A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

The past year has seen ArtsFund and its stakeholders respond to what has been a defining moment in the history of our sector. The tenacity of our artists and administrators has been visible in the work that has emerged during the past year. ArtsFund is proud to have supported that work by delivering on our mission to support the arts through leadership, advocacy, and grant making in order to build a healthy, equitable, and creative Washington.

Over the past year, there have been some notable accomplishments that speak not only to the commitment to our mission, but have also changed the lives of people and families in our community. Through our partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce, we administered the Nonprofit Community Recovery fund that granted nearly $11 million in relief funding to over 700 organizations in 34 counties across the state of Washington. Another significant achievement for our organization was the expansion of our Youth Arts Opportunity Fund which saw awardees from a broader pool of candidates than ever before. On top of these funding achievements, we also were able to expand many programs, including our Board Leadership Training program which doubled in size and included participants from across the state.

Equally as important, we at ArtsFund have been focused on developing relationships with individuals and organizations that more broadly represent our community. We took conscious steps to make our annual Celebration of the Arts event more welcoming and accessible to everyone. We continue to expand diversity in the composition of our board and staff. And most importantly, we have adopted a lens from which we can evaluate our current and future work that helps us focus on several key pillars: organizational health, inclusion and equity, and youth and family engagement.

On a personal note, as I am solidly in my second year as a member of the ArtsFund community, I am encouraged by the relationships I am building and the capacity I see for growth. As a newcomer to the area, I am probably stating the obvious, but I am astounded by the brilliance I see all around me. The arts and culture community in the state of Washington has shown itself to be a leader throughout the pandemic and will continue to lead as we reopen and adapt to a new world. ArtsFund will play a significant role in this leadership and will continue to advocate for the resources necessary to make that happen.

None of this happens in a vacuum and it is the collective effort of staff, board, artists, patrons, donors, elected officials, corporations, volunteers, and more that allow us to be leaders in this space. Thank you all for allowing us to do what we do and for being a part of this inspirational community. I look forward to working with you for years to come.

“In a post-pandemic world, I especially look forward to re-engaging with friends and beloved institutions in the arts community.”

-King County Executive Dow Constantine
ArtsFund Blog, February 2021
GRANT MAKING

ANNUAL GRANTS BOLSTER RECOVERY & REIMAGINATION

Thanks to the generous support of ArtsFund’s donors, we distributed $2.2 million in annual grants to 66 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations across King and Pierce counties. With this allocation and including the Nonprofit Community Recovery (NCR) grants (see more below), ArtsFund has awarded over $100 million to over 658 arts and cultural nonprofits since its founding in 1969. This tally includes targeted grant programs such as the Multicultural Arts Project and Youth Arts Opportunity Fund which ArtsFund has explored during the last several years as part of our strategy to broaden our grant making’s reach. Following a difficult year of closures, layoffs, and little to no earned revenue, arts and cultural organizations need substantial resources to meet the costs of reopening. With these grants, ArtsFund supporters have brought artists and community members back together to celebrate, heal, and rebuild.

ARTSFUND AND COMMERCE DISTRIBUTE MILLIONS IN ARTS-FOCUSED FUNDING WITH NEW PARTNERSHIP

In response to community needs wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, ArtsFund partnered with a government agency to administer a grant program for the first time. ArtsFund was pleased to partner with the Washington State Department of Commerce to ensure the Nonprofit Community Recovery (NCR) grant program centered around arts and cultural nonprofits as the sector works to recover from profound pandemic impacts.

In total, $10,780,000 million in grants was distributed, providing critical COVID-19 pandemic relief to 702 nonprofits across Washington. In addition to arts, cultural, heritage, and science organizations, neighborhood associations, sports and recreation nonprofits, and veterans organizations impacted by the pandemic were also funded. Over 70% of the awardees reported pre-pandemic budgets under $500,000.

The NCR program enabled ArtsFund to expand our reach to 34 of 39 counties across Washington. NCR grants met over 91% of the recipients’ requested amount of funding. A twelve-person panel of statewide sector representatives reviewed the applications and approved the awards.

Following a year of pandemic related closures resulting in dramatically reduced earned revenue, this funding was desperately needed to help arts and cultural nonprofits meet the substantial costs of reopening and reengaging with audiences. Learn more at artsfund.org/ncrgrants.

ADVOCACY

BUILDING FOR THE ARTS RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING INCREASE

It was a banner year for the Building for the Arts capital grant program. Through ArtsFund’s leadership, advocacy, and coalition building efforts, the program was awarded $16 million in the state budget—the full funding requested for 21 capital projects across Clallam, Grays Harbor, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Thurston counties.

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, this highly successful program has been awarded over $129 million to support 262 projects across the state. ArtsFund continues to lead and coordinate the program.

This cycle marks an increase in funding to this important program for the first time in 30 years, making more support for capital projects available to more arts and cultural groups. For example, ArtsFund cultural partner Path with Art’s project, ArtHOME, will provide a new art space that will serve no-to-low-income adults in active recovery from homelessness, addiction, mental and physical health challenges, domestic violence, and other traumas. For more information and a full list of funded projects, visit artsfund.org/building-for-the-arts.

