“Providing local support for the state’s cultural organizations is in the public interest and will serve multiple public purposes including, among others, enhancing and extending the education reach and offerings of cultural organizations; ensuring continued and expanded access to the facilities and programs of cultural organizations by economically and geographically underserved populations; and providing financial stability to the organizations to continue and extend the numerous public benefits they provide.”

—CAWA Statute (ESHB 2263)
WHAT IS CAP?

In 2015 the State Legislature authorized every county in Washington to place a cultural access program before its voters.

In King County, the program is anticipated to be administered by 4Culture and supports increased access for residents to both larger non-profit organizations that attract visitors from across the region and smaller, community-based groups. It focuses on access to science, technology, visual arts, performing arts, zoology, botany, anthropology, heritage, and natural history institutions for public school students and the geographically and economically underserved. The program is supported by a .1% increase in sales tax.
WHY DO WE NEED CAP?

- Evidence shows that cultural and science education advances learning*, but transportation for student field trips can be too expensive for schools and families can’t afford the fees.

- There are barriers of cost, location, and content relevancy to our residents that limit access to cultural experiences.

- Culture and science organizations need financial stability to plan for the future and to deliver reliable services.

- Tourism, a major employer in King County, relies on a vibrant cultural scene cultivated by local groups.

- Range and breadth of cultural opportunities are a draw for the skilled workers vital to our tech industries, especially those with families.

- Our arts and cultural heritage thrive in diverse communities and neighborhoods, but smaller groups often have few resources.

Culture doesn’t thrive in isolation—it emerges from community.

King County’s access program has been designed by locals—cultural advocates, educators, historians, arts administrators, and residents.

In spring 2016, 4Culture staff conducted informational meetings and visits with the Association of King County Historical Organizations, 25 Local Arts Agencies across King County, SoCo Culture, the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, and others.

During summer 2016, 15 public meetings were held across King County to gather input and craft recommendations about how to best implement CAP.

Seven of those public meetings were held in Renton, Burien, Shoreline, Bellevue and Issaquah.

Five different “study groups” were established to review key areas of cultural funding. Each group was co-chaired by a community representative and a 4Culture staff member.

67 King County cultural organizations, large and small, were represented in the study groups.

More than 90 individuals worked alongside 4Culture staff and board to produce recommendations for the program, including educators, historians, philanthropists, and artists.
CAP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

- CAP generates much-needed funds to provide access by the public to science and cultural experiences in suburban and rural areas across King County.

- Regional organizations must spend 20% of their award expanding access to public school students.

- With CAP funding, public investment in local community based groups will increase to levels comparable to other major American urban centers such as Denver and Minneapolis.

- 10% of CAP funds are used specifically to provide public schools with transportation to science and cultural organizations’ venues.

- CAP provides a reliable source of operating funds to our cultural organizations.

- Accountability is key. Each year, regional cultural organizations will demonstrate how CAP funds increased access to the science and cultural resources that they offer to the public.
Imagine a teacher planning a class field trip to a museum, zoo, or orchestra at a cost of $5 per student, only to have a quarter of the students call in sick on the day of the trip because they didn’t want to admit that they couldn’t afford $5. Sadly, this is not a rare occurrence: these students may never visit an aquarium, see a painting in person, or hear a symphony even once.

**FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS**

For many schools, the cost of busing is the barrier between their classes and compelling field trip experiences. CAP underwrites the cost of transportation for students to organizations across the county.

**ACCESS FOR LOW-INCOME DISTRICTS**

CAP provides much-needed support to the communities in King County that need it most, prioritizing opportunities for school districts with the highest numbers of students enrolled in Washington’s Free and Reduced Lunch program.

**GIVING SCHOOLS OPTIONS**

School arts and cultural programs have been threatened by budget cuts, reducing opportunities for cultural enrichment. CAP ensures that students get the chance to experience the cultural and scientific riches of our region. Imagination and creativity are essential 21st century skills.
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL CULTURE

The unique character of our region is reflected in the cultural institutions we value.

Residents of and visitors to King County have an abundant menu of cultural options from which to choose, from the Pacific Science Center and the Bellevue Arts Museum to the White River Valley Museum and the Woodland Park Zoo. No resident should be denied the opportunity to participate due to cost, transportation, or geography.

OPENING THE DOORS TO ALL
The incredible learning opportunities offered by cultural organizations must remain open to King County’s underserved communities. CAP funding helps ensure that no child will miss seeing the Red Barn at the Museum of Flight or learning about the Hammering Man at the Seattle Art Museum simply due to a family’s lack of resources.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
CAP provides millions of dollars to underwrite buses and programs for students at cultural and science facilities, and also requires regional institutions to allocate at least 20% of their funding to providing direct access to public school students, either through school field trips or in-school educational programming.

