

## 2023-2024 PROPOSED MID-BIENNIAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS REVIEW

**OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

Staff: Jasmine Marwaha

**Table 1: Budget Summary (\$ in 000s)**

	2023 Adopted	2024 Endorsed	2024 Proposed	% Change 2024 Endorsed to 2024 Proposed
<b>Appropriations by BSL</b>				
<b>Operating</b>				
Arts and Cultural Programs	\$8,251	\$7,272	\$11,019	51.5%
Cultural Space	\$1,314	\$813	\$837	2.9%
Leadership and Administration	\$4,530	\$4,605	\$4,753	3.2%
Public Art	\$4,790	\$4,741	\$4,875	2.8%
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$18,885</b>	<b>\$17,432</b>	<b>21,484</b>	<b>23.2%</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund	0	0	0	0%
Other Sources	\$18,885	\$17,432	21,484	23.2%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$18,885</b>	<b>\$17,432</b>	<b>21,484</b>	<b>23.2%</b>

**I. Introduction**

The Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS) 2024 Proposed Budget Adjustments would increase by \$4.0 million compared to the 2024 Endorsed Budget, as shown in Table 1, representing a 23 percent increase. The adjustments reflect increased actual and anticipated admission tax revenues relative to the forecast from November 2022, as demand for entertainment activities continue to recover from the pandemic. All of the proposed changes allocate Arts and Culture Fund revenues, with \$3.6 million reflecting one-time expenditures. No ongoing FTEs are proposed to be added.

Staff identified two issues for the Council’s consideration that are discussed in the next section.

## II. Issue Identification

### 1. Scale and Prioritization of Proposed Budget Adjustments for New or Expanded Programming

The 2024 Proposed Budget Adjustments for ARTS include the following one-time expenditures for new or expanded programming:

- \$1 million for a new collaboration between ARTS and the Office of Economic Development on Downtown activations, focused on King Street Station and nearby cultural partners.
- \$1 million for a one-year extension of the Hope Corps program focused on Downtown activations, connecting under- and unemployed artists with paid work opportunities.
- \$764,000 in one-time support for Seattle Center’s [Folklife](#) and [Festal](#) programming.
- \$150,000 for a Temporary Graffiti Specialist to work on graffiti prevention strategies, including but not limited to: youth programs encouraging sanctioned creative pursuits, strategic landscaping to cover blank walls on City facilities, and positive graffiti art events.

The 2024 Proposed Budget Adjustments represent a significant increase in expanded or new programming compared to ARTS’s 2024 Endorsed Budget. Council may wish to repurpose, scale, or provide direction for these proposed adjustments to advance other Council priorities related to the arts.

#### **Options:**

- A. Reduce or eliminate proposed appropriations in favor of other Council priorities, consistent with the permissible uses of Admissions Tax revenue;<sup>1</sup>
- B. Impose a proviso on proposed appropriations to ensure they align with other Council priorities, such as greater investments in neighborhoods at high risk of displacement; or
- C. No change

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<sup>1</sup> Seattle Municipal Code 5.40.120.B provides for permissible uses use of Admissions Tax revenue, including: (1) arts-related programs and one-time capital expenditures that keep artists living, working, and creatively challenged in Seattle; (2) initiatives and programs to build community through the arts and create opportunities for the public to intersect with artists and their work; and (3) initiatives and programs that provide art opportunities for youth in and out of school.

## **2. Community-Led Strategic Planning for the Arts and Culture Fund**

ARTS is currently at a key moment in its organizational history, with new leadership and a projected steady increase in Admission Tax revenues following the depths of the pandemic. ARTS anticipates beginning a strategic planning exercise in 2024 that will include structured conversations with staff, community listening sessions, and engagement with the Seattle Arts Commission.

ARTS intends to engage a facilitator in Q4 2023 to lead this strategic planning exercise, funded by underspend in the 2023 Adopted Budget. After an initial phase focused on internal organizational mission and dynamics, ARTS intends to engage in broader strategic work to develop an artist-led grassroots comprehensive cultural plan.

Council may want to consider providing specific direction for developing a strategic framework concerning the use and priorities of the Arts and Culture Fund, and clarifying expectations for the two-stage process. Council may also want to consider appropriating funds for community stipends and consultation to better support a robust community-driven planning process, a scope of work that includes a survey of best practices in other jurisdictions, and a racial equity analysis, among other considerations. This would help provide clarity and transparency for the Executive and Council on community-informed priorities.

### **Options:**

- A. Provide specific direction and Council expectations for ARTS' strategic planning effort via a Statement of Legislation Intent.
- B. Increase one-time appropriations from fund balance in the Arts and Culture Fund for this effort to provide transparent and dedicated funding for consultation support and community engagement.
- C. No change.