



SEATTLE FOUNDATION

the heart & science of philanthropy

ARTS & CULTURE

VISION

All Greater Seattle residents have consistent, equitable access to arts and culture experiences and arts education that reflects the rich diversity of our region.

Arts and culture are critical to the health and vibrancy of Greater Seattle. Art gives us the opportunity to connect with people whose lives are vastly different from our own, and learn from other cultures. Supporting arts and culture organizations is necessary now more than ever. However, the distribution of resources within our local arts and culture nonprofits is out of balance with the changing demographics of our community. In 2015, the top 20 largest mainstream organizations at the national level have a median budget of \$61 million, whereas the top 20 largest organizations led by and for people of color have a median budget of \$3.8 million. This is a clear illustration of the need to understand the factors contributing to the inequitable distribution of resources.

Consistent, equitable arts education provides youth with opportunities to grow, take risks, imagine possibilities and persist through challenges—skills linked to achievement in school and in life. Investing in access to arts education across the racial, economic and geographic spectrum is a way to address the current achievement gap experienced by youth in underserved communities in our region.

With an emphasis on racial and social justice, our efforts work to strengthen arts and cultural organizations, as well as educational institutions in Greater Seattle, by supporting their capacity to plan and deliver relevant, accessible programming.



Working Toward a Healthy Community

Seattle Foundation established the Healthy Community Framework to delineate the essential elements of a thriving community, and focus

philanthropy where it can have the greatest impact. Built on eight elements, the framework acknowledges the complex and interwoven nature of the challenges and assets in our community and allows philanthropists to consider more strategic investments in the causes they care about most.

■ For each element, we provide a vision for change, high-level context and analysis, recommended priorities, and proven actionable approaches to effective giving informed by research, data, community insight and technical expertise. These are designed to stimulate thinking and generate new approaches to making Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

2 Priorities for Impact

1 Activate community engagement with relevant arts and cultural experiences to cultivate new pathways for organizational sustainability.

APPROACHES

- Prioritize investments for traditionally underrepresented artists, arts groups and cultural organizations to create, exhibit and perform timely bodies of work
- Build organizational capacity within cultural institutions to develop and sustain strategies to achieve greater equity across arts and cultural organizations
- Facilitate collaboration and relationship-building through community-based initiatives centered around arts, heritage and cultural organizations

2 Ensure equitable access to high quality arts education for K-12-aged students.

APPROACHES

- Support arts experiences for students in and outside of school, especially within historically underserved communities: low-income, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color
- Provide opportunities for all youth to experience culturally diverse arts programming led by professional teaching artists and arts educators that reflect their communities
- Strengthen arts collaborations between school districts and community arts organizations, and determine effective models of replication for all school districts within our region