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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have an extraordinary story to tell. Back in March of 2020, the cultural industry was reeling. Our broad network of organizations and programs, with bridges and inroads to communities across Washington, was powering down. Performance and exhibit spaces were eerily silent and the ranks of our unemployed reached unimaginable numbers as we all heeded the call to protect our communities from COVID-19. The future looked bleak. First to close and nearly two years from reopening, it seemed we wouldn’t survive the year.

The cultural sector is resilient and strong and the passion to persevere, despite the myriad of restrictions, was fierce. We’re also smart and experts at stretching a dollar. Fortunately, some organizations benefited greatly from a legion of donors. All that said, many businesses would have closed if not for the tremendous amount of funding from the federal government.

When I first took this job, advocacy within state government was a formidable and perplexing challenge. The process is a complicated stew of ceremony, protocol, and bureaucracy with countless decision makers that all need to educated or convinced. And, just when you build understanding and rapport, many lawmakers change with every election cycle! How could we possibly accomplish anything? The answer was community and coalition.

It is remarkable how far we have come. The 2022 State Legislative Session was successful beyond imagination. Our regional institutions, the pillars for cultural employment in Washington, will receive the largest program grant they have ever received from state government to cover their tremendous COVID expenses. Smaller businesses will receive significant funds from the Dept. of Commerce’s Working WA Round 5 grant program. For many, especially in rural communities, this is their first access to relief funding. Add on the long list of public policy advances like Building for the Arts, Clarifying Arts Education, and support for ArtsWA’s appropriations, our cultural work took big leaps forward.

Despite this unprecedented success, there is still so much left to accomplish. The pandemic has a long tail and our state’s vital cultural sector is still struggling to recover. With federal relief tapering off and paying patrons and participants not all comfortable returning, we’ve heard that the next few years are the most financially terrifying. Without the return of audiences, businesses will rack up debilitating deficits. Quality of life is at stake all across Washington.

Cultural Futures aimed to build agreement and momentum around shared cultural objectives. Though we are coming off a historic legislative session, next year is a steeper climb due to the lack of federal funding. However, the sector should not be discouraged. Other industries have rebounded so we must build our case and champion equal recovery. And, there’s always the state’s Cultural Access program; your local community’s option to sustain cultural programming while spurring greater access and engagement.

Like no other industry, Washington’s cultural sector is reconnecting communities after years of distancing and polarization. We represent so much that is vital, vibrant, and unique in Washington and communities are counting on us to survive. We invite you to join us in charting Washington’s cultural future.

In solidarity,
Manuel R. Cawaling, Executive Director
ABOUT INSPIRE WASHINGTON

OUR MISSION
Inspire Washington nurtures the human spirit and strengthens communities by increasing access to science, heritage, and arts programming through advocacy, resource development, education, and coalition building.

WHAT WE DO
Create a Cultural Coalition & Partnerships
• Statewide, regional, in cities and towns, and with allies
Advocate for public funding & policies
• Local, state, and federal legislative action
• Connecting community members to lawmakers through the Inspiration League, our online advocate platform
Resource Development
• Arts4All, Creative Economy Workgroup, Cultural Access legislation, campaign support and policy development
Education & Professional Development
• Cultural Congress, Cultural Futures, leadership and development programs
Distribute Communication Tools
• Social and traditional media tools and content

WHO WE ARE
• Staff of 3: Manny Cawaling, Jessi Wasson, Madeline Dalton
• Board and advisors of 40+ prominent cultural leaders across the state.
• Coalition of thousands of state-wide organizational partners, advocates, and businesses.
IW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Josh LaBelle, President
Ellen Walker, Vice President
Christopher Shainin, Treasurer
Melissa Huggins, Secretary
Richard Beckerman
Putter Bert
Marlette Buchanan
Will Daugherty
Bob Davidson
Danielle Gahl
Dwight Gee
Marygrace Goddu
Alejandro Grajal
Bernie Griffin
Kelly Hart
Michael Herschensohn
Lorie Hoffman
Andy Jensen
Janell Johnson
Sarah Michael
Karen Mobley
Benjamin Moore
Dominica Myers
Jane Repensek
Latha Sambamurti
Preeti Shridhar
Steve Sneed
Krishna Thiagarajan
Adriana Wright
Karen Hanan, Ex-Officio
Michael Greer, Ex-Officio

