

Support for Arts, Culture, & Heritage in Washington County
Summary for Washington County Budget Committee
May 10, 2016

Background

During the FY15-16 budget proposal process, the Westside Cultural Alliance requested additional funding from Washington County. In response, the County Administrative Office initiated a professionally-facilitated process to discuss where a modest incremental investment might have the greatest impact. Three organizations that support arts, culture & heritage in Washington County participated in the facilitated process – Cultural Coalition of Washington County (CCWC), Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), and Westside Cultural Alliance (WCA).

Outcome

The group's conclusion was that additional resources would best be used to shore up infrastructure in the key areas of: increased communication and public awareness; increased provider support and leveraging of new funds; and engaging underserved populations in arts, culture and heritage.

Based on the group's recommendations and on collaborative funding proposals from RACC and Westside Cultural Alliance, **the County Administrative Office recommends the following in FY16-17:**

- Continue current support for the Cultural Coalition and RACC.
- Increase funding for the Westside Cultural Alliance by \$20,000 to a total of \$32,000.
- Continue to flow County funds to Westside Cultural Alliance through RACC to keep the administration of funds simple and maintain current lines of accountability. A \$20,000 increase for Westside Cultural Alliance will increase RACC's overall allocation from \$105,000 to \$125,000 (\$32,000 of which will flow to Westside Cultural Alliance).

The proposal from Westside Cultural Alliance includes a request to increase funding over the next several years from its current \$12,000 allocation to \$32,000 in FY16-17 (+\$20,000), \$42,000 in FY17-18 (+\$10,000), and \$52,000 in FY18-19 (+\$10,000).

The consultant's final report listed three priorities for the future:

- Consider additional planning activities to address how arts, culture and heritage activities can boost economic development and prosperity for Washington County.
- Seek to increase funding for arts, culture and heritage organizations and artists through new funding streams or leveraged funds.
- Expand the scope of the Cultural Coalition's planning process to a countywide comprehensive plan for arts, culture and heritage in Washington County. Current scope for the Cultural Coalition's plan is limited to Oregon Cultural Trust funds.