



Over the last decade public funding for science, arts and cultural programs across Washington has been cut in half. These cuts particularly hurt schools and families in underserved communities. But we know that introducing kids to arts and science education promotes brain development, improves education outcomes and puts kids on a better path for success.

King County Proposition 1 – Access for All will open doors to arts, science and heritage experiences for all King County residents, increasing access to learning for students, low-income and middle-class families. By investing in more than 350 regional and community-based arts, science and heritage organizations throughout the county, we can create a thriving community where our county’s educational and cultural institutions will be able to provide more services to students and families.

Investing in public education

Proposition 1 will significantly boost public funding for in-class arts, science and heritage education for kids in all 19 school districts in King County, as well as provide students with free transportation and free access to on-site exhibits and events. In fact, 20 percent of the funding for larger regional organizations like the Pacific Science Center, the Museum of Flight, the Seattle Aquarium and others has to be spent on public school access and education, with a priority placed on programs for low-income schools.

Increasing access for King County families

Diverse educational experiences shouldn’t be reserved for those who can afford it. Prop. 1 will allow 35 major regional institutions — from the Pacific Science Center to the Museum of Flight to the Seattle Symphony — to provide free and reduced-price tickets for low-income families and seniors who otherwise wouldn’t be able to experience all the learning and cultural opportunities our county has to offer. To ensure greater equity and representation at our largest institutions, regional arts, science and heritage organizations would also be required to spend 15 percent of new funds on increasing equity and diversity outcomes, including bringing programming to underserved communities.

Prop. 1 will also provide new funding for more than 300 smaller, community-based organizations throughout the county, so people have access to arts, science and heritage experiences in their hometowns. Additionally, organizations that primarily serve communities of color and other historically-underserved communities will receive additional grants.

Affordable, accountable and good for the economy

The program will be funded by a 0.1 percent increase in the county sales tax — just one penny for every \$10 spent, or \$30 a year for the average household — and will raise about \$67 million a year. Access for All is focused on providing greater equity in our society, and there is a direct return-on-investment for low-income families at a low cost. It is designed to provide more benefits to those who need it the most and provide equitable science and arts educational experiences to public school students throughout the county. Access for All will be managed by 4Culture, King County’s Cultural Development Authority which has a 40-year track record of creating and managing local cultural funding and service programs to benefit our residents.