CELEBRATING THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE ARTS
A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

At ArtsFund, we focus on strengthening the community through supporting the arts because arts are part of the solution to the complex and interconnected challenges our region faces. The rollout of our Social Impact of the Arts Study presents an opportunity to foster a new level of understanding of the breadth and depth of impact our arts organizations have in this region, and ArtsFund has embraced this moment with diligence and verve.

This year, you may have attended our luncheon and heard nationally recognized musician and educator Stanford Thompson speak about how sustained arts involvement enhances youths’ abilities to learn and their executive function, or you may have read about the many ways the arts bolster our individual and community health and wellbeing in our Social Impact Study. Perhaps you were introduced to a cultural organization via our Multicultural Arts Project or participation in the Creative Equity Fund. Maybe you are one of the 700 arts and cultural leaders who have participated in our Board Leadership Training program, or you were introduced to ArtsFund through our community event at Town Hall Seattle.

Regardless of how you became involved, your investment as an ArtsFund supporter helps to promote positive social change and meet critical community needs. Thank you for enabling our work. I want to extend a special thanks to Interim CEO, Sandy McDade, for leading us through a successful end to Campaign 2019. As we enter our 50th year, our commitment to advancing community priorities through the arts and furthering the community impact of arts organizations is stronger than ever. Whether you’re a long-term donor who has been with us for each of our 49 years or a new ArtsFund supporter, we could not do what we do without you. We hope you will join us in our 50th year and beyond!

“As the Executive of this county...I see how the arts advance all the work we do. In health, in education, in the development of young people and the cohesion of our communities, in bringing us together and helping reflect on who we are and who we want to be. And there is a role for everyone.”

–King County Executive Dow Constantine at ArtsFund’s Town Hall Seattle event, May 17, 2019

KEEPING THE CONVERSATION ROLLING

In October 2018, we released our first Social Impact of the Arts Study. Since then, we have been engaging in conversations about arts’ public value across the region. Highlights include dozens of presentations to hundreds of community members, council presentations and one on one conversations with our regional elected officials, and significant media engagement. These efforts culminated in a public event at Town Hall Seattle with media partner KUOW broadcast live by KING 5. We’re thrilled to see our partners within and outside of the arts sector leveraging the stories and data shared in the study to advocate for the arts!

VISIT ARTSFUND.ORG/SIS TO LEARN MORE.
GRANT MAKING

Following a successful annual fundraising campaign involving thousands of donors and hundreds of companies, ArtsFund’s 2019 grants of over $2.2 million were awarded to 68 arts organizations throughout King and Pierce Counties. This brings our total to nearly $84 million in grants to 240 organizations since our founding in 1969! Our annual grants are distributed as general operating support, which recipients can use to provide programming and arts education, reduce barriers to arts participation, increase access and opportunity for underserved youth, and for staffing, capacity-building, professional development, and facilities. This unrestricted funding enables grant recipients to invest the funds where needed most to advance their missions. For a full list of organizations supported, visit artsfund.org.

MULTICULTURAL ARTS PROJECT

In complement to ArtsFund’s annual grant making, ArtsFund’s Multicultural Arts Project aims to increase support for diverse cultural organizations throughout the region, help reduce barriers to the arts, and engage new donors. $40,000 in grants were distributed across ten organizations in December 2018. For more information, visit artsfund.org/MAP2019.

CREATIVE EQUITY FUND

Beginning in 2018, ArtsFund contributed to and helped administer a new funding collaborative. The Creative Equity Fund supports both arts and cultural groups and other community-based organizations using arts and culture based strategies to build racial justice. The fund is administered by Seattle Foundation and was developed through collaboration with ArtsFund and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, with support from Macklemore. Additional leadership and financial support comes from The Boeing Company, Microsoft Corporation, the Nesholm Family Foundation, and the Satterberg Foundation. To learn more, visit artsfund.org/CreativeEquity.

PROGRAMMING

CULTURAL PARTNERS NETWORK

We recently welcomed seven new arts and cultural organizations to ArtsFund’s Cultural Partners Network, bringing our count to over 120 partners. Now approaching its third anniversary, the network deepens ties between arts and cultural organizations ranging from budget sizes of $5 thousand to $40 million, providing capacity building resources, exposure to new audiences and donors, and opportunities to make connections. Thanks to The Boeing Company for their generous support of the 2018-19 Cultural Partners Network. Learn more at artsfund.org/CulturalPartners.
BOARD DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Over the course of the year, ArtsFund provided a number of resources to help arts and cultural organizations develop and strengthen their boards. Our longest running program, Board Leadership Training (BLT), celebrated its 20th anniversary. Established in 1999, the program equips current and future arts and cultural board members with the skills needed to help arts organizations be successful financially and artistically. Demand for the program has only grown throughout the years. To date, over 700 arts and cultural leaders have graduated from the program and gone on to serve our region. ArtsFund co-hosted the third annual Board Networking Happy Hour at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with the Gates Foundation, Seattle Works, Leadership Tomorrow, and United Way of King County. Nearly 100 professionals seeking board service opportunities were in attendance, including graduates of ArtsFund’s BLT program. We also hosted our third Setting the Table for More Diverse Nonprofit Boards event—an evening focused on ways to expand racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in board leadership. Following a panel discussion guests had the opportunity to network with the panelists and 16 tabling arts and cultural organizations. To learn more visit artsfund.org/Programs.

