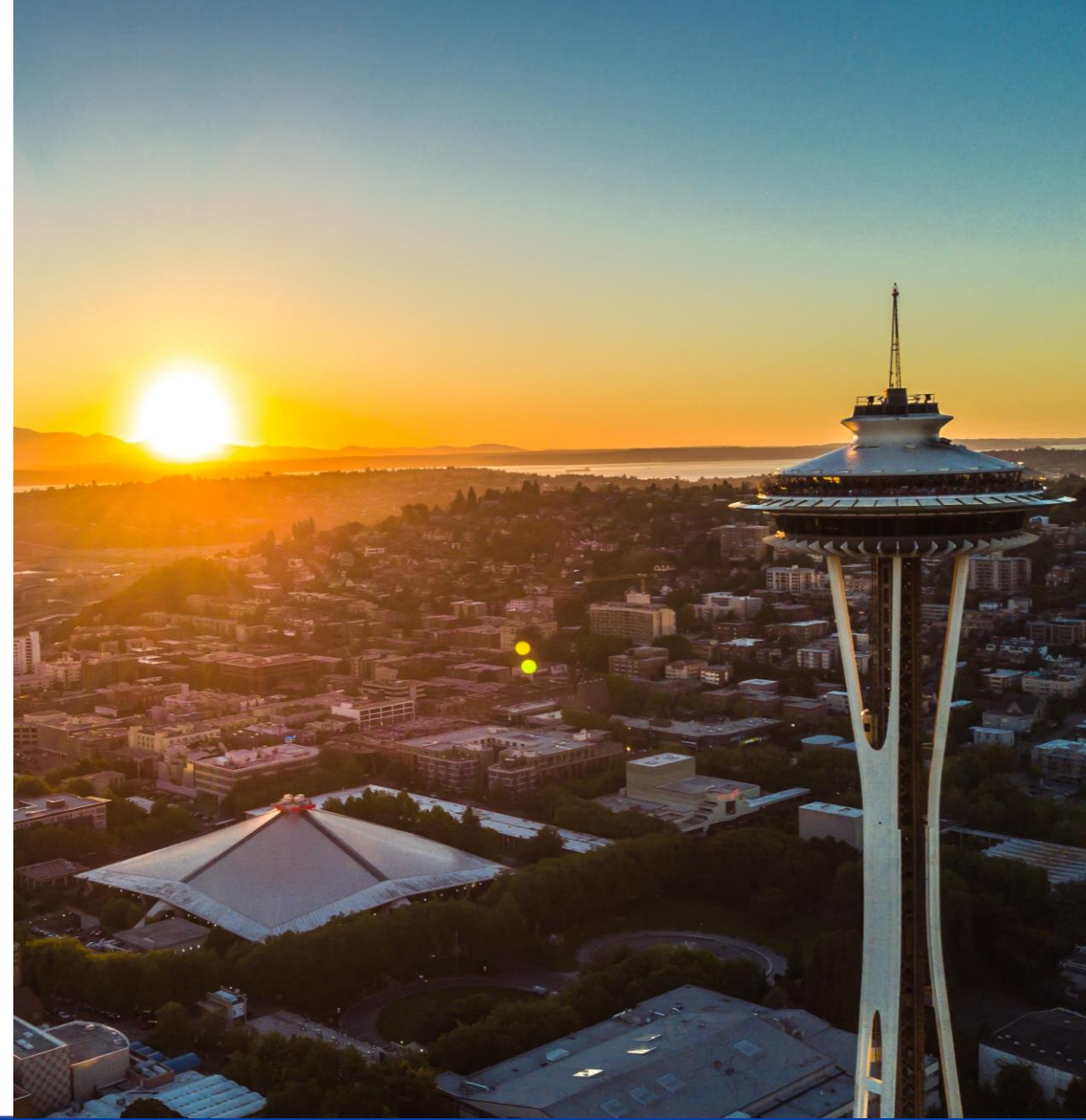


HOPE CORPS

*Supporting Economic
Recovery for Seattle's
Creative Workforce*



Seattle Office of Arts & Culture

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.



Hope Corps

The pandemic created widespread **loss of work and income** in the creative sector

