Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization: Village Theatre

Everett Address: 2710 Wetmore Ave Everett, WA 98201

Issaquah Address: 303 Front St N Issaquah, WA 98027

Contact: (425) 257-8600 https://villagetheatre.org

Organization's General Goals:

Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education programs, serving young people, families, and schools.

Date of Award: 2019 Q3

Level: \$2,501 to \$5,000

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



8802 27th Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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Mainstage + New Works + Youth Education

ROBB HUNT Executive Producer

JERRY DIXON Artistic Director

August 25, 2020

Marilyn Sheldon Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund 8802 27th Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Dear Ms. Sheldon and the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Board,

Thank you so much for your support of Village Theatre's Youth Education programs this year. We are truly grateful for the generosity of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, which enables us to do so much for the youth in our community.

Of course, the coronavirus has had a huge impact on Village Theatre's programs and productions. Due to the government mandate regarding public gatherings, we were forced to cancel or postpone the remainder of our Mainstage productions, as well as several KIDSTAGE productions. However, we are pleased to report that our Youth Education staff and instructors pivoted quickly to provide spring classes and summer camps via Zoom, as well as facilitate a virtual Cabaret with our Summer Independent students.

Despite the challenges that the coronavirus has caused, we are pleased to report that funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund helped Village Theatre to accomplish many significant achievements over the past year, including:

- Produce a free, Sensory-Friendly Pied Piper performance of *Miss Nelson had a Field Day* for families of children with autism, neuro diversities or disabilities. Over the past year, we have taken very intentional steps to build our knowledge around sensory theatre and engagement, including consulting with other organizations doing sensory work in our region and nationwide, as well as specialized training, in order to learn how we can better serve this audience.
- Provide ten free in-school workshops in tandem with our Pied Piper productions to over 380 students in six high-need elementary schools, the majority of which have a large population of students of color.
- Collaborate with the City of Everett to co-host Wintertide, a free annual community event, on December 5, 2019 in the Wetmore Plaza, the Everett Performing Arts Center, and the Cope Gillette Theatre. The event features several activities for children and families to enjoy, including photos with Santa, hot cocoa and cookies, face-painting, art projects, and school choir performances. In addition, Village Theatre KIDSTAGE performers presented two free performances of *The Music Man KIDS* at the Cope Gillette Theatre for 217 patrons.

- Encourage creativity and collaboration for our students participating in Everett's Summer Independent production. When they learned that in-person performances would be impossible due to coronavirus, the cast and crew postponed their production and instead worked together to create a virtual Cabaret. All members of the core production team were paid a stipend for their work, and performed not only their normal duties but additional tasks, such as video and audio editing, in order to bring this project to fruition. The final product went live on Facebook and YouTube on July 31, 2020.
- Produce *In the Heights* in the fall, which we are proud to report was one of our most successful TeenSelect productions in Everett ever, with 1,620 patrons seeing one of the thirteen performances presented over three weekends. *In the Heights* was also significant because this was the first time the majority of a KIDSTAGE cast was comprised of students of color; 79% of the cast identified as a student of color, with 48% of the cast identifying as Latinx. In addition, the entire directing team was comprised of people of color.
- Assist students with the writing of *Out of Bounds*, an original musical created within the KIDSTAGE Originals program, where students are mentored by professional writing and music composition mentors as they write a brand-new musical from the ground up. *Out of Bounds* was written by three student writers, all who identify as women or non-binary, and was performed as a staged reading over one weekend of three performances. *Out of Bounds* tells the story of a woman, now 78, who went from being an artist to the wife to the head of the largest mass media company ever created.

Our efforts in equity, diversity and inclusion within Village Theatre and its youth education programming continues through the Bridge Program, formerly the Bridge Partnerships Initiative, which encompasses our EDI plan, programs that are tuition free, and scholarships. The Bridge Program has dramatically increased participation by students of color to 26%, including in leadership internship positions. In support of this initiative, all Village Theatre Youth Education staff have attended numerous trainings in cultural competency and systemic racism. In addition, there have been significant increases in the number of KIDSTAGE teachers, directors, and designers of color.

Until we are able to reopen for live in-person performances and classes again, Village Theatre is doing everything it can to ensure sustainability for the future. Our Youth Education program is the primary way that we are connecting with our community at this time, and we are continuing to offer interactive Zoom engagement and education to students as we move into fall. There are also more exciting virtual KIDSTAGE productions and projects underway.

We are so grateful for the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, which allows Village Theatre to continue to provide our Youth Education programs for the young people and families in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kati Nickerson Director of Youth Education & Community Outreach

Frank Stilwagner Director of Advancement

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