



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Totem Star

Address:

4408 Delridge Way SW #118
Seattle, WA 98106

Contact:

<https://totemstar.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Totem Star supports a diverse community of young recording artists learning music and life skills through mentorship and meaningful relationships. Our work in the studio and on the stage fosters growth in collaboration, leadership, and self-identity.

Date of Award:

2021 Q1

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Totem Star

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org

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

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

Totem Star (Q1 2021 14.3)

totemstar.org

2021 FINAL REPORT

Grantee: Totem Star

Our Mission

Totem Star supports a diverse community of young recording artists learning music and life skills through mentorship and meaningful relationships. Our work in the studio and on the stage fosters growth in collaboration, leadership, and self-identity.

Description of Totem Star Programs

The grant of [REDACTED] from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund helped Totem Star continue to amplify and empower the creative voices of aspiring young recording artists within our community while filling the Seattle arts education gap through support of Totem Star general operations.

Totem Star's unique continuum of service connects musical, technical, social, and professional learning to maximize impact. We provide access to arts experiences for youth in five core areas: The Studio, The Stage, The Story, Artist Booking, and the Totem Star Leadership Collective (TLC). The Studio allows youth to book studio sessions daily, where they work with Totem Star artist mentors to compose and record original songs. On The Stage, youth perform at showcases and open mics that they help plan, promote, and produce. The Story is a quarterly opportunity for youth to attend panels and connect with culturally relevant guest artists and music industry professionals. Through our Artist Booking program, young artists are given the opportunity to gain professional work experience as independent contractors while getting paid to perform in front of diverse audiences. The Totem Star Leadership Collective, our youth advisory board, meets monthly and makes recommendations on policies, improving programs, and more.

Community Impact

Since 2010 we have served over 4,800 Seattle-area youth. Totem Star predominantly serves BIPOC youth ages 14 to 25 years old from low-income communities with little or no access to arts learning opportunities in or out of school. In the last year Totem Star served 1,379 youth in all programs over 256 program days and 1,047 program hours. This includes 266 youth artists directly served and 1,113 youth in the audience at one of our 21 events. In total, Totem Star was able to reach an audience of 7,836 people of all backgrounds through in-person and online events.

Totem Star attracts youth from a diverse range of demographics who come from many different parts of the Seattle area such as South Seattle, Renton, Lynnwood, Everett, Kent, Federal Way, Tacoma, Marysville, and Olympia and are 38% Black, 29% White, 15% Latinx / Hispanic, 14% Asian, 2% Native American / Indigenous, 1% Native Hawaiian / Pasifika, and 1% Arab / Middle Eastern. Many of our youth are from the LGBTQ community, many struggle with depression, some struggle to maintain secure housing, and a handful have gang affiliations. Some of our youth are struggling with immigration issues, religious, racial, and ethnic discrimination, and navigating the legal system.

Cost to Participate

Totem Star youth programming remains the same cost as it did when Totem Star began in 2010, which is absolutely free to all youth participants.

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

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totemstar.org

New Programs or Initiatives

Beyond our core programming, youth are also able to participate in Lavender Sessions, Front Door Sessions, and Studio B Workshops. Lavender Sessions is a place for women and non-binary artists to gather, share music, and support one another. Front Door Sessions are professionally produced one-shot takes of our artists performing their latest singles at their front door, giving artists valuable insight into the music video production process as well as content to use in their career development. Studio B Workshops are led by local guest artists and industry professionals that empower young artists to learn more life and music skills such as business management, music licensing, and songwriting.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Totem Star temporarily closed the doors to our physical space on March 9, 2020 and switched to an exclusively online format. Thanks to the Islands Fund, we were able to continue to serve our young people in a safe remote virtual space. Using Zoom, we continued to hold one-on-one sessions (Remote Sessions) with youth artists for songwriting, beatmaking, music business and self-marketing help, and more. We hope to begin very limited in-person programming to allow young artists to begin to record again and build community. We will be following strict masking guidelines and restricting the number of artists to only one at a time.

We continue to book our youth artists for paid performance gigs with organizations like Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center, Seattle Art Museum, RVC, and City of Seattle to book youth for paid live and pre-recorded performances at virtual and live events. We were also able to partner with Seattle Public Schools to offer one-time music licenses for music created by Totem Star for their virtual events including the Naramore Art Show Award Celebration.