ARTSFUND IN THE COMMUNITY

Partnerships in the community are key to everything ArtsFund does. Over the past year, we have been able to deepen our work and amplify our impact thanks in part to the important organizations and community leaders we work with. We collaborated with Washington Nonprofits and 501 Commons during the height of the pandemic to gather information and share resources across the state. We are coordinating with other funders and countless arts organizations across the state to produce our COVID Cultural Impact Study, steered by a statewide advisory committee. In addition, Michael represents ArtsFund by serving on the boards of Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Seattle Association and through his active involvement with the Downtown Recovery Taskforce. Our strongest work is done in community, and we look forward to growing these and other partnerships in the year ahead.

“[Virtual theatre] helps augment arts accessibility, especially for those who have traditionally been excluded from the arts. By eliminating access barriers including cost and geography, we can begin to build a theater landscape that is open to all.”

-Linda Yan
TeenTix Press Corps member
ArtsFund Blog, July 2021
artsfund.org/blog
LEADERSHIP

WELCOME ARTSFUND’S NEWEST BOARD LEADERS

BOARD CHAIR
Sung Yang
Pacific Public Affairs

NEW TRUSTEES
Frances Ames
T-Mobile
Jackie Jones
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Tom Leonidas
Wood Harbinger, Inc.
Lindsay Sieverkropp
KING 5

“One of the most valuable trainings I have ever participated in on any subject.”

“Mandatory for nonprofits in the arts sector.”

BOARD LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM GOES DIGITAL

With social distancing guidelines necessitating the move to online-only programming, we took the opportunity to reevaluate many of our long-standing offerings including our Board Leadership Training program. 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. While the online format enabled us to expand our geographic reach (including the first ever group of participants from the Spokane area), we also opened up a second cohort group at a different time of day allowing us to double the number of participants and offer greater flexibility for those with scheduling constraints. Learn more at artsfund.org/board-leadership-training.

ENGAGEMENT

JOIN THE ARTSFUND VISIONARIES

Are you passionate about the arts and looking for a way to plug into the local community? The ArtsFund Visionaries connects emerging leaders and business professionals between 21 and 45 years of age to our vision—a community where the arts are accessible to all and valued as critical to a healthy society.

Go behind-the-scenes at arts and cultural organizations throughout our city with a group of like-minded young professionals who believe in their power to drive social change while supporting your local arts community! Learn more at artsfund.org/artsfundvisionaries.

YOU MADE CAMPAIGN 2021 A BIG SUCCESS!

ArtsFund’s 2020-2021 fundraising campaign closed on June 30 and, thanks to you, we met our goal! ArtsFund’s annual fundraising campaign runs from the start of our fiscal year in October through June of the following year. Hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundations came together this year to support over 130 arts and cultural organizations. Our annual funding is critically important to our nonprofit partners, especially as other funding streams have dwindled throughout the course of the pandemic. By helping us reach our goal, you provided over $2.2 million in arts and cultural grants AND supported ArtsFund’s multifaceted programming that strengthens the entire arts sector, including our research studies, leadership development, public advocacy, and capacity-building programs. Thank you for strengthening your community through the arts!

“Through my support of ArtsFund, I appreciate that I can impact both the arts community I already know and love, but also the arts community that is vital to someone else’s engagement with the arts.”

-ArtsFund Donor

WHY I SUPPORT ARTSFUND

CULTURAL PARTNERS VIRTUAL SUMMIT 12.2.20
““This is a great opportunity for us to connect around the creative act of nonprofit arts work because we are all kinds of artists, alchemists, making the impossible happen, even in the best of times.”

-Tim Lennon
Executive Director, Langston

ARTS DATA BRIEFS: ONE YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC 3.30.21
“We shifted but we never stopped. We’ve spent the year creating drive ins, offering safe rehearsal spaces to artists, and we recently closed our first in-person show [of the year] which was for two attendees, socially distanced, and masked.”

-Betsy Brock
Executive Director, On the Boards

DIGITAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS 5.6.21
“It is important to remember that we are very little without the arts, and we are even less without the artists who make the art.”

-Ijeoma Oluo
Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award Recipient

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OVERHEARD AT...

ArtsFund Visionaries Zoom Event, May 2020

Artsfund.org email: info@artsfund.org

5
DONORS

CAMPAIGN 2020 AND 2021 DONORS

www.artsfund.org  email: info@artsfund.org

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Foundation Associates*

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Foundation

Grants to individuals totaling $25,000-$49,999.

Art Fund is grateful to the following donors who made gifts to People Toward parcel 2020 between October 1 and December 31, 2020:

www.artsfund.org

The Hugh and TEW Foundation

Seattle Foundation

Bernier McCaw

Anonymous

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

K&L Gates

$25,000-$49,999

Satterberg

Bank of America

Amazon

$350,000 and up

DONORS

FOUNDATION

08/01/20 and 07/31/21).

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ArtsFund's COVID Cultural Impact Study

Have you attended an online or in-person cultural event in the past year? Join ArtsFund in a critical research study exploring the impact of COVID-19 on cultural nonprofits.

Visit artsfund.org/ccis to learn more and take part in our Public Participation Survey today.