

**BILL SUMMARY & FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>Executive Contact/Phone:</b>
Seattle Center	Ned Dunn 684-7212 Julia Colson 684-7377	Ann Gorman 684-5292

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Seattle Center Director to execute an agreement with The Vera Project for presentation of an all-ages music and art program during 2015 and 2016; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Summary and background of the Legislation:** The attached legislation authorizes a two-year 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. This funding is already reflected in Seattle Center's 2015 Adopted and 2016 Endorsed Budgets and is not addressed in this Fiscal Note or in the legislation.

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 for the past thirteen years, and relocated its facilities to the Seattle Center campus in 2007. In 2006, the City Council approved a ten year lease agreement with Vera for use of the former Snoqualmie Room at Seattle Center (Ordinance 122068). The annual lease payment for 2015 is \$55,311.

In addition to the lease agreement, the City has also provided Vera with various levels of programming support since they began operating in 2001. In 2001, the City provided \$70,000 to support their first year of operation. In 2002, several different City departments provided a total of \$75,000 to support expanding youth programming efforts (agreement authorized by Ordinance 120802). From 2003 through 2008, The Vera Project received \$50,000 each year consisting of \$25,000 from the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs (OACA), \$15,000 from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and \$10,000 from Seattle Center (agreements authorized by Ordinances 121155, 121818 and 122376).

In 2009, a new two year agreement was approved, which continued the same level of funding support through 2010 (Ordinance 122973). One minor change in how the funding was administered was approved as part of the Adopted 2009/2010 Budget, which consolidated the funds from OACA and DPR in Seattle Center's budget. The change was made only to streamline administration of the contract with Vera, which is managed by Seattle Center. This structure was continued in 2011/2012 and 2013/2014 (Ordinances 123515 and 124104). The

new agreement for 2015/2016 does not include any changes to the current amount of programming support provided to Vera. In exchange for the \$50,000 per year payment, Vera will provide a minimum of 50 music and arts events each year. In addition, 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.

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

Project Name:	Project I.D.:	Project Location:	Start Date:	End Date:	Total Cost:

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This legislation does not have direct financial implications.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?**  
No. The legislation authorizes an agreement.
- b) **Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**  
There is no financial cost to the City if this legislation is not implemented.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
No
- d) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?** No.
- e) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?** No.
- f) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**  
No.
- g) **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**  
Vera provides free and low-cost music and arts programming and job-training opportunities, for young people (under age 21). The legislation benefits those whose families are resource constrained, or who themselves are, and it helps them build

marketable skills and prepare for careers in the arts and music. (The organization has made the decision not to monitor the demographics of those whom it serves.)

- h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.**

This legislation does not include a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion.

- i) Other Issues:** Without a continuation of City support, The Vera Project will not be able to provide approximately 50 music and arts events for youth in both 2015 and 2016 and will not be able to leverage this funding to meet its goal of providing up to 80 total events each year.

**List attachments below:** None.