Commission on Equity Amended* Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Monday, March 23, 2026	5:30 PM	Council Chambers and Online

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Land Acknowledgement**
   We, the City of Lacey, are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.
4. **Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes, and Consent Items**
   A. Approval of Amended Agenda
   B. Approval of February 23, 2026, meeting minutes
   C. *September ~~March~~ 22, 2026, DEIB Regional Notes
5. **Public Comment**
   Refer to the bottom of the agenda for instructions on how to provide public comment.
6. **Inspirational Item**
   A. Makieda Hart, Vice Chair
7. **Business Items**
   A. **2026-2028 Poet Laurate Application Review**
   Shanelle Pierce, Special Projects Administrator
   B. **Public Art Donation Policy Review**
   Shanelle Pierce, Special Projects Administrator
   C. **2026 Community and Cultural Grant Application Review**
   Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager
8. **Commissioner Reports**

A. **2026 Lacey Cultural Celebration Overview**
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

B. **Evergreen College Equity Symposium**
Raul Garza, Commissioner

C. **Thurston Forward: 2026 DEIB Summit Update**
Jon Hegwood, Commissioner
Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

9. Director Report

A. **Olympia Soroptimist Awardee Annie Clay**
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

B. **Women's Dignity School Request and Multicultural Women's Leadership Workshop**
Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

C. **2026 Lacey Youth Council Meeting Review**
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

10. Adjourn

Next Meetings and Upcoming Events

- **Commission on Equity Meeting** - April 27, 2026 - 5:30 p.m. at City Hall or remote
- **Commission on Equity Meeting** - June 1, 2026 - 5:30 p.m. at City Hall or remote

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Attendance and Public Comment

Attend Remote or In-Person

There are several ways to attend the Commission on Equity Meeting:

In-Person:	Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall 420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503
Zoom:	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ai-VXYtITvuVP7jNWAv9Pw
City Website:	https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/
YouTube:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEeEWXpIT08
Phone:	(888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 852 9439 1246)

Verbal Public Comment

Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments are welcome on matters connected to City business or specific agenda items.

Prior to starting your comments, please provide your:

a. Name
b. City of residence or connection to the City

c. Topic or subject matter of your comments

The opportunity for verbal public comment is available in-person or by Zoom:

In-Person:	Use the sign-up sheet located in the meeting room.
Zoom:	Preregister using the following Zoom link no later than two hours prior to the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ai-VXYtlTvuVP7jNWAv9Pw Instructions and access details will be provided once registration is complete.

Written Public Comment

Please email written public comments to coe@cityoflacey.org. The comment period will close two hours before the meeting time. Commissioners will receive all written public comments provided by this deadline. Comments may not be addressed during the meeting. All comments are part of the official record.

Commission on Equity Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2026 | Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Thelma Jackson, Chair; Makieda Hart, Vice Chair; Commissioners Clifton Brown, Annie Clay, Raul Garza, and Michelle Ewig, Lacey Youth Council Representative

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Commissioners Jon Hegwood and Kim Sauer

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager; and Brandy Legomina, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Jackson presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgement.

4. Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes, and Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of January 26, 2026, meeting minutes

Commissioner Clay moved to approve the agenda, previous meeting minutes, and consent agenda. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

6. Inspirational Item

A. Clifton Brown, Commissioner

DRAFT

Commissioner Brown recognized the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson and noted his lifelong work in the Civil Rights Movement.

7. Business Items

A. Lacey Youth Council Meeting

Lacey Youth Council

The Lacey Youth Council (LYC) delivered a presentation titled Lacey Through Our Eyes. The presentation provided an overview of the LYC and highlighted what makes life in Lacey positive for young people. The LYC offered ideas to strengthen the community and detailed equity experiences that are working well in Lacey.

The Commission and LYC participated in small group discussions designed to encourage dialogue and engagement around equity and youth perspectives.

Recessed and Reconvened

At 7:36 p.m., the Commission recessed for a 2-minute break. Chair Jackson reconvened the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

8. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Clay reported on the upcoming Lacey Museum History Talks! event about Chief Leschi, Governor Isaac Stevens, and the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854, on March 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at Lacey City Hall.

9. Director Report

A. 2026 Commission on Equity Work Plan Update

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong reported on Council's review of the draft Workplan. The draft Workplan will return for the Commission's review at a future date. Discussion ensued.

B. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Summit Update

Veronica Hand, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

Hand shared planning updates for the 2026 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Thurston Forward Summit, scheduled for May 1–2, 2026, at the South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey Campus.

C. Night Market Event Update

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

DRAFT

Kelley-Fong reported on the 2026 Lacey Night Market, which will take place every other Friday from April 3 through October 30, 2026, at the Lacey Depot Park.

Additional Reports
Kelley-Fong reported on the upcoming Lacey Cultural Celebration, scheduled for March 7, 2026, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at St. Martin's University.

Hand reported that members of the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board may assist with the review process for the Community Cultural Event Grant Program.

10. Adjourn

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

DRAFT

Regional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Advisory Board Meeting Notes

09.22.2025
02.05.2026

A. Vision Alignment: What common goals do we share across our advisory boards?

- Collaborate – With quarterly or biannual meetings
- Strength – Remain strong moving forward
- Justice – Focus on justice
- Recruitment and Participation of committee members
- Clearly defined role for committee: "What is your power?"
- Increased visibility in the community of committee/committee work
- Setting the expectation of member commitment/responsibility
- Make Thurston County a better place to live
- Remove silos
- Build resilience
- Bring people together to share strategies and strengthen relationships – collaboration!
- Servant leadership
- Help define DEIB to the community
- Maintain relationships with elected officials
- Create clear goals, objectives, and strategies
- Help empower the community
- Discern, share, and use best practices
- Communicate and let people know how to get involved
- Get more people involved
- Ability to make a change or impact
- Improving / Addressing health disparities, racism is a health crisis
- Environmental justice
- Recognizing that there are challenges in Thurston County

1. **B. Vision Alignment: What common challenges do we share across our advisory boards?**
    - Direction – Share the same direction
    - Support – Gain support from leaders
    - Uncertain times – Recognition of difficult equity work, DEIB is under attack
    - Maintain engagement with members and the community
    - Economic turmoil
    - Existing hurdles to getting buy-in from stakeholders and the community
    - How will the attack on DEIB affect funding?

- People feel unheard
- Limited resources, we don't need to recreate the wheel
- Challenge of communicating out to the community and getting information back from the community
- Turning good conversation in to actionable items
- Getting people to have courageous conversations, get people to engage
- Get more people involved
- Having common milestones on work progress
- Reimbursable funds, revolving loan fund

2. **Opportunities: Where do you see opportunities for collaboration for projects, programs, or initiatives?**
   - Quarterly meetings
   - Learn from other agencies; Share data and information
   - Meet more consistently and share information (staff or chairs)
   - Equity Heat Map – Broadened across Thurston County
   - Hold more community engagement sessions
   - Hold regional events / Combine efforts
   - Involve students at local universities, seniors, and businesses
   - Expanded youth engagement and partnerships; Provide mentorship for youth
   - Modernizing outreach and using each other as a resource
   - Reaching unrepresented groups
   - Involve students at local universities, seniors, and businesses
   - Help each other to live stream and improve accessibility
   - Learn to navigate the mission
   - Shared calendar

3. **Knowledge Sharing: How can we better share information, insights, or lessons learned across advisory boards or organizations?**
   - Network
   - Regular joint meetings; Rotate jurisdictions for hosting responsibility
   - Opportunity for chairs of different cities to meet more frequently (like the Mayor's Forum)
   - Resource sharing; Create a joint newsletter in multiple languages; Highlight success stories
   - Create action-focused assignments
   - Share outreach for events and initiatives across jurisdictions
   - Small projects that everyone can contribute to
   - Courageous conversations (health disparities, foster care, legal system, etc.)
   - Choose a topic and address the root cause and inequities
   - Collaborate on cultural events, farmers market, night market, South Sound BIPOC, Black Homes Initiative

4. **Next Steps: What small, practical steps would you be interested in seeing us take in the next 6 months to a year?**
    - Schedule next regional meetings
    - Prioritize the priorities
    - Create information channels
    - Have more city leaders at meetings
    - Share results / get the information out
    - Meet with each other / not a quorum but across agencies
    - Share failures as well as successes

Potential Projects:

- Continue regional meetings
- Continue DEIB Regional Summit – Thurston Forward
- Explore Information Sharing and Communication Possibilities
    - Community Connectivity Tool Development
    - Joint engagement and outreach
    - Potential Digital Newsletter / Other Communication Tool
    - Share data/policy work
    - Explore what this looks like for staff liaisons
    - More conversations in person
- Safety in doing this work
- Advisory boards bring one topic and learn about it with the group
- Explore regional projects: ex Equity Map
- Others?

Next Potential Meeting: September 2026

STAFF REPORT

Commission on Equity
March 23, 2026

Subject:	2026-28 Poet Laureate
To:	Commission on Equity
Prepared by:	Shanelle Pierce, Special Projects Administrator SP
Department Director:	Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager SKF
Reviewed By:	Not Applicable
Final Review:	Same as Department Director

Purpose: Action Item

Recommendation: Motion to Approve recommending the candidate's appointment as Poet Laureate to the City Council.

Brief: The Poet Laureate Program recognizes an outstanding local poet as a volunteer ambassador for poetry, literature, and the arts. The current Poet Laureate's term is ending, and the City is accepting applications for the 2026-28 period. Candidates must be City residents for at least a year, at least 18 years old, have a history of published or performed poetry, and demonstrate community engagement and arts advocacy. The application period ran from January 8 to March 6, 2026, and one application was received. A review panel will assess the submission and may recommend a candidate for appointment to the City Council.

Alternatives:

1. Recommend a candidate, with modifications, for appointment.
2. Recommend reopening the application process to expand the candidate pool.
3. Recommend extending the incumbent's term by two years.
4. Suggest other options not listed above.

Advisory Board Recommendation(s):

Fiscal Impact:

Budgeted Item: Yes

Amount: $5,500

Project Code: PL2628

Funding Source: 301-0101-514.60-02 – Public Art; 001-0302-511.49-20 - Stipend

Attachments:

1. 2026-28 Poet Laureate application materials

Policy or Legal Alignment:

1. Poet Laureate Program Policy

Background: The Poet Laureate Program recognizes an outstanding local poet who serves as a volunteer ambassador for poetry, literature, and the arts. The current Poet Laureate's term is ending, and the City is searching for a new Poet Laureate. The appointed Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term. To qualify, applicants must be residents of the City for at least one year, be at least 18 years old, and have a record of published or performed poetry. They should also demonstrate a commitment to community involvement, education, and arts equity, and include examples of their passion for poetry and the arts. The City accepted applications from January 8 to March 6, 2026.

The City received one application. The applicant has been a resident of Lacey for 9 years, is over 18, and has submitted a complete packet that answers all questions and includes a resume, sample poems, and a proposed budget.

Per policy, if there is no arts committee, an Advisory Board will review the applications. The review panel includes the Commission on Equity, the current Poet Laureate, representatives from local educational institutions, the Park, Culture, and Recreation Board, and the Library Board. They will meet on March 23, 2026, to evaluate the submission and may provide a recommendation. The recommendation will consider application responses, resumes, poetry samples, budgets, artistic quality, community involvement, proposed poetry programs, and other relevant factors.

The panel can then suggest a candidate to the City Council, which has the authority to appoint the Poet Laureate at its discretion.

2026 Poet Laureate Application

Program Term	2026-2028
First Name	Sonya
Last Name	Wohletz
Phone Number	+1 (505) 690-3385
Email Address	sonyawohletz@gmail.com
Length of residency (Years)	9
I am over the age of 18	Yes
1. Why are you passionate about poetry?	Poetry came to me as a natural method of expression. As a young child, I often was lost in daydreams, envisioning far-away lands and magical creatures. These found their way into some of my first writings, which were very poetic in nature. I also internally spoke in poetic forms as a sort of protective process—like reciting a mantra—to help me understand the world around me and locate myself as a participant in that world, which so often confounded me (and still does to this day). This manner of connecting to the world helped me to feel comfort in the world—in naming the trees, animals, rocks, and stories that we shared, I developed a strong connection to place and memory through language. Like N. Scott Momaday expressed, I came to understand myself through delight in dreaming and observation: "I am the cold of dawn/I am the roaring of the rain/I am the glitter on the crust of the snow/I am the long track of the moon in a lake/I am a flame of four colors.../I am the whole dream of these things." (Delight Song of Tsoai-Talee, N. Scott Momaday) Later, I became deeply involved in academics and became convinced that for any of my ideas to take the shape of meaning, they needed to be expressed in academic

language. However, something within me yearned for a more free and creative expression to uncover new perspectives—my own, as well as that of unknown origin—that seemed to come to me as if from nowhere.

Poetry is language dreaming itself into being. Humans have and continue to rely on the poetic urge as a means of survival. With the first signs of "humanness" in the archaeological record are signs of poetic thinking—flowers at burial sites, handprints on cave walls, depictions of the creation of the world—all of these physical symbols that have persisted through time are indicative of a consciousness that understood relations between things—the natural world, living beings—in a poetic manner. This creative urge continues to develop through human histories and culture. Poetry is evident in the rituals, everyday conversations, and quiet moments of our lives. Every time we read or create a poem, we are participating in our language, in our humanity.

Poetry can be so many things—it can be a prayer, a ritual, a marking of time, a humorous impression, an artform, a method of survival, or a veritable junk drawer of random images and ideas that delight. The work of poetry carries with it the potential for change, transformation, and transcendence of our individual selfhood. In her lecture on lyrical poetry, Jane Hirshfield states, "the work of lyric is the act of transformation…over the course of its recitation we are left changed…they allow us to bear our feelings and our lives and contain the technology to create shift and liberation."

Poetry also celebrates the specific languages, customs, and shared memories of a people and place. My first exposure to the idea of poetry as an essential activity occurred during my time living in various parts of Latin America, where poetry is highly venerated as an artform and as an expression of community. I am a multi-lingual writer, and I love to experience poetry in other languages—both languages that I understand as well as those that I don't understand. For me, poetry is as much about the creative aspect as well as the stillness and openness that occur

when we listen to poetry, hear the voice of that speaker, and become a part of their poem. Poetry becomes a gift that we give to each other, share in, cherish, respect, and carry forward with a certain faith. As Poet Laureate, I will celebrate the spirit of belonging and sharing that have shaped poetry as an artform.

2. How would you promote poetry in the City?

As Poet Laureate of the City of Lacey, I would promote poetry as an artform that is accessible to all individuals, groups, regardless of their background, immigration status, language, ability, or economic situation. I envision poetry as both a very personal form of expression as well as a civic activity that carries within its DNA the values, dreams, and goals of communities. Through my community engagement plan and the poetry events, I hope to carefully craft spaces in which all feel welcome and develop an appreciation for language and poetry in all its various forms.

I would also promote the idea of poetry as a practice in which anyone, anywhere can partake. Sometimes, it seems like poetry is perceived as an elevated art form that is only accessible to those of wealth and leisure, or only to the highly educated. However, I want to emphasize that each human and community is a part of poetry and contributes to poetry through their existence and participation in language and the world of symbolic communication. That this symbolic communication is essential to human experience, it can be healing to acknowledge the power of words and how language shapes our relationships, sense of self, belonging, and helps us to honor, mourn, celebrate, and thrive as members of a community.

One of the projects that I hope to develop is a “Letters to my Hometown,” which will bring together written letters (or drawings, or multimedia representations) from individuals to share their thoughts on what it means to call Lacey home, and if Lacey is part of a longer ancestral or migratory story, to invite meditations on that as well. These may take the form of anecdotes, stories, written letters, lyrics, or other forms which I will edit and compile to share at the close of my tenure.
This project will also promote poetry as a practice of

constant learning—we are always apprentices as poets, constantly learning how to hear, feel, or think differently, or shift the vision to locate truth in small details and textures. I therefore propose to perform outreach to local educational institutions to share poetry and also to recruit interested students in assisting with editing, design, and layout of the final "Letters to My Hometown" Project.

The aim will also be to curate a digital presence with these community creations. By creating this digital, physical, and linguistic space in which to allow the poetry of Lacey residents to breathe, grow, and inspire, my hope is that anyone who reads it, in turn, shares in the poetic reflection of what it means to call this place home, share their own story, and weave it into the story of our community. As former US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo writes, we are "a field of stories, each story intimately interconnected."

Another way that I will visibilize poetry is through identifying key partnerships with community organizations and residents who want to connect over poetry. This could include partnerships with local libraries to promote readings of local poets, reaching out to the Olympia Poet Laureate or Olympia Poetry Network, and other local poetry enthusiasts.

As with the past City of Lacey Poet Laureate, Cynthia Pratt, I will share original poems at public events and will ask to have them recorded or published to be shared on the City's Parks and Recreation webpage and through social media outlets, if possible. I will happily support any other City efforts or events and welcome the opportunity to share poems (both mine and others') in acts of commemoration, celebration, or ceremony.

As Poet Laureate of the City of Lacey, I will work closely with community partners to strengthen the role of arts in general and poetry in particular as an important aspect of our shared values. I envision the role of the Poet Laureate as one of service and stewardship for the many perspectives, languages, and shared visions and hopes to

promote healthy civic engagement and a sense of belonging for all who call Lacey home.

3. How would you engage the community?

I envision community engagement as a partnership with the people of Lacey to extend poetry and interactive experiences as part of a civic process that seeks to uplift diverse voices and provide a space—both physical, linguistic, and imaginative—in which all participants contribute their perspectives. I will seek alignment in my goals, objectives, and methods of with the City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan to "remove barriers to participation while providing facilities, programs, and events that strengthen community bonds, encourage social engagement, and enhance the city's overall livability" (City of Lacey Comprehensive 2025 Plan Update—Envision Lacey, 39).

As poet laureate of the City of Lacey, I will engage the community through a variety of methods to increase access to poetry across multiple settings, including in public spaces, libraries, at City Council meetings, and online. I will focus on engaging groups and individuals from a broad array of backgrounds and experiences, including outreach and communications about poetry offerings in English and Spanish.

As a first step towards my efforts, I will develop an engagement and communications plan, inviting input from City Council members, or from members of the City of Lacey Arts Commission (if such an entity exists at the time of my appointment), with a preliminary plan and timeline to:

1. Create a survey to share with key community partners—schools and educational institutions, libraries, city commissioners, and youth council to ascertain key areas of engagement, needs for accommodations to participate, and opportunities to provide multi-lingual engagement;

2. Identify opportunities for partnership with community-based organizations and individuals;

	3. Develop a schedule for planned workshops and community events; and 4. Solidify key dates in which I, as Poet Laureate of the City of Lacey, will share poetry readings in public-facing events, including the six (6) annual required readings, including for National Poetry Month (April); 5. Create press releases and announcements to be shared out through City of Lacey listservs and other relevant channels to promote upcoming events; and 6. Perform outreach to local schools and educational institutions to recruit up to two (2) student interns to assist with the editing, design, layout, and final publication of one poetry project and to assist with curating a digital space/presence for this project. These efforts will provide opportunities for reflection, engagement, and dialogue to ensure that my efforts to weave poetry into various contexts are considerate of multiple audiences and needs. Among the activities I plan to enact as methods of engagement include workshops (one virtual and one in person per year), online engagement through social media and website announcements, and by weaving poetry into civic spaces—including public meetings, public spaces, and educational spaces in accordance with my engagement plan.
4. How would you track the impact of your programming?	In order to illuminate the impact of my engagement with the public through the poet laureate program, I will design tools to ascertain interest in and engagement with poetic themes. I propose the following methods to both track the impact and incorporate those results and feedback into a process of dialogue to further develop my efforts as Poet Laureate: 1. Posts on social media—Instagram, X, and Facebook with City of Olympia, can track metrics—total number of impressions, clicks, and likes; 2. Poetry events—For each poetry event (both the online

	and in-person workshops), I will disseminate satisfaction surveys to include participant demographic information, ratings of how effective the event was in helping participants explore their own connection to poetry; 3. Strategic community engagement—discussion with community partners to ascertain feedback of where and how poetry can support ongoing efforts with the City of Lacey strategic plan; 4. Reflection sessions with interested City of Lacey and community partners and annual report—I will propose two reflection sessions to include members of the City of Lacey or arts council (if such a council exists at the time of my appointment) to reflect on the data and results from my engagement efforts and determine what opportunities, if any, exist for learning, further outreach to historically underserved communities, quality improvement, or incorporating poetry in other civic spaces. I propose one reflection session at the end of the first year of my term to include a written report based on the results as well as a final reflection session to include a written report to share out the results of my poetry engagement activities as the Poet Laureate of the City of Lacey. This process and resulting annual reports will also fulfill one of the required duties of the City of Lacey Poet Laureate.
5. Please share your proposals for two community-based poetry programs.	As Poet Laureate of the City of Lacey, I will propose at least 2 community-based programs during the course of my tenure, with the plan to implement at least one (1) for each year in accordance with the requirements of the position. My initial proposals for community-based programming include: 1. In-person poetry workshop: I will invite a guest poet (or two) to work together to conduct an in-person workshop at Timberland Library (Lacey) around exploring the language of grief, healing, and resilience. In particular, I will conduct outreach to senior care centers, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healing spaces to invite individuals to participate in the event. Poetry can be a way to process grief, trauma, and a way to open the door to healing.

	Sharing poetry in the context of healing and resiliency provides community support for participants and invites open reflection and sharing on topics that affect us all, but which are difficult to name. As part of the workshop, we will explore some poems created by individuals as an expression of their healing and resilience: Maya Angelou, Jane Hirshfield, Sharon Olds, and Robert Lowell, among others, may serve as helpful examples to demonstrate the power of poetry as a means of exploring resilience and healing. 2. Letters to my hometown: I will develop a project to invite individuals from around Lacey to participate in online workshop(s) to develop letters and poems dedicated to the idea of "home"—including Lacey in particular, while also inviting individuals to pay homage to the places from which they have come and how that ties into their idea of community. My goal with this project is to acknowledge the vibrant, multi-cultural community that is Lacey and to acknowledge the migratory stories that are a part of the story of this place. I envision this project to also allow for multi-lingual writing. I will conduct outreach to multiple community-based organizations, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and other community members to invite their participation in online workshop(s) to develop their work. This project will culminate in a curated collection of letters from participants to be distributed at an end-of-term event to celebrate the people of Lacey. As part of this project, I will also aim to recruit up to two (2) student interns to assist with the editing, layout, and design of the final publication. We will also aim to create an online version that can be hosted with the City of Lacey website for public viewing and access.
6. Proposed budget for all Poet Laureate activities.	1. Survey Monkey (or similar digital survey software/tool): In order to engage the community and invite feedback on priorities, partnership development, and thematic interests, I will develop a survey to be distributed early on in my tenure to invite feedback from a broad audience in the City of Lacey. I will utilize these results to help inform and adjust my workplan to better meet the needs of the residents. In order to conduct this work, I will require the

use of some digital software or tool that can be easily adapted and distributed via listservs and in other digital environments. Survey Monkey is one of the tools I am more familiar with and carries a cost of about $30 per month. However, if the City has its own digital tools that I am able to access/utilize, I am happy to do so. (Estimated $360 total per year).

2. Rental Space: My tentative plan is to hold an in-person writing workshop around healing/resilience and poetry at the Lacey Timberland Library. My understanding is that this does not carry a cost, but should that change or should I need to seek another venue, I will work with the City of Lacey to best determine approaches in line with budget requirements. (Estimated $0 total per year).

3. Honorarium for Guest Poet (s): I propose to contract with a Guest Poet(s) (to be determined based on thematic interests/language and accessibility/other considerations) to help co-host an in-person workshop about healing and resiliency. The honorarium is subject to change based on City budgetary requirements/restrictions, where applicable. (Estimated $2,000 total per year).

4. Printing: In order to promote poetry events and readings, I will print flyers to distribute at libraries, schools, and other community settings. I will also print any materials needed for in-person workshops, readings, and will also print copies of the “Letters to My Hometown” project to distribute among participants and audiences once the project has concluded. (Estimated $450 total per year).

5. Refreshments: For any in-person workshops, I would like to offer guests a light refreshment, consisting of beverages (Tea, juice, water, coffee, etc.) as well as some light snacks (pastries, pre-packaged snacks, etc.) to help make the atmosphere more inviting or comfortable. The cost should not exceed $5 per person. (Estimated $150 total per year).

6. Paper plates, cutlery, napkins, etc.: These will be provided for any refreshments served at in-person workshops. (Estimated $25 total per year).

7. Office supplies: I will bring some extra pens, notebooks, and other general writing supplies to any in-person events in case guests forgot theirs or need extra. (Estimated $25 total per year).

8. Honoraria for student interns: As part of the “Letters to My Hometown” project, I will aim to recruit up to two (2) student interns from the area to assist with the editing, layout, and design of any final printed/digital document. I will reach out to local community colleges as a first step to see if there are any interested participants. The proposed honorarium of $500 each will support their participation in the work. (Estimated $1,000 per year).

9. Budget for any website costs: As part of my poetry projects, including the “Letters to My Hometown,” as well as to promote other local poets/events, I will work with the City of Lacey and student interns to help curate a digital space online to present the work and invite online engagement. Having some of the work available for engagement online will increase access to poetry through the community and enable individuals who cannot attend in-person events a chance to interact with and appreciate poetry. (Estimated $900 per year)

Total estimated annual budget: $5,000

Please see attached budget to include a table indicating cost categories, calculations, and justifications for each budget item.

Application Acknowledgement	☑
Policy	☑
Signature	Sonya Wohletz
Submission Date	02/05/26 9:57 AM

SONYA WOHLETZ

WRITER AND POET, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALIST, RESEARCHER

Writer and poet with a passion for culture, arts, history, and behavioral health

CONTACT INFO

505.690.3385
sonyawohletz@gmail.com
Lacey, WA

EXPERIENCE

FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS PROGRAM SPECIALIST
Washington State Health Care Authority
July 2024-Present

Supports the First Episode Psychosis Initiative in Washington State through coordinated specialty care treatment programs, public education, and peer support for individuals and their loved ones experiencing symptoms of early psychosis.

SYSTEM OF CARE PROJECT DIRECTOR | SPECIALIST
Washington State Health Care Authority
April 2021-July 2024

Developed and managed a large, statewide, grant-funded project to develop mobile response and stabilization services for young people and families experiencing behavioral health challenges; developed an anti-stigma campaign for youth mental health.

GRANT WRITER
Cascade Community Healthcare, Hola Cultura, Housing Hope, contract
September 2019-present

I have written State, Federal, and private foundation grants for community-based organizations and have consulted individually on grant projects with organizations and individuals focused on uplifting youth, bilingual literary programs, and the arts.