Seattle Theatre Group
Pacific Northwest Ballet
WSAAF
Spokane Arts
Museum consultant
KidsQuest Museum
Seattle Music Partners
Pacific Science Center
Seattle Aquarium
WA State Cultural Leader
WA State Cultural Leader
City of Olympia
Woodland Park Zoo
5th Avenue Theatre
Allied Arts
Queen Anne Historical Society
City of Bellevue
WA State PTSA/Seattle Council of PTSAs
Philagiving
Seattle Art Museum
WA State Cultural Leader
WA State Cultural Leader
King County Library
Seattle Opera
Ananda Mela
City of Seattle
WA State Cultural Leader
Seattle Symphony
Seattle Theatre Group
ArtsWA
ArtsFund
OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

What does it mean to be an IW partner? Becoming a partner as an individual or organization means investing in the power of culture and using your own voice to build community and enrich lives. IW relies on dues from partners to sustain advocacy and outreach.

ACT Theatre
5th Avenue Theatre
Allied Arts of Whatcom County
Arts Center Task Force
Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County
Black Diamond Historical Society
Bridges Stage Company
Burke Museum Association
Cascadia International Women’s Festival
Cascadia Music
CaveMoonPress
Center for Wooden Boats
Central Washington Agricultural Museum
City of Bellevue
City of Edmonds Arts Commission
Children's Dance Theater
Classical KING FM 98.1
Coastal Interpretive Center
Cornish College of the Arts
Creative Dance Center
The Dance School
Earshot Jazz
EastHUB
Edmonds Center for the Arts
Emerald City Ringers
Flying House Productions
Franklin County Historical Society
Friends of KEXP
Frye Art Museum
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport
Henry Art Gallery
Issaquah Fish Hatchery
Jack Straw Cultural Center
Kids Quest Museum
Kirkland Arts Center
Kirkland Performance Center
Kittitas County Historical Museum
League of Education Voters
Larson Gallery
Magenta Theater
Maple Valley Creative Arts Council
Mobius Discovery Center
MOHAI
MoPOP
Mount Baker Theatre
Museum of Flight
National Nordic Heritage Museum
Northwest African American Museum
Northwest Boychoir & Vocalpoint! Seattle
Northwest Railway Museum
Olympia Symphony
On the Boards
Orquesta Northwest
PACE Live
Pacific Northwest Ballet
Pacific Science Center
Path with Art
Puget Sound Revels
RAIN Incubator
Sand Point Arts & Cultural Exchange
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Arts and Lectures
Seattle Center - Cultural Programs Office
Seattle Children's Chorus
Seattle Chamber Music Society
Seattle Children's Museum
Seattle Children's Theatre
Seattle Mongolian Youth Center
Seattle Opera
Seattle Repertory Theatre
Seattle Shakespeare Company
Seattle Symphony
Seattle Theater Group
ShoreLake Arts
Snohomish County Historical Society
South King County Cultural Coalition
Spokane Arts
Spokane Youth Ballet
Steamer Virginia V Foundation
Stonerose Interpretive Center and Eocene Fossil Site
Tacoma Arts Live
Tacoma Little Theatre
Tacoma Opera
Tacoma Refugee Choir
Taproot Theatre
Team Soapbox
Tieton Arts & Humanities

Town Hall Seattle
Vashon Center for the Arts
Village Theatre
Vyta Movement Dance
Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra
Whidbey Island Music Festival
The Williams Project
Women in Film - Seattle
Woodland Park Zoo
Youth Theatre Northwest
WASHINGTON
2022
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION

ARTS, HERITAGE, & SCIENCE WEEK
Jan 31st through Feb 4th, 2022
The WA Legislature’s 2022 investment in the cultural sector was simply historic and inspiring. Nearly every cultural organization and business stands to benefit. This success came at the end of a two year advocacy journey. And now we are hopeful for all of our cultural programs, within every Washington county, and all of the communities they serve. This is your win, Washington!

The State Legislature is providing $50 million for cultural recovery grants. Additional funding expands state investment in arts facilities, the Motion Picture Industry, and rural museums. PreK-12 students will be provided expanded options for creative learning. And, other policies will drive more science, heritage, and arts programming across the state.

