Funds Distribution Report

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Recipient Organization:
Gage Academy of Art

Address:
2107 Westlake Ave
Seattle, WA 98121

Contact:
(206) 323-4243
https://gageacademy.org

Organization's General Goals:
Gage educates, enriches, and transforms our community through the visual arts. We are unapologetically independent and fiercely committed to excellence in the fields of painting, drawing, and sculpting. Celebrating 30+ years of service to the community, we believe in personal mentorship and skills-based studio instruction, delivered by brilliant teaching artists.

Date of Award:
2025 Q2

Level:
$500 to $2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Gage Academy of Art.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

GAGE ACADEMY of ART

Final Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

Grant Amount: [redacted]
Report Code: Q2 2025 14.2
Organization: Gage Academy of Art
Website: www.gageacademy.org

Program Overview and Purpose
Last year, Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions awarded Gage Academy of Art (Gage) a [redacted] grant to expand equitable access to high-quality arts education for underrepresented and underserved youth at our three King County locations in South Lake Union, South Park, and Bellevue. With your generous support, we were able to: (1) facilitate 123 Teen Art Studios sessions for 857 youth, (2) convene our inaugural Youth Arts Advisory Board (YAAB), and (3) complete the planning stage for Youth Atelier, our newest program that will launch this fall. Please find an overview of the impact of your funding.

Expanding Access through Teen Art Studios (TAS)
TAS is Gage's free weekly afterschool program for youth ages 13-18. The program is designed to engage youth who have historically experienced barriers to arts education – prioritizing outreach and enrollment for BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, English language learners, economically disadvantaged, and other underrepresented and underserved youth. Through TAS, our goals are to: (1) inspire creativity, develop technique and mastery, and cultivate lifelong practice; (2) strengthen core life skills; and (3) foster inclusive learning environments led by professional teaching artists.

A major accomplishment was the successful relocation of the South Park program. After attendance declined due to the previous facility's limited space, we partnered with Cultivate South Park and relocated to South Park Hall. The new street-level location, combined with Cultivate South Park's established Friday Teen Nights, immediately increased participation – with attendance exceeding 15 youth per session. The partnership also deepened Gage's connection to neighborhood youth while expanding outreach through Summit Public Schools, Highline Big Picture, libraries, community events, and bilingual English-Spanish promotional materials.

South Park participants also contributed to neighborhood-based projects. Students created paintings for an Earth Day activation displayed in local businesses, and a lead instructor worked with Cultivate South Park youth on a community mural. Gage hired two bilingual teaching artists with substantial mural experience, increasing the program's capacity to provide culturally responsive instruction and connect studio learning with public art.

The Bellevue program likewise regained momentum after moving from Bellevue Arts Museum to Highland Community Center, where a stable cohort of approximately thirteen students now attends each week. Gage also partnered with Mary's Place to offer Kids Club field trips during school breaks and four Teen Club sessions in polymer clay sculpture, linocut printmaking, and tote-bag design. These activities introduced children and teens experiencing housing instability to Gage's programs in a welcoming, low-barrier setting.

Participant feedback consistently emphasized TAS as a place where teens can experiment, receive encouragement from professional artists, form friendships, and develop their own creative voices.

Lead Teaching Artist Scott Méxcal described this intentional combination of artistic challenge and belonging as central to the program's success.

Building Youth Leadership and Advanced Pathways
Tulalip's investment also helped establish the Youth Arts Advisory Board (YAAB), which provides meaningful opportunities for youth to shape Gage programming while developing leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. During its inaugural year, eleven YAAB members participated in 10 advisory meetings. Rather than serving in symbolic roles, members actively influenced program development, practiced peer-to-peer critiques, and collaborated on the design of a permanent mural for Gage's South Lake Union campus.

YAAB members also assumed visible leadership positions throughout Gage. One of the Co-Chairs represented youth programming during Gage's annual Gala by staffing the Youth Booth, while Board members hosted a hands-on artmaking activity during the Block Awards recognizing Seattle Public Schools students dedicated to the arts. These experiences strengthened participants' confidence while demonstrating that youth perspectives are central to Gage's future programming.

Gage also made substantial progress toward launching its first Youth Atelier cohort. We established a Youth Atelier Advisory Committee composed of youth, parents, community members, Gage faculty, and Seattle Public Schools educators to guide program development. We also integrated Universal Design for Learning principles into our curriculum to ensure accessibility for students of all learning styles and abilities. Lastly, we hired a Youth Atelier instructor, finalized curriculum planning, opened the application process, and are prepared for the first cohort this fall.

Community Impact, Lessons, and Next Steps
Tulalip's support helped Gage accomplish far more than expanding access to arts education. It strengthened community partnerships, elevated youth voices, and created sustainable opportunities for artistic and personal growth. Throughout the year, Gage deepened collaborations with Cultivate South Park, Mary's Place, Highline Big Picture, Summit Public Schools, Downtown School, and Seattle Public Schools, extending high-quality arts education to youth who often have limited access to creative opportunities. By removing financial barriers through free instruction, supplies, meals, scholarships, and accessible community locations, Gage continued its commitment to serving BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, multilingual, low-income, and other historically underserved youth.

The year also produced clear operational lessons. South Park's increased attendance showed that location, schedule, and partnership alignment can be as important as curriculum and instructional quality. YAAB demonstrated that youth participation is strongest when young people are entrusted with consequential work rather than symbolic roles. Across all three initiatives, effective programming depended on professional teaching, culturally responsive practice, accessible design, and authentic community relationships.

Looking ahead, Gage will continue expanding participation across all TAS locations, strengthen community partnerships, support future YAAB cohorts, and welcome the inaugural Youth Atelier class. Together, these initiatives fulfill the vision outlined in Gage's proposal by creating an inclusive continuum of arts education that empowers young people to become artists, leaders, and changemakers.




SHOP