RESEARCHER AND INSTRUCTOR
Tulane University
August 2011-February 2017

As a graduate student at Tulane University, I developed research on colonial Latin American Art and instructed courses on art history and Latin American Studies. I was awarded a Tinker Foundation Grant, Fulbright-Hayes Award, and FLAS fellowship to conduct my research in Ecuador.

INSTRUCTOR AND ACADEMIC COUNSELOR
Notre Dame Seminary
August 2012-December 2015

As an instructor of philosophical writing and English as a Second Language at Notre Dame, I worked individually and in class-based settings with international students studying in towards a Bachelor's or Master's degree.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
"The Foundry", Blue Unicorn Literary Journal 2025
"Colostrum", Thimble Literary Magazine 2025
"Easyboned", The Orange Rose 2025
"Promise: Mexico City, 2015", Roanoke Literary Magazine 2021
"Swallow", Trace Fossils 2021
"Olla", Revolute Magazine 2021
"Nadie se pregunta de donde viene la luna", Latin American Literary Magazine 2018

POETRY COLLECTIONS
Forthcoming: *+Milklings+,* South Broadway Press, Spring 2026
Bir Sıra Sonra/One Row After, First Matter Press, 2022
Two-time Pushcart Prize Nominee
Sally Albiso Prize Honorable Mention, 2025

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE
Copyeditor, Postcolonial Text, 2017-present
Guest Editor, First Matter Press, 2022-present

EDUCATION

M.A. ART HISTORY
Tulane University
August 2011-March 2014
Specialized in colonial Latin American art

SKILLS

- Writing
- Research
- Teaching
- Translation: Fluent in English and Spanish, reading ability in Portuguese, Italian, intermediate Turkish

City of Lacey Poet Laureate Annual Proposed Budget (FY26)

ITEM/EXPENSE	COST PER UNIT	TOTAL COST	JUSTIFICATION
SURVEY MONKEY	$30 per month x 12 months	$360	I will create online surveys as part of my community engagement and evaluation process
RENTAL SPACE	$0	$0	Lacey Timberland Library allows rental for meeting space
GUEST POET(S) FOR WORKSHOP HONORARIUM	$1,000 x 2	$2,000	I will invite one or two guest poet(s) to help lead a workshop on resilience, healing, and poetry
PRINTING	$0.30 per color sheet x 1,500	$450	Printing to advertise upcoming events as well a printing for any materials for workshops, and final printing cost for "Letters to my hometown" project
REFRESHMENTS FOR IN-PERSON WORKSHOP	$5 per participant x 30	$150	For the in-person workshop, I will provide light snacks and refreshments to guests to help them feel comfortable.
PAPER PLATES, NAPKINS, CUPS	$25	$25	I will use some paper plates, napkins, and cups to help serve refreshments at the in-person workshop
OFFICE SUPPLIES (PENS, NOTEBOOKS, WHITEBOARD MARKERS)	$25	$25	For the in-person workshop, I will provide some notebooks and pens and other basic materials to help individuals engage in the writing process if they do not bring their own materials.
STUDENT INTERN HONORARIUM	$500 x 2	$1,000	I will recruit up to 2 student interns from the area to assist with editing and designing the "Letters to my hometown" project
WEBSITE COSTS	$900	$900	

Total proposed Budget for Year 1 (FY2026) $5,000

1. **Survey Monkey (or similar digital survey software/tool):** In order to engage the community and invite feedback on priorities, partnership development, and thematic interests, I will develop a survey to be distributed early on in my tenure to invite

feedback from a broad audience in the City of Lacey. I will utilize these results to help inform and adjust my workplan to better meet the needs of the residents. In order to conduct this work, I will require the use of some digital software or tool that can be easily adapted and distributed via listservs and in other digital environments. Survey Monkey is one of the tools I am more familiar with, and carries a cost of about $30 per month. However, if the City has its own digital tools that I am able to access/utilize, I am happy to do so. (Estimated $360 total per year).

2. **Rental Space:** My tentative plan is to hold an in-person writing workshop around healing/resilience and poetry at the Lacey Timberland Library. My understanding is that this does not carry a cost, but should that change or should I need to seek another venue, I will work with the City of Lacey to best determine approaches in line with budget requirements. (Estimated $0 total per year).
3. **Honorarium for Guest Poet (s):** I propose to contract with a Guest Poet(s) (to be determined based on thematic interests/language and accessibility/other considerations) to help co-host an in-person workshop about healing and resiliency. The honorarium is subject to change based on City budgetary requirements/restrictions, where applicable. (Estimated $2,000 total per year).
4. **Printing:** In order to promote poetry events and readings, I will print flyers to distribute at libraries, schools, and other community settings. I will also print any materials needed for in-person workshops, readings, and will also print copies of the "Letters to My Hometown" project to distribute among participants and audiences once the project has concluded. (Estimated $450 total per year).
5. **Refreshments:** For any in-person workshops, I would like to offer guests a light refreshment, consisting of beverages (Tea, juice, water, coffee, etc.) as well as some light snacks (pastries, pre-packaged snacks, etc.) to help make the atmosphere more inviting or comfortable. The cost should not exceed $5 per person. (Estimated $150 total per year).
6. **Paper plates, cutlery, napkins, etc.:** These will be provided for any refreshments served at in-person workshops. (Estimated $25 total per year).
7. **Office supplies:** I will bring some extra pens, notebooks, and other general writing supplies to any in-person events in case guests forgot theirs or need extra. (Estimated $25 total per year).
8. **Honoraria for student interns:** As part of the "Letters to My Hometown" project, I will aim to recruit up to two (2) student interns from the area to assist with the editing, layout, and design of any final printed/digital document. I will reach out to

local community colleges as a first step to see if there are any interested participants. The proposed honorarium of $500 each will support their participation in the work. (Estimated $1,000 per year).

9. **Budget for any website costs:** As part of my poetry projects, including the "Letters to My Hometown," as well as to promote other local poets/events, I will work with the City of Lacey and student interns to help curate a digital space online to present the work and invite online engagement. Having some of the work available for engagement online will increase access to poetry through the community and enable individuals who cannot attend in-person events a chance to interact with and appreciate poetry. (Estimated $900 per year)

Total estimated annual budget: $5,000

Five Poems by Sonya Wohletz

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Colostrum

Originally published by Thimble Literary Magazine, 2025: Colostrum

Whatever they would have you believe,
the kept gods and
their powdery vocabularies,
stewing in commotions of unclear motive;

I am the first substance, the first miracle.

Not the skin on skin, the nurses hovering,
slapping, scraping, encasing.
Not the chemicals, slick and eager.
Not the satellite
of the doctor who retrieves his face
from the birth canal
and turns away.

Not even the mother, cloven and delicate;
nor the mouth's motions, which you
essayed so assiduously
those months in the floating realm.

Not the breath—
that which you already claimed as your own.

Rather, I arrive as your first visitor.
And like an apparition I swim briefly in your life,
my remedy proffered as opportunity:
take me in or don't.

While you dreamed it all—
I took up temporary
shelter in the host, like a *worme*
or an uncorked champagne.

I throat the pleasure of the toast,
for to oil the gravity
of your passage. To bless your necessity,
I fling myself through
the pleading innocence of your
tongue. I ply past the trap door
to your tiny, pea-sized stomach.

Thimble-cupped,
copper-balmed, syrupy

and simple. I seed
the notion of survival into form.

In the first days you require
so little of me.
And in return, I relinquish
myself fully for you, in minute
slips and dribbles,
I give myself over
and then I vanish.

For you, who won't remember my taste.
For you, who hold the missiles and the missives
whole within your own mouth
and sink the weight of oceans in your refuse.

And yet
I like to think of it like this—
You slip me free of the last generation.
And thus I don't concentrate my power in endings—

I, the original elixir,
sating all who permit my liminal solitudes.

Memorial (For Martha)

Originally published in Flat Ink, 2025: Memorial (For Martha)

1.
The idea of heaven, like the real thing—
being only *a posteriori*—

or perhaps described best in the
bureaucratic terms, *after the fact*,
like a government contract,
slow to execute, and minimal only
in its remunerative capacity.

A shining, slippery
thing with an inflated
sense of its own importance—
like the white of a blank page,
or the eyes rolled back in the head;
an aberrant, liminal state,
promising equally, and without prejudice:
ecstasy, horror,
or despondency.

Or, as in the case of the contract:
something whose terms can easily be redrawn,
redirected according to whim.

2.
When you were an infant, if you gazed up
you didn't see the sky.
Nor did you see the wings of the purported
angels swan diving to join you in your pram—
like virgins on the funeral pyre
of a great monarch.

All you saw was nothing, which was the same
as seeing everything. From within
that fluent perspective,
the only thought that occurred
(if what babies do can be equated to thinking):
my mother is not here,
therefore, I am not here.

And then maybe she'd lean forward,
and you'd catch a glimpse of her flared nostrils
or the fleshy chin, trembling.

Maybe a voice would accompany the vision—

yet, the matriarchal totems
seemingly favor a mute presence.

3.
Later I am thinking about this mutable relationship;
1 mother=2 grandmothers;
Naturally there is tension.

4.
The last time
my father took me to his childhood home
was when his mother died.

Her memorial service took place in July.

One day during our visit, my father took me and my cousins
to Mount Lassen—his idea of heaven, I suppose.

Despite the summer season and the
sticky heat below in the Sacramento River valley,
marbled snowbanks still loomed fifty feet above the road.
We slid down them on our buttocks,
my cousins and I, smiling.

And yet all I felt
was this unpleasant, heavy,
nearly indescribable sensation—
the body's attachments—

slow trundle of the pelvis
loose with hormones,
the gravity of its architraves,
its gothic vaults,
jeweled organ contained within,
its irresistible promise of *lux nova*,
white light shining behind
something swollen and blood-wired.

5.
During that same visit,
I heard my grandmother's voice
speaking to me one morning;
perhaps a durable sort
of music superimposed itself,
stung through with early apricots,
pomegranates, and the faint
rust of my grandfather's
long-abandoned farm tools.

6.
Now, fifteen years later,
the dogwood, the neon green
tips of the Douglas fir, like wardens,
beckon to me from beyond the threshold.

Is it the sky that wants me
or just my question, which points to nothing
beside itself?

7.
When my grandmother observed
the mountain beyond the orchards
stretching the eye to its dry margins,
perhaps she perceived its brilliance, its beauty;
perhaps both of which she considered no less than distraction.

My father perhaps perceived a memory of his own fear,
which in this case stands in for temptation,
the force of his own ambition.

When I see the mountain, I recognize
a faint shape carving into the sky,
but it is not a part of a face that
I've been taught to recognize.

(And who among the family,
upon seeing its silhouette,
conjured the memory of its mud pots,
the far-yellow stink of sulphur, and felt,
if only momentarily, blessed by their own life?)

8.
My grandmother's voice
arrived one long-ago
summer morning,
and has not returned to me since.

9.
Now, the approaching season calls out,
offers an alternative to assigning
those familiar, stable meanings:

You can pick the fallen fruit,
the unripe walnuts,
toxic in their green skins, or
you can let your hands fall to the side;
you can click the button,
you can close the need for this

labor of memory.

Then, you may lie
here for a little while longer,
belly to the ground.

10.
With the head turned—through
the crab grass,
maybe you witness
pairs of feet,
coming or going,
to where, who knows, suppose
the mountain scatters,
far beyond the margins,
those permitted angles.

9/29.6 The fifth petal of the evening

This poem first appeared in my first poetry collection, *Bir Sıra Sonra/One Row After*, published by First Matter Press, 2022: [One Row After / Bir Sira Sonra - FIRST MATTER PRESS]

The fifth petal of the evening opens—
the sound of dice,
those kinds of talks "Things are…alright…"
Home waiting out there in the world.

Somewhere in the coming days, the laughter
of children, onions frying, a half-completed puzzle.
The novel tipped behind the couch
mouthfuls of chips while cleaning the floors
with lavender-scented chemicals in a house
where a man once shot his wife.

There are still stories that fill the mouths with peace,
even if the daily reality
breaks the body by intervals. In the mornings I open

the windows to let fresh air find me. I call a friend.
We talk and wonder aloud about our parents,
how they raised us, what lexicons they
designed and what they could not sustain.
We were daughters, once, after all.

And how to manage this humanity?

I give this work to a galaxy of

prayers

plucked from the branch of September's latest harvest.

When I have energy,
I make apple sauce, apple butter.
A pressure cooker quickens the work. I remove
the brown spots where the worms have burrowed.
I chop and slice, and chop and slice.

And I remember the
icy, delicate flowers that the apples once were,
the slow way their swelling bodies filled

a tight, summer heat. How
their pink and yellow gradients rounded out the days, or
how the night alighted—
a fresh peel on my tongue.

Vision after a kitchen incident: Olympia, Washington (February 2025)

Originally Published in “Still the Water,” a community anthology featuring local writers, edited by Olympia Poet Laureate, Kathleen Byrd, 2025Ñ https://www.nevermorepoem.com/archives/21970

Consider this place,
the mythic home of the gods.
Here they did not mount the sky.
They slipped its flanks
to open the sea, if only slightly
and unevenly—

into a vision of the present:

where I am standing above the cutting board, bleeding.
The knife swims beside the fish, raw and watering.
Rivers me in runed
narrows, straights, and islands,
amidst grey gyres
where priest-like orcas heave past,
a fin or two extended in benediction—or perhaps dismissal.

At the wide gate of the estuary, purple shore
crabs scuttle, rock cousins
shift muds—algae lucid on dark—
flagrant mosses feathering bark.
A rheumatic apple tree
papered with lichens, white
blisters flickering within its grafts—
jetties the salt altar.

In the embrace of the Sound the proportions shift.

The impassive index of the sun
rolls more smoothly astride these liquids.
And the spectral jellyfish moons
inside the prism, where the true gods are said to dwell.

They, who from time-to-time churn
Moxie Creek with their irised speech, threading
the earth ligament, her mucous membranes
blurred with bacteria,
her glacial raiment slipped and strained.
Consorts of the clouds that stalk the seasons, they
surrender nitrogen to the radical mosses,
plump and ripe—curling rain in cold rain—then back
out to the perfect sonnet
I could not conjure—
a salmon run receded

in the slicing tide.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna

Originally published in Latin American Literary Review, 2018: Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna | Latin American Literary Review

This poem explores the metaphysical significance of the moon in human experience, particularly the feminine qualities that are frequently associated with lunar cycles. Moreover, it acknowledges the reciprocal relationship between feminine and masculine principles, as expressed through the vehicle of productive and reflective light. As a means of conveying the rhythms of reoccurring cycles, the poem returns to the central theme, "no one asks where the moon comes from," in the same fashion as a ritualistic canto, as if to encourage readers/listeners to partake in a collective, verbal expression that is healing and meditative in nature. The canto asks us to consider the moon as a metaphorical personality in our daily lives and in the larger operations of the cosmos, pulled, as we all are, by the principal of gravity, which echoes through the poem like a beating drum or a heartbeat. This poem was inspired by my research in Ecuador, which focuses on ritual and religious behavior and its relationship to the natural world. (English translation provided after Spanish original).

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

En el cielo convive con el padre,
El sol, con el imperio convive. Y
El imperio es un dorado vientre
Y en ese vientre, hay una luz.
Y por eso le llamamos Chamana,
A la luna que cuida al sol,
Que en su fragilidad
No nos hace llegar la luz,
Cuando amanezca la oscuridad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

La luna ya tiene sed, y toma su
Trago de luz quemada cuando el sol
Se ha ido a dormir.
Sentada sobre su trono
De montaña del horizonte.
Se sienta a relucir.
Toma la luz en loza quemada,
y la canta y la acaricia,
y la convierte a azogue,
corre pura, plácida y tranquila.

Se nos derrama la frescura,
por veinte y siete días nos baña,
Nacida en el vientre dorado,
Gozamos de la dulce fuente de
Luz platinada.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

La luz
corre por las venas de reinas
y niñas muertas. La
Luz renace como belleza de fertilidad,
Esa misma luz de las mares, el sabor
de la añoranza y el olor de la soledad
Viene embotellada en la mirada
De nuestra hermana, la sagrada orfandad.
En su compasión la luna nos brinda
El elixir ancestral, y nos guía
Por valles oscuros, secretos guardados
y los umbrales de nuestro mismo hogar.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Arriba se viene bailando, un baile
Lento y lleno de alegría,
Arriba se viene bailando,
Un baile hondo y lleno de llanto.
Nos baila y nos guía
Nos baila y nos murmura,
Porque ella es la primera Chamana,
Y sus secretos están ocultos
A plena vista, en las mareas,
Y en los dolores de cada mes.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Transforma la luz y la brinda
Con gracia y humildad.

Nos da las enseñanzas ancianas
ilumina el canto y las potencias,
ritmo de tambores—de sombras y
De las olas que son
tormentas que percibimos
y las alegrías que vivimos.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Ella nos comparte ese brillo
y nos murmura
Sus secretos, mientras durmamos
Mientras andemos por las quebradas
Y senderos ignotos, mientras
Naveguemos las curvas
de los propios sueños
Que contienen la progenie nuestra bajo
La penumbra de la imaginación.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Nadie se pregunta de dónde viene la luna
Pero se dirige por la gravedad.

Y,
A veces ella también se cansa, después
De iluminar tanto, la luna está agotada--
¿acaso la hemos escuchado?
En su baile se da otra vuelta, y
La vemos retrodecer, y
se desaparece de par en par.
Volverá—sí—volverá con el destino.
Así que es de nosotros—y
Nuestras voces la hemos de dar.

No One Asks Where the Moon Comes From (English translation, by Sonya Wohletz)

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity

In the heavens she resides with the father
The sun, with the empire she resides. And
The empire is a golden womb
And in this womb, there is a light.
Therefore, we call her the first Shaman—
To the moon, who cares for the sun,
Who, in his fragility,
Does not provide us the light
When darkness rises.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity

The moon is thirsty, and she takes
A draught of burnt light when the sun
Has gone to rest.
Seated on her throne,
The horizon's mountains,
She is seated there, and beaming
She takes the light and places it as in a burnt vessel
And sings to it and caresses it
Transforming it into quicksilver.
It runs pure, peaceful, tranquil
Its coolness refreshes and spills upon us
For twenty-seven days we are bathed by it
Born of the golden womb,
We delight in this sweet fountain
Of silver light.

No one asks where the moon comes from,
But she is guided by gravity.

No one asks where the moon comes from,
But she is guided by gravity.

The light
Runs through the veins of queens
And dead girls. The
Light is reborn as beauty and fertility
That same light of the seas, the taste
Of nostalgia and the odor of solitude
It arrives bottled in the gaze

Of our sister, the sacred orphan
In her compassion the light gives
Us the ancestral elixir, and she guides u
Through dark valleys, guarded secrets
And the shadows of our own homes.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

From above she comes dancing, a dance
Slow and full of joy,
From above she comes dancing
A deep dance full of grief.
She dances for us and guides us
She dances for us and murmurs to us
Because she is the first Shaman
And her secrets are hidden
In plain sight, in the tides,
And in the pains of every month.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

She transforms the light and shares it
With grace and humility
She provides us with ancient teachings
She illuminates the song and the powers
Rhythm of drums—of shadows and
The waves that we perceive
As storms
And the joys we live.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

She shares this brilliance
And whispers to us
Her secrets, while we sleep
While we pass through the canyons
And lost trails, while
We navigate the curves

Of the same dreams that hold our progeny
Beneath the shadow of imagination.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

No one asks where the moon comes from
But she is guided by gravity.

And,
Sometimes she, too, tires, after
Illuminating so much, the moon is exhausted—
Have we even listened to her?
In the dance she takes another turn
And we see here recede.
She disappears—wide open,
She will return—yes, she will return with destiny
And so it is for all of us—
And our voices to her we must give.

Thank you for reading my poems and considering my application for the City of Lacey Poet Laureate!

2026-28 Poet Laureate

Commission on Equity | March 23, 2026

Call for Applications

Application submission period

- Ran from Jan 8 to March 6
- 1 application received

Methods of promotion

- Social Media
- Flyers distributed around town
- Word of mouth
- Local jurisdictions Arts Newsletter

Selection

Poet Laureate Review Panel

- Includes Commission on Equity, the current Poet Laureate, representatives from local educational institutions, the Park, Culture, and Recreation Board, and the Library Board
- Convenes on March 23 to evaluate the submissions
- Recommendation to be based on application responses, resumes, original poetry samples, and proposed budgets
- Recommendation will be decided by a simple majority vote

Selection

Poet Laureate Review Panel

1. The panel will discuss the applicants based on:
    - Artistic merit
    - Community engagement experience
    - Proposed community-based poetry programs
    - Proposed budget
    - Other relevant factors
2. The panel may then make a recommendation

Recommendation Options

- **Recommend a candidate for appointment**
- Recommend a candidate, with modifications, for appointment
- Recommend reopening application process to expand candidate pool
- Recommend extending incumbent's term by two years
- Suggest other options not listed above

Meet the Applicants

Opportunity to hear directly from the applicant

- Sonya Wohletz may present for 10 minutes.

Meet the Applicants

Opportunity to hear directly from the applicants

- Sonya Wohletz may present for 10 minutes.

Recommendation Options

- **Recommend a candidate for appointment**
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Open Floor for Discussion

Poet Laureate Proposal 2026-2028

Sonya Wohletz (she/her)

The Feast of the Transfiguration

And so it was that we packed what little we had
and vanned due NW—alluvial, some might call—this
act of flowing ourselves among
lahars, Douglas fir and into loam—
mothering in where glaciers dragged
the land towards a tight clip of sea—lowlands prickling
with birds, ants, frogs. Near the edge of the water

A woman tends the plants and names
for us the species that hold the shore steady—
bulrushes, douglas spierea, marsh cinquefoil, water purslane
buckbean, three-way sedge—and then signals where
the yellow flag iris has crept in on its rhizome mat
near the dock. Gossamers of rain thread
my formless thoughts into a clarity
of hours. Sqʷalaš paint black
ripples of sky, pale sun hoarding fistfuls of clouds
east towards the Volcano, that serene
being, dreaming the blunt horizon into blankets
of sandstone, shale, granodiorite, and coal.

The train bleats its daily greeting, and the abuelito
next door pauses in that gesture of grandfathers—turns—
and orients his perception towards a threshold yet
beyond the sight-line. My children angle
into their play—the whole of this place coalesces beneath
The skin of their laughter—blessed green of the earth.

Note: Sqʷalaš means “duck” in Southern Lushootseed

About me

- I am a proud mother of two children
- I love writing, art, and poetry in all its forms
- I strive to be a continuous learner
- I have a background in art history and Latin American studies
- I now work in the field of behavioral health
- I do enjoy having opposable thumbs!

Promoting Poetry in Lacey

If honored to be offered this role, my goals will be to:

- Strive to make poetry accessible to all
  - Poetry can be many things
  - Poetic expression is shaped by language, culture, and history
  - Poetry comes alive through sharing, listening, and reading
- Instill an enduring love of and interest in poetic expression
  - Workshops
  - Readings
  - Events
  - Weaving poetry into digital and physical spaces
- Explore poetry as a vehicle for civic engagement

Community Engagement

- Listening sessions
- Public poetry readings
- Feedback and review sessions of programming
- Outreach to key community partners
- Deepening connections with schools, healing spaces, senior centers, libraries

"Remove barriers to participation while providing facilities, programs, and events that strengthen community bonds, encourage social engagement, and enhance the city's overall livability"-City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan 2025 Update

Tracking Impact

- In my first months, I will design a community outreach survey to identify:
  - Themes of interest to the community
  - Language and accessibility needs
  - Current engagement with poetry and poetry-focused events
  - Suggestions for future activities
- For each event (online and in-person) attendees will be offered the opportunity to participate in a brief survey to assess:
  - Engagement and satisfaction in activities
  - Relevance of topics, themes, and discussion
  - Opportunities for future improvements for poetry events

Poetry Projects

- Proposed Project #1: **Grief, healing, and resilience poetry workshop(s)**
  - In-person writing workshop option
  - Online writing workshop option
- Proposed Project #2: **"My Hometown" collaborative project**
  - Collaboration with community partners, students, and the City to collect letters, poems, collages, notes, and other creative works to illustrate the story of community
  - Up to 2 student interns to assist with editing, design, and layout of digital production for inclusion on City website
  - Final reading event

Discussion

- What would be this committee's vision for the future of the Lacey Poet Laureate program?
- If you could summarize in three to four words, what are the primary strengths or impressions that come to mind when you think of our community?
- In what spaces in our community would you like to see poetry incorporated?
- What advice, if any, would you give to the next Lacey Poet Laureate?

Questions for me?

- Contact information
  - Email: sonyawohletz@gmail.com
  - Phone: 505.690.3385

Thank you all so much for considering my proposal and for taking the time to meet with me today!

STAFF REPORT

Commission on Equity
March 23, 2026

Subject: Public Art Donation Policy
To: Commission on Equity
Prepared by: Shanelle Pierce, Special Projects Administrator
Department Director: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
Reviewed By: Not Applicable
Final Review: Same as Department Director

SP
SKF

Purpose: Action Item

Recommendation: Motion to Adopt recommending the Public Art Donation Policy to the Lacey City Council.

Brief: Propose updates to the existing Council Policies and Procedures Manual on 10.03 Public Art to include a new subsection on private donations from individuals or organizations, as the current policy does not address this. Add a subsection to section 10.03 with guidelines and minimum standards for expanding the public art collection through private donations.

Alternatives:

1. Recommend making additional changes before recommending the policy to Lacey City Council.
2. No motion is recommended at this time.
3. Suggest other options not listed above.

Advisory Board Recommendation(s):
Not applicable

Fiscal Impact:
Budgeted Item: No
Amount: Not applicable
Project Code: Not applicable
Funding Source: Not applicable

Attachments:
1. Draft Public Art Donation Policy

Policy or Legal Alignment:
1. 10.03 Public Art Policy

Background: On June 9, 2011, the Lacey City Council adopted the Council Policies and Procedures Manual (Council Policy) to standardize the process for implementing current and new Council policies, practices, and procedures. From time to time, the Lacey City Council adopts amendments to the manual, including periodic updates to the Council Policy on 10.03 Public Art. Community organizations have shown interest in donating art, which highlighted this gap and led to the development of this policy. Currently, the policy does not address private donations from individuals or organizations.

Below is a summary of the proposed updates in **Attachment 1**:

Adds a subsection to the existing Council Policy 10.03 with guidelines and minimum standards for expanding the public art collection through private donations from individuals or organizations. The subsection includes:

- Outlines the purpose of the policy.
- Defines terms and phrases used in the policy.
- Establishes a process for considering proposals for private donations of public art.
- Defines criteria and conditions for acquiring donated public art.
- Clarifies procedures and roles involved in acquiring private-public art donations, including entering into maintenance agreements.

