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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1: Grants to Arts and Culture Organization Application

**Q1**

Arts/Culture Organization Information

Name	<b>Michelle Pope</b>
Arts/Culture Organization	<b>Olympia Artspace Alliance</b>
Address	<b>120 State Avenue #183</b>
City/Town	<b>Olympia</b>
State/Province	<b>WA</b>
ZIP/Postal Code	<b>98501-8212</b>
Email Address	<b>info@olympiaartspace.org</b>
Phone Number	<b>360-956-0440</b>

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**Q2**

Project Name

Art in Olympia Storefronts

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**Q3**

Project Summary

Established in 2009 Olympia Artspace Alliance (OAA) is focused on live, work and exhibition space for Olympia area artists. In the spring of 2019, OAA started the "Art in Olympia Storefronts" program as an ongoing project to create a series of quality temporary art installations in vacant storefront windows. The project is currently focused on the window of The Goldberg Building downtown Olympia at 4th and Capitol. This project benefits local artists and creates vitality in our downtown by providing approximately four rotating public art exhibitions per year in otherwise vacant windows in the heart of downtown Olympia, where they are available 24/7 for all to experience and enjoy. Regular viewers include families, artists and art students, downtown business owners and their customers, tourists, and people living on the streets.

Looking ahead, we plan at least one juried show featuring work by local artists. Also in 2022 we plan to do one or more culturally specific installation/s, potentially in partnership with CIELO, Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition/South Puget Sound, Squaxin Tribe, and/or the Nisqually Tribe. We also are exploring a potential partnership with SPSCC or Evergreen for a show of student work. Our 2021 holiday exhibit will again feature artwork by local K-12 students, coordinated by local art teachers.

We hope to expand this project to additional sites, depending on available funds and our organization capacity.

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**Q4**

Total Grant Request Amount

\$5,000

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**Q5**

What types of expenses will your grant be used to cover?

City funding will be used to pay artists and curators for four installations in 2022.

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**Q6**

**Yes**

Eligibility - To apply for this opportunity organizations must:- Have programs centered on arts and/or culture in Olympia- Minimum two-year history of continuous operation serving Olympia residents- Be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization- Have at least one ongoing arts program open to the public in Olympia- A City of Olympia Business License  
Previous grant recipients must wait one granting cycle before reapplying  
Does your program/organization meet eligibility?

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**Q7**

How does your Arts/Culture Organization's prior experience ensure a successful project?

OAA is proud of the development of the Storefronts program and we see great potential for its growth and endurance into the future. Since OAA's first installation, the Art in Storefronts program participants have included local artists selected by jury panels; local school children and their art teachers; artwork by graduating students at the Evergreen State College; BIPOC artists selected by Black Well Red Thread Collective.

Art in Olympia Storefronts is coordinated by a committee of board members. We receive many inquiries from local artists who are interested in participating in the program. We learn from their feedback, and have developed a strong and strategic network (including social media) that helps us to get the word out, explore possibilities, and follow up on ideas and advice. Olympia Federal Savings generously makes The Goldberg Building available for this project; OAA provides them with regular updates.

The uncertainties of the past 20 months have made it more difficult to raise funds, recruit volunteers, and get everything done in our all-volunteer organization – while keeping everyone safe, healthy, and as calm as possible. In March 2020, we established COVID safety guidelines for artists and volunteers, and reworked our exhibition schedule to allow more time for artists to fabricate and install. In April 2020 the Olympia Downtown Alliance contracted with us to coordinate “Artists on Board” – an unanticipated but successful short-term recovery project for hiring artists to paint boards covering shop windows during the shutdown; this project was developed to quickly activate the local arts community in helping to build community resiliency, unity and compassion, look ahead to recovery and bring a small measure of financial relief to local artists. The resulting artworks were featured in downtown windows, and later were exhibited in the windows of The Goldberg Building. Also in 2020 we received a Recovery & Reinvestment grant from the Olympia Downtown Alliance and City of Olympia, to fund installation of electrical outlets and lighting in the windows used for our Storefronts exhibition, a significant improvement to this as exhibition space.

These two projects are evidence of our ability to pull together a good project involving local artists, and to work within tight constraints. Even so, these projects demanded a lot of effort and coordination, and both projects required some additional OAA funds beyond what we received from the grant/contract.

We were honored that OAA's Art in Olympia Storefronts project was selected in October of 2020 by the City of Olympia as recipient of an Arts Month Innovation Award. The award honors “projects that stood out in their efforts to encourage community connection and involvement in the arts.”

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## Q8

Please summarize the public benefit of your proposed project. Please describe in what ways this project will reach underserved communities.