This was a team effort and everyone played a vital role. We are grateful for all of our statewide partners for crafting and driving the objectives, like ArtsWA, WA State Historical Society, Humanities WA, ArtsFund, WA Filmworks, WA Museum Association, and ArtsEd WA, to name a few. We are grateful for all of our cultural partners, the organizations and businesses that amplified our objectives and focused their communities to support them. We are so deeply grateful for our advocates. Our objectives came to life through their storytelling and they engaged their lawmakers in such a personal and vital way. Of course, there was a whole array of legislative partners and lobbyists negotiating in the background and helping us navigate the complicated government space and we are grateful for their guidance and support.

INSPIRE WASHINGTON’S 2022 LEGISLATIVE WINS:

- $45 million for organizations/programs within the cultural sector with budgets less than $5 million (Working Washington 5 grant program)
- $5 million for COVID related expenses to cultural organizations with budgets over $5 million
- Supporting ArtsWA:
  - $1.5 million for Arts-Based Services for Veterans
  - $120,000 for ArtsWA’s Constituent Management System
  - $150,000 for the State Poet Laureate Program
  - $257,000 to maintain State-Owned Public Art
- Supporting WA FilmWorks: $15 million for Film Incentive
- Supporting ArtsFund: $6 million added to Building for the Arts
- $3.5 million for Festivals & Events
- $100,000 for WA Museum Connects Programs

TOTAL: $77,166,000 FOR THE CULTURAL SECTOR
Each year, Inspire Washington hosts its annual Arts, Heritage, & Science (AHS) Week during the legislative session. This is a week when advocates meet with lawmakers to discuss the bills and budget provisos pertaining to the cultural sector.

Advocates are assembled into teams by legislative district, and each team is led by a leader. Each team meets with their two representatives and one senator to discuss upcoming budget and policy opportunities, providing key insight from their communities. Due to COVID-19, our advocates participated in “virtual Olympia” by meeting with lawmakers on Zoom. Advocates send emails to their lawmakers and engage in the process by testifying and endorsing or opposing bills. Our 2022 advocates were staff members at cultural organizations, enthusiastic patrons of cultural programs, arts educators, board members, volunteers, and more! All advocates were welcome, no matter their connection to the cultural sector. Email advocacy@inspirewashington.org to join today!

2022 ADVOCATE STATS:

- 42 out of the 49 legislative districts in WA had a district team.
- Advocates represented all cultural disciplines: 20% heritage, 52% arts, 8% science, and 20% creative economy.
- 137 total advocates. That’s a 32% increase from 2021!
- Over 84 meetings were held with lawmakers during AHS Week. Likely far more than this—many meetings went unreported!
“Inspire WA provides critical insight about the needs of the cultural sector in my community. We worked together to deliver a historic $50 million in funding to cultural organizations across our state who are struggling with the ongoing impacts of COVID. I appreciate when my constituents reach out to share their perspectives on how government can serve them better, and Manny and his team have created a robust coalition of diverse voices. Thank you Inspire Washington advocates for your work!”
—Rep. Liz Berry, 36th District

“I learned from my father and our friends at the Nisqually Tribe that few things in life are more important than a clear-eyed understanding of our heritage. Everyone should be able to take pride in the good things and learn from the negatives. I’m glad that so many in our state know this.”
—Rep. JT Wilcox, House Republican Leader, 2nd District

“Societal problems require creative solutions and most often come directly from impacted communities. Advocacy is the conduit that connects elected officials with on-the-ground ideas. Please keep advocating for community solutions and the bolstering of creativity itself, which is so crucial for healthy, thriving communities.”
—Rep. Tana Senn, 41st District
CULTURAL FUTURES TOUR
ABOUT CULTURAL FUTURES

Cultural Futures is IW’s annual share and listening tour following the Legislative session. The purpose is to connect with the cultural sector across the state by sharing what happened during the session and listen to their challenges and needs in preparation of creating the next year’s legislative agenda. This year’s events summarized: the importance of advocacy, cultural wins from the session including Working Washington 5 grant program, Building for the Arts, Arts Education Bill, Film Incentive Bill, and much more.