*** DRAFT IN WORK ***

City of Lacey Public Art Donation Policy

1. **Purpose**
   This policy outlines the guidance and minimum standards the City will follow to expand its public art collection through private donations from individuals or organizations, enhancing the community's experience. This policy aims to create a clear, consistent, and transparent process for reviewing, accepting, installing, maintaining, and, if needed, removing donated works of art on City properties. The City seeks to ensure that donated objects serve the public interest, reflect community values, align with the City's public art policy, maintain artistic and technical quality, and do not create unfunded or unreasonable long-term obligations.

   Artists, donors, community organizers, and others interested in collaborating on a public art project may be eligible to participate by donating funds for public art acquisitions, commissioning new art, or contributing objects directly to the collection.

2. **Exclusions**
   This policy does not apply to donations covered in the Parks, Culture, and Recreation Department's Enhancements Program Policy. Such donations must be reviewed by the Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board in accordance with the Department's policy. Additionally, this policy does not apply to donations for the commemorative naming of public facilities or memorial roadways, which must follow the policy on naming public facilities and memorial roadways.

3. **Definitions**
   Unless otherwise specified by the context, the definitions below apply to the terms and phrases used in this document.

   "Acquisition" refers to adding objects to the City's permanent collection through commissioning, purchase, donation, or other means.

   "Appraisal" denotes a professional, certified evaluation of objects, including its authenticity, condition, and provenance, to determine its monetary value.

   "Artist" describes an individual recognized by peers, critics, and art professionals as consistently producing art, demonstrating a serious, ongoing commitment to the fine arts.

   "Bequest" is a gift or donation made through a will.

   "City" refers to the City of Lacey.

“City Council" refers to the Council of the City of Lacey as appointed at that time.

“City Manager” is the city’s then-appointed city manager and/or their designee.

“City Manager’s Office” is the City Manager’s staff or another department designated by the City Manager.

“City Property” refers to City-owned or managed real property or related assets.

“Donation” refers to the voluntary transfer of art, a series of works of art, or a monetary gift to the City, intended for long-term public display and intended to transfer title of ownership to the City.

“Maintenance” refers to routine inspection and care of public art by the City or designee.

“Mural” refers to a large-scale painting or other object executed directly on or attached to a wall, street, or sidewalk.

“Object” is an original work of art in various media, including but not limited to any portable or permanently fixed sculpture, monument, mural, painting, drawing, earthwork, mixed media work, or time-based work (moving images or sound-based art), created by a professional artist or collaborative team.

“Public art” is an original object by an artist(s) that is publicly visible on a City-owned or managed site and intended to enhance the environment for community members.

“Site” refers to real property or land owned, leased, or operated by the City of Lacey.

4. **Process for Consideration**

   A. **Donor submits a public art donation application.** A donor interested in donating art must submit a City-approved application to the City Manager’s Office. The application should include, but is not limited to:
      a. A cover letter describing the donation, explaining how it aligns with the City’s public art policy, and why it should be part of the City’s Public Art Collection.
      b. Drawings, photographs, or models, showing details such as scale and materials. When appropriate, a small-scale three-dimensional model may be requested. Photos of models will be kept with the application, and all physical models will be returned after review, regardless of the application outcome. If an artist or applicant does not pick up the model within 30 days, it may be disposed of.

c. Artist's resume.
d. Installation details — including engineered plans, if needed — may be required by the City. The City will require the applicant to bear the associated costs.
e. Description of routine maintenance and an estimate of annual and long-term maintenance costs.
f. Estimated value for insurance purposes.
g. Budget and preferred schedule.
h. Applicant's preferred site location, if known.

Other materials may be requested at the City's determination.

B. **Initial review.** The City Manager's Office will acknowledge receipt of the proposal. They will then review the proposal to determine if the application meets the selection criteria and public art objectives. If additional information or clarification is needed, the City will reach out to the applicant. This information should be provided within two weeks or within another timeframe mutually agreed upon to support a timely, collaborative review process.

C. **Internal preliminary technical review.** Once the City Manager's Office verifies that the proposal meets public art criteria, it is forwarded to the appropriate City departments, including but not limited to Parks, Culture, and Recreation; Public Works; and Community and Economic Development, for preliminary technical assessments and risk reviews. These reviews shall consider public safety, installation feasibility, maintenance requirements, and structural stability. The proposal must comply with any and all applicable safety standards (including the Americans with Disabilities Act), be structurally sound, and integrate appropriately with surrounding infrastructure, such as landscaping, utilities, and lighting.

D. **Acceptance or rejection decision**. All decisions to accept or reject public donations are in the sole discretion of the City. For donations of $7,500 or less, the City Manager shall make the final decision. The City Manager may seek recommendations and input from an Advisory Board before making that decision and may bring it to the City Council for final approval.

For donations of over $7,500, the City Manager's Office will seek review by an art committee. If no art committee is in place, an Advisory Board designated by the City Manager's Office will review the proposal and provide a recommendation to the City Manager's Office. Additional reviews by other Advisory Boards may also be required. The City Manager's Office will then present its findings, recommendations, and input from the Advisory Boards and community to the City Council for a final decision. If, after receiving this recommendation, the Council may, at its discretion, gather additional community feedback before making its final decision.

The City Manager's Office will notify the applicant of any decision.

E. **Donation agreement**. If the proposal is approved, the applicant and the City will sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) outlining the conditions for donation. The MOA will include, among other things, requirements on:
    a. selection and design of the site, including all technical reviews and permits required by City, State, or Federal regulations
    b. maintenance responsibilities
    c. a project timeline for completion
    d. a professional appraisal by a qualified conservator of public art for insurance purposes
    e. the object's expected lifespan and anticipated display period

If the donor and the City are unable to reach an agreement on the terms of the MOA, the acquisition process ends. The City Manager or the City Council will be notified. The applicant can appeal the decision to terminate the acquisition process to the City Council.

5. **Selection Criteria for the Acquisition of Donated Public Art**

A. All objects approved by the City for the City's public art collection must satisfy the following criteria:
    a. **Clear title**. Objects proposed to be transferred to the City by title must be conveyed with a clear title. Objects that are gifted, donated, deeded, or contributed to the City must be accompanied by a deed of gift.
    b. **Original art and authentication**. Only original objects may be donated to the City's public art collection. Copies or reproductions, whether authorized or not, will not be considered. Donors are responsible for establishing the object's authenticity. If the City Manager's Office is not satisfied with the object's authenticity, the City Manager's Office may request additional information from the donor and will take reasonable steps to confirm the object's authenticity.
    c. **Reflects community values and forum disclaimer.** The City reserves the right with or without cause to decline any object or donated materials and may decline any proposals that are inconsistent with the community's values and character or include overt advertising, religious references, sexual content, negative imagery, or political partisanship. All submissions must be inclusive, culturally sensitive, and respectful of all community members, and must comply with applicable laws, including copyright, intellectual property, and local regulations. Acceptance of a donation does not create a public forum, and the City retains sole discretion over the display, use, or removal of the donated objects. This determination is made to ensure public safety, maintain community harmony, and protect the integrity of public sites.

d. **Free of advertising or promotional content.** The object or identifying plaque must not include advertising or promotional content relating to living individuals or to organizations, institutions, or businesses currently in operation. A plaque that accompanies the object and displays the name of the donor, artist, or artwork will not be considered advertising.
e. **Restrictions**. Objects added to the City's public art collection must be given with no contingencies or obligations. The City may make reasonable efforts to recognize the artists and donors.
f. **Suitability**. The City will not accept objects that cannot be displayed, sustainably maintained, and securely protected.

B. **Attributes**. The City considers the following attributes when acquiring objects for inclusion in its collection:
   a. **Artistic excellence**. The originality and aesthetic quality or value of the object should be comparable to or exceed those of pieces already in the collection and would contribute to the collection's overall diversity and quality.
   b. **Condition**. The object must be in good condition.
   c. **Durability**. The object's materials, finishes, and construction should be chosen to ensure lasting quality and to resist vandalism.
   d. **Local artist**. A strong preference is given to objects created by local artists from the greater Puget Sound area. The artist's credentials, reputation, and quality of their work will be evaluated.
   e. **Maintenance**. Because the City must be able to provide proper storage and care, no objects requiring extensive or extraordinary preservation and care will be accepted.
   f. **Safety**. Objects should be safe for people interacting with them. Safety conditions and factors that may affect liability must be considered, and objects should also be designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related federal, state, and local codes.
   g. **Site specific**. Objects must be appropriate for the selected site. The City makes the final decision on the location of the object's display.

6. **Maintenance Responsibilities**
   Funding to maintain the City's public art collection is limited. Therefore, donors are required to sign a maintenance agreement and/or establish a maintenance endowment when donating to ensure proper care.

   The donor shall provide a contribution to a maintenance endowment fund equal to a maximum of 10% of the value of the object, as determined by a qualified appraiser approved by the City, or an amount mutually agreed upon by the City and the donor.

However, the City may, on a case-by-case basis, accept an agreement from a donor to maintain objects in perpetuity and in accordance with City standards rather than a cash contribution to an endowment fund; however, this will require the City to incur additional effort and cost. For any case-by-case donor maintenance agreement, the City will require an up-front deposit to cover at least one year's maintenance of the object to protect the City against future default.

7. **Conditions**

Art ownership and use. Donors must agree that once their donations are accepted, all items included in the City's public art collection automatically become the exclusive property of the City. If there are no restrictions, these works may be displayed, loaned, retained, or disposed of in a manner that the City determines best serves the collection. Accepting donated objects does not guarantee permanent installation and may be subject to removal or relocation at a later time.

Appraisals. The City does not provide art appraisals. The IRS requires a written appraisal from a qualified appraiser for donations exceeding $5,000.

Compliance with laws. All objects donated shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

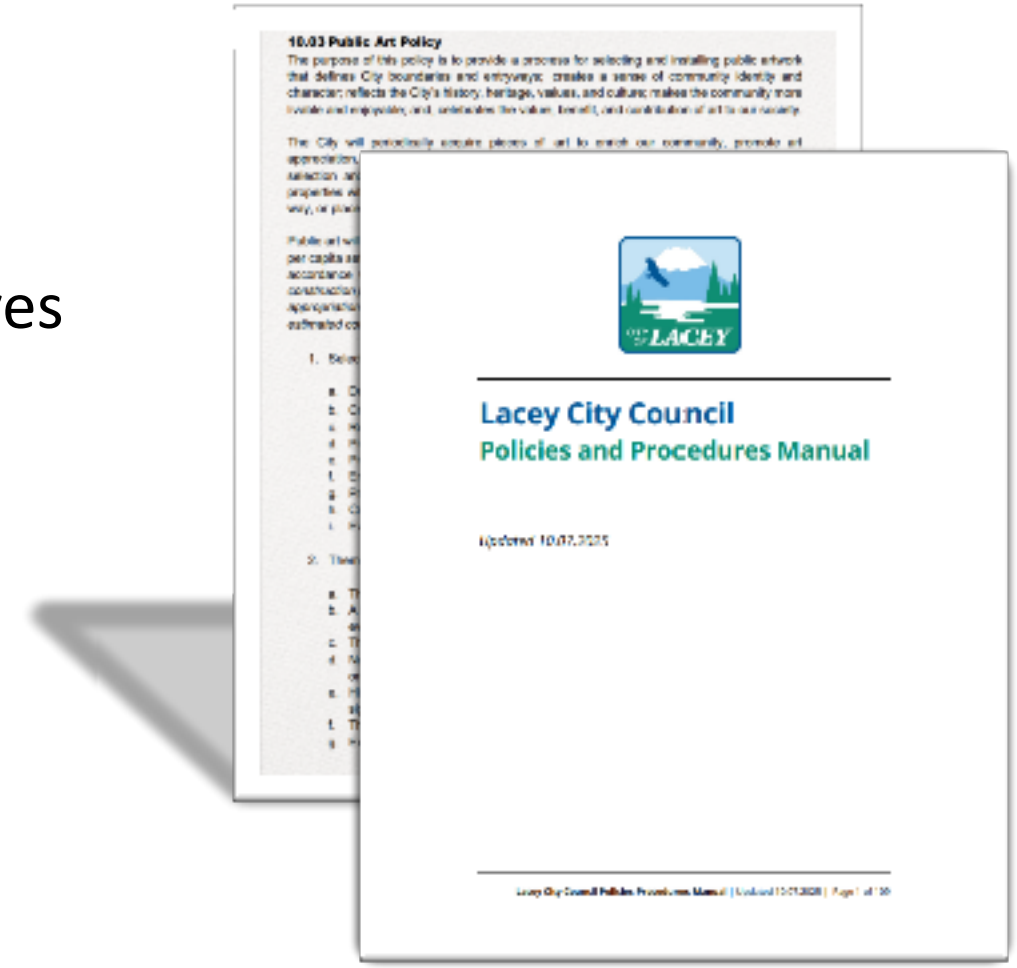
DRAFT

Public Art Donation Policy

Commission on Equity| March 23, 2026

10.03 Public Art Policy

- Purpose of the policy
- Achieve one or more objectives
- Reflect one or more themes
- Placement of artwork
- Procedure



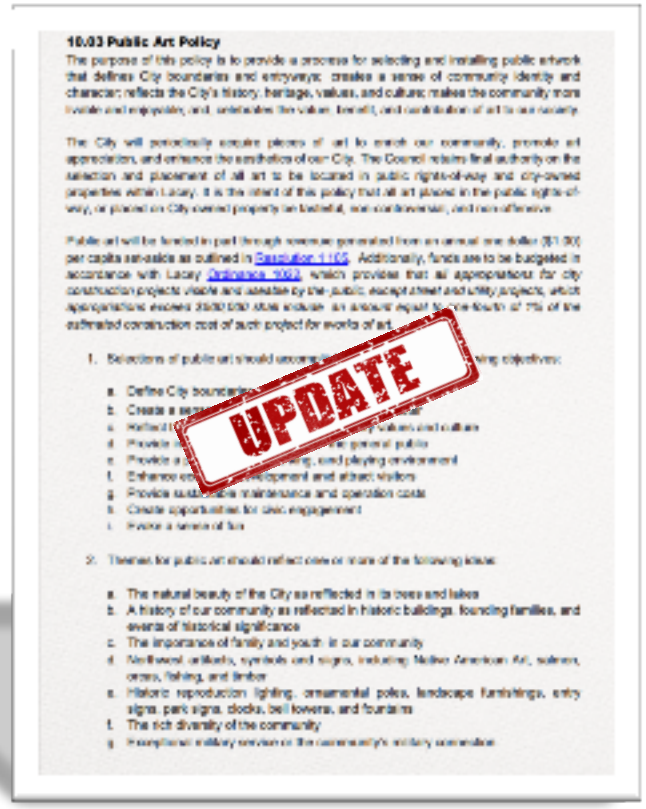
10.03 Public Art Policy

Current Public Art Policy

- Does not address private donations

Purpose of Policy Updates

- Introduces a subsection on private donations
- Establishes guidelines and minimum standards for accepting private donations



Recommendation Options

- **Recommend adoption to the City Council**
- Recommend changes
- No motion is recommended at this time
- Suggest other options not listed above

Donation Process for Consideration

A. Donor submits an application
B. Initial review by the City Manager's Office
C. Internal preliminary technical review
D. Acceptance or rejection decision
E. Donation agreement

Donation Process for Considera

A. Donor submits an application
B. Initial review by the City Manager's O
C. Internal preliminary technical review
D. Acceptance or rejection decision
E. Memorandum of agreement

If no art committee is in place, an Advisory Board designated by the City Manager's Office will review the proposal and provide a recommendation to the City Manager's Office.

Criteria for Donated Public Art

Donations must meet these criteria:

a. Have a clear title

b. Be an original work of art

c. Reflect community values

d. Be free of advertising or promotional content

e. Be donated without restrictions

f. Be suitable for the City's purpose

Criteria for Donated Public Art

Donations must meet these criteria:

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d. Be free of advertising or promotional con

e. Be donated without restrictions

f. Be suitable for the City's purpose

The City reserves the right, with or without cause, to decline any object or donated materials and may decline any proposals that are inconsistent with the community's values and character…

Criteria for Donated Public Art

Donations must meet these criteria:

a. Have a clear title
b. Be an original work of art
c. Reflect community values
d. Be free of advertising or promotional con
e. Be donated without restrictions
f. Be suitable for the City's purpose

… or include overt advertising, religious references, sexual content, negative imagery, or political partisanship. All submissions must be inclusive, culturally sensitive, and respectful of all community members

Attributes for Donated Public Art

Consideration given to the following attributes:

a. Artistic excellence

b. Must be in good condition

c. Should be durable

d. Preference for local artists

e. Reasonable maintenance requirements

f. Safe for human interaction

g. Appropriate for the selected site

Attributes for Donated Public A

Consideration given to the following attributes:

a. Artistic excellence

b. Must be in good condition

c. Should be durable

d. Preference for local artists

e. Reasonable maintenance requirements

f. Safe for human interaction

g. Appropriate for the selected site

A strong preference is given to objects created by local artists from the greater Puget Sound area. The artist's credentials, reputation, and quality of their work will be evaluated.

CITY OF LACEY

Maintenance Responsibilities

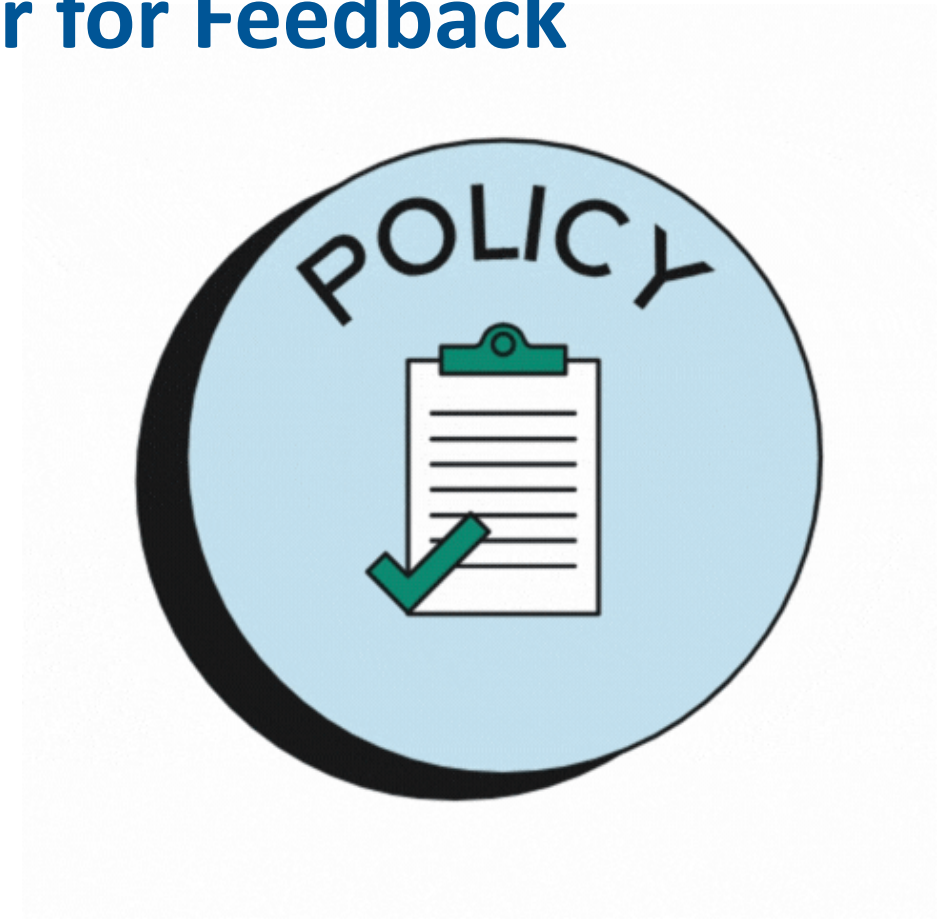
Donors are required to either:

1. Establish a maintenance endowment fund equal to a maximum of 10% of the object's value
2. Or, on a case-by-case basis, agree to a perpetual maintenance agreement where the donor maintains the object according to City standards

Recommendation Options

- **Recommend adoption to the City Council**
- Recommend changes
- No motion is recommended at this time
- Suggest other options not listed above

Open Floor for Feedback



STAFF REPORT

Commission on Equity
March 23, 2026

Subject:	**2026 Community and Cultural Events Grant (CCEG) Funding**
To:	Commission on Equity
Prepared by:	Veronica Hand
Department Director:	Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager SKF
Reviewed By:	
Final Review:	Same as Department Director

Purpose: Action Item

Recommendation: Motion to Approve recommending **Option 1**. Equal Percentage Distribution Among All Applicants: Fund all 12 applicants at nearly 50% (49.7%) of their request for a total allocation of $25,000.

Brief: The 2026 CCEG program received 12 applications requesting more than the $25,000 available. Per the CCEG policy, the City is requesting a funding recommendation from the COE.

Alternatives: COE could also recommend one of the following:

2. **Prioritize Five Applicants for Full Funding:** Identify and prioritize five or six applicants to receive full funding based on Council priorities such as community impact, cultural representation, or anticipated attendance, for a total of $25,000. Remaining applicants would not receive funding under this option.

3. **Prioritize Funding for Community and Cultural Events:** Provide funding for eight events that are both community and cultural events rather than only community events. The 8 applicants would receive nearly 75% (74.6%) of their request for a total allocation of $25,000.

4. Some other option not contemplated in the above options.

Prior Review:

City Council Regular Meeting - October 7, 2025
City Council Work Session - September 23, 2025
Commission on Equity Meeting - October 27, 2025
Commission on Equity Meeting - June 23. 2025
Commission on Equity Meeting - March 24, 2025
Commission on Equity Meeting - February 24, 2025

Advisory Board Recommendation(s):

Fiscal Impact:
Budgeted Item: Yes
Amount: $25,000

Funding Source: 001-0302-519.49-54

Attachments:
1. CCEG Applications
2. CCEG Application and Options Spreadsheet

Policy or Legal Alignment:
1. CCEG Policy

Background:
The City of Lacey established the Community and Cultural Events Grant program to support events and activities that enhance community engagement, celebrate cultural diversity, and provide accessible opportunities for community members to gather and participate in local traditions, events and celebrations.

For the 2026 grant cycle, the City received 16 applications:
- 12 qualified per the policy
  - 1 withdrew
  - 1 did not qualify due to an attendance fee
  - 2 did not qualify due to not being open to the general public or gender eligibility

All of the applications are from local organizations seeking support for community-based events and cultural programming. The total amount requested exceeded the $25,000 available in the program budget.

Staff is requesting a recommendation on how to allocate the available funding among the applicants. Staff has prepared several potential allocation approaches for the Commission's consideration.

Funding Allocation Options

The COE could recommend one of the following options to the Lacey City Council. Staff recommends **Option 1**.

1. **Equal Percentage Distribution Among All Applicants:** Fund all 12 applicants at nearly 50% (49.7%) of their request for a total allocation of $25,000.
2. **Prioritize Five Applicants for Full Funding:** Identify and prioritize five or six applicants to receive full funding based on Council priorities such as community impact, cultural representation, or anticipated attendance, for a total of $25,000.

Remaining applicants would not receive funding under this option.

3. **Prioritize Funding for Community and Cultural Events:** Provide funding for eight events that are both community and cultural events rather than only community events. The 8 applicants would receive nearly 75% (74.6%) of their request for a total allocation of $25,000.
4. Some other option not contemplated in the above options.

Table A provides an abbreviated overview of the applications and options. See **Attachment 1**, Applications, and **Attachment 2**, Application Spreadsheet, for more details.

Table A Abbreviated Overview of Applications and Options							
Event Type	**Organization Name**	**Event Name**	**Funding Request**	**Estimated attendance not modified**	**Option 1: All funded equal % (49.7% of the request)**	**Option 2: Fund Top 5/6 (TBD)**	**Option 3: Fund Community & Cultural events equal % (74.6% of the request)**
Community & Cultural Event	Hummingbird Studio	Art in the Park	$2,500.00	50-100	1,242.54		$1,865.67
Community & Cultural Event	New Life Baptist Church of Thurston County	Black History Month Pop Up Museum	$5,000.00	500-750	2,485.09		$3,731.34
Community & Cultural Event	TOGETHER!	Club House Community & Cultural Event	$5,000.00	150-200	2,485.09		$3,731.34
Community & Cultural Event	Women's Dignity School	Community Cultural Gathering	$5,000.00	80	2,485.09		$3,731.34
Community Event	FEED NEEDS	FEED NEEDS – Lacey Community Food & Grill Outreach	$5,000.00	350	2,485.09		
Community & Cultural Event	INDIAN AMERICAN STAR FOUNDATION	Holi - Festival of Colors - A Community Celebration of Unity and Diversity	$1,000.00	75	$ 497.02		$ 746.27

Community & Cultural Event	Polynesian Association of Thurston County	LaceyPolyFest	$5,000.00	5000+	2,485.09		$3,731.34
Community Event	The JOLT News Organization	Local News Day	$5,000.00	275-325	2,485.09		
Community Event	Olympia Youth Chorus	Olympia Youth Chorus Holiday Concert	$1,800.00	600	$ 894.63		
Community & Cultural Event	Christlike AgroTourism for Racial Equality Wellness Center & Services	S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day - Presented by C.A.R.E. Wellness Center	$5,000.00	100	2,485.09		$3,731.34
Community & Cultural Event	South Sound Studio Tour Foundation	The South Sound Studio Tour	$5,000.00	150 in Lacey	2,485.09		$3,731.34
Community Event	Thurston County Food Bank	Thurston County Hunger Walk	$5,000.00	100	2,485.09		

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 1

Organization Name	Polynesian Association of Thurston County
Event Name	LaceyPolyFest
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	The LaceyPolyFest is an annual event that's FREE to the public. It showcases and educates the public on the various cultures, food, dances, music and the many stories of various Polynesian Island Groups. It provides many vendors (food, craft, information) an opportunity to sell their good for profit and tell their story. It also provides many businesses an opportunity to promote and advertise their business.
Event Address	26-27 Jun 2026
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	06/26/26
Event End Date	06/27/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	The LPD and LFD are key players in our event. They're made aware every year for their participation in presence patrols. The LFD are provided a spot at the festival for easy access in case of an emergency. The festival staff and vendors are reminded of being a safety agent duringthe event.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Equipment and Supplies Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue
Total Budget	$13,719.09
City of Lacey Funding	LTAC
Estimated overall attendees	5000+

BIG TICKET ITEMS LaceyPolyFest 2026					
Item	**Cost per**	**Total items Needed**	**Total Cost**	**Provider**	**Status**
Stage w/ overhead cover; 2x side steps. Changing tents (2)		2'x24'x32' 10'x20' 30'x40'	$4604.07	Celebrations Rental	
Sound/ DJ			$2500	Keni Sounds LLC	
Generator(15KW), trailer Spider box, 50' cable		1	$1300	Sunbelt Rentals	
Sports complex Reservation	$500 per day/ deposit	2x days	$1500	Lacey Parks & Recreations	
Event Insurance			$1502.74	Farmers Insurance (Audley Williams)	
ATM (portable)		1	$250	Cash Money ATM, LLC (Kris Peterson)	
Dirty water tank			$1062.28	Honeybucket (Sumner Taggart) 206-510-6405	
Event Banner/ Printing/promotional materials			$1000	Nisqually Post & Print	
Total			**$13,719.09**		

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As of: 08/05/2024

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 2

Organization Name	New Life Baptist Church of Thurston County
Event Name	Black History Month Pop Up Museum
Event Goal Alignment	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	The Annual Black History Month Pop-Up Museum is an interactive educational experience featuring curated exhibits, guided tours, and educational field trips that highlight the history and contributions of Black communities. Designed for students, families, and community members, the museum centers underrepresented narratives, encourages meaningful dialogue, and fosters cultural understanding. Through inclusive and accessible programming, the event strengthens community connection and promotes equity, belonging, and shared learning.
Event Address	7838 Pacific Avenue South East, Lacey, Washington 98503
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	02/01/26
Event End Date	02/27/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	Our annual Black History Month Pop-Up Museum was designed to introduce and foster safe, inclusive, and welcoming community by providing culturally affirming educational experiences for students, families, and all community members to learn from. We center and celebrate the narrative and many contributions of black people, while using it as a life curriculum that's present through exhibits and guided tours Our guided tours, educational field trips, and special exhibits promote historical awareness, representation, and cross-cultural understanding.We focus on centering a narrative that's often underrepresented while encouraging and readying our community for challenging life dialogue. The museum creates an environment where participants feel valued, supported, and engaged. The program strengthens community connections, supports inclusive learning, and uses education as a tool to promote equity and belonging for all people.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications

	Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue
Total Budget	$5,250.00
City of Lacey Funding	Not Applicable
Estimated overall attendees	500 - 750

2026 | Black History Month Budget

<u>Projected budgetary expenditures</u>

- Museum Display Supplies & Materials *$2,000.00*
- Genealogy Workshop *$300.00*
- Youth Activities *$700.00*
- Music Kiosk **(Justin Taylor)** *$250.00*
- Negro Baseball League Exhibit **(Micheal Bowles)** *$500.00*
- Graphic Designs & Printing (Flyers, Posters, Banners, Lamination, Grommets, etc.) *$650.00*
- Food (Tour Refreshments & Reception) *$750.00*
- Miscellaneous *$100.00*

Total: <u>$5,250.00</u>

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 4

Organization Name	FEED NEEDS
Event Name	FEED NEEDS – Lacey Community Food & Grill Outreach
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	FEED NEEDS will host a free, open-to-the-public community food giveaway and grill-based hot meal service in Lacey. The event will provide shelf-stable groceries, fresh produce (when available), and hot grilled meals prepared onsite and served by volunteers. This event supports families, seniors, youth, and individuals experiencing food insecurity. In addition to food distribution, we provide connection to local partner resources, volunteer engagement opportunities, and a welcoming space where community members gather without stigma. The event is designed to strengthen neighborhood relationships, reduce food insecurity, and promote health and dignity through accessible nutrition and hospitality.
Event Address	6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	07/18/26
Event End Date	07/18/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	FEED NEEDS operates under a dignity-first model. All participants are served without discrimination. The event is: • Free and open to the general public • ADA accessible • Volunteer-supported with clear safety protocols • Substance-free and family-friendly • Operated in compliance with local park and public safety regulations We intentionally create a welcoming atmosphere where individuals from diverse cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds gather together. Food is used as a unifying bridge to build belonging, reduce isolation, and foster community trust.

Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Transportation Venue
Total Budget	$8,750.00
City of Lacey Funding	N/A
Estimated overall attendees	350

FEED NEEDS
Lacey Community Food & Grill Outreach
Event Budget Summary

Category	Description	Amount
Food & Beverage	Groceries, fresh produce, grill supplies	$3,200
Equipment & Supplies	Tables, tents, sound system, safety supplies	$1,250
Venue & Permits	Park reservation & permits	$650
Marketing & Communications	Flyers, banners, outreach materials	$400
Staffing & Volunteers	Volunteer support supplies, stipends	$750
Administration & Operations	Event coordination, processing fees	$1,250
Transportation		
Total Event Budget		**$8,750**
Requested from City of Lacey		$5,000

Funding is requested on a reimbursement basis. No funds will be used for alcohol, religious promotion, or political activity. All event activities are free and open to the public.

JOIN

FEED NEEDS

for another

HUGE Food Giveaway!

PROMPTLY at 10:00 AM

Portland Ave Community Center

in support of

Together We Thrive – East Tacoma

This event goes FAST!

Bring your **BAGS & TOTES** to **STOCK UP** your pantry & help your neighbor too!

GEAR UP FOR WEEKEND COOKOFFS!

Tell your friends & spread the word!

Learn more: **Feed-Needs.org**

Support our weekly popups:

Givebutter link

#TogetherWeThrive • #FEEDNEEDS • #EastTacoma • #FoodGiveaway • #CommunitySupport

FEED NEEDS UPDATE

We will ***not*** be hosting our usual **FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY POP-UP** this week.

Instead, we invite everyone to join us in the continued spirit of giving at **KNEELAND PARK**, where we'll be collecting and donating **IN-DATE, NONPERISHABLE CANNED FOODS** in support of **MASON COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES (MCCR).**

TOGETHER WE THRIVE.

ARTSWA

CALLING ALL ARTISTS & LOCAL BUSINESSES

2026 WILL BE BIG FOR COMMUNITY ART IN SHELTON!

ARTISTS: SEND US YOUR WORK

&

BUSINESSES: SEND US YOUR IDEAS

LET'S UPLIFT THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ART!

adam@feed-needs.org

FEED NEEDS

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission.

TODAY'S HOT MEAL ALERT

COMMUNITY LIFELINE · NOON

CREAMY POTATO SOUP

MADE WITH LOVE BY
SOUPER SUNDAY
SHELTON'S LYN LJ

BBQ ROASTED CHICKEN

PREPARED BY
FEED NEEDS

WARM FOOD. WARM COMMUNITY. WARM HEARTS.

PULL UP AT 12 PM AND GET FED, 🙌💛

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
ARE GOING TO SUPER BOWL LX!

LIX SUPER BOWL

Join *Community Needs Project* for a

SUPER BOWL LX
VIEWING PARTY
+ SHELTON'S 1st SOUPer BOWL!

Sunday, February 8, 2026

- **Where: TBD** (Shelton, WA)

Bring your favorite goodies + a soup to share if you can!

Love of Christ in Our Community ❤️

Together We Thrive.

Want to help sponsor food / supplies / drinks?

🌐 **Website: Feed-Needs.org**

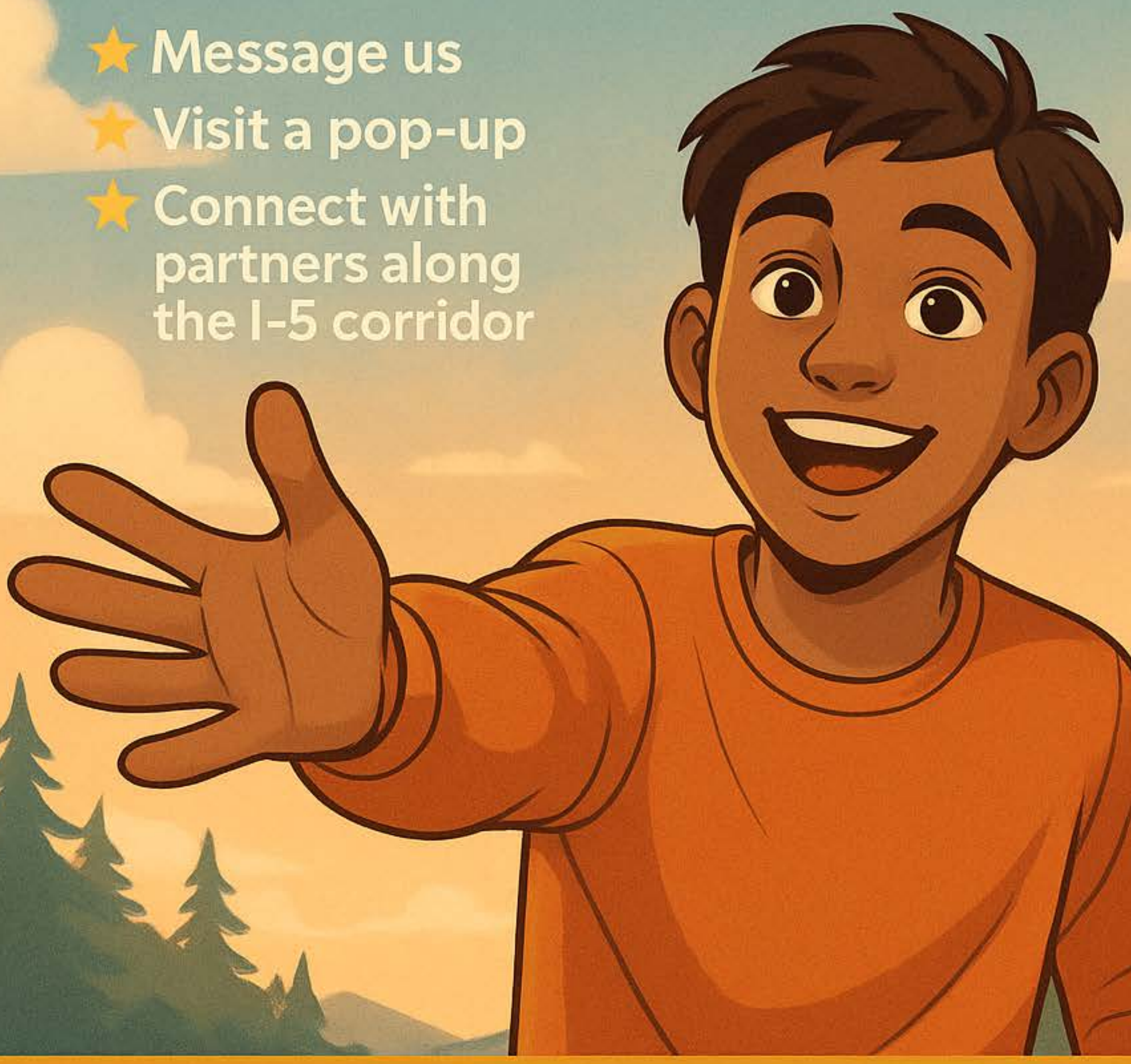
❤️ **Givebutter: givebutter.com/q5GbLt**

#SOUPerBowlShelton • #Seahawks • #SuperBowlLX • #TogetherWeThrive • #CommunityNeedsProject • #SheltonWA

If any of this feels familiar...

You're not alone. FEED NEEDS is here to help.

- ★ Message us
- ★ Visit a pop-up
- ★ Connect with partners along the I-5 corridor



Every young person deserves a safe place to stay.

FEED NEEDS • I-5 Corridor Youth Support

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 5

Organization Name	Olympia Youth Chorus
Event Name	Olympia Youth Chorus Holiday Concert
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	The Olympia Youth Chorus requests support from the City of Lacey to bring our December 2026 concert to the Koval Center for the Performing Arts. By securing this grant, we can continue to offer our concerts for free to the entire community, ensuring the Lacey community can experience the joy of live choral music. Our December concerts serve a dual purpose: they provide a stage performance for our youth and act as a catalyst for local giving. This past December, we supported South Sound Reading Founding by hosting a book drive and accepted donations for them at our December concert. The Olympia Youth Chorus is made up of over 95 kids from the South Puget Sound area drawing from 39 different schools, many of them located within the Lacey. Each season, we put on 3 community concerts.
Event Address	Koval Center for the Performing Arts, 4155 6th Ave NE, Lacey WA 98506
2. Funding Request	$1,800.00
Event Start Date	12/14/26
Event End Date	12/14/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	Olympia Youth Chorus strives to be a place of belonging and community for the kids and families that are part of our weekly rehearsals. Drawing from 39 different schools means the kids build new friendships. We believe that community extends beyond our organization and invites in people within the communities where we sing. Being inclusive starts at the door and by offering this concert for free, it removes the most frequent barrier to accessing the arts. We will also work to ensure our concert feels safe and models the ideal way of being, including sharing time and talents along with giving back to the South Sound Reading Foundation who ensures, there are no barriers to kids having access to books. This is a great way to invite all to participate in giving or receiving a book while also receiving the gift of music. We aim to create meaningful connections.

Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Venue
Total Budget	$3,874.00
City of Lacey Funding	No other City funding is received or applied for.
Estimated overall attendees	600

December 2026 Concert Budget

Expense	Cost Requested in Grant	Total Cost
Koval Center Rental	$1800	$1800
Directors x 4	*$0 - cost share*	$538
Accompanists x 4	*$0 - cost share*	$600
Additional Staff Present during the concert (Executive Director, Artistic Director, Financial Manager, Choir Manager)	*$0 - cost share*	$786
Program printing	*$0 - cost share*	$150
Totals	**$1800**	**$3874**

Olympia Youth Chorus (OYC) provides young singers with rich music education, performance opportunities, and benefits of a strong creative community.

OlympiaYouthChorus.org

3 CONCERTS

- December 8 @ 6:30 pm: Magical Moments at CHS
- March 21 @ 4:00 pm: Memory Lane at Koval Center, Lacey
- May 16 @ 3:00 pm: Musical Passport at Calvary Chapel

Join Us!

Core Values

ARTISTIC INTEGRITY

We seek to inspire and motivate our singers through literacy and intentional practice. Our directors are professional music educators who teach musical skills and knowledge in a progressive manner.

CREATIVITY

We commit to a program that is ever-evolving, and continue to discover and foster new voices, new ideas, and new ways to present choral music

COLLABORATION

We believe that through collaboration we foster a sense of belonging for our students and families and create a thriving, connected community.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION

We strive to reflect our larger community by mitigating barriers of participation, providing diverse music and cultural experiences, and encouraging kindness and acceptance - uplifting our members and the greater community through the work of our students.

Friend of OYC

- Name listed on OYC website
- Name printed in March & May programs

$100

Encore Sponsor

- **FRIEND package**, *plus*:
- Name listed on OYC social media platforms

$250

Soloist Sponsor

- **ENCORE package**, *plus:*
- Logo featured on OYC website & social media
- Sponsor Table (shared) at 1 concert to engage with families
- 3.5 x 2" size ad in March & May programs

$500

Bravo Sponsor

- **SOLOIST package**, *plus*:
- Dedicated social media post (2x a year)
- Sponsor Table (shared) at 2 concerts
- Half-page ad in March & May programs
- Hyperlinked logo on OYC website

$1000

Director Sponsor

- **BRAVO package**, plus:
- Dedicated social media posts (4x a year)
- Sponsor Table at all concerts
- Full-page color ad prominently placed in March & May programs
- Reserved seating for 6 at March & May concerts

$1500

Get involved!

- Become a Season Sponsor
- Volunteer your time and talents
- Donate here:

GET CONNECTED

Jamie Teuteberg, Executive Director

ed@olympiayouthchorus.org
360-726-3550

Follow us on Instagram & Facebook

OYC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to the parents and families of our students for their support. Thank to the OYC staff and board members who educate and rally behind our students. And thank you so much to our Sponsors: Olympia Federal, Ballet Northwest, Danno Piano, Bill Peden, CFP, Christopher Wang and WSU School of Music.

About the organization

The Olympia Youth Chorus is a community-based multi-ensemble organization dedicated to nurturing young voices through music education, teamwork, and performance. Founded in 1995, the choirs bring together singers grades K-12 from Thurston, Lewis, and Mason Counties to share the joy of choral music.

Upcoming Events

- Bring a Friend Rehearsal: Monday, January 5, 2026 @ Washington Middle School 4:30 pm
- Mid-year Auditions: January 7, 2026 @ Washington Middle School 4:30 pm
  - Pre-registration is suggested, available on our website.
- Memory Lane Concert: March 21, 2026 @ The Koval Center North Thurston HS 4:00 pm
- Musical Passport Concert: May 16, 2026 @ Calvary Chapel 3:00 pm

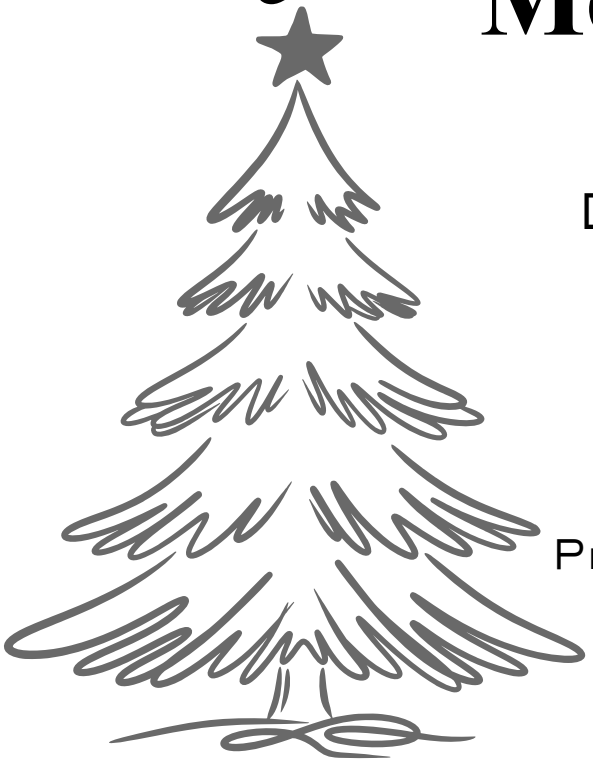
Staff

- Executive Director - Jamie Teuteberg
- Artistic Director - Nadine Bozeman
- Choir Manager - Michelle Stanley
- Financial Manager - Adeline Albert
- Social Media Manager - Lauren Hays

For more information, visit us online:
OlympiaYouthChorus.org and on Facebook and Instagram

OLYMPIA YOUTH CHORUS PRESENTS

Magical Moments



December 8, 2025
6:30 PM

Capital High School Performing Arts Center

Kids Helping Kids is supporting:

South Sound Reading Foundation (SSRF)

The OYC *Kids Helping Kids* initiative is a way for OYC to support a non-profit in our community by sharing the donations received from tonight. Thank you for supporting OYC & SSRF! Electronic donations accepted by scanning the QR code.

Part I - Dolce (Kinder - 2nd)
Directed by: Jason Brinker
Collaborative Pianist: Nicole Moe

Minka - Ukrainian Folk Song
Grandmother Moon (Winter Moon) arr. Eleanor Daley
Over My Head - arr. Adam & Matt Podd

Part II – Bel Canto (3rd - 5th)
Directed by: Jarred VandenBosch
Collaborative Pianist: Hallie Meaney

Praise the Lord, Alleluia – William Boyce and arr. by Douglas Wagner
Who Has Seen the Wind – by Mark Patterson
Gonna Take You on a Sleigh Ride – arr. Douglas Wagner

Part III – Coro Voce (6th - 8th)
Directed by: Caitlin Van Zee
Collaborative Pianist: Nicole Moe

Windy Nights – by Kirk Aamot
Once Upon a December – arr. Carl Stommen
Can You Hear - by Jim Papoulis
Soloists: Brittney Levanel, Juli Hall, Joann Jaison, Henry Boatright
Percussion: Adeline Albert, Lauren Hays

Part IV – Cantabile (9th - 12th)
Directed by: Nadine Bozeman
Collaborative Pianist: Jennifer Hermann

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella – arr. Dean and Jean Perry
Up Above My Head – arr. Andrea Ramsey
Soloists: Paige Van Oenen, Sierra Newell, Emily Titterington, Claire Byers, Joanna Horton, Maggie Metzger
Hanerot Halalu – by Michael Berg Raunick
Glow – by Eric Whitacre

Part V - Olympia Youth Chorus
Silent Night - by Josef Mohr

We invite you to join us the second time.

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Dolce: Ahti Hafkemeyer, Avery Thronson, Brynn Trask, Elin Dietz, Hazel Mei Albert, Maggie Legg, Molly Conn, Peter Wilkins, Sadie Brown, Silas Farmer, Sophia Harbour

Bel Canto: Adeline Dolge, Angus Nicholas, Charlotte Harbour, Elizabeth Brown, Eloise Healy, Georgia Woodbridge, Harper Johnston-Winstedt, Isaac Legg, Isabella North, Jameson Trask, Jules Poteet, Juniper Carmon, Kiley Alway, Lillian Conn, Madeline Trask, McKenzie Soikowski, Penelope Styron, Piper Carignan, Raquelle Atkinson, Rey Keller, Roxanne Curley, Ruth Richards, Saoirse Olson, Wren Uyeda, Zariya Boity, Zora Chase

Coro Voce: Adela Matheson, Britney Levanel, Cali Zimmerman, Catherine Becker, Cece Abbott, Ciara Curran, Eden Buck, Elly Sharp, Everly Francis, Gia Bedi, Harper Weeks, Hazel Ellings, Henry Boatright, Iris Styron, Joann Jaison, Julianna Hall, Kira Allen, Kristin Atkinson, MJ Healy, Mayra Timm, Nora Hopkins, Ofelia Thompson Gilbert, Sophia Bacon, Sophia Smitherman, Supriti Prasanna

Cantabile: Ada Martin, Adelia Sanchez, Amy Levanel, Anika Prabakar, Brynn Williams, Charlie Taron, Chloe Wagner, Claire Byers, Emi Moe, Emily Titterington, Joanna Horton, Laura Mutchler, Lily Van Oenen, Maggie Metzger, Olivia Boulay, Paige Van Oenen, Sierra Newell

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 6

Organization Name	Hummingbird Studio
Event Name	Art in the Park
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	Hummingbird Studio will host a one-day Art in the Park event at Woodland Creek Community Park on Friday, July 24, 2026. The event will be free, family-friendly, and open to the public with drop in hours from 10am to 2pm., and will provide a safe and welcoming environment for participants. This event prioritizes outreach to Lacey residents and creates a free cultural opportunity within a neighborhood park that expands access to arts participation for local families and community members. Participants of all ages and abilities may explore a variety of creative activities. Hummingbird Studio will provide all materials, including supplies for painting, drawing, and beadwork, so cost is never a barrier to participation. We use non-toxic, washable, and eco-friendly products whenever possible, minimize single-use items, recycle materials, and strive to minimize environmental impact. Live music and light snacks will create a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere and encourage community connection. The event activates a public park through arts programming that encourages positive and creative use of shared community space. Two staff members and a dedicated team of volunteers will facilitate art making, offer encouragement, and ensure that participants receive the support they need. Hummingbird Studio will promote the event through social media channels, flyers, and outreach support from the City of Lacey.
Event Address	Woodland Creek Park, Shelter B, 6729 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey, WA 98503
2. Funding Request	$2,500.00
Event Start Date	07/24/26
Event End Date	07/24/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	Hummingbird Studio (hummingbird studio.org) was founded on the belief that creative expression should be accessible to everyone. Our Art in the Park event at Woodland Creek Community Park is intentionally designed to create a space where people of all ages,

	abilities, identities, and backgrounds feel welcomed, respected, and supported. This work builds on more than ten years of inclusive community programming. Hummingbird Studio has extensive experience producing accessible public art events, including the City of Olympia Spring and Fall Arts Walk, Art in the Park events in Olympia and Tumwater, and last summer's Art on the Farm in partnership with GRuB. Hummingbird Studio celebrated our ten-year anniversary in August 2025 at Squaxin Park in Olympia. The event was an inclusion and friendship festival called iff oly and was sponsored by the City of Olympia and the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA).Through our weekly studio programs and public events, we developed strong practices that address diverse access needs, support positive behavior, and help participants feel comfortable engaging in shared public spaces through creative participation. The event is free and offered in an easy drop-in format, which reduces financial and logistical barriers to participation. Hummingbird Studio will provide all art materials and activities will remain adaptable so artists can engage at their own pace and according to their interests and abilities. Two trained staff members and four experienced volunteers will provide guidance, model inclusive practices, and ensure participants receive encouragement and assistance. We will offer three to four activity stations and gather informal participant feedback to asses accessibility, engagement, and overall community impact. Staff and volunteers will maintain clear sight-lines across activity areas to support safety and accessibility throughout the event. Hummingbird Studio cultivates belonging by emphasizing process over product and by celebrating each person's unique creative voice. Participants create alongside one another, which sparks conversation, creative collaboration, and connection among community members who might not otherwise meet. Live music, shared tables, and snacks further contribute to a relaxed atmosphere where families, caregivers, and individuals feel comfortable staying and connecting. By bringing inclusive art making into a public park in partnership with the City of Lacey, Hummingbird Studio demonstrates how community spaces thrive when everyone is invited to participate. Participants leave feeling welcomed, seen, valued, and inspired in their creative expression.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue
Total Budget	$2,500.00
City of Lacey Funding	Not Applicable
Estimated overall attendees	We anticipate welcoming between 50-100 participants over the four hour event with approximately 30-40 people engaged at any given time. This flow allows Hummingbird Studio staff and volunteers to provide meaningful support while maintaining a relaxed, safe, and

uncrowded environment at Woodland Creek Community Park, Shelter B.

