



LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Mari Horita
President & CEO

It's been a busy winter at ArtsFund. In this print edition of the ArtsFund newsletter, we look back on our recent programs, community events, and grant making. We also look ahead towards an important upcoming legislative initiative, Access For All. With advocacy as one of the three prongs of ArtsFund's mission, we hope you'll join us in getting involved.

We're currently in the midst of our annual allocations applications cycle, and grants will be awarded in June. Since 1969, donations from supporters like you have made it possible for ArtsFund to award more than \$75 Million in grants to cultural organizations throughout our region. ArtsFund's annual fundraising campaign ends on May 31st and we thank the many of you who have already contributed. If you have not yet made your gift, we invite you to do so in order to empower our region's art organizations to expand minds, heal hearts, and change lives through their work.

We hope you'll join us to recognize and support the arts at our Annual Celebration of the Arts Luncheon on May 4th, and look forward to seeing you there.

ACCESS FOR ALL: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

For the past ten years, momentum has been building to revolutionize our cultural landscape. This August its make or break moment arrives.

King County culture lovers: contact your county council member. In talks to be placed on the August ballot is an "Access for All" measure that would ask voters to approve a 0.1% sales tax increase—one penny on every ten dollars—to provide increased public access to hundreds of the county's cultural organizations.

Based on similar programs in Colorado and St. Louis, if approved, Access for All is estimated to raise nearly \$70 million per year for arts, science, and heritage institutions across King County. Organizations receiving these funds will expand free and reduced access to their performances, programs, and exhibits—particularly to those from underserved communities.

Access for All will help remove barriers so everyone in King County is able to experience the region's abundant cultural opportunities. If passed it would be a large step toward realizing ArtsFund's vision of "A community with a dynamic and world-class arts and cultural sector where the arts are accessible to all and valued as central and critical to a healthy society."

ArtsFund played a central role in advancing this initiative with Cultural Access Washington, the advocacy group that has spent more than a decade trying to make this idea a reality. Since the idea of a cultural taxing district first took root in the early 2000s, ArtsFund was a key player in working to advance the legislation allowing the creation of cultural access districts. Today, ArtsFund leadership is represented on the Cultural Access Washington board.

The legislation has been introduced to the King County Council for approval for the August ballot. Council members are reviewing the proposed initiative and will vote in mid-April or early May to decide whether to place it on the ballot. If the council members do not approve, it will not be on the ballot—meaning now is the time to voice support. Visit Access for All's site at www.accessforallwa.org and click "Contact Your Council Member" under the "Get Involved" tab to voice your support. For updates on the initiative, follow Cultural Access Washington on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CulturalAccessWA.



WHAT WILL ACCESS FOR ALL FUND?

- No-cost field trips for public school students in all 19 King County school districts
- Increased in-school arts, science, and cultural programs
- Expanded community programming
- More free and reduced-priced ticket opportunities for people of all ages
- Increased funding for festivals, developing cultural spaces, and underwriting Americans with Disabilities Act projects

THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS IN AMERICA



(L-R) Michael Kaiser, Nora and Allan Davis, Mari Horita, Leslie and Dale Chihuly; photo by Robert Wade Photography

In March 2017, ArtsFund brought internationally renowned arts management expert Michael Kaiser to Seattle to speak on the future of the arts in America. Among other events, ArtsFund hosted a special evening at Chihuly Boathouse for ArtsFund Encore donors, and a convening that drew nearly 100 arts leaders, administrators, and board members. In his speech, “The Future of the Arts in America,” Mr. Kaiser outlined the seven key reasons he is concerned for the future of the arts in our country, highlighting a lack of institutional arts marketing, a decreasing philanthropic base, and an absence of arts education. In the discussion that followed, he addressed questions on unique productivity and efficiency issues that relate to arts organizations, recommendations for arts marketing, and issues of equity and inclusion.

ArtsFund thanks Advisory Council members Allan and Nora Davis for making these events possible.



Photo by Robert Wade Photography

“We are so fortunate to have the freedoms we have to create art and arts institutions in the United States of America, but with this freedom comes the responsibility to do it well.”

