

Race and Social Justice 2012 Mid-Year Highlights

Arts & Social Change

October 12 – 13, 2012

Arts & Social Change, an evolution of our Ethnic Arts Connection, is a national 2-day symposium that will address the role that diverse arts play in creating awareness, inspiring cultural understanding, and developing policies to address equity and social change.

Arts & Social Change is hosted by the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs in partnership with Washington State Arts Commission, The Wallace Foundation, 4Culture, Seattle Center and FESTAL, Seattle Office for Civil Rights, and The Association of American Cultures.

Funding Programs

We are actively evolving each of our funding programs so that the priority for funding encourages greater access, inclusion and impact with a focus on funding quality projects that:

- Diversify the arts and cultural activities available to Seattle residents and visitors
- Offer cultural, geographic, economic and/or physical access
- Create meaningful arts experiences that reflect and are relevant to Seattle's diverse populations

Cultural Facilities Funding Program – this new pilot program had a terrific response from diverse communities. 19% of the applicants represented communities of color including Northwest African American Museum, Filipino Community of Seattle, Sea Mar, Hengda Dance Academy, James and Jamie Washington Foundation and Robert Chinn Foundation. Other applicants, like SouthEast Effective Development, Reel Grrls, Coyote Central and Jack Straw also serve very diverse populations.

smART ventures

Other funders in the region are using smART ventures as a unique funding model for engaging diverse communities including 4Culture for King County and the Kent Arts Commission.

smART ventures is a small awards funding program that encourages innovation and widens cultural participation, particularly by individuals, organizations and communities that may not qualify for other funding programs. Projects are creative and diverse, involving artists and communities of color plus wide-ranging audiences including youth, seniors, and the LGBTQ communities.

Sampling of funded projects in 2012:

Roots!, a weekly series of African Music Nites including two free dance workshops in traditional and contemporary African dance and a free evening dance/concert showcasing two groups representing African music.

Deaf Spotlight – a three-day, first-time festival of feature and short length films produced by, about, and for the Deaf Community.

Women Who Rock: Making Scenes, Building Communities at Washington Hall brought together women of all ages, arts disciplines, sexual orientation, class and race to explore how to build community.

Rainier Court Community Festival - 28 affordable senior housing communities with high percentage of African, Hispanic and Asian residences, share their talents in the Rainier Valley.

Seattle Indian Health Board festival as part of Seattle Center's Festal bringing together modern and traditional art forms by indigenous peoples.

Queer Social Club - a variety performance showcasing Seattle's transgendered and gender-queer identified art and artists of all disciplines at Washington Hall in the Central District.

Salaam Urban Village Association aims to create a short video containing interviews of 10 East African elder residents from the Dakota and Courtland Place that culminates in a screening with discussion for an intergenerational neighborhood audience.

Othello Park International Music & Art Festival will partner with The African Eagles youth through Cleveland High School to present a showcase of performing and visual artists highlighting the diverse cultures of S.E. Seattle.