WHAT

Summer 2022

WHEN

16 events in communities across the state (see graphic below), 6 virtual events, 4 outreach events

WHERE

Science, heritage, and arts partners including staff, artists, and board members, allies, advocates, community members and lawmakers at every level

WHO
WHAT WE LEARNED

During the community conversation at each Cultural Futures event, these were the issues and concerns that were most discussed by attendees.

**TIER ONE**
- Competitive Salaries
- More Jobs
- Building Infrastructure
- Program Funding

These issues were brought up at 8-12 events.

**TIER TWO**
- Affordable Housing
- Professional Development
- Lack of Space

These issues were brought up at 7 events.

**TIER THREE**
- Mental Health Resources
- Transportation
- Marketing
- Outreach to Marg. Comm.

These issues were brought up at 4-6 events.
The following elected officials attended a Cultural Futures event. Thank you so much to our lawmakers for all their hard work, dedication, and support to cultural businesses!

Sen. Andy Billig, District 3
Rep. Peter Abbarno, District 20
Sen. Sam Hunt, District 22
Rep. Melanie Morgan, District 29
Sen. Claire Wilson, District 30
Rep. Cindy Ryu, District 32
Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, District 37
Sen. June Robinson, District 38

Sen. Liz Lovett, District 40
Rep. My-Linh Thai, District 41
Rep. Alicia Rule, District 42
Sen. Simon Sefzik, District 42
Rep. Brandy Donaghy, District 44
Rep. Javier Valdez, District 46
Soo Ing-Moody, Mayor of Twisp
Megan Dunn, Snohomish County Councilmember
COALITION GROWTH

INSPIRATION LEAGUE

The Inspiration league is IW’s online platform that connects advocates to the lawmakers that represent them based on their home address. The platform allows advocates to quickly and securely send emails to their lawmakers about issues that matter to them.

Since Cultural Futures was announced on April 14th, the Inspiration League has added 61 new advocates for a total of 6,236. Join today at InspirationLeague.org!

CONSTANT CONTACT

Constant Contact is IW’s email processor. Since Cultural Futures was announced on April 14th, 3,079 unique email addresses have been added for a total of 9,334. Emails were added through rigorous outreach and research by the IW staff, registrations for Cultural Futures, and new members opting in to the newsletter.
ATTENDEE SURVEY RESULTS
ATTENDEE SURVEY RESPONSES

On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best), how is your organization doing financially? 102 responses:

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where is the biggest room for growth in your business? Check all that apply. 110 responses:

- Donations: 66
- Staff: 59
- Space: 57
- Programming: 41
- Strategic Planning: 41
- Ticket Sales: 37
- Professional Development: 27
- Technology: 20
- Other: 16
Selected responses from 110 surveys:

- "Normalizing theatre and performing arts in the community post-COVID, skyrocketing artist/agent fees, and reopening the center after the two year closure." - Julie in Port Townsend

- "Ticket sales, ticket drop off rates, capital budget, getting our volunteers to come back (most are older)." - Jack in Bellingham

- "We are an all volunteer organization and we need many more volunteers to grow our theater. Also, we need to build up our sustaining membership contributions for day to day expenses." - Darlene in Newport

- "Regaining audience & paying staff a living wage." - Mary Pat in Milton

- "Pre-pandemic all our of programs were based in schools and brought to schools hosted by the school itself, or paid for by a sponsor. We have now changed our programming to be direct to public services, this has changed our business model and totally revamped our marketing needs." - Sarah in Vancouver

- "Retaining relationships during staff turnover which impacts programming, donors, and strategic planning" - Eden in Tacoma

- "Believing that we are coming out of the pandemic." - Shawn in Moses Lake

- "Affordable space, skilled labor, property theft, and major supply chain issues." - Julie in Seattle

- "Labor and getting people comfortable with leaving the house again." - Sarah in Seattle
ATTENDEE SURVEY RESPONSES

What does your organization need to thrive? What stands in your way? What fuels your triumphant return?

