer expenditures from the Admissions Tax, instead of allowing direct appropriations of Admission Tax revenues to other departments. According to Seattle Municipal Code 5.40.120, Admissions Tax revenues must be appropriated to ARTS to support arts-related programming.

In the 2025 Adopted Budget and the 2026 Endorsed Budget, approximately \$2 million was appropriated to ARTS to distribute to Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and Seattle Center (CEN) on an ongoing basis for the following arts-related programs:

Art in the Parks - \$444,458
Downtown Buskers - \$224,000
PARKS Teen Performing Arts - \$231,857

SPR TOTAL: \$900,315

Seattle Center Folklife - \$400,797
Seattle Center Winterfest - \$222,122
Festal Cultural Programming - \$460,000

CEN TOTAL: \$1,082,919

The ongoing appropriation is constraining the Arts and Culture Fund financial plan in future years and could be considered inconsistent with Council's previous actions to allow ARTS to retain more control over Admissions Tax revenues. This CBA would not prevent these appropriations to SPR and CEN from

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

being renewed in the 2027 budget and beyond, using Arts and Culture Fund or another fund source.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONGOING

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	12400-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$(1,983,234)

TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
ARTS	Arts and Cultural Programs	12400-BO-AR-VA160	2026		\$1,983,234