City of Lacey – Community & Cultural Event Grants

Hummingbird Studio – Art in the Park
Friday, July 24 10am-2pm
Woodland Creek Park, Shelter B
Lacey, WA 98503

Event Budget

Requested Funding Amount: $2,500

Staffing and Volunteers

- Staff @$30/hr x 10 hours = $300
- Staff @$38/hr x 10 hours = $380

[In-Kind: Four volunteers @$25/hr x 6 hours = $600]

Equipment & Supplies

- Art materials (paint, drawing tools, beadwork supplies, paper, etc.) = $400

Food & Beverages

- Snacks = $220

Venue

- Park/shelter fee = $100

Program & Activities

- Face Painter and supplies = $200
- Live music honorarium (estimate) = $500

Marketing & Communications

- Vinyl commemorative stickers = $100
- Flyers, printing, and social media paid advertising = $300

Total Art in the Park Budget: $2,500

hummingbird studio presents:

celebrating 10 YEARS

INCLUSION & FRIENDSHIP FEST

iff.oly

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

11 AM - 1 PM FREE

SQUAXIN PARK ROSE GARDEN

OLYMPIA, WA

RAIN OR SHINE
PLEASE PLAN
TO CARPOOL

THANKS TO SPONSORS

Olympia

ARTSWA

inspire Olympia

ART
FOOD
MUSIC
FUN

hummingbird studio .org

where art belongs to everyone

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF CHARM

Questions? Email hummingbird@kokuaservices.org

WELCOME
FRIENDS
hummingbird
studio
celebrating
10
YEARS
LIMITED
EDITION
PREMIUM
fresh strawberries

FRIENDSHIP
BRACELETS

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTED TO TUMWATER BY
TUMWATER ROTARY AUG. 1981

Santos...
3m ago
How
Monte
Santos...
3m ago
Wtfff
JOSHUA

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 7

Organization Name	South Sound Studio Tour Foundation
Event Name	The South Sound Studio Tour
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	The South Sound Studio Tour is a free, all-ages event that welcomes the community on a self-guided tour to explore artist studios throughout Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater. During the two-day tour weekend each spring, visitors are invited to go behind the scenes to meet local artists in their studios, watch demonstrations, and learn about the artistic process across a range of media including painting, drawing, woodworking, ceramics, jewelry, photography, sculpture, fiber arts, and more. The South Sound Studio Tour is a free, all-ages event dedicated to enriching the lives of people in the Sound Sound region by building connections between the public and the talented artists and creatives that make our region so vibrant.
Event Address	Lacey MakerSpace at St. Martin’s University, Zaverl Hall Bldg. 5, Baran Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	05/30/26
Event End Date	05/31/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	The South Sound Studio Tour helps create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community by making art accessible to all and fostering meaningful connections between artists and the public. As a free, self-guided event, the South Sound Studio Tour removes financial barriers and allows visitors of all ages and backgrounds to engage meaningfully with creatives in their area. The South Sound Studio Tour covers the Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater areas, however thus far Lacey specifically has been underrepresented in artist participation and public attendance. Our specific goal in applying for this grant is to raise awareness of the Studio Tour for Lacey residents and artists through expanded publicity, signage, and outreach within the Lacey city limits. We want Lacey residents to have the delight and excitement of discovering the numerous talented creatives among them. We know that the Tour strengthens communities by building relationships within neighborhoods. Neighbors meet one another

	when something exciting is happening on their own street and they discover new neighborhoods in their city in the course of the Tour. By engaging directly with artists in their work spaces, visitors are inspired, student artists learn new techniques, children have their creativity sparked, and the artists gain valuable new perspectives on their work through meaningful conversations that foster mutual appreciation. A growing body of public health research demonstrates that arts and culture activities positively impact the drivers of health, health equity and economic development. Arts-rich communities are safer, more cohesive and residents tend to participate more in non-arts community activities as well. The South Sound Studio Tour showcases a diverse range of artistic voices, cultures, identities, and mediums, reflecting the richness of the South Sound community. Through direct engagement and shared creative experiences, the South Sound Studio Tour event fosters a genuine sense of welcome for all.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers
Total Budget	$32,121.12
City of Lacey Funding	Not applicable.
Estimated overall attendees	600 Total Tour, 150 in City of Lacey

City of Lacey Community and Cultural Event Grant Program
2026 Application - South Sound Studio Tour

EVENT BUDGET
(July 1, 2025 - June 31, 2026)

CASH EXPENSES	
EXPENSE ITEMS	**Total $**
Fees to Program Staff, Contractors	
Staff: Program Director - 5 hrs/week@$40/hr x 12 mo.	$ 10,560.00
Staff: Administrative Assistant - 3 hrs/wk@$35/hr x 9mo.	$ 4,200.00
Staff: Outreach & community engagement for City of Lacey 20 hrs @ $35/hr	$ 700.00
Professional Services, Support to Partner Non-Profits, Etc.	
Guest Juror Stipends	$ 200.00
Contributions to Community Studio Partners	$ 700.00
Financial Aid to Artists	$ 280.00
Spotlight Demo Stipends to 4 Artists @ $100 each	$ 400.00
Brochure Design	$ 800.00
City of Lacey Street Banner Design	$ 300.00
Bookeeping	$ 530.00
Program Expenses - Supplies, Rentals, etc.	
Printing of Street Banner for City of Lacey publicity	$ 1,250.00
Banner Reservation Fee	$ 50.00
Spotlight Demonstration for additional City of Lacey artists, 2 at $100 ea	$ 200.00
Printing of Tour Booklets	$ 3,414.00
Printing - Additional Tour Booklets for Lacey distribution	$ 500.00
Printing Data and Response Sheets	$ 128.00
Printing Yard Signs	$ 347.00
Printing - Additional Yard Signs & Flyers for City of Lacey publicity	$ 1,000.00
Supplies for Kid Activities estimated 20 studios (of 40 total) @ $15 each	$ 300.00
Office and Event Supplies and General Printing	$ 100.00
Post Tour party supplies	$ 300.00
Quickbooks Payments Fees	$ 59.00
Taxes and Licenses	$ 248.12
Office Rental Reserve	$ 1,000.00
Insurance	$ 850.00
Promotion/ Marketing / Communications	
Advertising and Marketing -JOLT, Arch Digest, etc.	$ 1,330.00
Website Maintenance	$ 375.00
Professional Photography and Video Production	$ 1,000.00
Photography & Videography - City of Lacey artists feature	$ 1,000.00
Subtotal - Cash Expenses	**$ 32,121.12**

CASH INCOME	
INCOME SOURCES	**Total $**
Earned Income	
Artist registration fees (70 artists @$35)*	$ 2,485.00
**Artists applying to the Tour are asked for a registration fee to confirm their participation as a studio location on the current year's tour. This fee may be waived for financial need by emailing the Tour board, with no further documentation required. There are no admission fees or costs to the public for attending the South Sound Studio Tour or related programming. The South Sound Studio Tour is a free, all-ages, public event.*	
Contributed Income and Grants	
Expected donations from fundraising	$ 5,000.00
Inspire Olympia Grant 2025-26	$22,000.00
City of Lacey Community & Cultural Event Grant	$ 5,000.00
Oranization's Own Cash	
Carryover cash from 2024-5	$ 4,356.00
Subtotal -Cash Income	**$38,841.00**
Projected Cash at End of Year	**$6,719.88**

City of Lacey Community and Cultural Event Grant Program
2026 Application - South Sound Studio Tour

EVENT MATERIAL EXAMPLES

Event Promotional Photos

Artist Jimmy Ulvenes opens his studio during the 2025 Tour

Tour-goers explore a home studio, 2025

Artist Ed Pong shares a demonstration at Lacey MakerSpace, 2025

Artist Elizabeth Berrien shares her process with visitors, 2025

Visitor Testimonials

Inspiration & Discovery:

"This is such a unique opportunity to become actively engaged with creatives of our community. Participating in a 'make' was not expected but so thrilling!"

"Loved the variety, and artists were so generous to share their process, inspiration, and workspace."

"Wonderful and inspiring hearing from the artists!" *

"Very interesting learning about the processing." *

"Fantastic! Learned so much!" *

Community & Connection:

"It was a lovely tour. Every place we visited was enlightening, interesting, and fun. The artists were so friendly. We ran out of time!"

"I loved it!...Felt so connected to my community. Love to know what's going on in buildings I go by all the time." *

"We love coming to see the open studios. We love to support artists."

"Couldn't have been better! Everyone was so inviting and informative…Thank you!" *

"It was great! Appreciate folks willing to show their stuff!" *

"Love art and supporting artists."

"Favorite Oly arts event of the year!

Fun For All:

"It's just wonderful!"

"So much fun!"

"I love this event!"

"Super cool!" *

"Wonderful!!"

"Good stuff!"

"Loved it!" *

"Love it! Do it again!!" *

"We love the Studio Tours

*Indicates first-time attendee on the 2025 Studio Tour

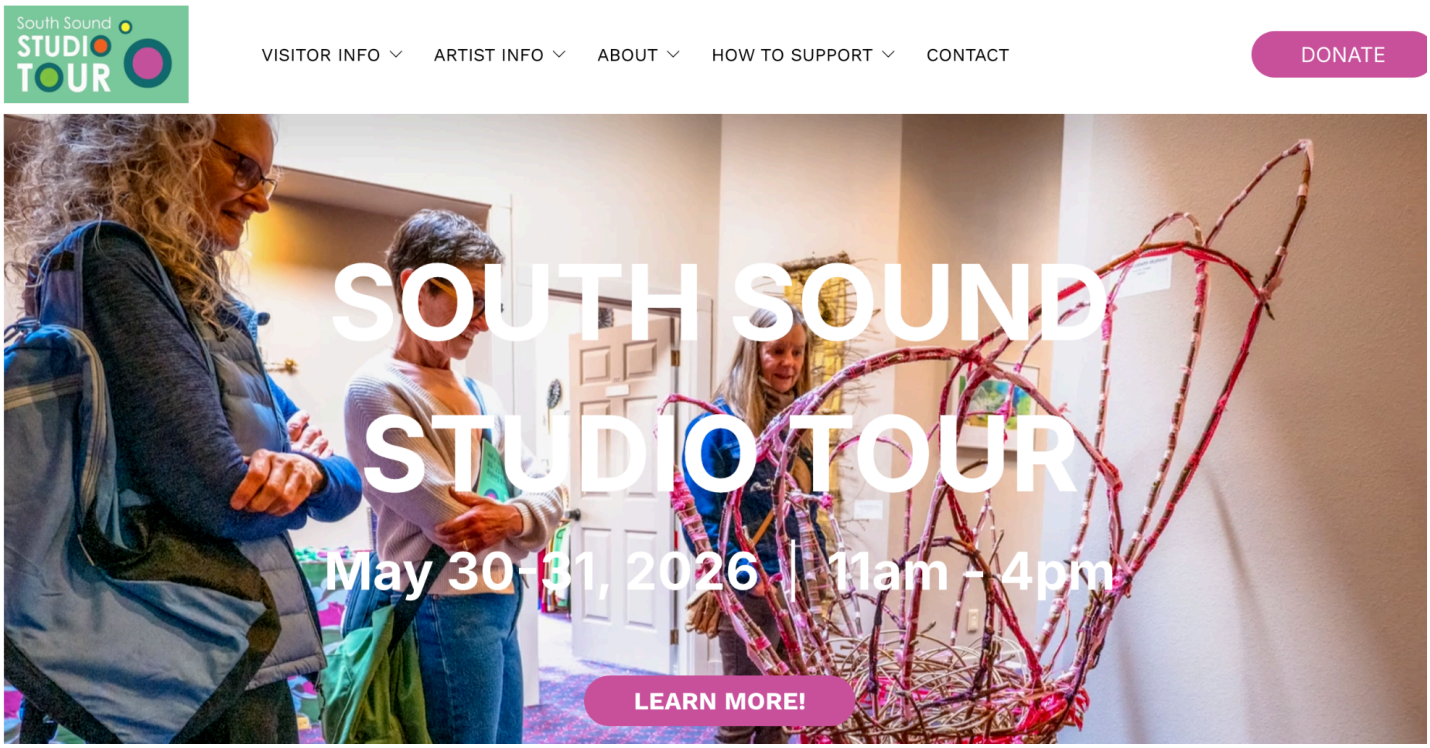
South Sound Studio Tour Brochure Map

A guide for visitors to discover, explore, and navigate tour locations.
Includes information regarding studio accessibility, nearby public transit, artist media, and interactive demonstrations.

South Sound Studio Tour Website

Online reference providing visitors with everything they need to plan a great Tour weekend. Includes a feature page for each of the year's participating artists, an interactive visitor map, FAQ page, and information about the Tour's work and history.

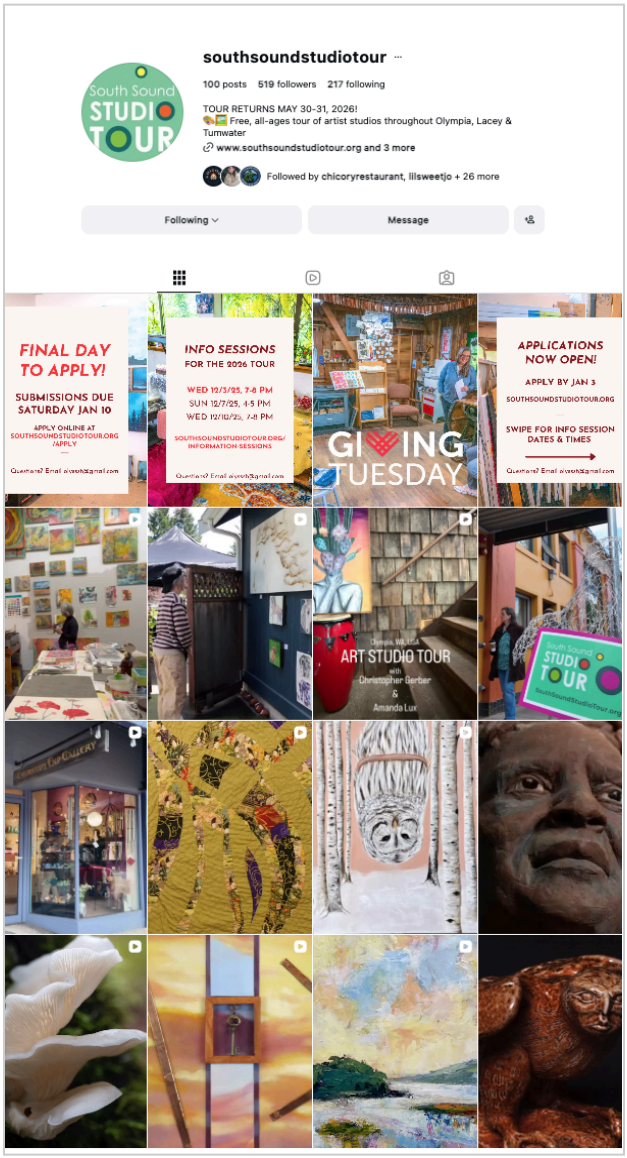
www.SouthSoundStudioTour.org



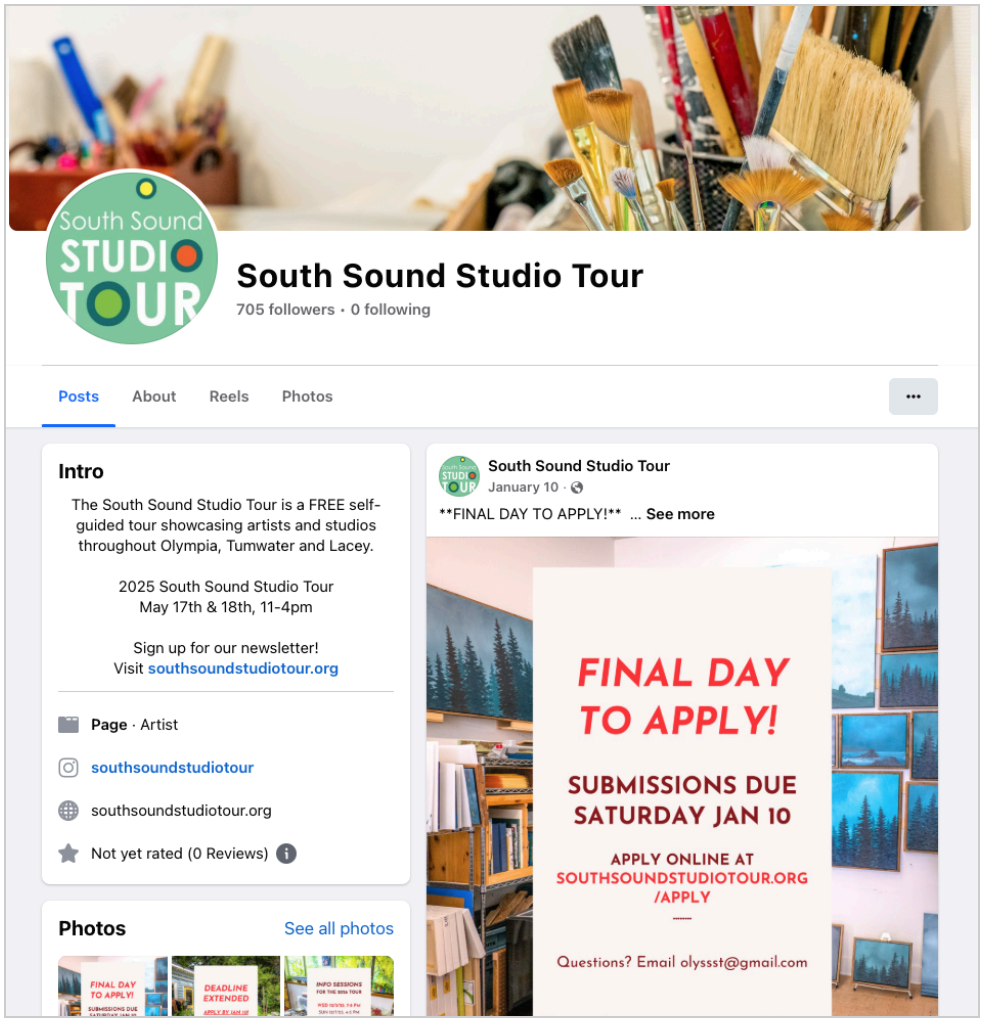
Social Media - Instagram & Facebook

Connecting with artists and community members in the South Sound to build engagement and excitement for the annual Tour

The South Sound Studio Tour on Instagram:
www.instagram.com/southsoundstudiotour



The South Sound Studio Tour on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/southsoundstudiotour



Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 9

Organization Name	Women's Dignity School
Event Name	Community Cultural Gathering
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	Women’s Dignity School (WDS) will host a free public community cookout and West African drumming gathering for residents of Lacey. The goal is to create a welcoming space where neighbors from different backgrounds can meet, share a meal, and spend time together in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. The event will include traditional West African drumming and interactive rhythm activities so both children and adults can participate. Attendees will also be able to try a traditional West African dish and learn about the culture in a practical and approachable way. A local community facilitator will lead a short guided conversation about community, belonging, and how people can feel more connected where they live. Our volunteers will help introduce people to one another and make sure newcomers feel comfortable joining in. The event is completely free and open to anyone, and it is not a fundraiser. The intention is simply to bring people together, help neighbors get to know each other, and create a positive shared experience for families in Lacey.
Event Address	Huntamer Park
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	06/06/26
Event End Date	06/06/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	This event is designed to be open and comfortable for anyone who wishes to attend. It is free, held in a public park during the daytime, and does not require registration, which removes financial and participation barriers. Families, seniors, and individuals can come and go at their own pace. Volunteers will be present throughout the event to welcome attendees, introduce people to one another, and help participants feel included in activities. The drumming portion is interactive so participants can join rather than simply observe, which helps people feel part of the gathering instead of being spectators. Sharing a meal

	together also helps people naturally connect in a relaxed setting. We will keep the environment family-friendly and respectful. The event is non-political, non-religious, and not a fundraiser. Clear expectations for respectful behavior will be communicated to volunteers, and organizers will remain present and available throughout the event to address any concerns if they arise. Because Women's Dignity School works regularly with immigrant and refugee families, we are intentional about making newcomers feel comfortable. Volunteers will assist with introductions and help bridge conversations between long-time residents and newer community members, so everyone feels welcome to participate. The overall goal is to give neighbors a positive, low-pressure opportunity to meet each other and leave feeling more comfortable and connected in their community.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Program and Activities
Total Budget	$5,000.00
City of Lacey Funding	Not Applicable
Estimated overall attendees	80

Women's Dignity School – 2026 Community Cultural Gathering Budget

Total Event Budget: $5,000

Program & Activity Costs – $1,600

- Local facilitator honorarium (community discussion and engagement activities): $400
- West African drumming facilitators/performers: $900
- Activity materials (hands-on rhythm participation items for children and adults): $300

Food & Beverages – $2,500

- Community cookout meal and traditional West African dish for approximately 80 attendees, including ingredients, preparation, serving supplies, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Equipment & Supplies – $900

- Park event supplies (tables, serving materials, sanitation, and cleaning supplies): $350
- Temporary shade/comfort items (canopies, coolers, ice, water stations): $300
- Printing and outreach materials (flyers, signage, and informational handouts): $250

Total Event Cost: $5,000

Multicultural Women's Leadership Workshop

Same opportunity, three different dates and locations

14
March
Rooted Office
113 W Maple St.
Centralia, WA 98531

28
March
Shelton Timberland Library
710 W Alder St, Shelton, WA 98584

25
April
Community Meeting Room
420 College Street SE
Lacey, WA 98503

A Free Community Event!

Join us in a shared learning experience designed to grow your leadership skills and abilities

Hosted by Denise Miño, Leadership Development Consultant. Denise will guide activities designed to identify and draw out your leadership strengths and qualities. We welcome all levels of leaders - aspiring, entry, mid, and executive level leaders for this event. Come join us as we share our stories and connect in community.

Featuring Special Guest

From Mali, Kayes, Africa, nominee for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, Madame Mariam Sidibe

All are welcome!

Lead with Dignity

Because empowered women change families, communities, and nations
Because dignity shared in community is healing
Because it matters here and across the globe
Because we care, and we give back

Building a Legacy of Dignity, Education, and Resilience
A Washington State 501 (C)3 Nonprofit

WOMEN'S Dignity School
Vocational Training for Women & Girls

JOIN US FOR

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Keynote Speaker:

Mariam Dembele

Women's Dignity School in Mali

March 8th, 2026

1 pm - 3 pm

Program at **1:30** pm

ABIGAIL STUART HOUSE - WOMAN'S CLUB OF OLYMPIA

1002 Washington St SE
Olympia WA 98501

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 10

Organization Name	Thurston County Food Bank
Event Name	Thurston County Hunger Walk
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	The Thurston County Hunger Walk is a community event dedicated to raising awareness and support for neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our community. Open to all ages and abilities, the event brings together families, businesses, schools, and community groups to raise funds and awareness around food insecurity in Thurston County. Participants gather for a brief program and music followed by a walk symbolizing solidarity with neighbors experiencing hunger. Funds raised support the Community Kitchen and Thurston County Food Bank. The Hunger Walk strengthens community connection while advancing our shared goal of eliminating hunger locally.
Event Address	8345 Steilacoom Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98513
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	05/03/26
Event End Date	
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	The Thurston County Hunger Walk is designed to be safe, inclusive, and welcoming to all. The event is free and open to the public, with an accessible route that encourages participation from families, seniors, and people of all abilities. Free food and event T-shirts will be provided to participants, helping create a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment where everyone feels valued and able to fully participate. We foster belonging by bringing together diverse community members around a shared goal—ensuring everyone has access to food. The Hunger Walk advances Council-adopted goals specifically related to livability. By raising funds and awareness to address food insecurity, the event supports equitable access to basic needs, strengthens human services, and promotes a healthier community for all residents. Our event messaging centers dignity and compassion, helping

	reduce stigma around food insecurity and creating a respectful, supportive environment for all participants.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Venue
Total Budget	$13,100.00
City of Lacey Funding	Not Applicable
Estimated overall attendees	100

Thurston County Hunger Walk

Taking Steps to End Hunger

Hunger Walk Sponsorship

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Sponsorships for Hunger Walk are split between The Community Kitchen and Thurston County Food Bank, keeping your help local & helping our community thrive.

The Community Kitchen

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

Thurston County Food Bank

STEP SPONSOR — $500

- Name/logo on signage/along route
- Social media spotlight
- Prominent logo on campaign website

STRIDE SPONSOR — $1,000

- Recognition during opening remarks
- Name/logo on signage/along route
- Social media spotlight
- Prominent logo on campaign website

MILE SPONSOR — $2,500

- Logo on event shirts
- Logo on main event banner
- Booth Space
- Recognition during opening remarks
- Name/logo on signage/along route
- Social media spotlight
- Prominent logo on campaign website

STARTING LINE SPONSOR — $5,000

ONLY ONE AVAILABLE

- Name integrated into event title: "Hunger Walk presented by [YOU!]"
- Recognition in press releases & radio spots
- Photo op on stage with agency directors during opening remarks for check presentation
- Additional, after event feature social media photo post
- Five minute speaking opportunity during opening remarks
- Logo included in all emails to participants

PLUS everything in the Mile Sponsor Level

BARK ZONE SPONSOR — $3,000

- "Bark Zone sponsored by" signage in Zone & on route
- Logo on event shirts
- Logo on main event banner
- Logo on pet bandanas
- Recognition during opening remarks
- Social media spotlight
- Logo on campaign website
- Booth Space

ONLY ONE AVAILABLE

Ready to take steps to end hunger with us by sponsoring?

Email AmandaM@tcfb.org or call 360-352-8597 ext 210

Sponsorships submitted after April 1 may miss inclusion in print materials.

THE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

Thurston County
FOOD
BANK

Save the Date

Sun., May 3rd

Thurston County
Hunger
Walk

Taking Steps to End Hunger

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 11

Organization Name	Christlike AgroTourism for Racial Equality Wellness Center & Services
Event Name	S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day - Presented by C.A.R.E. Wellness Cente
Event Goal Alignment	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day is a free, full-day cultural wellness and trauma-healing event designed to bring the Lacey community together for education, connection, and culturally grounded healing experiences. Hosted at the ADA-accessible Lacey Community Center on April 4, 2026, this event blends trauma-informed learning, cultural celebration, hands-on healing activities, and community engagement to support the overall wellness of residents of all ages. Throughout the day, attendees can participate in PTSS/PTSD awareness presentations, nature-based grounding exercises, a S.A.F.E. mini-workshop (including free booklets), and a live demonstration of the healing-archetype LARP model. The event also features a BIPOC Vendor & Cultural Marketplace that highlights local artists, healers, makers, and cultural practitioners, strengthening both visibility and economic opportunity for the region’s diverse communities. Participants will have opportunities to connect with trauma-informed practitioners, engage in healing circles and community dialogues, enjoy music and storytelling, and access free culturally informed mental-health resources. Every element—from multilingual materials to accessible accommodations—ensures the event is welcoming, inclusive, and open to all. By weaving together education, culture, nature, and community connection, the S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day creates a transformative environment that supports collective healing and empowers residents to access long-term wellness pathways.
Event Address	6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	04/04/26
Event End Date	04/04/26

4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming

The S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day is intentionally designed to create a safe, inclusive, culturally grounded, and welcoming environment for all Lacey residents. Every component of the event—from the facilitators to the activities to the physical environment—centers accessibility, cultural responsiveness, and trauma-informed care.

1. A Trauma-Informed, Supportive Environment
The event provides an atmosphere where community members can openly learn about and discuss PTSS/PTSD, intergenerational trauma, and holistic wellness in a safe and non-stigmatizing space. It includes:

Trauma-informed presenters and wellness practitioners available throughout the day for education and Q&A [CCEGP 2026 | PDF]
Healing circles, peer dialogue, grounding activities, and nature-based exercises that promote emotional safety and self-regulation
Free culturally informed mental-health resources accessible to people of all backgrounds and income levels [CCEGP 2026 | PDF]

This helps normalize community conversations around trauma and wellness while fostering connection and psychological safety.

