Office of Arts & Culture

2027-28 Proposed Budget Overview



Presenters:
Amy Nguyen, Director
Alexandra McGehee, Finance Director

Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee

City of Seattle

Office of Arts & Culture

Formed in 1971 with a mission to activate and sustain Seattle through arts and culture, the Office of Arts & Culture (OAC) manages the City's public art program, cultural partnerships grant programs, The Creative Advantage arts education initiative, and cultural facilities.

In alignment with the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative, OAC seeks new solutions that use arts as a strategy to drive not only our office, but the City as a whole, toward racial equity and social justice.



Opening of Jo Cosme's *Welcome to Paradise: ¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!*
photo by Marcus Donner

Programmatic Areas

OAC is organized into four programmatic areas:

1. Public Art
2. Partnerships, Grants & Education
3. Finance, Operations & Facilities
4. Creative Placemaking

We are supported by the 16-member Seattle Arts Commission, citizen volunteers appointed by the mayor and City Council.



Still from *(IN)VISIBLE WORK* animation for Seattle Public Utilities by Sashko Danylenko

Proposed Budget Summary

TOTAL BUDGET ($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	2028 Proposed
General Fund	$1,455	-	-
Other Funds	$23,563	$22,895	$22,751
TOTAL	$25,018	$22,895	$22,751
FTE	44.75	44.75	44.75

Proposed Budget Summary

The 2027-28 Proposed Budget makes investments in OAC grants and front-line services, The Creative Advantage, Civic Art Collection maintenance, and Cultural Districts.

It also continues ongoing Admissions Tax support for arts and cultural programs in Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Center.

The OAC budget removes one-year and two-year one-time adds that were part of the 2026 Adopted Budget.



The Black Tones, photo by Jenny Crooks

Significant Additions – Arts Education

1. Investments in Seattle's youth through The Creative Advantage (TCA)

- Increases budget by $557K bringing total investment to $1.2M ongoing. This recognizes the successful roll out of TCA in all Seattle Public Schools and supports Community Arts Partnership grants.
- TCA is designed to ensure all students have access to arts education and embeds teaching artists and culturally relevant programming into the school day.



Photo by Tina LaPadula

($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed)	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
The Creative Advantage	$693	$1,250	80%	$1,250	-

Significant Additions - Grants

2. Investments in Grants and Front-Line Services

- This investment increases OAC grant programs and front-line service costs by 3% in 2027 and 2028.
- This recognizes the increases in costs to do business in Seattle and the importance of the creative sector and investments therein.



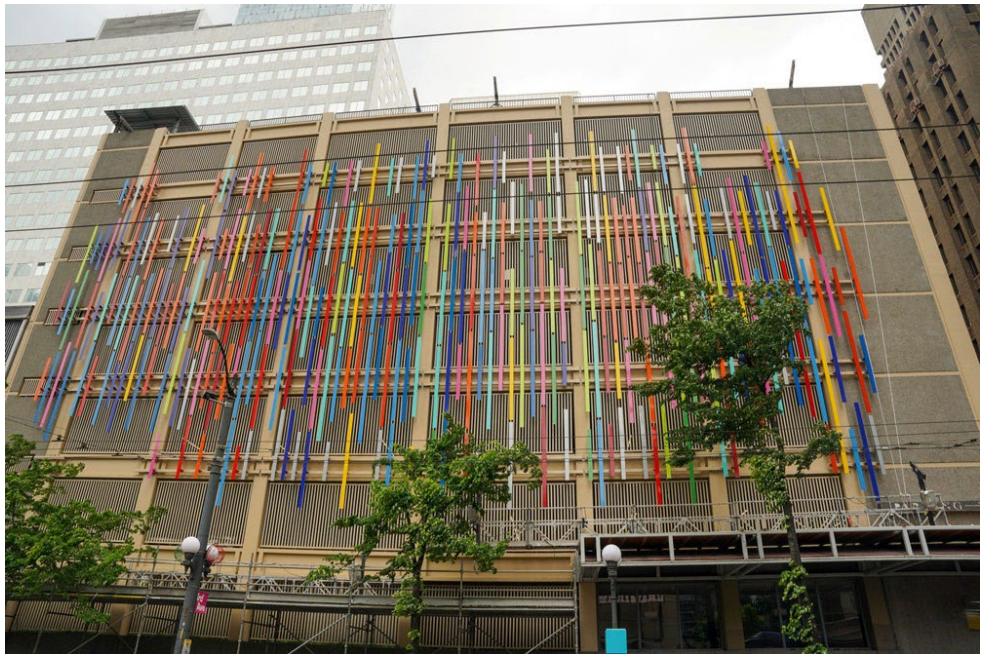
Nia-Amina Minor in *Antiq,* photo by Allina Yang

($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed)	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
Grant Funding & Direct Services	$6,543	$6,748	3%	$6,959	3%

Significant Additions – Public Art

3. Investments in Seattle Civic Art Collection maintenance

- This investment expands the Civic Art Collection's maintenance budget and allows OAC to continue to maintain this important City asset. As the collection ages, repair and maintenance costs are increasing.
- The Civic Art Collection is a vital asset which provides free and accessible public art to Seattle residents and visitors to interact with the arts throughout their daily lives.



Sound/s by Ivan Toth Depeña, photo by Nina Dubinsky

($000s)	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed)	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
Collections Maintenance	$300	$398.5	33%	$409.5	3%

Significant Additions – King Street Station Activations

4. $500K in One-Time Funding to Extend King Street Station Activations

- This investment adds funding to extend one-time 2026 activation programming into 2027. The 2026 activations brought thousands through ARTS at King Street Station for free, high-quality arts and culture experiences.
- This will allow OAC to continue to build on that momentum and establish ARTS at King Street Station as a place on the map for arts and culture in the city.



Supaman performs on King Street Station plaza
photo by Jack Storms

($000s)	2026 Revised	2027 Proposed	% Change (Adopted to 2027 Proposed)	2028 Proposed	% Change (2027 Proposed to 2028 Proposed)
King Street Station Activations	$1,054	$500	N/A	$0	(100%)

Questions?



Scenes from FIFA World Cup 2026 events in Pioneer Square, U District and the CD funded by OAC.