

# Seattle Office of Arts & Culture

## 2026 Proposed Budget Overview

Presentation by:  
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Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee



**City of Seattle**

# Department Overview

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***Mission:*** We activate and sustain Seattle through arts and culture.

***Vision:*** We envision a city driven by creativity that provides the opportunity for everyone to engage in diverse arts and cultural experiences.



Chiwoniso at The Meany Center  
Funded by Civic Partners  
(C.A.R.E.)

# Summary

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ARTS is committing significant funding to downtown activations and preparations for the World Cup. The 2026 Proposed Budget includes investments in Hope Corps, graffiti interventions, and cultural planning.

		2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	% Change (Endorsed to Proposed)
	(\$000s)				
Arts & Culture Fund		\$19,341	\$17,300	\$17,640	1.8%
Municipal Arts Fund		\$5,703	\$5,804	\$5,890	1.4%
FTE		43.75	43.75	44.75	2%



# Significant Additions

## 1. Hope Corps (\$350k, ongoing)

- The Mayor's 2026 Proposed Budget makes Hope Corps, which had previously been funded year-to-year, into an ongoing program. This \$350,000 investment includes funds for staffing and programming.
- ARTS will assess options to appropriately scale the program to align with available funding considering factors such as geographic reach to ensure its effectiveness.



Top Right:  
Mural in  
Belltown  
(2024)

Lower Left: Jazz  
Night in  
Pioneer Square  
(2025)

# Significant Additions

## 2. Cultural Planning (\$200k, one-time)

- Proposed Budget includes \$200,000 in one-time funding to lead a cultural planning process
- The process will involve community engagement, cultural asset mapping, data analysis, and the development of a broad plan to guide future investments in the cultural landscape in Seattle.
- A successful cultural plan will depend on the depth of community engagement and the strength of stakeholder buy-in in the process



ARTS staff, OTTS Bolisay, working on a strategic planning exercise in 2024



# Significant Additions

## 3. Graffiti Specialist Program One-Year Extension (\$160k, one-time)

- The role supports working with the Mayor's Office and partners on education and remediation programs for graffiti.
- This is a part of a \$1.6 million/6.0 FTE investment in the One Seattle Graffiti Plan, focused on graffiti removal, enforcement and assistance to businesses, and support for public art and volunteer clean-up efforts.



# **Thank You**

## **Questions?**