Art in Olympia Storefronts has four goals:

- Activating vacant and/or underutilized spaces downtown
- Providing high quality exhibition opportunities to local artists
- Increasing public access to professional art
- Encouraging creative activity throughout our community

Downtown has long been home to many low-income residents and is the cultural center of the South Sound region. More recently the downtown residential population has increased significantly. Our exhibitions enhance downtown and introduce new residents and the broader community to the work of local artists, creative expression, and diverse perspectives. These temporary artworks give more opportunity for a variety of artforms, installations and exhibitions that are always available free of charge and while social distancing. Art in Olympia Storefronts provides a much-needed venue for artists to share their work and their perspectives, and for the broader community to engage close-up with compelling artworks.

Distribution of calls to artists and other invitations to participate in the Storefronts project (as well as invitations to artist talks and other OAA events when possible) reach diverse communities, including through the Longhouse at the Evergreen State College; the Squaxin Island Tribe's Cultural Resources Department, SPSCC and St. Martin's University; participants of the City's ArCH profile process; and ethnic/cultural organizations.

In the past year we have strengthened our commitment to social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. We now have a mini-workshop on related topics at each board meeting, and each of our committees has specific DEI goals. This has led us to develop new partnerships and connections – as evidenced by the BIPOC exhibit curated by Black Well Red Thread Collective (Fall 2021), and the works by Evergreen students. We know we have more work to do, and will benefit from outreach, relationships, and continued learning.

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## Q9

How does this project expand or build upon the arts in our community?

Art in Olympia Storefronts provides local artists with larger scale quality exhibition space in downtown Olympia, giving them more visibility as well as exhibition experience. Artists may install work they have already completed or may create original work/s or an installation specifically for this location.

Public art creates a sense of belonging, inspires engagement and a feeling of belonging in the community. This project in particular makes art accessible to diverse people, and generates discussion about important issues and ideas. In the past year, several of the artworks we have exhibited have allowed artists to share different perspectives and to challenge assumptions through their work. Art can be challenging, and we have heard some concerns about some of the works we have exhibited. We have had important conversations with OlyFed and the ODA, as well as with the artists, about artistic content, freedom of expression, the role of an artist, and public art. We appreciate our role in helping to shape important and positive conversations in our community about art.

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**Q10**

Describe any other funding you have pursued for this project in addition to the Arts/Culture Organization's contributions and the City's matching grant. Please indicate whether the funding has been secured.

Art in Olympia Storefronts is possible because of a range of funding sources as well as volunteer labor and donated space. Olympia Federal Savings provides The Goldberg Building at no charge. Every board member contributes some time and effort for this project every year, with the Storefronts Committee in the lead.

We have received funding from Olympia's Parking & Business Improvement Area (PBIA) in the past and hope for this funding again in 2022.

We will be requesting funding from ArtsWA (due November 15, 2021) and have applied for funding from the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound (unrestricted grant; decision by December 2021).

We are soon launching an Art in Storefronts sponsorship program to help with our 2022 season and beyond. Starting in November of 2021 individuals and local businesses will have an opportunity to choose a sponsorship level (\$50 - \$1,000) to help us pay artist fees, cleaning, window signage, marketing and related events. If successful, OAA hopes to expand the Art in Storefronts program to other vacant spaces in the downtown.

**Q11**

Project Expenses: please list a description and the amount of each project expense. (Eg. Artist fees: \$500)

Project Expense 1	<b>Artist fees: \$6,000 (12 artists/artist teams at \$500)</b>
Project Expense 2	<b>Curator fee: \$4,000 (two at \$1,000 and one at \$2,000)</b>
Project Expense 3	<b>Signage: \$1,000 (4 at \$250)</b>
Project Expense 4	<b>Supplies: \$250</b>
Project Expense 5	<b>Window prep: \$600 (4 at \$150)</b>
Project Expense 6	<b>Events: \$100</b>
Project Expense 7	<b>Contingency: \$250</b>
Project Expense 8	<b>Project administration: in-kind</b>
Project Expense 9	<b>Space rental: in-kind</b>
Total Expenses	<b>\$12,200</b>

**Q12**

Project Income (Matching Funds): please list a description and the amount of each project income source (Eg. Ticket sales: \$500) this can include dollar and in-kind sources. (Note: volunteer hours can be included as "project income". Each volunteer hour is valued at \$31.72. To calculate the In-kind dollar value of your volunteer hours multiply the total number of hours by \$31.72. (Eg. 10 Volunteer Hours: \$317.20)

Project Income 1	<b>Sponsors: \$3,200</b>
Project Income 2	<b>PBIA: \$1,000</b>
Project Income 3	<b>Community Foundation/ArtsWA: \$3,000</b>
Total Income (Matching Funds)	<b>\$7,200</b>
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$5,000</b>
Overall Total (Add total income & Grant Request amount)	<b>\$12,200</b>

**Q13**

Optional: Please upload any supplemental information.

**News-from-OAA.sept 2021.pdf (4.5MB)**

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**Q14**

Please attach verification of your organization's 501(c)3 status.

**OAA.501c3.pdf (816.2KB)**

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