

The logo for Creative Equity Fund features the words "CREATIVE" and "EQUITY FUND" stacked in a sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a different color or shape: 'C' is grey, 'R' is red and blue, 'E' is grey, 'A' is green, 'T' is grey, 'I' is grey, 'V' is green, 'E' is grey, 'E' is grey, 'Q' is grey, 'U' is blue, 'I' is grey, 'T' is grey, 'Y' is grey, 'F' is grey, 'U' is orange, 'N' is grey, and 'D' is yellow and green.

CREATIVE  
EQUITY FUND

*Supporting arts and culture as  
strategies for building racial justice*



# ART HAS THE *POWER* TO SHIFT *CULTURE* AND CREATE *CHANGE*.

Arts and culture help us understand our experiences, express ourselves, fuel discourse, and inspire action. They are powerful sensory tools for disrupting and dismantling structural racism and its harmful effects, from deep disparities in health and education to police brutality and economic inequity.

The Creative Equity Fund launched in 2018 exclusively to support community organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) that are using arts and culture to build racial justice in King County.



# THE PURPOSE

Five goals of the Creative Equity Fund

# 1

Grow community power in the face of racial injustice.

# 2

Build the capacity of BIPOC-led grassroots, community-based organizations to use arts and culture as strategies for undoing structural racism.

# 3

Focus on improving outcomes for youth, elders, low-income residents and communities of color who are disproportionately impacted by structural racism and other intersecting forms of oppression.

# THE PURPOSE



Five goals of the Creative Equity Fund

# 4

Engage residents in experiences that imagine a just and liberated world.

# 5

Organize for systems and policy change using arts and culture strategies.

# NEED + OPPORTUNITY

This unprecedented time presents a multitude of serious challenges for arts and culture organizations, many of whom are unable to produce and present their usual programming, losing critical revenue. BIPOC-led arts and culture groups are facing particularly dire consequences to today's crises. Historically underfunded, many of them lack the reserves and base of philanthropic support needed to survive the pandemic.

And yet BIPOC-led cultural organizations continue to support and organize their communities. They show exceptional vision and resourcefulness in providing meaningful, safe programming and they drive policy work to create conditions in which our communities can thrive. With images, music, performance, creativity, and courage, they are leading the way toward a new and better future for our region.

Support for these organizations is more important than ever. By providing them with the resources they need, we can help change the world.



# A UNIQUE + COLLABORATIVE MODEL

Unlike traditional grantmaking, the Creative Equity Fund embraces an approach to funding in which community informs, leads, and implements the process. To make its first grants, the Fund brought together two cross-sector groups of community members who have deep knowledge of the arts and culture community and identify as BIPOC: One group designed the grant RFP and criteria, and another reviewed applications and made all funding decisions. Going forward, Creative Equity Fund will continue to have a participatory grantmaking process that allows for broader community input and in which funders do not determine who receives grants or grant amounts. Through these practices, the Fund and its partners are forging a more equitable and collaborative kind of philanthropy.

# FUNDERS

The partners behind the Creative Equity Fund recognize that they can increase their impact through collective giving while also challenging and supporting each other as they strive for more equitable funding practices. Many partners are traditional arts funders, but some are not—and they support the Creative Equity Fund as a means to achieve social change and prioritize BIPOC organizations.

Funders also attend learning sessions with grantees, with the goal of taking what they gain from these sessions and applying it within their individual funding institutions to create more equitable internal practices.

# GRANTEES

Some of the Fund's grantees are arts and culture organizations, and some work in other arenas where they use arts and culture to fuel policy agendas, aid community organizing, and achieve social justice goals. Going forward, the Fund aims to bring all of its grantees together to consider ways they can bring about legislative and policy change through powerful imagery, storytelling, and arts experiences.

Grantee cohorts also attend learning sessions with funders where they have the chance to network, share knowledge, and collaborate together in a way that aims to break down power imbalances and create opportunities for more resources to flow to BIPOC organizations.



“The Creative Equity Fund allows us to build community with other funders to collectively explore and dismantle funder practices as we work towards greater racial equity. We are most effective as a Foundation when we engage in community relationship-building and are accountable to our nonprofit partners.”

*Sarah Walczyk  
Executive Director, Satterberg Foundation*



# OUR INVESTMENTS SO FAR

In its inaugural year, the Creative Equity Fund directed \$200,000 to a cohort of 14 BIPOC-led organizations using innovative approaches to counter the impacts of structural racism on our communities and build racial justice. In its second year, the Fund decided to reinvest in the cohort and expects to provide multi-year funding going forward to future cohorts.



## 2018–2019 GRANTEES

21 Progress

Arts Corps

Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas

Chief Seattle Club

Creative Justice

Hip-Hop is Green

ICAF Seattle

Indigenous Showcase

Northwest African American Museum


Northwest Tap Connection

Studio Lazo

Surge Reproductive Justice

Totem Star

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific  
American Experience



“At Surge we apply anti-racist principles to organize in community on policy and advocacy, and the Creative Equity Fund supports our use of culture in that work. We create BIPOC-centered and -exclusive spaces that use art and community to create an environment in which our community feels safe, centered, and engaged on issues that directly impact them.”

*Jackie Vaughn  
Executive Director, Surge Reproductive Justice*

# BE A PART OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE.

Listen. Look around. Behold the art and cultural work that is already shifting public will and offering hopeful visions for an equitable future. Help us drive racial justice in King County by making a contribution to the Creative Equity Fund and supporting a wide range of efforts to inspire and mobilize change.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting Creative Equity Fund's efforts to fuel BIPOC organizations in King County with necessary resources as they harness the power of arts and culture to disrupt structural racism and build a more just democracy. We welcome your questions and look forward to discussing this initiative further.





## OUR PARTNERS – THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our partners for their generous contributions and commitment to this effort.



**MACKLEMORE**



NESHOLM FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



**Satterberg** foundation



*The Creative Equity Fund is administered by Seattle Foundation with support from these funders. The Fund's planning group also includes Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, ArtsFund, 4Culture, and Satterberg Foundation.*

THANK  
YOU

CREATIVE  
EQUITY FUND

*Photos courtesy of Hip-Hop is Green, ICAF Seattle, Indigenous Showcase, Northwest African American Museum, Studio Lazo, Surge Reproductive Justice, and Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience*