



## Talking Points

**“Doors Open will provide transformative, equitable access to science, heritage, and the arts, for every King County resident – emphasizing under-resourced communities. More than \$90 million a year will support arts, science, and heritage organizations and the many community programs they provide throughout the county.”**

### What it is:

- We are requesting the King County Council to vote in favor of the *Doors Open* bill to enact a 0.1% sales tax, totaling a penny for every \$10 spent. This would raise more than \$90 million each year and would be distributed through a grant pool administered by 4Culture, a trusted, well-organized funding agency with 45 years of experience.
- *Doors Open* is dedicated to geographic equity. By investing these funds throughout the county, we will support the communities and small businesses most hurt and isolated by the pandemic and its ongoing impacts.
- More than 500 science, heritage, and arts organizations will receive this funding, and every one of them have programs that reach out beyond their buildings and into communities throughout King County. Their partnerships are extensive, from social service providers to public schools, and the impact they make is life changing. They serve youth, seniors, homeless populations, victims of trauma, memory care patients, public schools students, and so many more.

### Why do we need it:

- The pandemic forced cuts and closures throughout the science, heritage, and arts sector and disproportionately impacted already-disadvantaged communities — low-income schools, communities of color, and people with disabilities. These essential funds will bolster these beleaguered organizations and communities they serve - offering structural stability and allowing them to expand their outreach and programs.
- Study after study shows strong links between science, heritage, and arts education and positive outcomes for young people, aging adults, and neighborhood vitality. These impacts range from mental health and self-esteem to overall school performance, improved graduation rates, greater civic participation, neighborhood cohesion, and pride.
- *Doors Open* funding will support public school students during a time when beloved art and music programs are being cut to balance budgets. 15% of *Doors Open* funding will be directed to public school students. This would mean a minimum of \$12 million dollars to fund school partnerships, with significant additional program funds available to provide field trips; before and after school programs; student transportation and admission costs; youth internships; free or reduced cost ticket programs; and more.

- Investing in arts, science, and heritage organizations has a direct return on investment for our local economy. Businesses rely on these organizations to drive tourism and revenue. The Arts & Culture sector represents 10.8% of the state's Gross Domestic Product, contributing \$72.8 billion to Washington's economy, and supporting nearly 190,000 jobs statewide. (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis – 2023)
- Washington is known for its “creative economy” – from sound designers to 3D animators. Making sure that children throughout the county receive exposure to science, heritage, and arts programming will feed that pipeline of inspired minds and produce an innovative workforce for our region.
- *Doors Open* will invest in local communities by providing funding for smaller, community-based organizations to bring people greater access to arts, science, and heritage in their hometowns. It's not always possible for schools in Black Diamond or Auburn to make field trips to Seattle. These funds will support organizations like SHADOW Lake Nature Preserve in Renton, or the Auburn Symphony Orchestra to provide science, heritage, and the arts in every district.
- With a modest investment of just \$40 a year for an average household, we can expand access to enriching and impactful science, heritage, and arts experiences. *Doors Open* will create healthier, more diverse communities, and a brighter future for King County.