Selected responses from 110 surveys:

• “We need multi-year unrestricted operating dollars. Too much of our contributed revenue is highly restricted government reimbursement grants. The administration that these grants require effectively cuts the grants’ impact by a lot.” -Katie in Port Townsend

• “Staffing and capacity expansion. Specifically for programming & outreach.” -Margaret in Spokane

• “Getting the virus under control is intrinsically connected to our sector’s recovery--but also, our sector needs less reliance on the “butts in seats” strategy going into the future. The COVID-19 pandemic is very likely the beginning of our future with public health emergencies and pandemics, not an isolated event in history. We need to keep supporting organizations, artists, and groups to innovate how they provide cultural programming.” -SuJ’n in Bellingham

• “We need more staff to conduct tours, hold environmental education events, to organize natural and cultural history exhibits and art shows. Our dedicated volunteers and support from our community fuels our triumphant return!” -Barbara in Ocean Shores

• “We need return to full house ticket sales for each concert & robust donations, encouraging younger people to attend. Problem is that people are worried about attending concerts where the seats are all filled. A return to reasonable amount of donations is needed.” -Ruth in Edmonds

• “We need to pay our employees a livable, thriving wage. Right now, we’re stuck pretty close to survival wages. Most are trapped in the ALICE stage: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.” Katy in Tacoma
ATTENDEE SURVEY RESPONSES

If the state granted you an additional 10% of your budget tomorrow, how would you spend it?

Selected responses from 110 surveys:

- "Towards rebuilding our staff, several of whom were let go during the pandemic when our doors were closed." -Kathleen in Bainbridge Island

- "Staff enhancements to begin the work needed to elevate us back to pre-pandemic levels and into the future." -Damien in Richland

- "I would take the funds and restrict them to programming initiatives focused on cultural development and inclusion." -Ron in Wenatchee

- "Create a structure to support public art, community programs/events, and lower barriers to access said programs." -Gina in Pasco

- "Our biggest need is to secure an affordable facility to operate out of sustainably. A 10% increase in our budget could go towards building our capacity to work towards this goal." -Dream in Bellingham

- "Hire more staff to avoid burnout, give raises to pay living wage." -Liesl in Port Townsend

- "Generous outreach. We want classical music in front of every single person in the regions we serve. We’d be much more ambitious about scheduling outreach, releasing our filmed performances on more public channels, and partnering with bigger media outlets to market our events to new listeners." -Andrew in Seattle

- "More pre-school and homeschool dance classes in the mornings, get air conditioning in time for summer programs, sponsor more low income families or cover more tuition for our financial needs students." -Marika in Everett

- "A new home for Blue Bear Puppet Lab in Ellensburg-hopefully in collaboration with other arts & cultural groups/individuals." -Jill in Ellensburg
WHAT'S NEXT
A VISION FOR THE CULTURAL SECTOR

We have traveled to communities across the state and listened to so many cultural partners. Your ideas and ambitions are coming together and a hopeful yet urgent vision for Washington’s Cultural Future is emerging. After two years of disruption, extreme hardship, and losses (money, spaces, programming, and people) our sector yearns to pick itself up and to reconnect and strengthen communities with science, heritage, and the arts.

We want to move forward. There’s no going back to the culture of scarcity, a state of inequity where some communities benefit from programming while others do not, shrinking public and government support, or silos with our industry. Instead of arts or housing, heritage or mental health; how about culture embedded in everything? We envision three areas of change:

1. Improve the lives of cultural workers
We yearn to say, the culture sector has the best jobs. We want more job security, competitive wages, comprehensive benefits, on ramps for new workers, and equitable opportunities that diversify our workforce. In Washington, our workers shouldn’t be exhausted by the hustle to work in the sector while paying off debt, buying a home, raising a family, and preparing for retirement.

2. Increase engagement and access
Organizations want relevant programming and staff and audience to reflect the full diversity of their communities. How do you reach them? Where are the resources to implement these changes? Businesses want full audiences and overflowing exhibit floors. They want to be serving everyone in their community – people of all identities, families of all incomes, and people with different backgrounds and experiences.

3. Utilize culture to address racism, homelessness, mental health, education, and other social issues and economic opportunities
We all dream of transforming our communities and world with the power of culture. But often our work is undervalued, and the true potential of culture isn’t pursued. How do we open the doors of opportunity so that our communities will realize that cultural programming and creative thinking may be optimized to address racism, homelessness, mental health, education, and other social issues and economic opportunities?
We are excited to champion your visions for a more cultural Washington. We will work together to transform these ideas into realities. It will not happen immediately, but over the next year, we can take big steps forward. Join us as we embark on a road to sector resiliency, recovery, and a more inspire Washington.