2. Accessibility & Inclusion for All Abilities and Identities
C.A.R.E. Wellness Center centers equity and accessibility by ensuring:

An ADA-accessible venue at the Lacey Community Center
ASL interpretation, physical accommodations, and safety staff as part of the event budget [CCEGP 2026 | PDF]
Multilingual materials (English, Spanish, and Lushootseed when possible) to welcome linguistically diverse community members [CCEGP 2026 | PDF]
Free admission and free access to activities, resources, plants, booklets, and demonstrations, eliminating financial barriers to participation

These measures ensure that every attendee—regardless of ability, language, or socioeconomic status—can fully participate.

3. Uplifting BIPOC Community Voices & Cultural Belonging
The event intentionally amplifies cultural pride and belonging by:

Featuring BIPOC healers, vendors, educators, and storytellers throughout the day [CCEGP 2026 | PDF]
Hosting a BIPOC Cultural Marketplace that celebrates cultural expression, art, music, and community offerings
Providing culturally grounded workshops, trauma-healing approaches, and nature-based practices that reflect the lived experiences of marginalized communities

This centering of cultural identity strengthens community belonging, visibility, and representation.

4. Inclusive, Hands-On Activities That Bring People Together
Each experience zone promotes connection and community building:

Community Engagement & PTSS/PTSD Awareness Zone encourages dialogue, shared learning, and connection across diverse communities
Healing Workshops & Demonstrations Zone offers hands-on

	activities such as nature therapy, the S.A.F.E. mini-workshop, and healing-archetype LARP demonstrations to support interactivity and collective learning [CCEGP 2026 | PDF] Storytelling, music, snacks, and informal gathering spaces help reduce isolation and invite cross-community connection These activities create opportunities for people to engage, learn, and heal together, strengthening social cohesion. 5. A Welcoming Atmosphere Designed for Community Connection The event includes music, food, friendly staff, open seating spaces, youth-friendly activities, and opportunities for residents to network with practitioners, vendors, and neighbors in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The entire day—from the opening welcome and land/labor acknowledgment to the closing healing circles—is structured to build a community atmosphere grounded in respect, belonging, and shared cultural appreciation.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Transportation Venue
Total Budget	$5,000.00
City of Lacey Funding	N/A
Estimated overall attendees	100

🌿 C.A.R.E. Wellness Center

2026 Community Cultural Healing Day

City of Lacey – Community & Cultural Events Grant Proposal

Funding Request: $5,000 (Maximum Award)

Venue: Lacey Community Center

1. Event Overview

Event Title: ***S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day – Presented by C.A.R.E. Wellness***
Organization: C.A.R.E. Wellness Center (sole applicant and host)
Event Type: Free, public, cultural, wellness, and educational community event
Location: Lacey Community Center — an indoor, ADA-accessible community venue
Proposed Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM PST
This full-day event brings the Lacey community together for **education, cultural wellness, trauma awareness, *and* hands-on healing experiences**, strengthening community connection and expanding access to culturally rooted wellness pathways.

2. Purpose & Alignment With City Priorities

This event fulfills the City of Lacey's priorities by:

- Increasing community education on **PTSS/PTSD, trauma, and wellness**
- Creating a welcoming, inclusive environment for diverse populations
- Providing free access to culturally grounded resources and healing supports
- Strengthening community belonging, visibility, and engagement

a. Community Engagement & Information Sharing

The event creates a safe, accessible space for community conversations about PTSS/PTSD, intergenerational trauma, and culturally informed wellness approaches.

b. Increasing Cultural Awareness & Healing Justice Education

Attendees gain access to culturally grounded trauma-informed education at no cost, supporting equity in community mental-health literacy.

c. Supporting Long-Term Community Wellness Pathways

Participants can register on-site for upcoming **S.A.F.E. Workshops** co-hosted with Community Nature Station Co-op in Olympia, expanding regional access to healing resources.

3. Event Components

This all-day event includes three primary experience zones:

1. Community Engagement & PTSS/PTSD Awareness Zone

- Presentations on PTSS/PTSD, trauma healing, and community wellness
- Resource tables offering culturally informed mental-health information
- Trauma-informed wellness practitioners available for Q&A
- Music, snacks, and water provided throughout the day
- Invitations to schedule community engagement surveys to improve wellness services for BIPOC community
- Community Engagement Survey – Fill out form

2. Healing Workshops & Demonstrations Zone

S.A.F.E. Workshop Experience (Booklet Giveaway)

- A mini-workshop introducing the S.A.F.E. model
- Participants receive a **free S.A.F.E. booklet**
- Facilitators answer questions and demonstrate how the model works
- www.carewellnesswa.org/self-advocacy

Nature Therapy Station (Plant Giveaway)

- Hands-on nature therapy and grounding exercises
- Each attendee receives a small plant or herbal start to take home
- Environmental wellness teachings inspired by nature-based healing traditions
- www.carewellnesswa.org/nature-therapy

S.A.F.E. LARP Demonstration (Game-Testing & Card Sales)

- Live, interactive demonstration of S.A.F.E.'s LARP-based healing archetypes
- Participants can test out the game mechanics
- Card decks available for purchase to support the nonprofit's programming
- S.A.F.E. LARP Survey – Fill out form

3. BIPOC Vendor & Cultural Marketplace

- Local BIPOC community partners offering cultural goods, art, crafts, and wellness products
- Community healers offering sample services
- Storytelling and cultural expression throughout the day via #campfiretea podcast

This marketplace amplifies BIPOC visibility, celebrates cultural resilience, and strengthens local economic opportunity.

4. Equity & Inclusion Focus

C.A.R.E. centers cultural responsibility and accessibility by:

- Uplifting BIPOC practitioners, vendors, educators, and storytellers
- Offering multilingual materials (English, Spanish, Lushootseed when possible)
- Ensuring trauma-informed staffing and support
- Providing ADA-accessible facilities and accommodations
- Ensuring all activities are free, inclusive, and open to the public

5. Organizational Eligibility

C.A.R.E. Wellness Center meets all requirements as a:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in Washington State
- Culturally responsive, trauma-informed community wellness organization
- Sole applicant (as required by CCEG program guidelines)

6. Budget Request — $5,000 (Reimbursement Model)

Budget Item	Description	Cost
Marketing & Outreach	Printing, flyers, social media ads, targeted outreach	$900
Presenter & Facilitator Stipends	PTSS/PTSD educators, LARP facilitators, S.A.F.E. workshop instructors	$1,400
Equipment & Supplies	Tables, chairs, sound system, signage, workshop materials	$1,100
Cultural & Wellness Materials	S.A.F.E. booklets, plant giveaways, youth activity supplies	$600
Accessibility & Safety	ASL interpretation, ADA accommodations, safety team, water/snacks	$600

Total Requested		**$5,000**

7. Expected Outcomes

- **100+** attendees participate in cultural and wellness activities
- Increased community awareness of PTSS/PTSD and trauma-healing resources
- **10–20 *new* registrations** for S.A.F.E. workshops in Spring 2026
- Increased visibility of BIPOC vendors, healers, and practitioners
- Strengthened regional partnerships between C.A.R.E., CNS Co-op, and community members like GRuB farm, Dancing Goats and Singing Chickens farm, Growing Home Collective, and BIPOC goods and services

8. Evaluation & Reporting

C.A.R.E. will provide all required reporting, including:

- Attendance tracking & demographic data
- Participant surveys and feedback collection
- Workshop registration numbers
- Financial documentation for reimbursement

9. Venue Reservation Plan

C.A.R.E. Wellness Center will reserve the Lacey Community Center upon grant approval and confirmation of award. Per City of Lacey policy, facility use agreements are completed **after** funding decisions, ensuring compliance with scheduling, insurance, and rental requirements. Upon notification of award, C.A.R.E. will:

- Contact Lacey Community Center to confirm availability for **Saturday, April 4, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM PST**.
- Submit the required facility-use application.
- Provide necessary insurance documentation (general liability).

- Coordinate room setup, accessibility needs, and AV equipment with onsite staff.
- Finalize the written agreement and secure the booking according to City guidelines.

This process aligns with City grant procedures, which require selected organizations to enter into a formal agreement before the event date.

10. Proposed Event Schedule

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM — Welcome, Opening Music, Land & Labor Acknowledgment
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM — PTSS/PTSD Awareness Presentation & Community Dialogue
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM — S.A.F.E. Mini-Workshop & Booklet Giveaway
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM — BIPOC Vendor Marketplace (Music, Snacks, Networking)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM — Nature Therapy Demonstration & Plant Giveaway
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM — S.A.F.E. LARP Healing Demo & Game-Testing
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM — Cultural Storytelling #campfiretea & Community Engagement
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM — Healing Circles, Peer Dialogue & Practitioner Q&A
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM — Vendor Marketplace Closes, Final Registrations for S.A.F.E. Workshops and fundraising for PTSS awareness (Proceeds to BeTheHealing, Inc.)

11. Conclusion

This event strengthens community connection, expands access to culturally grounded trauma-healing practices, and amplifies BIPOC cultural presence and wellness resources in Lacey. With education, nature therapy, healing demonstrations, music, vendors, and hands-on community engagement, the event offers a transformative and inclusive experience for all residents.

C.A.R.E. Wellness Center looks forward to hosting this community celebration and welcoming Lacey residents into a day of healing, learning, cultural pride, and connection.

Understanding Self-Advocacy

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Journaling – Reflect on your needs, values, and boundaries.
- Role-Playing – Practice advocating for yourself in safe environments.
- Education – Learn about your rights and available resources.
- Affirmations – Reinforce your right to speak up and be heard.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What makes me feel angry when I'm not heard or respected?
2. How do I reclaim my worth when systems try to diminish it?
3. What internalized beliefs about my identity do I need to challenge to advocate for myself?

Self-Care & Self-Awareness

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Mindful Check-Ins – Pause daily to assess your emotional and physical state.
- Body Scans – Use guided meditation to notice tension or discomfort.
- Boundaries Practice – Identify and communicate your limits.
- Gratitude Lists – Focus on what's working well to build resilience.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What does my anger reveal about unmet needs in my life?
2. How do I show love to myself when I feel unworthy?
3. In what ways have I absorbed societal messages that disconnect me from my truth?

Recognizing Anger

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Anger Journaling – Track triggers, feelings, and responses.
- Breathing Techniques – Calm the nervous system before reacting.
- Physical Release – Channel anger through movement (e.g., walking, dancing, martial arts).
- Name the Emotion – Labeling anger reduces intensity and increases clarity.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What boundaries have I struggled to set because of fear or shame?
2. How has anger helped me survive—and how can it help me heal?
3. How has racism or oppression shaped the way I express or suppress anger?

Building Self-Esteem

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Strength Spotting – List accomplishments and qualities regularly.
- Mirror Talk – Speak kindly to yourself in the mirror.
- Challenge Negative Thoughts – Use affirmations to reframe self-criticism.
- Acts of Service – Helping others reinforces your sense of value.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What messages from my past have made me question my value?
2. How do I respond when I feel unseen or underestimated?
3. What strengths have helped me resist internalized oppression?

Improving Communication

COPING TECHNIQUES

- “I” Statements – Express feelings and needs without blame.
- Active Listening – Reflect back and ask clarifying questions.
- Nonverbal Awareness – Tune into body language and tone.
- Assertiveness Practice – Speak clearly and respectfully.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What stops me from speaking up when I feel disrespected?
2. How do I communicate my worth without needing validation?
3. How has systemic oppression impacted my ability to express myself freely?

Conflict Resolution

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Pause Before Responding – Breathe and think before reacting.
- Seek Common Ground – Focus on shared goals or values.
- Use Neutral Language – Avoid accusatory or inflammatory words.
- Agree to Disagree – Accept that resolution doesn’t require agreement.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How do I manage anger in moments of injustice or misunderstanding?
2. What does it mean to stand up for myself without becoming aggressive?
3. How do I navigate conflict when power dynamics are unequal?

Problem Solving

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Break It Down – Divide the problem into smaller parts.
- Brainstorm Solutions – Generate options without judgment.
- Pros and Cons List – Evaluate each option thoughtfully.
- Ask for Help – Seek input from trusted people.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What role does anger play in how I approach challenges?
2. How do I build confidence in my ability to find solutions?
3. What internalized narratives make me doubt my problem-solving skills?

Finding Your Voice

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Speak in Safe Spaces – Share thoughts in supportive environments.
- Creative Expression – Use art, music, or writing.
- Public Speaking Practice – Join community circles or Toastmasters.
- Voice Recording – Build confidence by hearing your own voice.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What fears arise when I speak my truth?
2. How do I reclaim my voice from the silence imposed by oppression?
3. What does it mean to express myself with both power and grace?

Mind-Body-Spirit Connection

COPING TECHNIQUES

- Meditation or Prayer – Connect with your inner self or higher power.
- Movement Practices – Yoga, tai chi, or dance.
- Nature Time – Ground and recharge outdoors.
- Vision Boarding – Visualize goals and values through imagery.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Where does anger live in my body—and what does it need?
2. How do I nurture self-esteem through spiritual or ancestral practices?
3. How has racism affected my relationship with my body and spirit?

Planning & Goal Setting

COPING TECHNIQUES

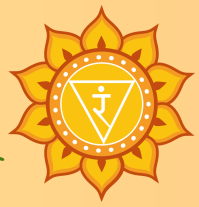
- SMART Goals – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound.
- Daily To-Do Lists – Break goals into actionable steps.
- Accountability Partners – Share goals with someone who supports you.
- Celebrate Milestones – Acknowledge progress to stay motivated.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What emotional blocks (like fear, anger or shame) interfere with my goals?
2. How do I set goals that honor my worth and lived experience?
3. What systems or beliefs have made me feel like my dreams aren't valid?

Character #3

THE WARRIOR



Plant Ally: Nettle

- **Role:** Activates personal power and self-worth.
- **Core Essence:** Confidence, autonomy, willpower.
- **Barrier:** Powerlessness, self-doubt, fear of visibility.
- **Symbolic Power:** A sun-forged blade of truth.
- **Guiding Question:** "Where are you ready to reclaim your power?"
- **Ritual Movement:** Solar Strike – Participants extend one arm forward in a strong, deliberate motion while the other arm draws back like pulling a bow. This movement channels inner fire and assertiveness.

Character #2

THE HEALER

Plant Ally: Usnea

- **Role:** Transmutes pain into emotional flow and creative power.
- **Core Essence:** Sensation, emotion, intimacy.
- **Barrier:** Shame, emotional numbness, fear of pleasure.
- **Symbolic Power:** A chalice of flowing water that never empties.
- **Guiding Question:** "What emotions are asking to be felt and released?"
- **Ritual Movement:** Pelvic Wave – A gentle undulating motion of the hips and lower spine, paired with deep exhalations. This movement restores flow and emotional release.

Scenario #3

THE MIRROR HOUSE

- **Barrier:** Self-Esteem, Identity Distortion & Internalized Oppression
- **Setting:** A house of mirrors where each pane whispers distorted reflections of the self. Twisted images echo shame and doubt. The air is heavy with judgment and forgotten truths.
- **Storyline:** Once a sacred place of self-discovery, the Mirror House was corrupted by the voices of fear and societal expectations. It now reflects not truth, but the lies the world has taught you to believe.
- **Challenge:** You enter the Mirror House seeking clarity about who you truly are. But the reflections twist your image, echoing voices of shame, doubt, and internalized oppression. Your goal is to confront these distortions and reclaim your authentic self. Can you see through the lies and speak truth to the wounded parts within?

Closing Circle

"We have walked through chaos.
We have named the harm.
We have transmuted the poison.
We are Guardians of Peace.
We walk forward – whole, wise, and free."

THE PATH OF THE PEACEMAKER: A Walk to Reclaim Power

Participants become "Peacemakers" journeying through symbolic stations that represent stages of trauma, resistance, and transformation.

Players can rate their own success, improvements, strengths, and shadow strengths over time via use of the S.A.F.E. surveys online at: www.carewellnesswa.org/self-advocacy.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY TODAY SO WE CAN ALL GROW TOGETHER!

INSTRUCTIONS

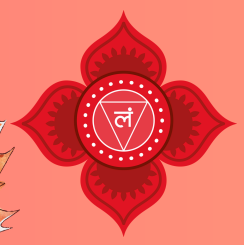
This is a 1-hour interactive Live-Action Role-Playing **(LARP)** framework that feels like a game but functions as a healing ritual to disrupt toxic stress and transmute dormant trauma.

This interactive experience can be used solo during meditation, solo on a nature walk, or with a group of friends indoors and outdoors. This game can also be applied during more complex LARP experiences with props. Always use caution when in public and near dangerous areas.

Choose a **Topic** card, a **Scenario** card, and a **Character** card to explore. Relish the experience!

Character #1

THE GUARDIAN



Plant Ally: Big Leaf Maple
Role: Grounds and protects the sacred self.
Core Essence: Safety, survival, and stability.
Barrier: Fear, insecurity, lack of belonging.
Symbolic Power: A stone shield pulsing with ancestral strength.
Guiding Question: *"What must be protected for you to feel safe in your body and community?"*
Ritual Movement: **Stomp and Ground** – Participants stomp both feet into the earth, then press palms downward toward the ground to anchor themselves. This movement reinforces physical presence and boundary awareness.

Opening Circle

Welcome. As we gather in this circle, we honor the courage it takes to show up—for ourselves, for each other, and for the healing journey ahead. Today, we enter a sacred space of play, transformation, and self-advocacy. Through the archetypes of the SAFE deck—The Witness, The Healer, The Tracker, The Protector, and others—we invite you to explore your inner landscape with curiosity and compassion.

This is a brave space. You are not required to be fearless, only willing. Here, your voice matters, your boundaries are respected, and your truth is welcome. We ask you to listen deeply, speak authentically, and hold space for others as they do the same.

As we begin, take a moment to feel your feet on the earth, your breath in your body, and the presence of those around you. You are not alone. Together, we will move through story, embodiment, and reflection—each step a practice in equity, resilience, and renewal. Let the circle be our container. Let the characters be our guides. Let the journey begin.

Scenario #1

THE OVERGROWN OUTPOST

- **Barrier:** Survival & Ethical Dilemmas
- **Setting:** A once-thriving forest outpost now swallowed by vines and silence. Faded maps and broken gear hint at a community that vanished without a trace. The air is thick with mystery and memory.
- **Storyline:** Built as a refuge for those escaping conflict, the Outpost now stands as a test of resilience. The forest reclaims what was abandoned, and the spirits of those who stayed behind linger in the shadows. The land holds stories of sacrifice, survival, and secrets.
- **Challenge:** You arrive at the Outpost as part of a mission to reclaim lost wisdom and reconnect with ancestral resilience. But the silence is unsettling, and the forest seems to watch your every move. You must decide whether to salvage resources from sacred ground, defend the outpost from intruders, or abandon it to preserve your safety. Your goal is to honor the past without losing yourself to fear or guilt. Can you trust your instincts while staying true to your values?

Scenario #2

THE SIREN'S COVE

- **Barrier:** Emotional Safety & Overwhelm
- **Setting:** A windswept shoreline where sirens sing through crashing waves and thunderous skies. Torn fabric flutters from driftwood altars, and drums echo like distant heartbeats.
- **Storyline:** The Cove is a place of emotional reckoning. The Storm is the embodiment of chaos—trauma, injustice, and fear. It cannot be stopped, only survived. Each gust carries a memory; each wave, a challenge.
- **Challenge:** You've been called to the Cove to confront emotional overwhelm and reclaim your inner calm. The storm is already brewing, and each step forward brings symbolic triggers—shouting voices, sudden obstacles, seductive illusions, emotional flashbacks. Your goal is to walk through the chaos without losing your center. Can you observe, anchor, and guide yourself and others through the emotional tempest?

Character #5

THE MESSENGER

Plant Ally:
Willow

- **Role:** Speaks truth and advocates for justice and equity.
- **Core Essence:** Expression, communication, and advocacy.
- **Barrier:** Silence, fear of being misunderstood, censorship.
- **Symbolic Power:** A feathered scroll that carries sacred words.
- **Guiding Question:** “What message must be spoken to restore balance?”
- **Ritual Movement:** Voice Pulse – Participants place one hand on their throat and the other on their heart, then hum or chant a resonant sound. This movement activates vocal courage and clarity.

Character #4

THE WITNESS

Plant Ally:
Red Osier Dogwood

- **Role:** Sees and validates authenticity with natural warmth & compassion.
- **Core Essence:** Love, empathy, and connection.
- **Barrier:** Grief, betrayal, fear of vulnerability.
- **Symbolic Power:** A mirror that reflects the soul without distortion.
- **Guiding Question:** “What truth must be seen and held with love?”
- **Ritual Movement:** Heart Opening – Arms sweep wide from the chest, palms facing outward, followed by a deep inhale and gentle bow. This movement invites openness and emotional presence.

Scenario #5

THE GRAND HALL

- **Barrier:** Belonging & Vulnerability
- **Setting:** A sacred chamber encircled by ancestral stones, flickering candles, and symbols etched into the floor. Silence is sacred, and speech is power.
- **Storyline:** The Ritual Hall is a place of reckoning. Here, truths are spoken and held. But speaking truth risks rejection, shame, or exposure. The Circle of Truth demands courage and clarity.
- **Challenge:** You’ve been invited to the Ritual Hall to share your truth and be witnessed. But the silence is heavy, and the masked facilitators offer no feedback—only presence. Your goal is to speak your story with courage, knowing it may lead to transformation or rejection. Can you hold vulnerability as a strength and trust the power of your voice?

Scenario #4

THE ABANDONED NURSERY

- **Barrier:** Safety & Access to Power
- **Setting:** A forgotten nursery at the edge of a dream realm, guarded by a masked sentinel who speaks in riddles and watches from behind shattered glass.
- **Storyline:** The nursery was once a sanctuary for the vulnerable, but now it stands as a gate to transformation. The Threshold Keeper tests those who seek healing, demanding declarations of self-worth and truth.
- **Challenge:** You’ve come to the Nursery to reclaim your voice and power. But the masked gatekeeper challenges your worth, using manipulation and riddles to stir old wounds of abandonment and betrayal. Your goal is to declare your truth and demand access to healing. Can you stand firm in your self-worth and navigate the ethical dilemmas that arise?

Character #7

THE ALCHEMIST

- **Plant Ally**:
- **Role:** Channels divine wisdom and transforms trauma into purpose.
- **Core Essence:** Spiritual connection, transcendence, and integration.
- **Barrier:** Disconnection, despair, fear of surrender.
- **Symbolic Power:** A radiant halo woven from memory and light.
- **Guiding Question:** “What pain is ready to become wisdom?”
- **Ritual Movement:** Crown Spiral – Participants raise both arms overhead and slowly spiral them outward, as if drawing down light. This movement invokes connection to higher wisdom and integration.

Character #6

THE TRACKER

- **Plant Ally**: Camass
- **Role:** Sees patterns, follows intuition, and reveals hidden truths.
- **Core Essence:** Insight, clarity, perception.
- **Barrier:** Confusion, denial, illusion.
- **Symbolic Power:** A crystal compass that points to inner truth.
- **Guiding Question:** “What pattern is ready to be broken?”
- **Ritual Movement:** Third Eye Sweep – Participants trace a figure-eight motion in front of their forehead with both hands, then pause with fingers resting gently between the brows. This movement enhances intuitive focus and mental clarity.

Scenario #7

THE FUTURISTIC CITY

- **Barrier:** Fear of Change & Identity Shifts
- **Setting:** A sleek, luminous city suspended between two realms—one of shadow, one of light. Holographic gates shimmer with possibility, and drones hum with silent judgment.
- **Storyline:** The City is a place of evolution. The Bridge of Becoming marks the passage from who you were to who you are becoming. But crossing means shedding old identities, beliefs, and protections.
- **Challenge:** You stand at the Bridge of Becoming, burdened by symbols of your past—stones of doubt, cloaks of conformity. The city watches silently, waiting for your declaration. Your goal is to release what no longer serves you and step into your empowered identity. Can you shed fear and embrace transformation with intention?

Scenario #6

THE FLOODED LIBRARY

- **Barrier:** Forgiveness & Higher Awareness
- **Setting:** A submerged archive of ancient wisdom, where glowing books float in midair and water drips from the ceiling like memories. A wise owl perches silently, guarding the truths of multiple realities.
- **Storyline:** The Library holds the knowledge of all timelines, but only those who forgive and accept their past may access its deeper chambers. The owl tests seekers with riddles of regret and visions of what could have been.
- **Challenge:** You seek wisdom in the Library, but the owl guardian offers riddles and visions of regret. Memories of betrayal, missed chances, and self-blame rise like the water around you. Your goal is to access the deeper chambers of truth by forgiving yourself and integrating your past. Can you face what was and choose what will be?

SAFE

LARP CARDS

C.A.R.E. WELLNESS CENTER
EXPLORING THE ROOT TO WELLNESS.

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Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 12

Organization Name	The JOLT News Organization
Event Name	Local News Day
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	Around the world, local news outlets strengthen communities, keep residents informed and hold leaders accountable. Thurston County's own nonprofit news source, The JOLT News Organization, will bring together local and national speakers to talk about the state of local news here. We will invite everyone who reads The JOLT website -- www.theJOLTnews.com -- or The Daily JOLT newsletter to attend.
Event Address	Norman Worthington Conference Center — Saint Martin's University
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	04/08/26
Event End Date	04/08/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	This event will help people here understand how free, nonpartisan news and information can empower them to become better informed and more engaged in local decision-making and civic life in Lacey.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue
Total Budget	$8,138.00
City of Lacey Funding	Not applicable

Estimated overall attendees	275-325

LOCAL NEWS DAY

A National Day of Action Connecting Communities with Trusted Local News

Strong communities depend on access to credible local journalism. On Thursday, **April 9, 2026**, Americans will come together for Local News Day — a national day of action reconnecting communities with trusted local news that keep us informed, connected, and accountable.

THE CHALLENGE

Since 2005, the U.S. has lost over 2,500 newspapers and 60% of local reporters. Local News Day responds to this loss by spotlighting the essential role of local news and helping people find and support the outlets that keep their communities informed.

THE SOLUTION

Modeled after Giving Tuesday and National Voter Registration Day, Local News Day mobilizes citizens, newsrooms, nonprofits, businesses, and universities to support and celebrate local news. Together, we build a national tradition to revive trust and connection.

