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Inspire Washington embarks on state-wide tour with Cultural Futures

WASHINGTON – Inspire Washington is the state-wide advocacy organization for the cultural sector, promoting the value of science, heritage, and arts programming within every city, town, and hamlet. Washington just concluded a historic State Legislative Session in virtual Olympia – **\$50 million dollars was allocated for cultural businesses (non-profit and for-profit businesses of all sizes, in every county)** and critical legislation was passed to support cultural infrastructure, recovery, programming, and arts education. Through the Department of Commerce, businesses with budgets under \$5 million will be able to apply for operational grants of up to \$75,000 and institutions with budgets over \$5 million will be able to apply for funding for COVID safety expenses. Inspire Washington is excited to visit communities across the state for a share and listening tour, providing a thorough legislative overview and directions for accessing funding. From May 18 – June 29, 16 in-person and 3 virtual events will be held from Aberdeen to Spokane. To register for this free event, visit www.inspirewashington.org.

In Person Schedule:

Port Townsend: May 19	Aberdeen: May 20	North Seattle: May 23
Richland: May 25	Bellingham: June 1	Olympia: June 2
Vancouver: June 3	Everett: June 9	Tieton: June 11
Wenatchee: June 12	Winthrop: June 13	Tacoma: June 14
Spokane: June 16	Seattle: June 21	Bellevue: June 28
Federal Way: June 29		

Virtual Schedule: May 18, June 8, June 21

As revealed in ArtsFund’s Cultural COVID Impact Study, the financial impact of the pandemic on cultural businesses has been devastating. Across the 121 reporting organizations, a drop of \$95.9 million, a 21% contraction, in overall revenue was recorded in the first year alone. If not for public support, the cultural sector would have experienced loss at a much greater scale and valuable cultural institutions would’ve closed forever. With state revenues at an all-time high and federal relief secured through the American Rescue Plan, the Washington Legislature made historic investments for cultural businesses statewide.

At the Cultural Futures share-and-listen tour, Inspire WA will break down the support and ensure that businesses know how to claim their funding when the Working Washington 5 program commences in late June. Inspire WA will share all the information the cultural sector needs to know from federal and state funding sources, new programs, and advocacy opportunities. In preparation for next year's Legislative Session, Inspire WA wants to hear from the community! What further support is needed? How can cultural organizations advocate for their programs and community?

“We are in a moment of crisis. At the same time, we are in a moment of opportunity. The cultural sector will play a critical role in community recovery (economic and social), and there is a role for all of us to play in supporting the sector.” – ArtsFund Cultural Covid Impact Study

For more information including specific locations, times, accessibility, language options, and registration visit Inspire Washington's website: www.inspirewashington.org/events/cultural-futures