



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Hilltop Artists in Residency**

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 6829  
Tacoma, WA 98417

**Contact:**  
(253) 571-7670  
<https://www.hilltopartists.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Hilltop Artists uses glass art to connect young people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to better futures since 1994. They serve over 650 students a year ages 12-26 through its programming, providing tuition-free glass instruction, mentorship, and collaborative leadership opportunities.

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| <b>Date of Award:</b> | <b>Level:</b>    |
| 2025 Q1               | \$500 to \$2,500 |

For more information, please read the attached report from Hilltop Artists in Residency.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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

## Grant Report to the Tulalip Tribe: January, 2026

Thank you again for the Tulalip Tribe's generous \$█████ grant. This brief report summarizes how your investment was used and the impact it made for youth and families between May 2025 and December 31, 2025.

### Use of Funds

As outlined in our original request, Tulalip funding was used in two key areas:

#### Program Materials – \$█████

Your support helped keep our studios at Hilltop Heritage Middle School and Silas High School stocked with the glass, tools, and classroom supplies that make daily instruction possible for hundreds of students over the course of the year.

Tulalip funds contributed to:

- Glass, color, tools, kiln supplies, and safety equipment used in our Career & Technical Education (CTE) electives at both school sites and in our after-school and summer programs.
- Materials for Team Production and Alumni projects, enabling advanced students to design and create hundreds of pumpkins, ornaments, and sculptural pieces for our fall and winter sales—real-world experience in production work, quality control, and customer interaction.
- The glass and consumables needed for our annual Monkeyshines project, where students and alumni created 1100+ glass floats and medallions that were hidden across Tacoma for Lunar New Year, offering free, joyful arts access for the broader community.
- Supplies for collaborative projects like community mosaic and fused-glass workshops, where youth partner with local organizations to create artwork tied to environmental justice and community storytelling.
- Stocking our snack cabinet: Funding for snacks may sound small, but it is transformative: snacks and light food are available across all programs so that students—many arriving hungry after a long school day—can regulate, focus, and safely participate.

#### Outreach, Basic Needs & Student Support – \$█████

Your grant also provided meaningful support to our Outreach Services, which wrap around all programs and are often the difference between a young person staying engaged or slipping through the cracks.

Over the year, our Outreach staff:

- Helped students and families with practical needs like obtaining Social Security cards and IDs, getting drivers permits, setting up medical and mental health appointments, securing eyeglasses, and completing the FAFSA and other financial aid forms.
- Provided emergency support with food, hygiene items, clothing, and transportation, especially for students experiencing housing instability or family crisis.

- Worked one-on-one with youth on home stability and safety, including helping a student reclaim their living space after a period of medical and mental health challenges so they could sleep comfortably and return to regular school and studio attendance.
- Piloted simple, youth-friendly systems—like a resource board, request forms, and office hours at Hilltop Heritage—so students can discreetly ask for help with food, housing, and other essential needs.

Outreach funds often represent our most immediate needs and impact: in the bus card that gets a student to the studio, the grocery gift card that carries a family through the weekend, or the trusted adult who sits beside a teen while they navigate intimidating systems.

### Highlights Across Programs: Youth + Community Impact

With the Tulalip Tribe’s support, Hilltop Artists was able to sustain and grow high-impact work across multiple programs:

- **Daytime Electives:** Students developed introductory skills in glassblowing, flameworking, and kilnforming while learning teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Many students created portfolio pieces and artist statements to support future college, apprenticeship, or job applications.
- **After-School & Summer Programs:** Youth deepened their skills, experimented with new techniques, and built strong peer networks. Our summer glass program welcomed returning students and new participants, offering a safe place to be every day with trusted adults, creative challenges, and meals/snacks.
- **Team Production & Alumni:** Sixty advanced students and alumni took on paid production and public-facing work, including assisting visiting artists, supporting community events, and creating glassware and sculpture for exhibitions and sales. These experiences help young people build résumés, professional networks, and confidence as working artists and creative entrepreneurs.
- **Arts Connect:** System-impacted girls and gender-expansive youth participated in structured, trauma-informed programming where they created glass art and collaborative projects tied to themes like healing, community safety, and belonging. Youth shared their work at small showcases, practicing public speaking and artist talks.
- **Community Partnerships & Public Arts Access:** Students and alumni contributed to exhibitions and events throughout Tacoma—from museum residencies and public demonstrations to block parties, gallery shows, and neighborhood celebrations—building pride in their culture and communities while offering free arts access to the public.

Throughout this work, we continued to elevate Indigenous voices and artists of color in a historically white, male-dominated field, including collaborations and residencies with Native glass artists and cultural leaders. These partnerships are particularly meaningful for Indigenous students, who see their identities reflected and valued in a professional art space on their own ancestral lands.



**Clockwise from top left:** a.) Students and alumni assist visiting artist Eriko Kobayashi. During Kobayashi’s week-long residency, students had the opportunity to learn unique advanced mold-making techniques developed by the artist.; b.) Fused glass pizza produced by Hilltop students using Kobayashi’s techniques—students were captivated by the artists’ production of hyperrealistic food items.; c.) Collaborative glass bowl produced by Arts Connect students and presented to the Big Homie Program as part of a service-learning project—this botanical bowl is intended to inspire “feelings of peace and safety for those recovering from trauma and violence.”; d.) Team production students work collaboratively during a live demonstration at the Museum of Glass – these Third Thursday demos are free and open to the public, expanding arts engagement.

## Looking Ahead

The Tulalip Tribe's investment came at a time of both opportunity and challenge for youth in Pierce County. Because of your support, our furnaces stayed hot, our shelves stayed stocked, and our outreach staff could show up consistently for young people navigating poverty, trauma, and systemic barriers.

For Indigenous youth and other young people of color throughout our community, this means continued access to:

- Safe, welcoming studios where they are seen, affirmed, and supported.
- Free, high-quality arts education and leadership opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.
- Real pathways to education, employment, and creative careers grounded in cultural pride and community connection.

We remain deeply committed to serving diverse young people throughout our community, offering culturally responsive mentorship, meaningful creative education opportunities, and concrete tools for building better futures.

Thank you for standing with our students and for your partnership in this work.