



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks, Center, Libraries, and Equity Committee Members
FROM: Ned Dunn, Seattle Center
DATE: April 28, 2015
RE: The Vera Project 2015-16 Agreement for Youth Programming

This legislation before the Parks, Center, Libraries, and Equity Committee authorizes a two-year renewal agreement with The Vera Project, a Washington non-profit corporation, for the continued development and presentation of a youth music and arts program. The Vera Project will present a minimum of 50 annual music shows and other arts events for persons under 21 years of age, with people of all ages welcome. In return for these youth programming services, the City will pay The Vera Project \$50,000 each year. The Vera Project will leverage City funding with outside resources in an attempt to increase the number of events per year from 50 to 80.

The Vera Project is a youth-driven, volunteer-based organization providing artistic events as well as training and mentoring opportunities for young people, while supporting young and emerging artists. Vera has been operating in Seattle since 2001 and relocated its facilities to the Seattle Center campus in 2007.

The City has provided funding support for Vera's youth programming since Vera's founding. The funding level was \$70,000 in 2001, \$75,000 in 2002, and \$50,000 from 2003 to the present 2015-16 agreement. Over the years, The Vera Project has served over 356,000 youth while reducing its reliance on City funding from 39% of its operating budget to 9%.

Seattle Center manages the programming agreement with The Vera Project and looks forward to continuing this successful partnership.