Office of Arts & Culture

2014 Proposed Budget Overview

BASIC MISSION

- What is the primary mission (purpose) of your agency, and why does it matter to the people of Seattle?

- **Arts activates and sustains Seattle through arts and culture.** We envision a city driven by creativity that provides the opportunity for everyone to engage in diverse arts and cultural experiences. We help make this possible through:
  - the city's public art program
  - funding artists and cultural organizations
  - preserving cultural space in the city
  - ensuring youth have access to arts education

- **The arts are integral to our community and our economy.** Creative industries support job creation, youth engagement and sustainability.

- Supporting the arts **improves the quality of life in our city.** Seattle is recognized nationally and internationally for our leadership in public art, which enhances the urban landscape and is utilized for positive place making.

- **Example: Central Pathway's youngest students, K-2nd graders, will all be singing in music classes for the first time in nearly 40 years** as we implement our arts education program which aims to provide arts education to all Seattle classrooms.

KEY OUTCOMES AND REMAINING CHALLENGES

- **How will you know whether you have accomplished your mission or not?**
- We know we are successful when we have enhanced the livability and economy of Seattle through art and culture. We track this by comparing our cultural vitality index to other cities.
- **What results or outcomes do you measure?** We track a variety of data including:
  - number of people served by our funded programs,
  - students served both in and out of school,
  - square feet of cultural space retained.
  - public art projects completed.
  - Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute attendance and rental revenue.
- **What are some remaining challenges?**

  Arts Education: Continued investment is required to close the gaps that exist in access to arts education in Seattle.

  Cultural space in Seattle is at risk and the newly hired Cultural Space Liaison will focus on keeping artists and arts-related businesses in Seattle.

  Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute requires support to fully develop its future non-profit capacity.

ALIGNING MISSION AND BUDGET

- How do your budget changes address the barriers you face in fulfilling your outcomes, and/or mission?

  The 2014 Proposed Budget maintains funding for our long-standing grant award programs, and uses additional admission tax revenues to build on existing programs and to restore budget reductions made in previous years.

- More generally, how do your proposed budget changes align with your Department's mission?

  This budget enhances the work we do in arts education and cultural spaces and maintains our long standing commitment to the public art and cultural grants programs.

  In addition, it supports the 2013 work carried out by the Langston Hughes Action Committee to determine the best way to support the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute's future.