



Yoon Kang-O'Higgins
Co-Chair
Friends of Waterfront Park

Megan Kiskaddon
Co-Chair
On the Boards

Avery Barnes
Avery Barnes Gallery

Tera Beach
Arts Advocate

Linda Chavez-Lowry
Seattle Means Business
Magazine

Kariel Galbraith
YMCA Get-Engaged
Member

Dhyana Garcia
Artist, DAIPANbutoh
Collective

Ricky Graboski
The Vera Project

Ed King
Pottery Northwest

Mariana Martinez
Centro Cultural Mexicano

Jo Mikesell
Shunpike

Kate Nagle-Caraluzzo
Town Hall Seattle

Anne Shukla
Allen Family Philanthropies

Yolanda Spencer
Northwest Justice Project

Vanessa Villalobos
Artist, Balorico Dance

Ray Yang
National Art Education
Association

October 27, 2026

Seattle City Council
City of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Seattle Arts Commission Support for Arts & Culture Budget Amendments

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers,

Earlier this month, the [Seattle Arts Commission wrote](#) to express concerns about the proposed permanent diversion of Admission Tax revenue from the Office of Arts & Culture (OAC). We're encouraged by Council's response and recognition of the widespread community support for increased investment in the arts. **We want to express our strong support for the two proposed budget amendments:**

- **Council President Joy Hollingsworth's amendment ARTS-002-A-1** to Increase ARTS by \$3 million GF (2027) for arts programming and impose a proviso.
- **Councilmember Dionne Foster's amendment ARTS-005-A-1** to decrease \$1.7 million Admissions Tax supported appropriations to CEN and SPR (2027 and 2028) and increase \$1.7 million GF to CEN and SPR (2027 and 2028) to free up \$1.7 million Admissions Tax for ARTS for the Centering Art and Racial Equity grant program.

Thank you Councilmembers for meeting with Arts Commissioners and for your ongoing advocacy.

Seattle's arts and cultural community is facing a difficult moment. Rising costs and federal funding reductions are putting real pressure on organizations already working hard to serve their communities. An estimated \$7.5 million in federal funding and more than 250 cultural-sector jobs have already been lost. Behind those numbers are artists, cultural workers, and organizations providing opportunities for connection, community development, learning, and creative expression in neighborhoods across our entire city.

We value the important work supported by Seattle Center and Seattle Parks and Recreation. Our concern is not with their operations and programs, but with making a temporary shift of arts funding permanent. Admission Tax revenue exists to support Seattle's broader cultural community through OAC's established funding programs and community-informed decision-making. Preserving that structure helps ensure



accountability, expertise of the people working in arts and culture, and funding that reflects community priorities.

Together, these amendments would provide immediate support to a sector under strain while protecting dedicated arts funding for the future. **We respectfully urge the Council to approve both amendments.**

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yoon Kang-O'Higgins".

[Yoon Kang-O'Higgins \(10/27/2026 15:58:42 PDT\)](#)

Yoon Kang-O'Higgins and Megan Kiskaddon
Co-Chairs, Seattle Arts Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Kiskaddon".

[Megan Kiskaddon \(10/28/2026 08:28:23 GMT+1\)](#)