

## Civic Benefits

# Public Art

The Seattle Convention Center's (SCC) public art program was established by the board of directors to provide an environment that enriches the experience of all who pass through the facility. The program was founded in keeping with the Center's mission to provide both direct and indirect economic and civic benefits for the people of the community where the Center is located.

The Arch building's public areas were established in 1988 as a welcoming place for community members and event attendees to view works of art for enjoyment and education. The Arch collection, which has grown to over 100 works, is an outstanding civic benefit. This exceptional collection includes many important Northwest artists. Among them are Ann Gardner, Hilda Morris, Alden Mason, James Washington, Jr., Tony Angell, Margaret Tomkins, Kenneth Callahan, Jacob Lawrence, Michael Spafford, Nancy Mee, Dennis Evans, Richard Gilkey, Dante Marioni, Guy Anderson, Paul Horiuchi, Doris Chase, Buster Simpson, David Mahler, and Patty Warashina.

Many of the works are made available through the courtesy of artists and galleries, museums, corporations, foundations, private collectors, and government. Longstanding partners include Office of Arts & Culture – City of Seattle, 4Culture – King County, Washington State Arts Commission, Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, and Pilchuck Glass School, among others. In addition to the long-term works, to date over 200 rotating art exhibits have featured local and regional artists, creating an opportunity for emerging and diverse art groups to showcase their art. These exhibitions are normally on display for three months each, creating an ever-changing rotation of quality artworks.

In 1997, the Board encouraged the creation of the Washington State Convention & Trade Center Art Foundation, a non-profit corporation in support of the Center's art program under the leadership of original board member Phyllis Lamphere. In 2017, the Phyllis Lamphere Gallery, located on Arch's Level 2, was officially dedicated in her honor. The public art program is directed by the SCC Board of Directors Art Committee and managed by SCC staff. The SCC Art Advisors volunteer their time and expertise to assist the staff with curatorial decisions from the public collection.

### *Expanding Public Art with the Summit Building*

The SCC public art program and collection expanded with the Summit building construction. Opening in 2023, the collection of artwork promotes SCC's connection to communities, neighborhoods, and the artistic vitality of this region. Summit continues the legacy art program with an overarching vision, drawing inspiration from the Pacific Northwest's diverse cultures.

The Summit art program includes several key components, in keeping with agreements between King County, the City of Seattle and the Center regarding the facility's development. A variety of free-standing artworks have been commissioned for the project, artistic elements have been integrated into the architecture of the building, and dozens of existing studio works have been purchased for exhibition. In the longer term, the Center will continue to enhance Summit with artwork loans and Art Foundation donations.

*November 21, 2023*

## Civic Benefits | Public Art

The Summit collection features 23 commissioned artists selected based on open, invitational, or limited call processes. The commissioned artists include: Maikoio Alley-Barnes, Romson Regarde Bustillo, Kate Clark, Claire Cowie, Kimberly Deriana, RYAN! Feddersen, John Feodorov, Malynn Foster, Robert Hardgrave, Lauren Iida, Christopher Paul Jordan, Kenji Stoll, Satpreet Kahlon, Sheila Klein, Ulises Mariscal, Christian Moeller, Cathy McClure, Danielle Morsette, Joseph Steininger, Maki Tamura, Dan Webb, Andrea M. Wilbur-Sigo and Jennifer Angaiak Wood. In addition to these commissioned artists, 37 artists are featured in the Studio Works sub-set of the collection.

The public art commissioned for and displayed in Summit is wide-ranging in style, media, points of view and the professional level of experience of the artists. The collection is united in its vision to interpret the character and essence of the region, from its natural beauty and innovative spirit to its shifting urban environments. Instead of a place where people pass through on their way to somewhere else, the expectation is that Summit will be a dynamic hub where locals and visitors can pause, experience the best of the Northwest, exchange ideas and engage in conversations. Look for the final artworks to be installed in 2024.

### *Art Advisor Panel and Program Leadership*

The Summit art program initiatives have been in the making for several years, guided by and in collaboration with the SCC Board, SCC Art Advisors, art consultants, artists, designers, and cultural experts from the community.

In 2018, a panel of Art Advisors, reflecting the extraordinary range and expertise within the region's cultural community, was recruited to advise and participate in the public processes. We wish to thank the Art Advisor panel for their years of service on this project. Advisors continuing their service are indicated in bold type.

- **Heather Dwyer**, Vashon Artist Residency (2018 – 2023)
- **Blake Haygood**, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (2018 – 2023)
- Negarra Kudumu, negarraakudumu.com/ (2018 - 2021)
- Monica Miller, Gallery One (2018 - 2019)
- **Tim Purtill**, Atomic Art Services (2018 – 2023)
- Kristen Ramirez, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Seattle Department of Transportation (2018 - 2021)
- Norie Sato, Artist (2018 - 2020)
- Jen Song, Seattle Housing Authority (2018 - 2021)
- **Asia Tail**, yəhaw Indigenous Creatives Collective (2018 – 2023)

In addition, the Center is deeply grateful to these individuals for their leadership and guidance of the Summit art program:

- Jane Lewis, Pine Street Group
- Cath Brunner, Art Consultant
- Margery Aronson, Independent Curator, Professional Art Advisor
- Cathy McClure, Artist Consultant to the Owner

To see the art collection online (work in progress), visit: <https://hub.catalogit.app/11425>.