Inspire Washington is grateful to have connected with so many incredible cultural workers and organizations across the state who shared their hopes, fears, and challenges so authentically with us. We take those relationships seriously and plan to build upon those conversations in a meaningful way to inspire change and build a thriving creative economy.

Thanks to the success of the Cultural Futures tour, IW completed six residencies sponsored by the WA State Department of Commerce in August and September with the objectives to deepen relationships in more rural areas of the state, connect with lawmakers, meet with cultural allies like restaurants and hotels, and hold Town Halls to share our legislative ideas and get feedback. Residency locations included the following regions: Southwest, Southeast, Northwest, Yakima Valley, North Cascades, and the Olympic Peninsula.
APPENDIX: EVENT SUMMARIES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>REGISTRATIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Centrum, Port Townsend</td>
<td>North Peninsula</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driftwood Players, Aberdeen</td>
<td>South Peninsula</td>
<td>May 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>REACH Museum, Richland</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>May 23</td>
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<td>Taproot Theatre, Seattle</td>
<td>North King County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Baker Theatre, Bellingham</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
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<td>Hands on Children’s Museum, Olympia</td>
<td>Thurston County</td>
<td>June 2</td>
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<td>Magenta Theatre, Vancouver</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>June 3</td>
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<td>Port of Everett, Everett</td>
<td>Snohomish County</td>
<td>June 9</td>
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<td>Mighty Tieton, Tieton</td>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numerica PAC, Wenatchee</td>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winthrop Ice Rink, Winthrop</td>
<td>Okanogan County</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma</td>
<td>Pierce County</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>NW Museum of Art &amp; Culture, Spokane</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>June 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington Hall, Seattle</td>
<td>Central King County</td>
<td>June 21</td>
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<td>PNB School, Bellevue</td>
<td>East King County</td>
<td>June 28</td>
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<td>Federal PAEC, Federal Way</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
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<td>Outreach Zooms:</td>
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<td>La Sala, Festál, All Aboard, CD Forum</td>
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<td>July &amp; Aug</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Centrum, Port Townsend

ABOUT THE 36 REGISTRANTS:
From Port Townsend, Sequim, Port Haddock, Port Angeles, Suquamish, and Bainbridge Island

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Reducing trauma for artists & the healing power of art
- Building maintenance funding
- Infrastructure needs: equipment, capital, and rental space for small businesses
- Funding to increase staff salaries
- Affordable housing for staff
- Better communication with banks and how they look at non traditional artists and their funds
- Resources for makers: consultants, loans, life skills, professional development
SOUTHWEST REGION
Serving Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Driftwood Players, Aberdeen

ABOUT THE 11 REGISTRANTS:
From Aberdeen, Hoquiam, McCleary, and Westport

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Support for capital improvements and maintenance
- Grants to fund transportation for students
- Funding for physical space: storage, rehearsal, classes, meetings, etc.
- Staff—actual people and salaries
NORTH KING COUNTY REGION
Serving King County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Taproot Theatre, Seattle

ABOUT THE 30 REGISTRANTS:
From Seattle, Kirkland, Sammamish, Lake Forest Park, Shoreline, Bellingham, and Bellevue

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
• Staff salaries
• Translation services
• Accessibility options: resources, staff, building
• Rent/leases, cost of space maintenance
• How to bring back programming
• Does “more” really mean more?
• Unemployment for teaching artists

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. Cindy Ryu, District 32
Rep. Javier Valdez, District 46
SOUTHEAST REGION
Serving Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
The REACH Museum, Richland

ABOUT THE 37 REGISTRANTS:
From Pasco, Richland, Walla Walla, and West Richland

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:

- PD/staffing support
- Active internship programs
- Lack of college kids for internships
- Housing for students
- Arts in vocation training
- Arts infrastructure (buildings)
- Access for kids who don't have homes or families
- Making programs affordable
NORTHWEST REGION
Serving San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Mount Baker Theatre, Bellingham

ABOUT THE 40 REGISTRANTS:
From Blaine, Bellingham, La Conner, Lynden, Mount Vernon, and Oak Harbor