HOW WE GET THERE

1. **Engage:** Launch our Local News Finder to help users find and subscribe to local news outlets.
2. **Partner:** Unite 1,000 organizations — businesses, universities, newsrooms, influencers.
3. **Activate:** Inspire nationwide IRL + virtual events and community conversations.
4. **Amplify:** Coordinate press and social media (#MyLocalNewsDay) to drive visibility

PARTNER WITH US

For Newsrooms
Be featured in the Local News Finder and national campaign. Access branded toolkits, host events, and grow audience reach, subscriptions, and community support.

For Organizations & Sponsors
Promote Local News Day across channels. Encourage employees or members to support local news outlets. Host events or contribute funding to expand the movement's reach.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Email partnerships@localnewsday.org | **Visit** www.LocalNewsDay.org | **Follow** @LocalNewsDay on IG, X, and Bluesky

Local News Day Event
Budget
The JOLT News Organization

Venue		
	Saint Martin's University	
	Norman Worthington Center	$1,058
Program and Activities		
	Speaker travel reimbursements	$300
Marketing and Communications		
	Value of JOLT ads	$1,450
	Printing	$200
Food & Beverage		
	Bon Appetit	$4,050
Equipment and Supplies		
	included in venue fees	
Staffing and Volunteers		
	Staff meetings	$400
	Presentation development	$360
	Volunteer coordination	$220
	Registration tech	$100
Transportation		
	None	$0
Administration		
	included above	$0
	TOTAL EVENT BUDGET	$8,138

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 13

Organization Name	TOGETHER!
Event Name	Club House Community & Cultural Event
Event Goal Alignment	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	The Club House Community & Cultural Event will take place on October 31, 2026 and will honor Dia De Los Muertos. The free to attend event will welcome community members to celebrate alongside Club House youth, families, and staff. The celebration of life and remembrance of the dead is an honored tradition in several Latin American cultures. The event will host learning opportunities (history of Dia De Los Muertos, details pertaining to la ofrenda, and an abuelita community panel dedicated towards honoring ancestral knowledge), art activities (face painting, sawdust carpets, tissue paper marigolds, and coloring/painting), and culturally relevant experiences (group performances from a Mariachi, Zapateadores, and/or Catrinas). The event will take place in a central location in Lacey, Washington that is accessible to community members. The event space will host food vendors that are gastronomically relevant to the event's purpose of celebrating Dia De Los Muertos. Several of TOGETHER!'s community partners will table at the event to share resources related to local programming and community needs. Club House staff, clearly marked with much needed Club House swag, will actively engage community members in all activities present. Reusable program swag (T-shirts and retractable banners) will be used to promote the program prior to and during the event to showcase who we are and how we serve the community. These visuals will help create the atmosphere of community impact and community engagement. Beyond the event, program swag will greatly benefit the overall visibility of program efforts, including consistent community events. Community members will have an opportunity to participate in giveaways and a raffle of prizes.
Event Address	Lacey Depot - 5555 Pacific Avenue SE Lacey, WA 98503
2. Funding Request	$5,000.00
Event Start Date	10/31/26
Event End Date	10/31/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	The event will be free, open to the community, and family friendly for all ages. The event will provide intentional activities where listening, understanding, and acknowledging other people's stories, experiences, feelings, culture, or viewpoint of others is the focus.

	The community must have opportunities to affirm, appreciate, and show kindness to others, all while learning about, discussing, and valuing differences. Club House staff are trained to use positive and warm words, tone of voice, and body language that convey enthusiastic welcome, sincere affection, and genuine interest in the community's well-being. As a cultural event, it is crucial that there is no evidence of bias on the part of staff based on religion, culture, race/ethnicity, class, gender, ability, appearance, or sexual orientation. Instead, staff must demonstrate mutual respect and active inclusion. The goal of the event is to bring the community together in a celebration of life with music, dance, art, food, and community building activities.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue
Total Budget	$5,000.00
City of Lacey Funding	Not Applicable
Estimated overall attendees	150 - 200

T! Club House Community & Cultural 2026 Budget

Funding Categories

Venue			
	Lacey Depot Park rental	$	300.00
	Damage Deposit refundable	$	150.00
Program and Activities			
	Supplies for Activities	$	350.00
	Folklorico dance group	$	500.00
	Indigenous dance group	$	500.00
	Mariachi Band	$	1,064.00
Marketing & Communications			
	Ads	$	100.00
	Retractable Banner	$	120.00
Food & Beverage		$	-
Equipment & Supplies			
	Staging Cost	$	528.00
	Sound/Music/Lighting	$	350.00
	Staff tshirts	$	350.00
Staffing & Volunteers			
	Abuelita Panel	$	250.00
Transportation		$	-
Admin & Operations		$	438.00
	Total	$	5,000.00

Community and Cultural Grant Funding Application

Row 14

Organization Name	INDIAN AMERICAN STAR FOUNDATION
Event Name	Holi - Festival of Colors - A Community Celebration of Unity and Diversity
Event Goal Alignment	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment
Event Description	Indian American STAR Foundation empowers childeren and youth by nurturing talent, creativity, and cultural, artistic, and recreational programs that strengthen community and diversity. Part of cultural celebrations, Holi (Festival of Colors) also observed as Festival of Spring), Holi, the vibrant Hindu "Festival of Colors, Love, and Spring" will be celebrated marking the end of winter and the triumph of good over evil. Celebrated globally. people and kids joyfully throw colored powders (gulal) and water, dance, and share sweets. Every year community gathers and celebrated on this special day during the spring season and we are planning to host it on 4th April, 2026.
Event Address	Rainier Vista Park - Shelter A
2. Funding Request	$1,000.00
Event Start Date	04/04/26
Event End Date	04/04/26
4. Safe, Inclusive, & Welcoming	The Holi Festival of Colors will create a joyful and educational space where Lacey residents of all backgrounds can gather, celebrate, and buid meaningful cross -cultural connections. This event emphasises city of Lacey's promoting diversity, cultural awareness and family friendly safe gathering space and welcoming environment and belonging. Also, this event welcomes people of all backgrounds to experience Indian culture in an inclusive and joyful environment. Through this event, Indian American STAR Foundation aims to strengthen community bonds and contribure to Lacey's vibrant cultural landspace. Thank you.
Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications

	Program and Activities Venue
Total Budget	1250 to 1500
City of Lacey Funding	Not Applicable.
Estimated overall attendees	75

Indian American STAR Foundation Nonprofit grant proposal

PREPARED BY

RAVI ADIGARLA
INDAIN AMERICAN STAR FOUNDATION

IASTARFoundation@outlook.com
425 502 2103

PROPOSAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IASTAR Foundation, empowers children and youth by nurturing talent, creativity, and cultural, artistic, and recreational programs that strengthen community and diversity. We are seeking a $1000 grant from City of Lacey Community and cultural Grant program. Over the past decade, the community has come together to celebrate milestones through the commitment of dedicated volunteers and their generous contributions. With your support, we can provide access to vibrant, diverse communities, embracing vibrant cultural celebrations by empowering young minds through creativity, joy and self-expression.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Indian American Star Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization empowers children and youth by nurturing talent, creativity, and leadership through educational, cultural, artistic, and recreational programs that strengthen community and personal growth.
Our mission is to advance the educational, social, and personal development of children and youth by offering inclusive opportunities for learning, participation, and the demonstration of talent in the arts, sports, cultural enrichment, and recreational activities. These initiatives are designed to nurture confidence, leadership, and engagement within the community.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

HOLI – FESTIVAL OF COLORS EVENT

The Holi Festival of Colors will create a joyful and educational space where Lacey residents & nearby neighborhood communities of all backgrounds can gather, celebrate, and build meaningful cross -cultural connections.

- Fun games for all age kids and adults
- Welcomes people of all backgrounds to experience Indian culture in an inclusive and joyful environment.
- Belonging

Through this event, Indian American STAR Foundation aims to strengthen community bonds contribute to Lacey's vibrant cultural landscape and supportive environment.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Promote inclusion accessible, cross cultural understanding within the city of Lacey.

Bringing diverese communities together and encourage family participation.

Fun games, Color play and music and celebrate

Create community engagement opportunities through kids games, promote culture and volunteering.

BUDGET & FUNDING REQUEST

Category	Budget Allocation	Notes
Venue	$100	Already fixed
Food (Snacks)	$350	Light Indian snacks & finger foods
Beverages	$125	Water, juices, soft drinks
Fun Games & Activities	$150	Prizes + materials
Music & Equipment	$150	Speaker rental / DJ basic setup
Event Insurance	$150	Short-term liability insurance
Marketing & Communications	$125	Flyers + social media boosts
Holi Colors & Supplies	$100	Organic colors preferred
Miscellaneous / Buffer	$100	Emergency expenses

EXPECTED OUTCOMES & IMPACT

- Cross – cultural engagement and education including awareness.
- Family -friendly safe gathering space
- Stronger community ties
- Promoting diversity within Lacey
- Belonging

EVALUATION & REPORTING

To ensure program effectiveness, we will:

- This event welcomes people of all backgrounds to experience Indian culture in an inclusive and joyful environment.
- Youth volunteer opportunities
- Economic benefits by community connection within the city of Lacey.

NEXT STEPS

Your support will make a profound difference in our cultural vibrant celebration event within the Lacey. We would love the opportunity to discuss this grant request further and explore how we can collaborate to make a lasting impact. Please contact Ravi Adigarla at lastarfoundation@outlook.com & 425 502 2103 to arrange a meeting or site visit.

Application Date	Event Type	Organization Name	Event Name	Event Goal Alignment	Is event located in the City or Urban Growth Area?	Event Address	2. Funding Request	Event Frequency	Event Start Date	Event End Date	Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Total Budget	Request/Total Budget %	City of Lacey Funding	Estimated overall attendees Rounded Up	Estimated attendance not modified	Option 1: All funded equal % (49.7% of request)	Option 2 - Fund Top 5/6	Option 3: Fund Community & Cultural events equal % (74.6% of request)
02/17/26	Community & Cultural Event	Hummingbird Studio	Art in the Park	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Woodland Creek Park, Shelter B, 6729 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey, WA 98503	$2,500.00	Single Day	07/24/26	07/24/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue	$2,500.00	100%	Not Applicable	100	50-100	$ 1,242.54		$ 1,865.67
02/02/26	Community & Cultural Event	New Life Baptist Church of Thurston County	Black History Month Pop Up Museum	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey UGA	7838 Pacific Avenue South East, Lacey, Washington 98503	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	02/01/26	02/27/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue	$5,250.00	95%	Not Applicable	750	500-750	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
02/27/26	Community & Cultural Event	TOGETHER!	Club House Community & Cultural Event	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Lacey Depot - 5555 Pacific Avenue SE Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Single Day	10/31/26	10/31/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	$5,000.00	100%	Not Applicable	200	150-200	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
02/23/26	Community & Cultural Event	Women's Dignity School	Community Cultural Gathering	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Huntamer Park	$5,000.00	Single Day	06/06/26	06/06/26	Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Program and Activities	$5,000.00	100%	Not Applicable	80	80	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
02/11/26	Community Event	FEED NEEDS	FEED NEEDS – Lacey Community Food & Grill Outreach	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Single Day	07/18/26	07/18/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Transportation	$8,750.00	57%	Not Applicable	350	350	$ 2,485.09		
02/27/26	Community & Cultural Event	INDIAN AMERICAN STAR FOUNDATION	Holi - Festival of Colors - A Community Celebration of Unity and Diversity	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Rainier Vista Park - Shelter A	$1,000.00	Single Day	04/04/26	04/04/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	1500	67%	Not Applicable	75	75	$ 497.02		$ 746.27
02/02/26	Community & Cultural Event	Polynesian Association of Thurston County	LaceyPolyFest	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	26-27 Jun 2026	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	06/26/26	06/27/26	Equipment and Supplies Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	$13,719.09	36%	LTAC	5000	5000+	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
02/27/26	Community Event	The JOLT News Organization	Local News Day	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Norman Worthington Conference Center — Saint Martin's University	$5,000.00	Single Day	04/08/26	04/08/26	Administration Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue	$8,138.00	61%	Not Applicable	325	275-325	$ 2,485.09		
02/16/26	Community Event	Olympia Youth Chorus	Olympia Youth Chorus Holiday Concert	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Koval Center for the Performing Arts, 4155 6th Ave NE, Lacey WA 98506	$1,800.00	Single Day	12/14/26	12/14/26	Venue	$3,874.00	46%	Not Applicable	600	600	$ 894.63		
02/25/26	Community & Cultural Event	Christlike AgroTourism for Racial Equality Wellness Center & Services	S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day - Presented by C.A.R.E. Wellness Cente	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Single Day	04/04/26	04/04/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Transportation	$5,000.00	100%	Not Applicable	100	100	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
02/19/26	Community & Cultural Event	South Sound Studio Tour Foundation	The South Sound Studio Tour	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Lacey MakerSpace at St. Martin's University, Zaverl Hall Bldg. 5, Baran Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	05/30/26	05/31/26	Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$32,121.12	16%	Not Applicable	150	150 in Lacey	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
02/25/26	Community Event	Thurston County Food Bank	Thurston County Hunger Walk	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	8345 Steilacoom Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98513	$5,000.00	Single Day	05/03/26		Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Venue	$13,100.00	38%	Not Applicable	100	100	$ 2,485.09		

Event Type	
Community Event	4
Cultural Event	0
Community & Cultural Event	8
Total	**12**

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Total funding	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00
Allocated	$ 25,000.00	$ -	$ 25,000.00
Remaining	$ -	$ 25,000.00	$ -

Event Type	
Community Event	4
Cultural Event	0
Community & Cultural Event	8
Total	**12**

Location	
Lacey	11
Lacey UGA	1
Total	**12**

Funding Request	
Less than $5000	3
$5,000	9
Total	**12**
Total Amount	**$50,300.00**

Funding Request as % of Total Budget	
< = 49%	4
50% to 75%	3
76%+	5
Total	**12**

Receiving other City Funding	
Other City Funding	1
Not Applicable	11
Total	**12**

Estimated Attendance	
Less than 200	7
201 to 499	2
500+	3
Total	**12**
Total Estimated Attendance	**7830**

Community and Cultural Events Grant

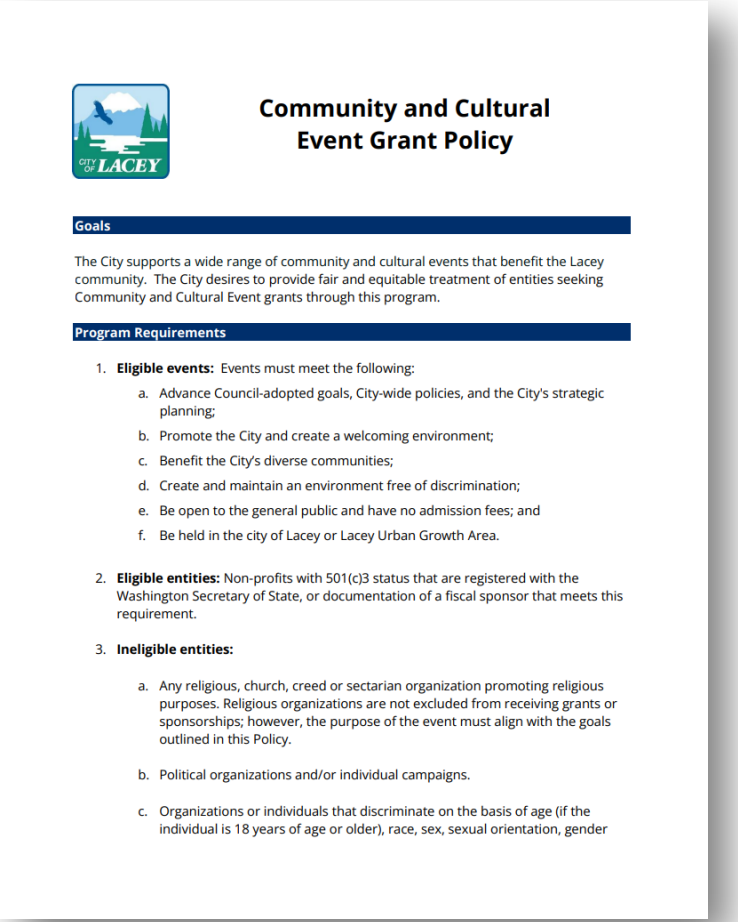
Commission on Equity Meeting| March 23, 2026

Policy

Goal: The City supports a wide range of community and cultural events that benefit the Lacey community. The City desires to provide fair and equitable treatment of entities seeking Community and Cultural Event grants through this program.

Eligible events: Events must meet the following: a. Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning; b. Promote the City and create a welcoming environment; c. Benefit the City's diverse communities; d. Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination; e. Be open to the general public and have no admission fees; and f. Be held in the city of Lacey or Lacey Urban Growth Area.

Recusal: When possible, advisory board members should leave the meeting space during discussion and voting on topics of potential conflict.



Community and Cultural Event Grant Policy

Goals

The City supports a wide range of community and cultural events that benefit the Lacey community. The City desires to provide fair and equitable treatment of entities seeking Community and Cultural Event grants through this program.

Program Requirements

1. **Eligible events:** Events must meet the following:
   a. Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning;
   b. Promote the City and create a welcoming environment;
   c. Benefit the City's diverse communities;
   d. Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination;
   e. Be open to the general public and have no admission fees; and
   f. Be held in the city of Lacey or Lacey Urban Growth Area.
2. **Eligible entities:** Non-profits with 501(c)3 status that are registered with the Washington Secretary of State, or documentation of a fiscal sponsor that meets this requirement.
3. **Ineligible entities:**
   a. Any religious, church, creed or sectarian organization promoting religious purposes. Religious organizations are not excluded from receiving grants or sponsorships; however, the purpose of the event must align with the goals outlined in this Policy.
   b. Political organizations and/or individual campaigns.
   c. Organizations or individuals that discriminate on the basis of age (if the individual is 18 years of age or older), race, sex, sexual orientation, gender

Applications

- **2026 Grant Cycle Applications:**
  - 16 total received
  - 12 met policy criteria
  - 1 withdrew
  - 1 disqualified (attendance fee)
  - 2 disqualified (not open to general public / gender-restricted)

- **The City is requesting a funding recommendation from the COE**

Event Type	Organization Name	Event Name	Event Goal Alignment	Is event located in the City or Urban Growth	Event Address	2. Funding Request	Event Frequency	Event Start Date	Event End Date	Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Total Budget	Request/Total Budget %	City of Lacey Funding	Estimated overall attendees Rounded Up	Estimated attendance not modified	Option 1: All funded equal % (49.7% of request)	Option 2 - Fund Top 5/6	Option 3: Fund Community & Cultural events equal
Community & Cultural Event	Hummingbird Studio	Art in the Park	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Woodland Creek Park, Shelter B, 6729 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey, WA 98503	$2,500.00	Single Day	07/24/26	07/24/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$2,500.00	100%	Not Applicable	100	50-100	$ 1,242.54		$ 1,865.67
Community & Cultural Event	New Life Baptist Church of Thurston County	Black History Month Pop Up Museum	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey UGA	7838 Pacific Avenue South East, Lacey, Washington 98503	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	02/01/26	02/27/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$5,250.00	95%	Not Applicable	750	500-750	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community & Cultural Event	TOGETHER!	Club House Community & Cultural Event	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Lacey Depot - 5555 Pacific Avenue SE Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Single Day	10/31/26	10/31/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	$5,000.00	100%	Not Applicable	200	150-200	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community & Cultural Event	Women's Dignity School	Community Cultural Gathering	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Huntamer Park	$5,000.00	Single Day	06/06/26	06/06/26	Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Program and Activities	$5,000.00	100%	Not Applicable	80	80	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community Event	FEED NEEDS	FEED NEEDS – Lacey Community Food & Grill Outreach	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Single Day	07/18/26	07/18/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$8,750.00	57%	Not Applicable	350	350	$ 2,485.09		
Community & Cultural Event	INDIAN AMERICAN STAR FOUNDATION	Holi - Festival of Colors - A Community Celebration of Unity and Diversity	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Rainier Vista Park - Shelter A	$1,000.00	Single Day	04/04/26	04/04/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	1500	67%	Not Applicable	75	75	$ 497.02		$ 746.27
Community & Cultural Event	Polynesian Association of Thurston County	LaceyPolyFest	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	26-27 Jun 2026	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	06/26/26	06/27/26	Equipment and Supplies Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	$13,719.09	36%	LTAC	5000	5000+	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community Event	The JOLT News Organization	Local News Day	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Norman Worthington Conference Center — Saint Martin's University	$5,000.00	Single Day	04/08/26	04/08/26	Administration Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue	$8,138.00	61%	Not Applicable	325	275-325	$ 2,485.09		
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Community & Cultural Event	South Sound Studio Tour Foundation	The South Sound Studio Tour	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Lacey MakerSpace at St. Martin's University, Zaverl Hall Bldg. 5, Baran Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	05/30/26	05/31/26	Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$32,121.12	16%	Not Applicable	150	150 in Lacey	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
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Hummingbird Studio

Art in the Park

- At Woodland Creek Community Park
- Live music and light snacks
- Variety of creative activities and supplies for:
  - Painting
  - Drawing
  - Beadwork

New Life Baptist Church of Thurston County

Black History Month Pop Up Museum

- Interactive educational experience
- History and contributions of Black communities
- Centers underrepresented narratives, encourages meaningful dialogue and fosters cultural understanding

NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH
THE FORWARD CHURCH

CITY OF LACEY

TOGETHER!

Club House Community and Cultural Event

- To honor Dia de los Muertos- celebration of life and remembrance of the dead
- Food Vendors gastronomically relevant to Dia de los Muertos
- History and learning opportunities
    - La Ofrenda
    - Abuelita (granny) community panel honoring ancestral knowledge
    - Art Activities – face painting, sawdust carpets, tissue paper marigolds, coloring/painting
    - Group Performances – Mariachi, Catrinas, Zapateadores

Women’s Dignity School

Community Cultural Gathering

- Community cookout and West African drumming gathering
- Interactive rhythm activities
- Traditional West African meal
- Learn about West African culture
- Guided conversation about community, belonging, and how people can feel more connected where they live

WOMEN’S Dignity School
Vocational Training for Women & Girls

CITY OF LACEY

FEED NEEDS

FEED NEEDS- Lacey Community Food & Grill Outreach

- Community food giveaway and grilled-based hot meal service
- Provide shelf-stable groceries, fresh produce and hot grilled meals prepared onsite
- Support families, seniors, youth and individuals experiencing food insecurity without stigma
- Connection to local partner resources
- Strengthen neighborhood relationships

Indian American Star Foundation

Holi- Festival of Colors- A Community Celebration of Unity and Diversity

- Observed as Festival of Spring, marks the end of Winter and triumph of good over evil
- Throw colored powders, (gulal) and water, dance, and share sweets
- Empowers children and youth with recreational programs

Polynesian Association of Thurston County

Lacey PolyFest:

- Showcases and educates on cultures, food, dances, music and stories of various Polynesian Island Groups
- Vendors (food, crafts) tell their story

The Jolt News Organization

Local News Day

- Bring together local and national speakers to talk about the state of local news
- Keep residents informed and hold leaders accountable

JOLT
The Journal of
Olympia, Lacey & Tumwater

CITY OF LACEY

Olympia Youth Chorus

Olympia Youth Chorus Holiday Concert

- Lacey community to experience the joy of live choral music
- Provide a stage performance for youth

Christlike Agro Tourism for Racial Equity Wellness & Services

S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day- Presented by C.A.R.E. Wellness Center

- Cultural wellness and trauma-healing event
- Culturally grounded healing experiences
- Trauma informed learning, cultural celebration, hands-on healing activities
- Act as catalyst for local giving
- PRSS/PTSD awareness presentations
- Nature-based grounding exercises
- Live demonstration of healing-archetype (LARP)
- BIPOC vendor and cultural marketplace with local artists, healers, makers and cultural practitioners

South Sound Studio Tour

The South Sound Studio Tour

- Self-guided tours to explore artists studios throughout Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater
- Meet local artists in their studios, watch demonstrations, learn about their artistic processes
    - Painting
    - Drawing
    - Woodworking
    - Ceramics
    - Jewelry
    - Photography
    - Sculpture
    - Fiber arts

Thurston County Food Bank

Thurston County Hunger Walk

- Raise awareness and support for neighbors experiencing food insecurity
- Walk symbolizing solidarity with neighbors experiencing hunger

Save the Date

Sun., May 3rd

Thurston County Hunger Walk

Taking Steps to End Hunger

CITY OF LACEY

Event Type	Organization Name	Event Name	Event Goal Alignment	Is event located in the City or Urban Growth	Event Address	2. Funding Request	Event Frequency	Event Start Date	Event End Date	Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Total Budget	Request/Total Budget %	City of Lacey Funding	Estimated overall attendees Rounded Up	Estimated attendance not modified	Option 1: All funded equal % (49.7% of request)	Option 2 - Fund Top 5/6	Option 3: Fund Community & Cultural events equal
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Options

1.RECOMMENDATION: **Equal Percentage Distribution Among All Applicants:** Fund all 12 applicants at nearly 50% (49.7%) of their request for a total allocation of $25,000.

2.**Prioritize Five Applicants for Full Funding:** Identify and prioritize five or six applicants to receive full funding based on Council priorities such as community impact, cultural representation, or anticipated attendance, for a total of $25,000. Remaining applicants would not receive funding under this option.

3.**Prioritize Funding for Community and Cultural Events:** Provide funding for eight events that are both community and cultural events rather than only community events. The 8 applicants would receive nearly 75% (74.6%) of their request for a total allocation of $25,000.

4.**Some other option** not contemplated in the above options.

Option 2

2.Prioritize Five Applicants for Full Funding: Identify and prioritize five or six applicants to receive full funding based on Council priorities such as community impact, cultural representation, or anticipated attendance, for a total of $25,000. Remaining applicants would not receive funding under this option.

MENTI Exercise

ANY QUESTIONS?