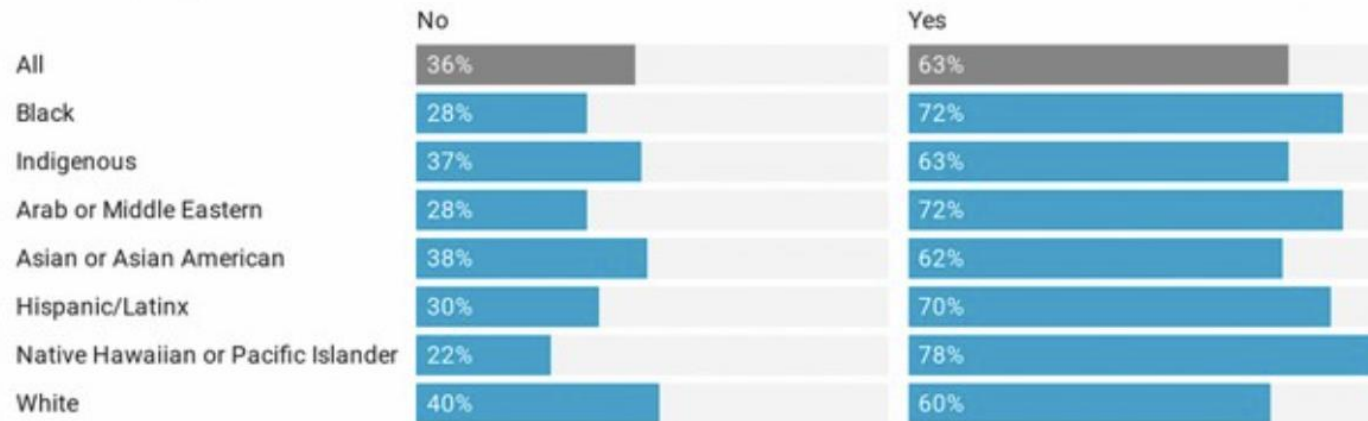
- 65% of creative workers on non-traditional workers, and thus had difficulty accessing unemployment insurance (Whipsmart Social Safety Net Survey report, Nov 2020)
- “Cultural brain drain” – exit from creative industries
- Creatives of color disproportionately impacted



Hope Corps

Americans for the Arts 2020 survey data showing unemployment rates among respondents, by race

Unemployed Due to COVID-19



Hope Corps

In 2021, ARTS launched Hope Corps, a funding program that connects **under- and unemployed workers in the creative industries** with career opportunities that benefit the public.

The program's design has been informed by:

- Focus groups
- Local, national community advisors
- Past government work programs
- Partnerships with fellow City departments



Seattle, Washington. 1912.



Hope Corps

Funded project examples:

- **free workshops** across a variety of arts and cultural disciplines (visual art, dance, traditional healing practices, etc.)
- **community narratives** told through film, illustrated books, a podcast, paintings, music, and more
- **murals** throughout the city
- a **media campaign** against gun violence
- free community meals prepared by **BIPOC chefs**



Hope Corps To Date

- Funding: **\$3.75M total** one-time investments since 2021

Funds encumbered in fall, projects completed the following year (e.g. Downtown Mural Project funding released 2023, funded murals going up this summer)
- Impact: **200+ creative workers**
 - Individual earnings up to \$30k
 - Community of Practice to grow skills, networks, and opportunities to amplify funded projects
- Demand: **300 applicants**, 30 awardees in 2022's open call



Hope Corps To Date

Qualitative reports on the 19 completed individual projects

- "I expanded or developed my social and professional network" – **79%** agree/strongly agree
- "My gross earnings increased" – **84%** agree/strongly agree
- "I was able to advance my skills or knowledge" – **89%** agree/strongly agree
- "Overall, I was satisfied with my experience" – **89%** agree/strongly agree
- "My resume or portfolio got expanded" – **95%** agree/strongly agree
- "I was satisfied with my role" – **95%** agree/strongly agree
- "I am confident I can find more stable work/income after this program" – **84%** agree/strongly agree

Locations of 34 completed projects '22-

23

Council District	# of Projects
1	9
2	16
3	11
4	3
5	3
6	2
7	6
<i>(7 projects took place in multiple districts)</i>	



Hope Corps To Date

Self-Reported Demographics of Participating Artists/Creatives from 9 Group Projects (2022)

Female	124
Male	73
Non-binary	11

Ages < 24	39
Ages 24-65	151
Ages 65+	23

Asian	17
BIPOC	7
Black	27
Latinx	97
MENA	2
Multiracial	4
Native American	19
Pasifika	1
White	34
No response	20



Hope Corps Impact

“The key intention of the Hope Corps grant, in my understanding, is to **inspire hope**. I believe that goal was met firstly for me. This opportunity and experience has shown me I am **stronger and more capable than I previously believed** and that collaboration and asking for help in creating is beautiful. So thank you. From the depth of my heart.

Also, I believe this goal of sharing hope was met by measure of the positive responses from artists involved - inspired by the music and they being **fairly compensated for their talent and time** contributing to the music - and such positive audience response and engagement.”

- 2022 Hope Corps grantee J.R. Rhodes



Hope Corps Impact

"As one who doesn't spend a ton of time around super young people, I **really loved talking with the students**, answering their questions, and ultimately allowing some of their ideas to influence the final design. My favorite moment was their excitement when I let them help pull all the tape used to layout the design (it was a lot!). **I was really moved by how supportive, satisfied and enthusiastic the students and neighbors were** throughout the process."

- 2023 Hope Corps grantee Carolyn Hitt, muralist at Rogers Playground



Hope Corps 2024-2025: Downtown Activation

Budget: \$1 million

Focus: Downtown activations / FIFA World Cup prep

- Climate and Water Justice
- Placemaking, Placekeeping, and Belonging
- Seattle is THRIVING narrative

Impact: 40+ workers / 20+ projects

Funding levels range from \$10,000-\$120,000

Call for project concepts

Timeline

July 9: Application opens

August 20: Application closes

September: Selection

November: Work begins,
community of practice forms

