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PARTICIPATION:

Is there anything you would like to say about the role cultural programming or organizations have played in your life since March 2020?

“Being able to attend cultural programming virtually was crucial for my sense of well-being and mental health. It enabled me to feel connected to the world — even to broaden my world.” – King County, Cultural Participant

“The cultural programs and organizations have helped me better understand racial/cultural unrest experienced in the last year.” – Snohomish County, Cultural Participant

“All of my cultural activities were virtual but they made all the difference. I helped with a musical program and it was some of the only interactions I got to have with others. It helped me every week.” – Spokane County, Cultural Participant

“The cultural arts have sustained my spirit and helped me feel connected during these times.” –Unknown County, Cultural Participant

“I love how the arts connects generations and people across cultural differences too. At a time where we were isolated, knowing that artists and performers were reaching out and giving of themselves was a bright spot in the dark.” –Unknown County, Cultural Participant

ROLE OF ARTS AND CULTURE:

What role do you think cultural nonprofit organizations should play in communities post-pandemic?

“Cultural organizations will play central role in our region post-pandemic. Cultural organizations are essential and the artists they employ are the among the “essential workers” that we can never take for granted again!” – King County, Cultural Participant

“They have always been vitally important, though they’re not always recognized to the extent of their importance. Aside from the beauty, joy and inspiration they bring their audiences, they provide employment for individuals in the arts. In addition, they attract tourism and customers for the businesses of the area.” – King County, Cultural Participant

“As a mental health resource (in the broadest sense). Meaning... cultural organizations provide: escape, connection, community, education, stimulation, movement. All that helps overall health and well-being. I believe arts should be considered a necessary health resource and supported by government the same way government supports clean water, sanitation, public roads, parks etc. – King County, Cultural Participant

“[Cultural organizations are] Catalysts for economic recovery and development as well as providing opportunities for healing and growth.” – Pierce County, Cultural Participant

COVID Cultural Impact Study: Public Participation Survey Quotes

“Cultural organizations will likely be the driving force in communities post-pandemic to establish a sense of unity, vitality, and togetherness. With everyone being so isolated and alone, having these cultural institutions serve as the central hub of public life, meaning, and socialization will likely be key to a successful, meaningful recovery.” – Snohomish County, Cultural Participant

“They are the heart of a vibrant regional community.” – Spokane County, Cultural Participant

How does the current value you place on cultural programming compare to before March 2020? Please tell us why the value on cultural programming has changed?

“As Buffy Sainte-Marie (Cree) shared, “Art is a powerful medicine for the world” - we need to continue to uplift the arts for the sake of the planet.” – Clark County, Cultural Participant

“Cultural programming created space for us to be less alone during the pandemic. Cultural programming provides an opportunity to not just survive, but thrive. Even for a brief moment, having a to chance to enjoy something with others was a life-saving measure during the pandemic. Further, the creative problem solving and community aid I witnessed from cultural organizations was deeply moving and helpful.” – King County, Cultural Participant

“As a musician who has participated in some form of musical ensemble for the past 15+ years, when all of that suddenly goes away you realize that a part of yourself goes away as well.” – King County, Cultural Participant

“We need outlets to process change now more than ever.” – Kitsap County, Cultural Participant

“I have had the opportunity to participate in cultural events that I never would have been able to attend in person. Cultural programming is becoming more equal and diverse. It has made my life richer and made me feel more connected to people in a time of divisiveness.” – Snohomish County, Cultural Participant

“As a society, we are increasingly divided by political and economic forces. Cultural program has the best chance of regenerating a sense of commonality and peaceful coexistence in our local communities. All politics is local so everything related to societal healing begins there.” – Unknown County, Cultural Participant

RECOVERY:

What does recovery look like for the Washington State nonprofit cultural sector post-pandemic?

“Infusion of diversity and equity in these organizations. Leading the way for healing and opportunities to process our collective and individual experiences.” – Douglas County, Cultural Participant

“Back to normal and beyond. Continuing to provide increased accessibility, leaning into social justice and equity, and supporting the people who make the sector run with good pay and benefits.” – Snohomish County, Cultural Participant

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