



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Seattle Rep**

**Address:**  
155 Mercer St  
Seattle, WA 98109

**Contact:**  
(206) 443-2210  
<https://www.seattlerep.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Seattle Rep collaborates with extraordinary artists to create productions and programs that reflect and elevate the diverse cultures, perspectives, and life experiences of our region.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2022 Q4	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Seattle Rep.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulip, WA 98271  
**TulipCares.org**

October 3, 2023

Marilyn Sheldon  
Director  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn:

On behalf of all of us at Seattle Rep, thank you for the Tulalip Tribe's support for the Public Works program. This program is central to Seattle Rep's vision of a world with theater at the heart of public life, insuring access to art of, by, and for the people of our region. As a long-running and key Public Works supporter, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you additional details about the impact of your support.

In April 2023, Inji Kamel, who served as Director of Public Works since 2018, left Seattle Rep to pursue other opportunities. We recognized that Inji's departure would be a significant loss for the Public Works community and were pleased to appoint a new Public Works Manager who would continue to steward this program and community with equity, imagination, and joy. Ally Poole joined the Public Works team in May and brings her background as a theater artist and educator into her approach to the community-based programming of Public Works. In her short time with Public Works, she has led the way for our first Public Works mainstage production since 2019 and assisted in the creation of a new partnership between Seattle Rep's Public Works and Asian Counseling and Referral Service. This local human services organization joins our eight other communities partners: Byrd Barr Place, Boys and Girls Club of King County, Jubilee Women's Center, ReWA, Path with Art, Renton Veterans Center, Seattle Central College, and Sound Generations Ballard NW Senior Center, reaching people from all walks of life in our region through relationships based on mutually enriching, long-term commitments.

In 2023, the Public Works team has settled into primarily in-person programming, with one remaining option for a weekly hybrid virtual and in-person class (run through our partner organization Renton Veterans Center). We held 74 classes at five partner locations during our winter and spring quarters before transitioning into auditions, rehearsals, and performances of the first Public Works mainstage production since 2019: *The Tempest* as adapted by Todd Almond. In total, 2,241 individuals have been impacted by the Public Works program during 2023: 80 unique individuals in classes; 15 attendees to a one-day audition prep workshop; 19 individuals (out of the 58 community members who were cast) in the cast of *The Tempest* who were new to the Public Works program; 5 union actors in *The Tempest*; 16 individuals who were part of cameo groups in *The Tempest*; and 2,106 people who attended the four performances. We are proud of the reach of our Public Works programming.

In January, classes began at Byrd Barr Place, Ballard Northwest Senior Center, North Seattle Boys and Girls Club, Path with Art, and Renton Veterans Center. These classes, selected and designed based on participant and partner organization interests and needs, focused on storytelling, musical theater, acting, and ensemble performance. The storytelling classes at Renton Veterans Center and the Boys and Girls Club help youth and adults alike process experiences and emotions and learn to express both struggles and joys with clarity. Musical theatre is of particular interest to our participants at Ballard Northwest Senior Center, and after

one class spent learning “Back to Before” from *Ragtime*, a participant shared that “we have something to write about in our grateful journal at night.”

Spring quarter began in April, with class offerings shifting to include movement and Shakespeare classes as well as the storytelling and musical theater classes, to best prepare participants to audition for and participate in *The Tempest*. Ballard Northwest Senior Center participants learned “So What” from *Cabaret* and “June is Bustin’ Out All Over” from *Carousel*, while Renton Veterans Center participants practiced storytelling with a variety of prompts, including “tell a story about love” and “tell a story about a mystery.” The mystery stories were particularly compelling, with a shared theme of overcoming difficulty to triumph throughout the group. The variety and excellence of the mystery stories prompted a Public Works staff member to comment, “everyone was on fire today!”



*Cast of The Tempest. Photo taken by Lindsay Thomas.*

In March, Public Works held a hybrid audition prep workshop for participants interested in some support prior to auditioning for *The Tempest*. In May and June, auditions and callbacks were held, with Public Works staff and *The Tempest* director Hattie Claire Andres seeing over 100 Public Works participants and community members, in addition to actors from the broader Seattle community! 58 people were cast to perform in *The Tempest* alongside 5 professional actors and the aforementioned cameo groups, which included Seattle-based playwright and songwriter Justin Huertas, Kraken mascot Buoy, celebrated local singer Shaina Shepherd, and 13 members of the Morning Star Korean Cultural Center. Rehearsal for the Public Works community began July 19, and the professional actors joined on August 5. This allowed the Public Works community to create the rehearsal culture and atmosphere founded on the genuine expression of equity, imagination, and joy before inviting professional actors into the process.



*Cast of The Tempest. Photo taken by Lindsay Thomas.*

*The Tempest* opened to the public on August 25, with four performances held that weekend. 2,106 individuals attended these performances, filling Seattle Rep’s Bagley Wright Theater to 77% capacity over the course of the weekend. This play, originally conceived by Lear deBessonet at The Public Theater in New York, was staged at Seattle Rep by director Hattie Claire Andres, choreographer Trina Mills, and music director, arranger, and orchestrator Steven Tran. Hattie and Steven met with deBessonet and Todd Almond to discuss the play and received

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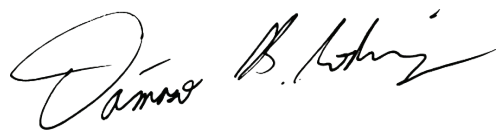
permission to update the script and re-orchestrate the music. Steven arranged updated versions of every song in the production and Hattie collaborated with Seattle Rep's Literary Manager Paul Adolphson to update parts of the script to better suit the needs of our community. The work of these three creatives meant that *The Tempest* was rooted in Public Works history and values while also being uniquely suited for our community.

As with all of our Public Works productions, *The Tempest* was entirely free to attend, with available tickets selling out within a day of release to the public. Audience members enthused about the production, proclaiming, "it was magnificent" and "that was fabulous" after the performance. One audience member asked a Seattle Rep staff member, "What happens now? Is it touring? How do I listen to the music?" All these responses, as well as the cheers and ovations experienced in the theater after the production, demonstrate that the community need for Public Works lies not only in the participants and volunteer actors, but in the artistic and theatrical community throughout our region as well.


Currently, our Public Works team is in the midst of holding reflection and conversation meetings with our partner organizations, the participants in *The Tempest*, and other Seattle Rep departments. These conversations will guide our next year of programming to ensure we always meet our community and constituents where they are and are living the program's values of equity, imagination, and joy together. For example, we will continue holding weekly classes at some of our partner organizations, including Renton Veterans Center, but some of our other partners, such as Asian Counseling and Referral Service, prefer a series of one-day workshops that are more accessible for drop-in participation. *The Tempest* volunteer actors will answer questions such as, "What did you enjoy most about the process?" "Where did you see the values of equity, imagination, and joy in practice?" and "What would you like to see changed or improved?"

It was deeply inspiring to see the community on stage for the first mainstage production since 2019, and we at Seattle Rep are so proud of the participants, the staff members, and the community who makes this program possible. Thank you for being a long-standing part of this community. We remain grateful for the Tulalip Tribe's ongoing support for Public Works, and we look forward to continuing to serve our community and region together. Again, thank you for your support in making our work possible.

Sincerely,



Dámaso Rodríguez  
Artistic Director



Jeffrey Herrmann  
Managing Director





*Cast of The Tempest. Photo taken by Lindsay Thomas.*



*Cast, crew, cameo groups of The Tempest. Photo taken by Lindsay Thomas.*