CONVENINGS

Several times throughout the year, ArtsFund hosted gatherings focused on sharing resources, practices, and perspectives among the broader arts community. One such event, Making the Case for the Social Impact of the Arts, presented the findings of the Social Impact of the Arts Study to representatives from 47 cultural organizations. The presentation of the report’s findings was followed by a panel discussion on how to leverage the research at attendees’ organizations to highlight the important work they do in their communities. To learn more visit artsfund.org/Events.

ONE GIFT | BIG IMPACT

With a single gift to ArtsFund you support over 120 arts and cultural organizations in our community. How can you do this?

Online: Set up a one-time or recurring payment at artsfund.org/donate.
By phone: Call us at 206-281-9050.
Mail: Send gifts payable to ArtsFund to PO Box 19780, Seattle, WA 98109.

*Denotes ArtsFund’s Youth Access and Opportunity Fund (YAOF) grantees
+Denotes ArtsFund’s Multicultural Arts Project grantees
† Denotes recipients of both YAOF and allocations grants
ARTSFUND IN THE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON

ArtsFund’s annual Luncheon explored the power of the arts to positively transform our communities and affect positive outcomes for young people. Stanford Thompson, musician and music education advocate, compelled the audience with his personal story while explaining the ways that sustained youth involvement in the arts builds executive functioning skills, pro-social skills, and develops a sense of a shared struggle. Mary Pigott received the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award for her incredible dedication to our local arts and cultural community. To further celebrate the impact of the arts on youth, the event showcased stunning performances by talented young people including singers from Village Theatre KIDSTAGE and Maiah Wynne, indie folk musician and 2018 MoPOP Sound Off! finalist. Thanks to all who collaborated to make this a memorable event!

“All of the kids in an orchestra have to play at 110%. One wrong note is a wrong note for the whole orchestra. So we replace a sense of competition with the sense of a shared struggle. When kids learn how to struggle together and uplift one another, and then those are the kids that we’re putting back into the classroom and back into the community... guess what happens? Magic.”

~Stanford Thompson at the Celebration of the Arts Luncheon, March 20, 2019

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ART

ArtsFund donors of $250+ are eligible to receive our exclusive ArtsAccess e-newsletter. This donor benefit features behind-the-scenes profiles on ArtsFund’s cultural partners as well as Buy One, Get One offers to an array of world class arts experiences. For more information or to redeem offers, contact Mike Myers at mike@artsfund.org.

BUILDING FOR THE ARTS

In May of this year, with the passage of the state budget, the Building for the Arts program was awarded $12 million! This includes full funding for 14 capital projects across the state. The Building for the Arts capital grant program was created in 1991 by ArtsFund and The Boeing Company to support Washington state arts and cultural organizations with facility improvements and expansion. Since then, over $113 million has been awarded to support 241 projects across the state. ArtsFund continues to lead this program through our coordination of advocacy efforts and coalition building.

UPCOMING OFFERS WILL TAKE YOU TO:

- The 5th Avenue Theatre
- Book-It Repertory Theatre
- Northwest Sinfonietta
- On the Boards
- Seattle Arts & Lectures
- Seattle Repertory Theatre
- SRJO
- Symphony Tacoma
- The Wing Luke Museum
- ... and many more!

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* Indicates a portion of the gift came from employee workplace giving campaigns

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Since 1969, ArtsFund has supported the Puget Sound arts and cultural community thanks to donors like you. Join us in shaping the next 50 years.

To learn more visit artsfund.org


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*Includes employee workplace giving campaigns

SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON:

March 20, 2020 | 12:00 – 1:30 pm
The Westin Seattle
Registration opens February 2020

Photos: Village Theatre Mainstage, String, photo by Mark Kitaoka; Symphony Tacoma, Maestra Sarah Ioannides, photo by Lisa Blackmore; Seattle Art Museum, Remix, photo courtesy of Seattle Art Museum; Broadway Center, Fame Jr., photo by Lisa Monet; Seattle Men’s Chorus and Seattle Women’s Chorus, Not In Our Town, photo by Rick Wong; Earshot Jazz, 2018 Earshot Jazz Festival, Nathan Breedlove, photo by Daniel Sheehan; Arts Corps, Arts Liberation & Leadership Institute 2017, photo by Amy Pinon.