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Hiring teaching artists for workshops
- Safety for studios
- Healing arts
- PTSD support
- Cost of living for interns
- Increasing size & diversity in volunteer pool
- Support for veterans
- Transportation for kids from rural areas to field trips
- Marketing campaign to improve ticket sales
- Funding for artists in between contracts
- Grants for technology

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. Alicia Rule, District 42
Sen. Simon Sefzik, District 42
THURSTON COUNTY REGION
Serving Thurston County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Hands On Children’s Museum, Olympia

ABOUT THE 28 REGISTRANTS:
From Olympia and Tenino

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
• Spanish-speaking outreach for science
• More staff
• Scholarships for after-school programs
• Access to programming
• Tourism marketing campaign—it’s hard to get people to engage in person!
• Salaries are too low
• Space for history collections
• Supporting history and civic education
• Covering the arts in journalism

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. Peter Abbarno, District 20
Rep. Sam Hunt, District 22
GREATER VANCOUVER REGION
Serving Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Skamania Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Magenta Theater, Vancouver

ABOUT THE 21 REGISTRANTS:
From Camas, Vancouver, and Washougal

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
• More space for art—shared space and public buildings
• Staff salaries and increasing number of staff
• Cultural RnD
• Tech support for marketing
• City survey for library building
• State money to local arts agencies to distribute
• Operational costs
• Scholarships
• Focus on the local
• Charitable forms aren’t online now—modernize the site for nonprofits (RCWs)
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Serving Grant, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Tieton Arts & Humanities, Tieton

ABOUT THE 19 REGISTRANTS:
From Ellensburg, Granger, Tieton, Selah, and Yakima

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
• Funding for Senate Bill 5878
• Advocacy gap for higher education & vocational schools
• Art supply costs in public schools
• Field trips and buses for public schools; inequity in resources for public schools vs. private schools and homeschooling
• Money for gas and buses
• Agriculture bill in Union Gap (Curtis King and Jim Honeyford)
• Art and technology gap in education
• Funding for technology
• Makers space—funding to pair with school districts
• Funds for mental health
NORTH SOUND REGION
Serving Island and Snohomish Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Port of Everett Waterfront Center, Everett

ABOUT THE 68 REGISTRANTS:
From Arlington, Camano Island, Everett, Lake Stevens, Langley, Monroe, Mukilteo, Olympia, Redmond, Shoreline, Stanwood, and Sultan

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- More space for art—shared space and public buildings
- Staff salaries and increasing number of staff
- Cultural research & development
- Tech support for marketing
- City survey for library building
- State money to local arts agencies to distribute
- Operational costs
- Scholarships
- Focus on the local
- Modernizing online charitable forms

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. Brandy Donaghy, District 44
Sen. June Robinson, District 38
Megan Dunn, Snohomish County Council
NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Serving Chelan and Douglas Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Numerica PAC, Wenatchee

ABOUT THE 20 REGISTRANTS:
From East Wenatchee, Entiat, Leavenworth, Waterville, and Wenatchee

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Arts center: home for artists with rehearsal space and a gallery
- Funding for educational videos for kids that can be translated and distributed
- Increased funding for Spanish speaking community
- Creating more partnerships
- Cultivating younger audiences; free tickets for children
- Accessibility and transportation
- Funding for administrative salaries to keep workers in Wenatchee
- Building a communication hub for cultural events
- More rehearsal space!
NORTH CASCADES REGION
Serving Okanogan County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Winthrop Ice Rink, Winthrop

ABOUT THE 17 REGISTRANTS:
From Carlton, Mazama, Okanogan, Tonasket, Twisp, & Winthrop

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Logistics of materials—funding to support infrastructure
- Affordable childcare
- Funding to maintain buildings
- More funding to support programs
- Skills and strategies for the business side of the arts
- Physical space for rehearsals and classes
- Study on the feasibility of funding sources/opportunities

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Soo Ing-Moody, Mayor of Twisp
SOUTH SOUND REGION
Serving Pierce County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma

ABOUT THE 42 REGISTRANTS:
From Eatonville, Lake Tapps, Olympia, Roy, Seattle, and Tacoma

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Salaries for staff
- Operational funds or maintenance
- Volunteers for education programs
- Outreach and rebuilding dead programs
- Artists in residence for outreach program
- Translation services
- Training garment workers in costume shops