ENSURING OUR VALUED INSTITUTIONS THRIVE
Cultural organizations need financial stability to plan for the future and to deliver dependable public services. CAP provides organizations with reliable operating support.
Culture isn’t an abstract concept—it’s found in the daily lives of King County residents.

Our rich cultural heritage is sustained by the efforts of neighborhood community groups, and much of our creative identity in the Pacific Northwest is driven by the passion of local artists, historians, and educators—CAP dedicates funding to support hundreds of smaller, community-based organizations.

COMMUNITY ARTS, SCIENCE, AND HERITAGE
CAP makes it possible for cultural groups to offer free programs and projects in the communities they serve.

RELIABLE OPERATING SUPPORT
Sustained, annual funding that community groups can rely on makes it possible to better plan for the future and thrive.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE
CAP funds support new and expanded facilities in suburban cities and builds spaces that provide culture and science programs.

INITIATIVES
CAP generates funding to help meet community priorities, such as providing equitable access to cultural resources.
INITIATIVES

CAP puts the focus on community priorities. Fostering innovation, 4Culture puts CAP funds to work meeting the pressing needs of our cultural organizations and diverse communities in King County.

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE
All residents of King County benefit when barriers to access are removed and all can share in our region’s cultural resources.

REGIONAL MARKETING
Residents are often unaware of the free cultural resources open to them in their own neighborhoods.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Volunteers and staff members who serve the public at cultural sites need support to expand their ability to provide programs for all.

AFFORDABLE MULTI-USER CULTURAL SPACE
Smaller community groups need affordable places to offer performances, exhibits, and science experiences.

DATA COLLECTION FOR MEASURING SUCCESS
Cultural organizations of all sizes should establish clear outcomes and tools for measuring public benefit.
Increasing access to science and culture is a public investment in the future of our community.

CAP funding strengthens and expands public access to science and cultural resources in our region. CAP supports exhibits, public performances, and educational opportunities, as well as providing funds for new museum facilities, theaters, and spaces created by smaller groups that bring unique contributions to their communities.

Even more critically, CAP funding doubles the public’s investment by supporting the local creators of new and innovative educational programming and cultural projects that occur in these spaces.

These investments seed the long-term growth and health of a cultural ecology across our county that enriches our individual and collective quality of life.
WHERE DOES FUNDING GO?

Based on projections, CAP will generate $67,996,000 in revenue during 2018.*

- $6,715,000 (9.88%) Public school field trips
- $7,511,000 (11.05%) Regional cultural and scientific organization public school student visits, planning, and coordination
- $21,045,000 (30.95%) Community-based groups, operating, project, accessibility, and facilities
- $30,045,000 (44.19%) Regional cultural and scientific organization operating and access programs
- $2,680,000 (3.94%) Cap on administration

BEFORE CAP

4Culture annually awards $5,000,000 to 450 non-profit cultural organizations providing arts, heritage, and preservation programs in King County. Of this amount, $1,250,000 goes to CAP-defined regional cultural organizations and $3,750,000 to smaller, community-based cultural organizations.

2019 – CAP LAUNCHES

With funds from CAP, 4Culture funding for regional cultural organizations with a 2014 combined revenue of $340,249,285 is projected to increase to $30,045,000. Funding for community-based groups with a 2014 combined revenue of $77,130,349 will increase to $21,045,000.

* Source: King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget’s Sept. 2016 forecast. Award calculations based on reported 2014 revenue and attendance. A regional cultural organization is defined as having an annual budget of $1.25 million and an annual attendance of 50 thousand.
CULTURE

As the cultural funding agency for King County, 4Culture works to make our region vibrant. Using lodging tax and percent-for-art funds, our team of cultural advocates, advisory committees, and volunteer grant panelists support a diverse array of cultural endeavors. Our four program areas—arts, heritage, historic preservation, and public art—put public resources to use all over King County, working to ensure access to cultural opportunities and experiences for all. From museum collections to theater productions to artists showing work for the first time ever in our gallery, look for all the ways we are at work in your community.

Cultural Access
WASHINGTON

Cultural Access Washington is a state-wide 501(c)4 organization that represents the tireless work and collaboration of more than 45 science and culture focused organizations throughout our state over the past ten years. CAWA is both a piece of legislation and a broad and diverse coalition, with the shared goal of transforming Washington State and inspiring its residents.

IMAGE CREDITS