

2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
53	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: City Auditor report on city contracts for use of and public access to arts and cultural facilities.

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Harrell; Licata; O'Brien; Okamoto

Staff Analyst: Aly Pennucci

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent requests that the Office of City Auditor report to the City Council on the use of, and public access to, arts and cultural facilities that are operated by an organization that has a public benefits agreement contract with the City for use of their facilities. The report should:

- include a list and description of all organizations that have a public benefits agreement contract with the City for use of, and public access to, public art and cultural facilities;
- identify the contractual obligations imposed upon each organization;
- determine the extent to which public use and access is occurring (and by whom); and
- evaluate the City’s level of monitoring and oversight of these contracts.

The report would update and expand on the report that the Office of City Auditor presented to the Council in February 2006 titled “City Contracts for Use of and Public Access to Public Arts and Cultural Facilities.”

Background

The City of Seattle holds contracts with private non-profit entities that own and/or operate arts and cultural facilities. These contracts, often described as limited-term facility use easements, obligate arts and cultural entities to provide public benefits such as direct use of the facility’s performance, reception, and/or meeting

spaces, over a specified period of time; increased access to art and cultural exhibits, programming, and events through free or reduced-priced entry; and increased accessibility for specific groups, such as low-income visitors, children, seniors, students and physically challenged individuals.

It is anticipated the results of this report may help inform future public benefit agreements, including those the City is expected to require in its funding contracts with Town Hall, the Nordic Heritage Museum, and the Burke Museum in 2016 if the report is available at that time.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Finance and Culture

Date Due to Council: November 1, 2016