

## Organization

City of Seattle, Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS)

### Please provide some background information about your organization.

The City of Seattle’s Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) in dialogue with other agencies, including the Office of Economic Development (OED) and nonprofit/advocacy organizations, including Washington Filmworks, want to assess the “creative vitality” of the region through a race and social justice lens. The Seattle MSA area had an estimated 78,738 creative occupations in 2016 (Creative Vitality Suite, 2018, cvsuite.org)—of this figure, how many of these jobs were affordable, living wage jobs, and what proportion went towards artists and creatives of color? How were they geographically distributed throughout King County and Pierce County? What policies should the city commit to in order to maintain a vibrant city for all, but especially one that keeps artists in place.

Who is it that we want to serve who are the most marginalized by rising economic inequality, gentrification, and displacement? Who are we not yet reaching with our programs, policies, and procedures? What policies and interventions are there that ARTS and other citywide agencies can make to mitigate the harm from the recent economic boom and inequality? What is the changing future of creative work? What are current and projected jobs that are low, medium, and high paying? What does this look like within a race and social justice lens of doing intersectional research? We want to map the artistic and cultural assets of the Puget Sound Region, focusing on cultural resources in communities, including an overview of cultural spaces and facilities, festivals and events, and for-profit and not-for-profit cultural organizations.

## Tentative Project Title

Assessing the Creative Economy of Seattle and the Region through a Racial Equity Lens

### Please describe the problem, challenge, or opportunity that the consultant team will address.

Seattle is poised for an intentional, mixed research methods, and rigorous creative workforce study with an RSJI lens that is interagency collaborative between OED and ARTS and led by the Office of Arts & Culture through on-going partnerships with the UW Evans School.

There has been a groundswell of interest and demand for data that speaks to the creative workforce of the city of Seattle from the Office of Film + Music (OFM), OED, The Creative Advantage, SPS Administration, Washington Filmworks, and the Seattle Colleges/Try A Trade, the City of Bellevue, Arts Fund, and the NEA.

We need data that tells us about the lived experiences and macro-level portrait of where our creative workforce resides in the Puget Sound Region, what that looks like through an intersectional race,

gender, and class lens and analysis, and what the creative jobs of the future might be like. ARTS is interested in identifying barriers at the entry, middle, and established tiers of creative economy work, and to design recommendations for how to increase access for those who historically have not had access.

What is your desired deliverable? Examples include policy reports, fundraising strategy documents, stakeholder analyses, or other strategic documents.

This is a unique opportunity for the Evans School Student Consulting Lab to take a deep dive into creating an original dataset for the Puget Sound region that can be replicated for other regions throughout the state of Washington. The outcome of the Student Consulting Lab-led project will be a report that provides recommendations for arts and cultural policy for the city and the region.

What are some key tasks the consultants will perform to complete the project?

Among the core competencies the team will demonstrate on the job include survey design, qualitative interviews, GIS intermediate skills, Tableau/data visualization, policy analysis and decision-making, cultural competency and working amongst diverse stakeholders. This is a chance to be at the forefront of a national conversation about artists/creatives displacement and racial equity. ARTS will have a set of communication suggested best practices for UW-City collaboration, and regular check-ins. We want to be extremely collaborative in translating the research findings into policy recommendations and how the data can help us further articulate our strategy for leading race and social justice work in the creative sector and helping to eliminate barriers for artists/creatives, and especially for those who lack access.

What resources are available to complete the project (e.g., access to data, support from staff, etc.)?

Among the resources available from ARTS is the support by led researcher Dr. Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, a sociologist and policy analyst. Research access to creative economy databases including EMSI (pending) and CVI. Meeting space, access to key people, city reports and associated documents, and research assistance are well within our ability to provide. We foresee a mentorship and career building component in this project team. We don't have regular desk space, as our staffing is at full capacity with our office space constraints. We will set aside a small budget for interviewee compensation, refreshments, and so on. Evans school alumni, John Crawford-Gallagher, Office of Economic Development, is also available to support data requests/needs associated with this project.