



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**

**Seattle Rep**

**Address:**

155 Mercer Street  
Seattle, WA 98109

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 900923  
Seattle, WA 98109

**Contact:**

(206) 443-2210  
<https://www.seattlerep.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Seattle Rep collaborates with extraordinary artists to create productions and programs that reflect and elevate the diverse cultures, perspectives, and life experiences of our region.

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**Date of Award:**

2021 Q4

**Level:**

\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Seattle Rep.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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December 2, 2022

Marilyn Sheldon  
Director  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> AVE NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn:

On behalf of all of us at the Seattle Rep, thank you for the Tulalip Tribe's support for the Public Works program. This program is central to Seattle Rep's vision of creating theater at the heart of public life, insuring access to art of, by, and for the people of our region. As one of our key Public Works supporters, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you additional details about the impact of your support.

Our Public Works team, under the leadership of Inji Kamel, is proud to foster relationships with eight community partners throughout the region, inviting people from communities facing barriers to arts access to attend performances and events, and participate in creating ambitious works of art. Our partner organizations include Byrd Barr Place, Boys and Girls Club of King County, Jubilee Women's Center, ReWA, Path with Art, Renton Veterans Center, Seattle Central College, and Sound Generations Ballard NW Senior Center, reaching people from all walks of life in our region through relationships based on mutual long-term commitment.

In the 2022 calendar year, the Public Works team has exercised adaptability and creativity to navigate the transition back to in person programing, utilizing a hybrid model for events as pandemic restrictions have eased. This transition is a slow and sensitive process, assessing our community partners' differing needs, levels of comfort, and COVID-19 caseloads. Additionally, many of our partner organizations have increased community outreach and shifted focus to supporting constituent's basic needs in the wake of the pandemic, prompting our team to further tailor offerings to individual needs and increase food support to community members. Despite these challenges, the Rep's Public Works program offered nearly 150 events in 2022, including 110 classes. Participants have been eager to share their enthusiasm with engaged participation, both online and in person. Some programs which grew out of the pandemic have continued with a community following. Artist Hour,



*(Storytelling class at Byrd Barr Place.  
Photo by Lia Fakhouri)*

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[seattlerep.org](http://seattlerep.org)

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which began when Public Works participants no longer could meet in person to discuss their individual artistic endeavors, meets regularly for participants to share their projects and support each other's wellbeing.

Beginning in January, winter quarter classes focused on acting, writing, and storytelling, encouraging community members at the Renton Veterans Center, Ballard NW Senior Center, and Byrd Barr Place to share their personal stories through theater. These stories gave a look into the diverse life experiences within the Public Works community, reckoning with issues of racism and discrimination, as well as the joys of family and celebrations. To further develop their storytelling abilities, community members also participated in an ongoing workshop series refining their stories into 17-minute monologues. Community members celebrated the end of the quarter with a "Festival of Personal Stories," produced in partnership with Matcha Theater at West of Lenin. Ten cast members shared their autobiographical monologues at three public performances, with stories of climate activism, cultural heritage, and daily joys of living.



*(Cynthia Linet performing in a "Festival of Personal Stories." Photo by Lia Fakhouri)*

As classes continued into the spring, our teaching artists shifted focus to musical theater, acting, vocal performance, and audition preparation, providing participants feedback for future performance opportunities. For participants at the Renton Veterans Center, whose facilities suffered a fire and subsequent water damage as spring quarter classes began, a hybrid class was a space to reconnect and share joy through music. While sometimes technologically challenging, the hybrid options allowed participants to join classes when either sick or out of town, keeping the community together despite distance.

Spring rolled into summer smoothly, as classes culminated with auditions for the mainstage



*(Cast members rehearse Emerald City before performing on August 27. Photo by Sayed Alamy)*

reading of our first Public Works commission, *Emerald City*. This new musical by Cheryl L. West and Paris Ray Dozier reimagines Frank L. Baum's land of Oz in present day Seattle, connecting to Public Work's regional focus. While previous summer offerings have mounted mainstage performances of existing scripts, this year's performance was a public workshop of the commission, as the new work development process provided a unique opportunity for community members to give feedback to the creative team, influencing future iterations of the



commissioned work. In preparation for the production, teaching artists offered one-day workshops in “Getting to Know the Wizard of Oz,” providing background and connection with the source materials for those unfamiliar or curious. *Emerald City* workshops began in July with two “Learning Sprees,” with Public Works participants using the new work as source material to improve their musical theater skills. In August, the full cast of 40 Public Works participants worked alongside professional performers to rehearse the current draft, including multiple new musical numbers. A semi-public reading served as the final presentation on August 27, followed by a community celebration and feedback sessions for participants to reflect on the experience. Along with feedback on how to improve the show, the workshop provided a similar emotional experience as previous Public Works shows, with one community member remarking that “it felt like a full production, rewarding and joyful!” *Emerald City* will continue its development process for a full production in the future, and we are hopeful that other productions will use this workshop process to further reflect the diverse lived experiences of our Public Works community.



(The cast of Emerald City, including 40 Public Works members. Photo by Sayed Alamy)

Classes returned in September with new courses at Renton Veterans Center, Ballard NW Senior Center, Seattle Central College, and Byrd Barr Place. At the senior center, the musical theater class is working on the songs from *Sister Act*, with some Seattle Rep staff visiting to join in the fun and watch their class presentation in December. Golden Age musicals have been a hit at Byrd Barr Place’s music classes, with impromptu dance parties breaking out. In mid-December, classes will conclude with a community gathering at the Seattle Rep, including a potluck and screening of the *Emerald City* workshop. We are excited to celebrate the end of 2022 together and share a meal with the Public Works family.

We at the Seattle Rep are tremendously proud of the Public Works program’s imagination and resilience, especially as they navigate this challenging time of transition. Our Public Works team is deeply committed to maintaining relationships with our community partners, with flexibility for our community’s needs. This year’s events, while different than programs offered previously, have met new and ever-changing community needs creatively, prompting us to continue innovating as we look to the future. We remain so grateful for the Tulalip Tribe’s support for Public Works, and we look forward to continuing to serve our community and region. Again, thank you for your support in making our work possible.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Managing Director.

Managing Director



*(Community members from all 8 Public Works partners gathered for a potluck and party in June. Photo by Lia Fakhouri)*



*(Emerald City "Learning Spree" participants practiced dance moves for the new musical numbers. Photo by Lia Fakhouri)*



*(Halloween costume party for the Ballard NW Senior Center music class. Photo by Lia Fakhouri)*