

April 28, 2020

Dear KAC Community,

Thank you for your concern and patience with us as we have been working to keep pace with the ever-changing world we all now live in. We sincerely hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

It's been just over six weeks since Kirkland Arts Center made the decision to temporarily close our building. In that time, KAC staff and board have been working diligently to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our finances, operations, and community; creatively adapt to meet new challenges; and do all we can to support the community. **We'd like to update you on what the impact has been to KAC, what our response plan is, and how you can help**

The Stay Home order has meant that Spring Quarter (and subsequently, Summer Quarter) has been delayed. This has resulted in the likelihood of a significant loss of revenue, jeopardizing KAC's ability to sustain usual operations. The staff and board are actively working on plans to recoup this loss while still continuing to support the community with arts access. This means we are making a concerted effort to apply for newly available grant funding, innovating around how we hold classes (more details below!), and serving our community in new ways we see a real need for right now.

The good news is that we are one of the fortunate organizations who have received funding from the Payroll Protection Program, which is allowing us to continue to serve the community by supporting staff payroll. *This program does not support our teacher payroll. We are still actively working to raise funds to support our teaching artists as they prepare to teach their first quarter online!* The other good news is that we are on track to meet our year-end budget, should we reach essential fundraising goals by July 1st; with the help of our community and our partners, we are confident that we will weather this storm.

**In short**, we are going to make it ***and*** we need your help.

### **How can you help?**

**We still have significant funds to raise to pay our contracted teachers through Spring quarter** and we must **replace the roof** as soon as the weather allows. Although we have funds allocated to this work, we are falling short of the total estimate.

- **Please consider making a financial gift, as you are able, to help KAC navigate this crisis, pay teaching artists, and support the community now and for years to come.**
  - Go to [GiveBigWA.org/KAC](https://GiveBigWA.org/KAC) to schedule a gift in advance and start the momentum for Give Big on May 5th and 6th!
- **Create a personal fundraising page** for Kirkland Arts Center as part of GiveBig, Washington's Day of Giving. You can share why KAC means a lot to you, set a goal, and engage your community in supporting us! You do not have to make a gift to create a personal fundraiser. We are happy to help you with this! It's a few steps with a big impact.
  - Go to [GiveBigWA.org/KAC](https://GiveBigWA.org/KAC) and click "Fundraise."
  - For additional help, please reach out to [development@kirklandartscenter.org](mailto:development@kirklandartscenter.org)

### **How is KAC serving the community right now?**

Since April, the KAC team has built the following online programs:

- **Online Spring Quarter:** With 275 students still enrolled, we will launch online Zoom classes May 1.
- **Summer Quarter:** Summer quarter will be delayed, but we're planning an August session to continue our momentum from spring online classes.
- **3D Virtual Exhibition, *Reflections*:** Curated by Donna Porter, our gallery team has installed over 70 works by KAC artists from the past 4 decades to create this exhibition. *Reflections* has been beautifully rendered into a 3D virtual reality tour.
- **Youth Program:** Make Your Mark, our afterschool arts program to support social and emotional development, has gone virtual for up to 40 students beginning May 1!
- **Help for the Helpers:** To serve our first responders and economically impacted community, we will open up our remaining class spots to those who are working on the front lines. If you know a Helper, please reach out to [helper@kirklandartscenter.org](mailto:helper@kirklandartscenter.org)

We firmly believe in the vital importance of art to support communities in times of crisis - and in the power of art to help us heal, individually and collectively. Community fundraising is part of our plan to survive, thrive, and continue to serve as the world around us changes.

If you would like to discuss this further, please reach out to either of us. We would love to connect with you.



Mary Lu Hawes and Kelly Dylla  
Board President and Executive Director