-Michael Kaiser at The Future of the Arts in America

ARTSFUND AWARDS MULTICULTURAL ARTS GRANTS

In January 2017, ArtsFund awarded a total of \$60,000 in grants to twelve multicultural arts and cultural organizations. This initiative, in complement to our annual allocations process, is part of an ongoing commitment to increasing arts access and bringing communities together through the arts. The funds were distributed as matching incentive grants of \$5,000 each, with the objective of empowering recipients to leverage these grants to raise greater support for their organizations.

Each of the twelve organizations that received funds from the Multicultural Arts Project bring unique value to our region, at once providing a space for individuals to connect with their cultures and enriching the broader community. ArtsFund is proud to partner with these organizations in support of their work promoting cross-cultural understanding in our region, using art as a bridge across communities and generations.

2017 MULTICULTURAL ARTS GRANTEEES:

- American Asian Performing Arts Theatre
- Asia Pacific Cultural Center
- Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas
- Chinese Arts and Music Association
- Densho
- Japan Arts Connection Lab
- Pratidhwani
- ReAct Theatre
- Red Eagle Soaring
- Seattle Asian American Film Festival
- Seattle Latino Film Festival
- Tasveer



Photos (clockwise from top right) courtesy of Pratidhwani, American Asian Performing Arts Theatre, Seattle Asian American Film Festival, and Pratidhwani

SETTING THE TABLE FOR MORE DIVERSE NONPROFIT BOARDS

In February 2017, ArtsFund hosted Setting the Table for More Diverse Board Leadership, an event geared towards exploring ways to expand racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in board leadership stemming from ArtsFund's strategic value of promoting equitable and inclusive communities. Nearly 100 people filled the KEXP gathering space to hear a panel discussion with community leaders.

Guests had an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists one-on-one, and connect with board members and staff from 17 arts and cultural organizations. Nearly 90% of participants surveyed said that they were able to make a connection with an organization regarding possible future board service.



Photo by Robert Wade Photography

Visit www.artsfund.org/events for more information.

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE **STEVEN J. TEPPER** SHARES 4 FACTS ABOUT ARTS & CREATIVITY

DID YOU KNOW?

- Nobel Prize winning scientists are 17 times more likely to be engaged in visual arts than scientists who have not won the Nobel Prize
- “Creativity” was selected as the number one leadership competency of the future by America’s top CEOs
- Inventors who have patents had 20 to 30 percent higher rates of arts participation as children
- Core creative skills like reasoning by analogy, making non-routine connections, and identifying patterns are all related to the same area of the brain that is activated when people are engaged in the visual and performing arts



Steven Tepper is a leading writer and speaker on themes of U.S. cultural policy, creativity, and cultural participation

Join us on May 4 at the Seattle Westin to hear Steven Tepper's keynote, “Creativity, Education, and Work in the 21st Century.”

Visit www.artsfund.org for tickets and more information.

ARTSFUND'S VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ArtsFund's recently released 2017-2018 Strategic Plan includes the following values. To view the Executive Summary, visit www.artsfund.org/strategicplan.

WE IGNITE PASSION FOR THE ARTS. We believe arts and culture inspire, empower, and transform individuals and communities.

WE PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES. We believe the arts should be accessible to all and reflect, represent, and engage the entire community.

WE INNOVATE THROUGH COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP. We believe our impact and relevance, and that of the arts sector, are deepened through continuous learning, creative leadership, and strategic partnerships.

ArtsFund

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ARTSFUND

ArtsFund strengthens the community by supporting the arts through leadership, advocacy and grant making.

ARTSFUND 

#celebratearts

Please join us to recognize and support the arts at

ArtsFund's Twenty-Ninth Annual
**CELEBRATION OF THE
ARTS LUNCHEON**

featuring keynote address by Steven J. Tepper
**Creativity, Education, and Work in the
21st Century**

05.04.17

THE WESTIN SEATTLE

Register at www.artsfund.org
or by calling **206-281-9050**