



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Intiman Theatre**

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Seattle, WA 98109

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**Organization's General Goals:**

Intiman has a passion for social justice, and we strive towards liberation through artistic activism. We look at inequities plaguing our country and talk about these injustices in our theatrical productions, work through these injustices in our educational programs, and evaluate our own policies within community to check our own institutional injustices.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2018 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Intiman Theatre.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**

## Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions 2019 Report

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Since 2017, Intiman has hosted 5 iterations of the STARFISH Project at 3 South Seattle schools reaching 84 students: 74% of these students have been people of color, 52% female or female-identifying, and 13% transgender or gender nonconforming. In 2019 we hosted one iteration of the program at Rainier Beach High School which served 34 students and we launched a research effort to improve STARFISH programming. A research consultant guided the organization through document analysis, a student focus group, interviews with mentors, and a survey to all past STARFISH Project participants. These activities were all partially funded through Tulalip support.



### Spring 2019 STARFISH program

In the spring of 2019, 34 students at Rainier Beach High School worked for 98 program hours to complete a full technical design for the school's production of *THE DEFIANCE* - a student-devised production produced in partnership with Columbia City Youth Theatre Group and directed by Donte Felder. *THE DEFIANCE* established a firm argument that artmaking and storytelling are the key tools necessary for liberation in an oppressive society by utilizing dystopian fiction as a framework.

In-depth dramaturgical research initiated our intricate collaboration process that empowered the youth by centralizing their voices in every facet of decision-making and further enhanced their trust in their own abilities. In addition to building our young artists skills in theatrical design such as costuming, lighting, set, properties, and stage management - we also provided personalized mentorship with a 1:5 mentor to student ratio, and masterclasses in a variety of related topics such as fundraising and arts marketing. The final school production was offered free-of-cost to the community and engaged over 300 audience members.



### **Student Focus Group**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Intiman hosted a pizza party focus group open to all 84 participants from past iterations of the STARFISH Project with 19% of students ultimately attending. Intiman's Artistic Director, Education Advancement Consultant, and Education Programs Coordinator led the conversational focus group which asked students to describe the program, explain their experiences with program mentors, describe aspects of school support, explain technical theatre, define their understanding of social justice, and envision the future of STARFISH Project.

A common theme that emerged was the feeling that the STARFISH Project created a safe and friendly space for students. When describing his first experience with the program one student said, *"it just felt like home in a weird way because a lot of places would be, I'd feel like an outsider like I*



*don't belong, but at STARFISH I felt a part of a family.”*

*Later another student added, “STARFISH impacted me everywhere, during and outside of school... during school it was tough cause I always felt like I didn't really have a place, just like everyone else said, it's like STARFISH gave everybody a home. Sometimes the homes that we have right now are just not smooth and so it was a nice place to turn to.”*

*One student differentiated STARFISH from traditional classroom training stating, “the one-on-one training with the mentors definitely is a big plus for STARFISH... in school we're used to being in classes of 30 even 40 sometimes and we don't ever get that one-on-one assistance for things we're just not very certain of because everybody learns at a different pace... so it was really nice for working one-on-one with our mentors, and it's nice so we can just stop what we're doing and ask for clarification here and not feel like we're holding other people behind in a way.”*



### **Anonymous Student Survey**

To gather additional details, Intiman conducted an anonymous survey of STARFISH Project Participants with 26 students responding to this survey, representing 31% of the total population. These respondents rated the overall quality of the program as 4.7 out of 5. Constructive comments included requests for better support from the schools (who received an average score of 3.3 out of 5),

and requests to *“Please continue the program!”*, and a need to *“reach out to more youths. I just want as many people to be able to experience the program.”*

Based on the information gathered through these research methods, the STARFISH Project will sustain many of our current program elements, as well as implement specific improvements. We have determined that the program will continue to offer students a safe, welcoming, and familial space to learn and grow; as well as the opportunity to work with theatre professionals who provide expert mentorship at a one-on-one level.

The curricula design improvements include expanding to allow for greater cross-calibration between technical theatre aspects. Additionally, STARFISH will offer more direct ties to social justice and opportunities to use artistic practice to enable positive social change. Intiman will also expand post-program support for STARFISH’s program participants, including expanded access to future training and career opportunities, and assistance applying for higher educational advancement to include Seattle Promise.

Although our program is currently on pause due to COVID-19, we are excited to launch again in fall 2020 with our new curriculum and strengthened processes. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out and we would be delighted to discuss our work with you at greater length!