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. Melanie Morgan, District 29
NORTHEAST REGION
Serving Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Orielle, Spokane, and Stevens Counties

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
NW Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane

ABOUT THE 39 REGISTRANTS:
From Airway Heights, Loon Lake, Moses Lake, Spokane, and Spokane Valley

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Salaries for staff
- Operational funds or maintenance
- Volunteers for education programs
- Outreach and rebuilding dead programs
- Artists in residence for outreach program
- Translation services
- Training garment workers in costume shops

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Sen. Andy Billig, District 3
CENTRAL KING COUNTY REGION
Serving King County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Washington Hall, Seattle

ABOUT THE 38 REGISTRANTS:
From Mercer Island and Seattle

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
• Want to provide programming for BIPOC communities
• Putting more people to work
• Raising salaries
• Staff support for programming and development
• Affordable housing
• Seed funding to jumpstart capital campaigns
• Wellness and mental health support for artists
• Audience sizes are still very small
• Marketing to help tourism—how to break into that market?

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, District 37
EAST KING COUNTY REGION
Serving King County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Pacific Northwest Ballet, Bellevue

ABOUT THE 38 REGISTRANTS:
From Bellevue, Fall City, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, Seattle, Shoreline, and Woodinville

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Affordability for renting rehearsal, class, and meeting spaces. Provide tax incentives to builders?
- Living wage for salaried employees
- Affordable housing
- Healthcare for artists
- Public outreach: marketing, distribution, and journalism
- Mental health resources for kids, immigrants, and seniors
- Funding for Creative Districts
- Culture is an economic driver!
- Arts ed. is social emotional learning, but not all social emotional learning is art

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Rep. My-Linh Thai, District 41
SOUTH KING COUNTY REGION
Serving King County

LOCAL VENUE PARTNER:
Federal Way PAEC, Federal Way

ABOUT THE 24 REGISTRANTS:
From Des Moines, Federal Way, Fife, Olympia, Pacific, Renton, Seattle, Tacoma, and Tukwila

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:
- Health insurance for staff
- Living wages for staff
- Adding staff positions
- Accessibility: language, disability, etc.
- How to support free programs
- More physical space
- Funding for new organizations
- Marketing support

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Sen. Claire Wilson, District 30
VIRTUAL EVENTS
Serving Washington State

This summary includes six virtual sessions that were held on May 31st, June 8th, June 21st, June 22nd, August 8, and August 15.

ABOUT THE 329 REGISTRANTS:
From 84 different cities and towns across the state!

TOP CONCERNS & NEEDS:

- Access and community engagement
- Access for historical buildings
- Financial access and scholarships for students who can't afford programs
- Statewide campaign for civic engagement
- Ticket sales are dismal
- Finding skilled fabricators
- Lack of physical space
- Healthcare for artists

LAWMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Sen. Liz Lovelett, District 40
PARTNERSHIP GROWTH

What does it mean to be an IW partner?

Becoming a partner as an individual or organization means investing in the power of culture and using your own voice to build community and enrich lives. IW relies on dues from partners to sustain advocacy and outreach. Thanks to the success of the Cultural Futures tour, our partnership has grown significantly this summer!

New Organizational Partners: 24

Cascadia International Women’s Festival | Bellingham
Cascadia Music | Twisp
CaveMoonPress | Yakima
Central Washington Agricultural Museum | Union Gap
Children’s Dance Theater | Federal Way
Coastal Interpretive Center | Ocean Shores
Creative Dance Center | Seattle
Emerald City Ringers | Bellevue
Franklin County Historical Society | Pasco
Issaquah Fish Hatchery | Issaquah
Larson Gallery | Yakima
Maple Valley Creative Arts Council | Maple Valley
Mobius Discovery Center | Spokane
Northwest Boychoir & Vocalpoint | Seattle
PACE Live | Bellevue
Puget Sound Revels | Tacoma
RAIN Incubator | Tacoma
Seattle Mongolian Youth Center | Seattle
Tacoma Refugee Choir | Tacoma
The Williams Project | Seattle
Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra | Wenatchee
Whidbey Island Music Festival | Whidbey Island
Women in Film Seattle | Seattle
WRE Leah LLC | Seattle

New Individual Partners: 11
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Questions? Email us!

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