



MEMORANDUM

TO: Snohomish County Council

FROM: Kara Main-Hester, Chief Recovery & Resilience Officer

DATE: May 9, 2023

RE: 2023 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Arts & Culture Recovery Grant Awardees

Background:

Snohomish County facilitated the Arts and Culture Recovery grant application, with up to \$1.6 million available, to provide relief to arts and culture organizations, businesses, and other entities adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, so they can continue activities that support public benefit as well as enhance community engagement through mid-to-large events and festivals held in Snohomish County. Total recommended ARPA funding is \$500,000 to support awarded organizations. This memo is meant to satisfy the ARPA Spending Plan required by the 2023 Adopted Budget Note No. 8.

Funding was available for Snohomish County serving nonprofits and events:

- Nonprofit Recovery Grants – Eligible Arts and Culture 501(c)(3) organizations with a minimum pandemic revenue loss of \$2,000 may be awarded amounts up to \$30,000.
- Festivals and Events Recovery Grants – Events characterized as having an operating budget over \$100,000 and a pandemic revenue loss of at least \$2,000. Applicants in this category may be awarded amounts up to \$60,000.

Eligible applicants for Nonprofit Recovery Grants were IRS-determined arts and culture organizations that experienced minimum revenue loss because of the pandemic. Eligible applicants for Festival and Events Recovery Grants included nonprofit and for-profit businesses, local governments, and chambers of commerce. Festival and Events Recovery Grant awardees also demonstrated pandemic revenue loss and had an identified mid-to-large size event that was impacted by the pandemic and are planned for 2023 or 2024. All applicants were required to meet financial criteria to be eligible.

Scoring:

Following a countywide competitive process, Snohomish County received 24 applications, with 17 for the Nonprofit Recovery Grants and seven for the Events and Festivals Recovery Grants. All applications were reviewed for pandemic revenue loss eligibility in submitted financial statements. As a result of that review, six applications were determined ineligible after correspondence with each applicant.

Applications were scored by a review committee of three people who serve on the Snohomish County Arts Commission Board. Once eligible, award amounts were determined based on a standard multiplier that was determined by the statewide Arts Fund COVID Cultural Impact Study. If a location within a Qualified Census Tract was submitted, an additional award multiplier was applied to qualifying submissions. Scores and recommendation for awardee funding were communicated to the Office of Recovery and Resilience (ORR) for final review and approval.

Likely Awardees:

Over half of the likely awardees (12 entities) had a pre-pandemic operating revenue of less than \$150,000 annually, representing a variety of smaller and grassroots arts and culture organizations serving Snohomish County. The loss experienced by applicants as a result of the pandemic ranged from \$2,000 to \$4,000,000, with the median loss as \$36,000. For a number of the awarded festivals and events, this award is enabling them to continue planned events for 2023 or 2024.

Nonprofit Recovery Grant Awards (Totaling \$245,000):

Sustain Music Project (\$5,000)

- The Sustain Music Project is a unique classical music ensemble that goes beyond the traditional concert experience, presenting innovative and engaging performances that incorporate elements of visual art, culinary adventures, lighting, storytelling, and other artistic and theatrical experiences.

Monroe Arts Council (\$5,000)

- The Monroe Arts Council was formed in 2003 with the mission of stimulating the growth of the visual, literary, and performing arts in Monroe, and enhancing the community through art in public places.

Eurasia Arts Ensemble (\$5,000) *pending submission of additional documentation*

- Mission is to educate, inspire and entertain the American public through cultural dance and music of the Silk Road.

Kenmore & District Pipe Band (\$5,000)

- Mission is to foster and grow appreciation for the ancient art of Scottish bagpiping and drumming in Snohomish County.

Marysville City Bands (\$5,000)

- Organization provides opportunities for residents of the Marysville area to play and enjoy music.

Rhapsody Winterguard (\$10,000)

- Rhapsody Winterguard endeavors to provide an education in pageantry, nurture creativity, and cultivate outstanding individuals.

Ballyhoo Theatre (\$10,000)

- Small educational theatre company that specializes in telling queer stories by queer youth, producing five-six full shows a year, plus cabaret and concert performances.

Washington Blues Society (\$15,000)

- Hosts free, monthly live music concerts across the state, including 15 events in Snohomish County in 2023.

Sno-King Community Chorale at Edmonds Community College (\$15,000)

- A non-audition membership-based chorale, learning challenging and diverse musical literature in a broad range of styles, providing an extraordinary educational experience through rehearsals, concerts, and cultural exchange.

Cascade Symphony Orchestra (\$25,000)

- Cascade Symphony exists to nourish its musicians and the community by providing inspiring performances of outstanding music, educational outreach to children, college scholarships, tuition assistance for summer music school.

Everett Philharmonic Orchestra (\$25,000) *pending submission of additional documentation*

- Performs live symphonic music in Snohomish County, to build community and quality of life in Everett, Snohomish County and surrounding area.

The Dance School (\$30,000)

- Promotes the art of dance in all its forms and to introduce dance to the community.

Village Theatre (\$30,000)

- Mission is to be a regionally recognized and nationally influential center of excellence in family theatre: to promote a season of top-quality productions, to commission and produce new musicals that achieve national exposure, to train young people in theatre skills for career opportunities and enriched lives, to develop a broad-based appreciation for live theatre, to promote positive values through art.

Edmonds Center for the Arts (\$30,000)

- Organized, exclusively for the benefit of and to carry out the celebration of the performing arts through strengthening and inspiring the community and stewarding the development and creative use of the Edmonds Center for the Arts Campus.

Edmonds Driftwood Players (\$30,000)

- Edmonds Driftwood Players (EDP) nurtures the art of live theatre by creating a vibrant and accessible community experience

Events and Festivals Recovery Grant Awards (Totaling \$255,000):

Rotary Club of Edmonds, Washington (\$5,000) for “Edmonds Oktoberfest” *pending submission of additional documentation*

Aquafest Association of Lake Stevens (\$20,000) for “Aquafest”

Everett Music Initiative (\$50,000) for “Fisherman's Village Music Festival” *pending submission of additional documentation*

Edmonds Chamber of Commerce (\$60,000) for “Taste Edmonds”

Summer Meltdown LLC (\$60,000) for “Folk Dream (Formerly Summer Meltdown)”

Nile Shriners (\$60,000) for “Nile Nightmares Haunted House”

Timeline:

Agreements with awardees are planned to be finalized and implemented by May 2023.