CITY OF LACEY

Event Type	Organization Name	Event Name	Event Goal Alignment	Is event located in the City or Urban Growth	Event Address	2. Funding Request	Event Frequency	Event Start Date	Event End Date	Use of Funding (Scope of Services)	Total Budget	Request/Total Budget %	City of Lacey Funding	Estimated overall attendees Rounded Up	Estimated attendance not modified	Option 1: All funded equal % (49.7% of request)	Option 2 - Fund Top 5/6	Option 3: Fund Community & Cultural events equal
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Community & Cultural Event	INDIAN AMERICAN STAR FOUNDATION	Holi - Festival of Colors - A Community Celebration of Unity and Diversity	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Rainier Vista Park - Shelter A	$1,000.00	Single Day	04/04/26	04/04/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	1500	67%	Not Applicable	75	75	$ 497.02		$ 746.27
Community & Cultural Event	Polynesian Association of Thurston County	LaceyPolyFest	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	26-27 Jun 2026	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	06/26/26	06/27/26	Equipment and Supplies Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Venue	$13,719.09	36%	LTAC	5000	5000+	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community Event	The JOLT News Organization	Local News Day	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Norman Worthington Conference Center — Saint Martin's University	$5,000.00	Single Day	04/08/26	04/08/26	Administration Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers Venue	$8,138.00	61%	Not Applicable	325	275-325	$ 2,485.09		
Community Event	Olympia Youth Chorus	Olympia Youth Chorus Holiday Concert	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Koval Center for the Performing Arts, 4155 6th Ave NE, Lacey WA 98506	$1,800.00	Single Day	12/14/26	12/14/26	Venue	$3,874.00	46%	Not Applicable	600	600	$ 894.63		
Community & Cultural Event	Christlike AgroTourism for Racial Equality Wellness Center & Services	S.A.F.E. Community Wellness Day - Presented by C.A.R.E. Wellness Cente	Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Single Day	04/04/26	04/04/26	Administration Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$5,000.00	100%	Not Applicable	100	100	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community & Cultural Event	South Sound Studio Tour Foundation	The South Sound Studio Tour	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	Lacey MakerSpace at St. Martin's University, Zaverl Hall Bldg. 5, Baran Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	$5,000.00	Multi-Day	05/30/26	05/31/26	Marketing and Communications Program and Activities Staffing and Volunteers	$32,121.12	16%	Not Applicable	150	150 in Lacey	$ 2,485.09		$ 3,731.34
Community Event	Thurston County Food Bank	Thurston County Hunger Walk	Advance Council-adopted goals, City-wide policies, and the City's strategic planning Benefit the City's diverse communities Create and maintain an environment free of discrimination Promote the City and Create a welcoming environment	Lacey	8345 Steilacoom Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98513	$5,000.00	Single Day	05/03/26		Equipment and Supplies Food & Beverage Marketing and Communications Venue	$13,100.00	38%	Not Applicable	100	100	$ 2,485.09		

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	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Total funding	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00
Allocated	$ 25,000.00	$ -	$ 25,000.00
Remaining	$ -	$ 25,000.00	$ -

9
12
$50,300.00

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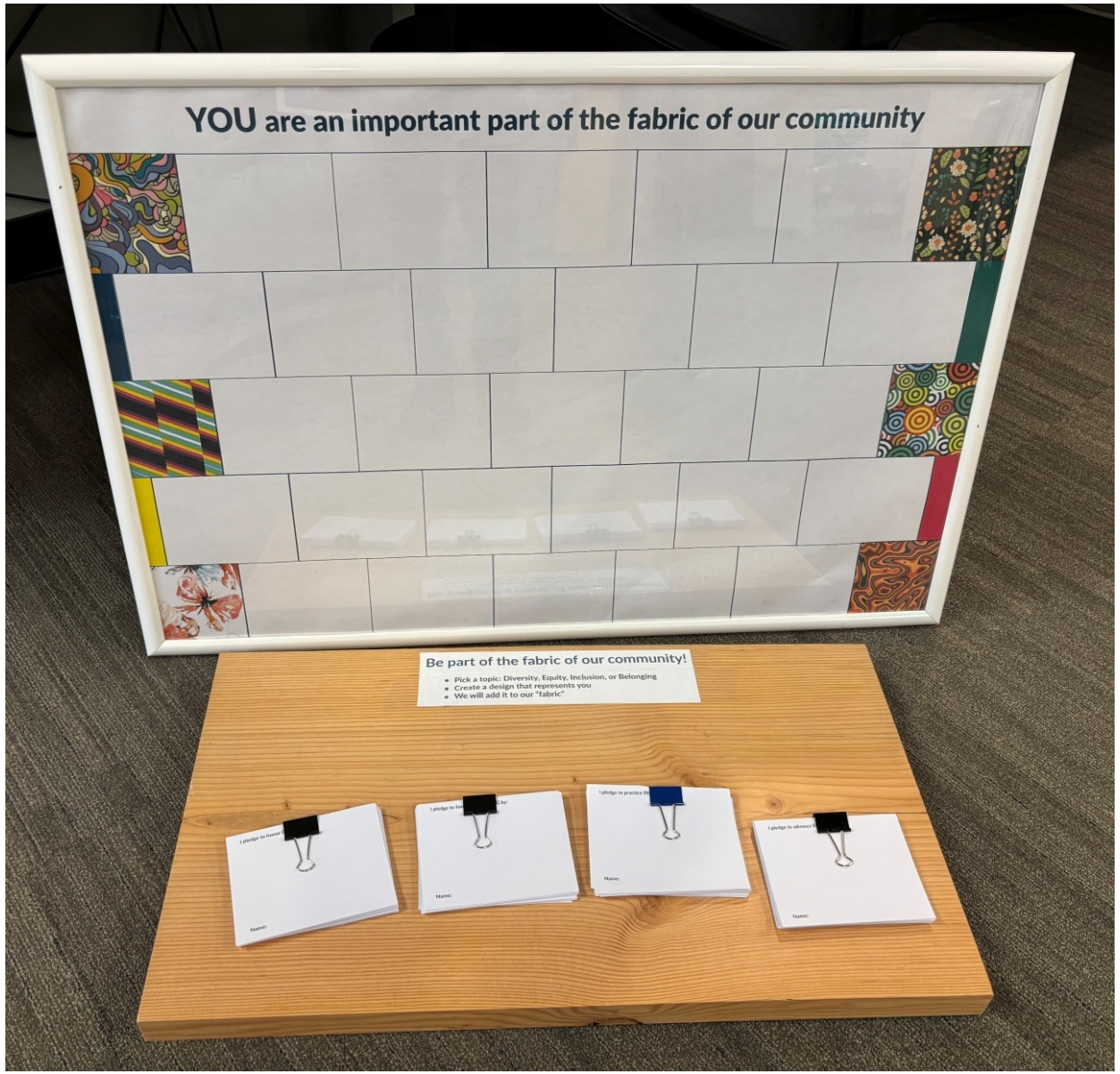
7830

2026 Lacey Cultural Celebration

Commission on Equity|03.23.2026



CITY OF LACEY

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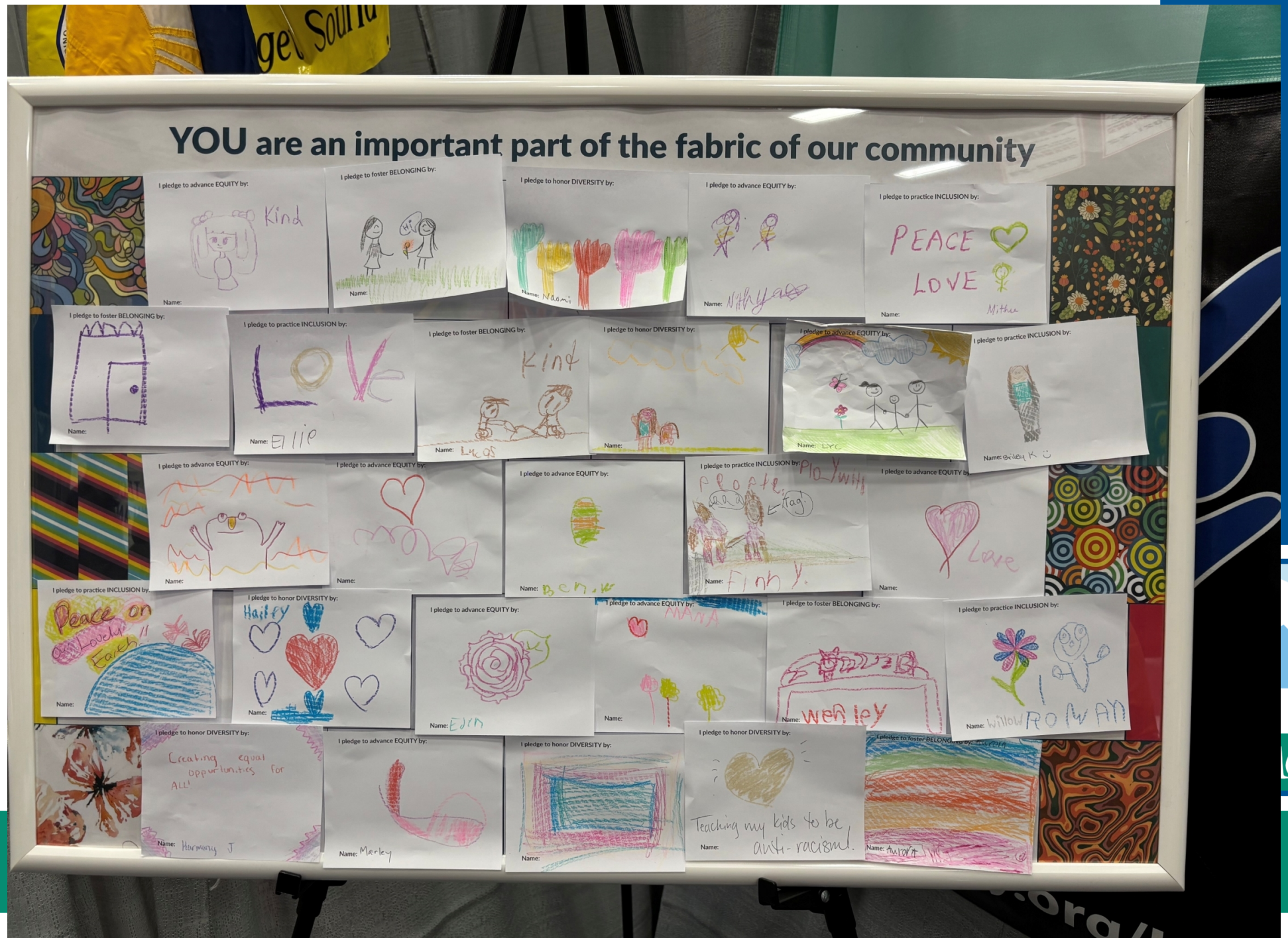
CITY OF LACEY
COMMISSION
ON EQUITY
PROCLAMATION
AGAINST HATE, RACISM, AND
DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS
Get an Inside Look at Lacey!

CITY OF LACEY
ON
YOU are an important part of the fabric of our community
Peace World
Be Happy Too
Knowing my brain!
Sam
Hayley
Weekley
Race/gender
fLacey.org/LYC

COMMISSION
ON EQUITY
CityofLacey.o
CITY OF LACEY
YOU are an important part of the fabric
PROCLAMATION
AGAINST HATE, RACISM, AND
DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS
City of Lacey
Official Proclamation
Mayor Andy Ryder


YOU are an important part of the fabric of our community
I pledge to advance EQUITY by:
Kind
I pledge to foster BELONGING by:
I pledge to honor DIVERSITY by:
I pledge to practice INCLUSION by:
PEACE
LOVE
Love
Kind
Peace on Earth
Creating equal opportunities for ALL!
Teaching my kids to be anti-racism!
Name:

LACEY

CITY OF LACEY

CITY OF LACEY

Menu

Equity Symposium

Bringing the Evergreen community together with speakers, performances, workshops and social events to inspire, teach and celebrate.

EXPLORE THIS SECTION

Equity and Diversity at Evergreen Social Justice Center

2026 EQUITY SYMPOSIUM

Fires Rising: Igniting Resilient Movements

April 15, 2026

Fire can be a force for destruction but also regeneration. It creates warmth and light that is essential to life. Fire is a powerful symbol for sparking courage to take action. When fire spreads in moments of chaos and uncertainty, it can ignite inspiration for individuals and collectives to come together to create meaningful change. When social movements for justice and liberation catch fire, communities move away from fear and come together toward collective power.

Join us as we rise together to learn from the fires of the past and tend to the flames that ignite and sustain us.

KEYNOTE EVENT

Cristina Jiménez Moreta

Cristina is an award-winning community organizer, bestselling author, and a leading voice in movements for social justice. She is Co-Founder and former Executive Director of United We Dream, the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the country. Cristina is a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship recipient and was named one of Time 100's most influential people.

This keynote event is free and open to the public, both in-person and online. Registration is required to attend.

Register for the 2026 Keynote with Cristina Jiménez Moreta →

This event is supported by the Unsoeld Seminar Endowment with The Evergreen State College Foundation.

Equity Symposium 2026 Fires Rising: Igniting Resilient Movements

Event Schedule

for April 15, 2026

10 am | Opening Plenary Session

In the Mapuche world, fire is considered a “gen”, an energy, just like water, wind, and earth. Ancestrally, people gathered, learned, and made decisions around the hearth. In the Western world, fire has become a weapon, often used against Indigenous peoples. This opening talk invites us to rethink our relationship with fire. It is an invitation to gather around the hearth to converse, organize, and take the time to make collective decisions.

Led by Mapuche Educator Silvia Calfuqueo Lefio and documentary filmmaker Kelly Baur.

Noon - 1 pm | Lunch

Community lunch in the House of Welcome, catered by Coalescence Event Services featuring locally sourced ingredients prepared by Chef Lela.

1 - 5 pm | Workshops

Join various student, staff, and faculty-led concurrent workshop sessions.

7 pm | Keynote with Cristina Jiménez Moreta

Join us for an inspiring keynote! Don't miss this chance to hear fresh, powerful insights on equity and inclusion from a leading voice in the field. It's the perfect event to connect, learn, and get motivated for positive change. Grab your seat and be part of the conversation.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. There will be no reserved seating, with first-come first-served for the venue. An overflow room is available nearby if the venue reaches capacity.

Event Accessibility

The Equity Symposium Planning Team strives to center the needs of our diverse community by hosting inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully.

If you have accessibility needs, please contact us at socialjusticecenter@evergreen.edu

Take the Next Step

Connect with a Counselor

Schedule a Visit

Apply for Admission

Olympia, Washington Tacoma, Washington

(360) 867-6000

Tribal Relations, Arts and Cultures

House of Welcome Cultural Arts Center and The Indigenous Arts Campus at Evergreen.

Athletics and Recreation

Get active, build a team and make new friends along the way. Offerings are constantly changing to keep you moving!

Organic Farm

A working small-scale USDA-certified organic farm and a learning laboratory for students.

Lord Mansion and Coach House

Book your event and enjoy an elegant atmosphere and unique historical connection to Olympia.

INFO FOR

Current Students

Incoming Students

Parents & Families

HELPFUL LINKS

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Faculty Directory

Offices & Services

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YOUTH ARE WELCOMED

CHILDCARE IS NOT PROVIDED

THURSTON FORWARD

DEIB SUMMIT 2026

South Puget Sound Community College- Lacey Campus
4220 6th Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503

ROOTED IN EQUITY, RISING IN COMMUNITY

The Thurston Forward: DEIB Summit is a two-day community experience dedicated to strengthening collaboration across Thurston County through the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

SUMMIT OVERVIEW

Friday, May 1, 2026 - 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Tribal Partnership, Cultural Acknowledgment, and Community Connection

- Opening with an Acknowledgment and Cultural Immersion Experience honoring the leadership, history, and partnership of our local Tribal communities
- Connection and Networking Experience designed to spark relationships, build trust, and ground participants in shared purpose
- FREE Lunch & Dinner provided at no cost for all registered participants

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - 8:30AM - 4:00PM

Collective Learning, Youth Leadership, and Community Action

- A full day of collective learning, storytelling, youth leadership, and interactive development sessions
- Opportunities to deepen understanding, inspire courageous conversation, and encourage community-centered action
- Lunch provided at no cost for all registered participants

REGISTER TODAY!

https://tinyurl.com/ThurstonForward2026

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Washington State Office of Equity
South Puget Sound Community College
NAACP Thurston County
PNW The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church
Monk Works
City of Lacey
APIC-South Puget Sound Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington State
OlyFed Banking That's Mutual
Hispanic Roundtable
Olympia
Thurston County Washington Since 1852
City of Tumwater
the YMCA
LWV League of Women Voters of Thurston County
Be a Voter LWV
eliminating racism empowering women ywca olympia

SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams
OLYMPIA

South Sound Exceptional Woman

Awards Program

Congratulations to the 2026 South Sound Exceptional Woman Awardees!

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Investing in Dreams
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SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Exceptional Woman Awardees

Soroptimist International of Olympia

Awardee Name	Referring Organization
Alanna Barros-Dotson	Interfaith Works
Annie Clay	Commission on Equity, City of Lacey
Teresa Garrett-Hill	Thurston County Emergency Management
Domenique Getchman	TOGETHER!
Debbie Long	Saint Martin's University
Charmaine McCladdie	Washington State Charter School Commission
Katie McDonald	4 the Love Foundation
Detective Brooklyn McKoon	City of Olympia Police Department
Karen McVea	Homes First
Leslie Panowicz	South Sound Reading Foundation
Morena Redmon	Capital Christian Center
Meghan Sullivan	Community Action Council
Leah Tangeman	Thurston Affordable Housing Advisory Board
Jasmine Trent	FESS
Shelly Willis	Zonta Club of Olympia
Kelly Wilson	1st Security Bank
Linda Wolfe	Woman's Club of Olympia
Ingrid Zerpa	Sound Legal Aid
Plus one of our own!	
Rose Ann Walker	Soroptimist International of Olympia

Join us at a Dinner Banquet to Celebrate Exceptional Woman Awardees
Saturday, May 2, 2026
Doors open - 5:30p
Indian Summer Golf and Country Club

PURCHASE TICKETS NOW!

We all know a woman who has truly gone above and beyond to make the lives of all those around her better. Her dedication to service is exceptional. She does not do this for recognition. She does not do this for praise. But she deserves both. Whether her service is for a group or business, local or global, she deserves to be put in the spotlight for her work. Here is her spotlight.

Multicultural Women's Leadership Workshop

Attend One or All in this Leadership Development Series

14
March
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
YWCA Olympia, Friendship Hall
220 Union Ave SE, Olympia, WA, 98501

28
March
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
YWCA Olympia, Friendship Hall
220 Union Ave SE, Olympia, WA, 98501

25
April
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Lacey Community Meeting Room
20 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

A Free Community Learning Series

All are welcome!

Join us in a shared learning experience designed to grow your leadership skills and abilities

Hosted by Denise Miño, Leadership Development Consultant. Denise will guide activities designed to identify and draw out your leadership strengths and qualities. We welcome all levels of leaders - aspiring, entry, mid, and executive level leaders for this event. Come join us as we share our stories and connect in community.

Featuring Special Guest

From Mali, Kayes, Africa, nominee for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, Madame Mariam Sidibe

This event is free, but registration helps us plan seating, materials, and light refreshments.

WOMEN'S Dignity School
Vocational Training for Women & Girls

A Washington State 501 (C)3 Nonprofit

Our Mission

Women's Dignity School empowers women and young girls in both Washington State and Mali, West Africa with diverse and practical skills sets that promote self-sufficiency, civic leadership, and economic independence.

Our Programs

We are committed to creating pathways to self-sufficiency and leadership for women and young girls, providing hands-on learning, fostering creativity, and celebrating cultural traditions, while building essential skills for economic independence and personal growth through:

Cultural Weaving, Embroidery, and Beading

Women and girls learn intricate techniques passed down through generations, creating beautiful textiles and jewelry that reflect their cultural heritage and provide opportunities for income and empowerment.

Cooking and Food Services

We teach women and girls essential culinary skills, from meal preparation to safe food handling. By combining practical training with local recipes, this program enables participants to provide for their families and create opportunities in the food service industry.

Leadership Workshops

Our Leadership Workshops help women and girls develop confidence, communication, and problem-solving skills essential for personal growth and community involvement. By fostering self-advocacy and resilience, these workshops prepare participants to become effective leaders within their families and workplaces.

Tailoring

Our Tailoring program equips women and girls with essential sewing and garment-making skills, empowering them to create clothing for their families and communities. By blending practical training with cultural traditions, the program opens pathways to income, confidence, and economic independence.

About Us

Founded by Dembélé Mariam Sidibé in Kayes, Mali, Women's Dignity School was originally established in 1998 as the Muso Danbé Center—a name that means "women's dignity" in Bambara. A lifelong advocate for women's empowerment, Mariam created the school to provide trade skills and life training to women, especially those orphaned or living with disabilities.

Under her leadership, the school became a recognized pillar of opportunity and hope in the region, teaching sewing, cooking, soap-making, cloth dyeing, literacy, and more. Mariam's work is rooted in the belief that every woman deserves the chance to become self-reliant and respected in their community. Her vision continues to guide the school's mission today, reaching women of all backgrounds and building a legacy of dignity, education, and resilience.

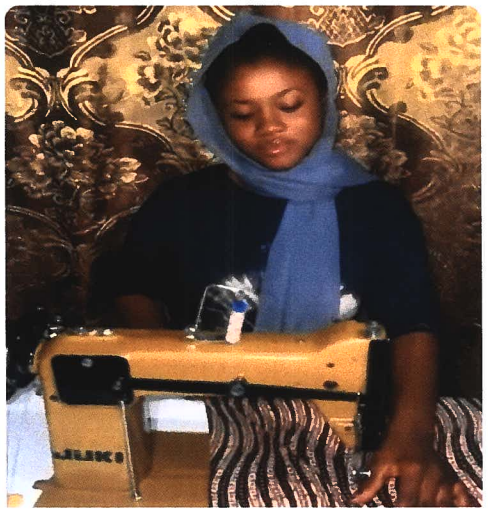
Contact Us

Executive Director
Ibrahim Dembele
ibrahimdembele@infowomensdignityschool.org

360-807-3527

5815 Lacey BLV SE #3793
Lacey, WA, 98503

"I used to think my future was already decided, that I would never leave poverty. But at Women's Dignity School, I found more than skills. I found my voice, my confidence, and a community that believes in me."— Zenebou Traore, 19, Current Student



WOMEN'S Dignity Schoo

Vocational Training for Women & Girl

A Washington State
501 (C)3 Nonprofit

Commission on Equity & Lacey Youth Council Meeting
02.23.2026

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. **Through your eyes, what are the biggest challenges or fears that youth are facing right now that adults in leadership often misunderstand or overlook? In what ways is the adult community falling short in supporting youth?**
   - Uncertain about preparing for the future, especially when deciding between pursuing a passion-driven career or a prestigious path.
   - There is insufficient support in schools, particularly beyond academics.
   - Mental health is a major concern, with limited resources and counselors often focused primarily on academic guidance rather than emotional well-being.
   - That adults do not always listen to or honor their voices in decisions that affect them.
   - There are few structured activities or opportunities during the summer, leaving many youth without engagement.
   - There are limited job opportunities make it difficult for youth to gain experience and financial independence.
   - Many young people feel anxious about the state of the world and their future.

2. **Do you feel prepared for adulthood in the current environment?**
   - Many youth do not feel adequately prepared for adulthood.
   - There is concern about navigating adulthood in today's complex social, economic, political environment.
   - Youth expressed a need for more workforce training and practical career preparation, including financial literacy education and independent living skills.
   - Many experience an absence of mentors or trusted adults to guide them.
   - School curricula often have gaps in preparing students for real-world adult responsibilities

3. **What kinds of stress or pressure feel are unique to your generation? What do you think would help with this?**
   - Social media creates unique challenges and pressures, including constant comparison and the need for online validation.

- Many youth feel that technology and rapidly advancing tools like AI are changing expectations for their future.
- Unrealistic standards online often highlight success without showing challenges or failures, increasing pressure.
- Youth feel underprepared for adulthood, which adds stress about making major life decisions.
- There is significant anxiety about the future, including career stability and global issues.
- Social media use is linked to mental health challenges, such as stress, anxiety, and lowered self-esteem.
- Students are worried about budget cuts in education, which reduce opportunities and support systems. Program and course reductions, such as cuts to Running Start or canceled AP classes, add stress about college preparation and academic opportunities.

4. **How does technology or social media help you, and how does it create challenges? What do adults misunderstand about these?**
    - Help youth build connections and expand their networks.
    - Provides greater autonomy and access to information, allowing youth to learn and explore independently.
    - However, students must also navigate the downsides, including misinformation and unhealthy online environments.
    - Some students face challenges when their work is incorrectly flagged as AI-generated, creating frustration.

5. **What are one or two youth priorities this year?**
    - School
    - Sports
    - Looking forward to after Highschool, College, future decisions
    - More community involvement
    - Youth Summit: hoping adults will listen
    - Youth Center, winter is hard because it is outdoors
    - Mentorships
    - Internships

6. **What does meaningful youth participation look like to you? What do you need from your elders and decision-makers to advocate for you without speaking over you?**
    - Structured opportunities for youth engagement, such as small groups, help build confidence and foster relationships with peers and mentors.
    - Dedicated spaces within schools where students can share ideas and participate in discussions.
    - Student leadership roles that allow passionate individuals to serve and contribute, rather than positions pursued only for recognition.
    - Participation in youth-focused groups or councils (such as youth advisory councils) that give students a voice in community decisions.
    - Opportunities to engage in activities that may be optional but still meaningful for youth development.
    - Safe spaces where youth can collaborate, share perspectives, and work together on ideas.
    - Creation of youth-centered spaces, such as a youth center or teen hub, including social activities like game nights.
    - Events that help prepare teens for adulthood, such as workshops on job interviews and life skills.
    - Accessible resource hubs where youth can find information and support.
    - More opportunities created by adults for youth to participate in decision-making and community initiatives.
    - Follow-through from adults on youth ideas and feedback so that participation leads to real outcomes.
    - Empowering youth with agency, focusing on what they can do rather than limiting them by what they cannot do.

7. **What are the best ways to communicate with our youth about topics, issues, events, and employment opportunities?**
    - Instagram
    - Social media in general
    - Email
    - School morning announcements
    - Posters in schools
    - Partnerships with Schools

- Sports
- Clubs
- People with influence in schools, e.g., class officers

8. **Are there groups of youth who you think are especially unheard or excluded? What steps could be taken to better engage and support them?**
    - Some participants noted that the community does a strong job creating opportunities for youth voices to be heard, including through school groups and cultural celebrations.
    - However, several groups of youth may still face barriers to participation, including:
        - Youth from families struggling with addiction
        - Youth experiencing homelessness
        - Youth with disabilities
        - Youth with limited English proficiency
    - To better engage these groups, communities should create welcoming environments and actively invite participation, while providing targeted resources, support services, and accessible opportunities for involvement.

9. **Without identifying specific individuals, have you observed any systemic inequities or other ongoing challenges within the community?**
    - Lacey community often makes strong efforts to support and include all people.
    - Social cliques within schools can create barriers and make it difficult for some students to feel included or connected.
    - There is a need to better reach youth who may not have strong social networks or who do not typically attend community events.
    - Immigrant youth and families may face challenges.
    - Some youth may appear stable but are still struggling.
    - Certain aspects of the local culture may normalize activities like gambling.