



Snohomish County
County Executive's Office
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Executive Reardon Proposes Funding for County Arts Initiative

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today submitted to County Council a proposal funding the County arts program. The new initiative known as 1% for the Arts would call for a 1% contribution to the arts fund from certain County construction projects.

“The Economic Vitality Index has demonstrated that communities with a healthy and vibrant arts culture have much stronger economies because of that investment in art. Strong companies and skilled workers are attracted to communities in which art is alive,” says Reardon. “Schools in communities with a healthy arts climate benefit and teach children to appreciate their community. Citizens who live and work where art is present take pride in their communities. An active partnership between the County, the private sector, and the arts community will help us make this county a destination that we will all be proud of.”

Reardon referenced analysis from ArtsUnited, a Snohomish County private sector group that provides funding to local arts organizations. Their information indicates support of the arts and culture within our community translates into a return of double and triple the original dollar invested. An investment in the arts today will:

- Make our community a more attractive location to start-up and relocate business.
- Boost economic demands through artist's creative activity, both upstream and downstream.
- Generate economic activity from cultural tourism. Cultural tourism is a growing and lucrative segment of tourism, with cultural tourists spending 40% more than other tourists.

1% for the Arts is the result of recommendations made by the Snohomish County Arts Commission. The enabling ordinance amends Snohomish County Code so that a 1% contribution to the Arts fund will be a requirement of county construction projects (excluding roads) that cost at least \$100,000. Funds generated by the 1% will be designated toward acquisitions of visual and performing works of art. They also may include structural or functional elements of a building or structure such as benches, beams and lighting.

Art works are selected based upon the Snohomish County Arts Commission annual arts program recommendations to the County Executive. The Arts Commission will also provide periodic reports to the county executive on recommended acquisitions, public sites at which to install, display, mount or perform any work of art and advise the Executive on the maintenance, conservation, removal and relocation of public art owned or loaned to the county.

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