



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Seattle Repertory Theatre

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Organization's General Goals:
Founded in 1963, Seattle Rep collaborates with extraordinary artists to create productions and programs that reflect and elevate the diverse cultures, perspectives, and life experiences of the Pacific Northwest.

Date of Award:	Level:
2020 Q4	\$500 to \$2,500

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

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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December 13, 2021

Marilyn Sheldon
Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn:

On behalf of all of us at Seattle Rep, thank you for the Tulalip Tribe's support of our Public Works program. Seattle Rep's vision is theater at the heart of public life. Our Public Works program embodies this vision fully through creating theater of, by, and for the people of our region rooted in the values of equity, imagination, and joy. As one of our key supporters, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some additional details about the impact of your support!

Adapting our Public Works model to keep our participants safe and healthy during a global pandemic certainly stretched our imagination. In December 2020, we created a concert version of *Twelfth Night* which we recorded and streamed through Zoom. As public health guidance around COVID-19 began to change with widespread vaccine distribution in early 2021, we looked forward to the opportunity to welcome our Public Works community back to our theaters in person. Still, we couldn't be sure when we might be able to perform for live audiences again. We decided to proceed with a virtual event and set to work creating our first-ever Public Works film! Our production of *The Winter's Tale* will screen at the Cornish Playhouse on December 16-19 for in-person audiences of up to 3,000 and will also stream to up to 3,000 more households. Invitations were sent in November; we hope you can join us!

In October 2020, we resumed online classes with our partner organizations. Seattle Central College and Refugee Women's Alliance signed up for online workshop series through the fall. By the spring, our other six nonprofit partners (Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, Byrd Barr Place, Compass Housing Alliance's Renton Veterans Center, Jubilee Women's Center, Path with Art, and Sound Generations' Ballard NW Senior Center) signed up for online classes. We also added an "Advanced Acting" workshop with teaching artist Eric Ankrim, bringing out total number of spring workshops to 9. Overall, we delivered 82 classes to our Public Works community this year.



(The cast of *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Bronwen Houck.)

Our partner organizations were pleased with the success of our online class offerings. Staff at Refugee Women's Alliance noticed that participants from the Youth Job Readiness Training programs spoke up more frequently in their Public Works classes than in others, showing the impact that arts engagement can have even in virtual settings. Three family units at Renton Veterans' Center signed up for our workshops and

were eager to share how they'd been coping with the pandemic through acting and improv experiments. Shelley Douma, Theatre Professor at Seattle Central College, shared that she was impressed by the quality of students' final projects in our virtual puppetry workshop. Students embraced the virtual setting as an opportunity to work on more detailed design elements of their handcrafted puppets. While audio issues on Zoom made it hard for our Musical Theatre class at Sound Generations to sing together like they would in person, seniors were able to dance along to Zoom choreography, keeping them active and engaged online throughout the course.



(Dolores Maria Rossman and the cast of *The Winter's Tale* in rehearsal at Seattle Rep. Photo by Bronwen Houck)

Rehearsals commenced in July on site at Seattle Rep with numerous COVID safety protocols in place. Masks and hand sanitizer were ubiquitous in our rehearsal rooms, and everyone maintained social distancing when not onstage. Any actor who was going to be unmasked during filming was tested weekly by our COVID safety team, who also diligently checked participants in each day and maintained records for contact tracing. One actor noted that COVID safety had been their biggest concern about on-site rehearsals, but the extra care taken by our Public Works team made them feel at ease throughout the process and we are happy to report that we did not have any COVID infections during our rehearsal and filming process.

When classes wrapped up in April, we held auditions for our fall production, with callbacks in May. In June, we officially welcomed our 51-member community ensemble and 5 Equity Actors to join us in our most ambitious work of participatory theater to date. After a year of Zoom classes and rehearsals, our community members were eager to work with each other in person again. This felt especially important to the youngest and oldest members of our Public Works family, who have experienced greater isolation throughout the pandemic than most. One young person in our ensemble remarked that they were especially happy to “see [their] friends again” at in-person events.



(The cast of *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Bronwen Houck.)

Our theatrical film was adapted for the screen from Lear DeBessonnet and Todd Almond's musical version of *The Winter's Tale* by director Desdemona Chiang. Derek Edamura served as our director of photography, dedicating hours to planning and executing each shot. Staging a play for film was challenging, but creatively rewarding as we learned about the process of filmmaking alongside our Public Works family. Our biggest hurdle was capturing live sound, which requires more equipment on a film set than it does in a theatrical production. To ensure the best quality sound, we elected to hire additional contractors to create the final mix for the film. After seeing the ins-and-outs of a film set during Public Works, many of our participants told us that they now have a new appreciation for the work of making movies!

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Most importantly, Public Works empowers participants to make positive changes to their own lives by engaging them in a community based, artistic collaboration. The program creates opportunities for individuals to be out in the community, meet new people, exercise their creativity, and go beyond their comfort zone to do something they've never done before. Through this, participants build confidence, communication skills, and interpersonal skills – all of which have a vital impact on personal development. After participating in this year's Public Works production, one participant told us that learning acting techniques, choreography, and songs taught her that she was "capable of more than [she] thought." Another told us that she appreciated the opportunity to try acting in the first place. Time and time again, our Public Works participants told us that the program increased their self-confidence. For participants who so often find themselves excluded from civic life, Public Works empowers participants with a newfound appreciation for their own talents and potential.



(Alexandra Tavares, Varinique 'V' Davis, and the cast of *The Winter's Tale* in rehearsal. Photo by Bronwen Houck.)

As we emerge from the loss and loneliness of the pandemic, finding ways to promote equity, imagination, and joy are more important than ever. Our participants overwhelmingly reported feeling joy throughout the process, especially after so many months in isolation. "Everyone was genuinely joyful to be there connecting with others," one participant said. By uniting people from all walks of life in the work of imagination, we are building what another participant called "a way of thinking and behaving that makes a shared sense of community possible." Finally, participants experience equity through the care the Public Works team takes to ensure that everyone's needs are met. "Public Works always brings out the best in everyone," one woman from Renton Veterans Center told us. "I continue to be impressed by the amount of care given to each and every one of us."

Seattle Rep is deeply committed to Public Works, and our partner organizations are eager to collaborate with us. This program has brought much needed joy into the lives of everyone involved throughout the pandemic, and we look forward to continuing to gather together in the work of imagination with people from all walks of life in the years to come. We remain so grateful for the Tulalip Tribe's support for Public Works, and we look forward to carrying forward the lessons we have learned through all of Seattle Rep's work with the community. Again, thank you for your support. We could not have accomplished this critical work without you.

Most sincerely,

Braden Abraham
Artistic Director

Jeffrey Herrmann
Managing Director



(Eric Ankrim and Mike West in *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Bronwen Houck.)



(Brandon O'Neill and Alexandra Tavares in rehearsal for *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Bronwen Houck.)



(Brandon O'Neill, Alexandra Tavares, and the cast of *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Bronwen Houck.)