

**For Immediate Release**

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Inspire Washington



## Seattle City Council Cultural Sector Forum Announced

*Inspire Washington Invites all 14 candidates to Town Hall Forum*

Seattle – Every candidate from all seven Seattle City Council District elections are invited to attend a Cultural Sector Candidate Forum to share their platforms on issues affecting arts, science, and heritage programming in Seattle. The Forum will be held Monday, October 7, 6-8:30 p.m. at Seattle’s Town Hall, located at 720 Seneca Street in Seattle.

Everyone who values or engages with arts, science, and heritage organizations in Seattle are encouraged to attend to meet the candidates and hear their platforms. The event will be hosted by Inspire Washington, a newly launched cultural sector non-profit that serves as a statewide force for advocacy and promotes broad awareness of the sector’s community impact.

KNKX, Town Hall, and Inspire Washington are sponsoring the event. KNKX News Director, Florangela Davila, will moderate the forum. Inspire Washington’s Executive Director, Manny Cawaling, will kick-off the event with a brief overview of the important issues facing cultural sector organizations in Seattle. Cultural sector organizations from every Seattle City Council District will then introduce the candidates from all seven races. There will be time for short candidate statements and a brief, moderated Q&A with each candidate.

“Washington’s arts and cultural sector is a critical driver for our state’s economy,” Cawaling said. “Our work represents 7.8% of our state’s GDP which surpasses state construction dollars. Additionally, every person who attends a cultural event spends an average of \$32 locally on a range of things; from childcare, to parking, and meals. Our work matters and here in Seattle that’s amplified due to the hundreds of cultural organizations that are creating exemplary programs. Beyond the economy, our programming nurtures individual growth and strengthens communities. We are excited to host this voter’s Forum and challenge all candidates to be cultural champions.”

### **Candidates Confirmed to Attend:**

District 1: Lisa Herbold, Phillip Tavel  
District 2: Tammy Morales, Mark Solomon  
District 3: Kshama Sawant, Egan Orion  
District 4: Alex Pedersen, Shaun Scott  
District 5: TBA  
District 6: Dan Strauss, Heidi Wills  
District 7: Andrew Lewis, Jim Pugel

Free coffee and dessert will be served. Appetizers and soft drinks will be available for purchase through Town Hall concessions.

### **About Inspire Washington:**

Inspire Washington is a consortium of cultural sector organizations throughout Washington state. Whether you are visiting an aquarium, attending a play, or learning about the history of your community at a heritage museum, you are benefiting from access to cultural experiences. Access to cultural experiences advances education, drives the economy, enriches our quality of life, and strengthens our communities. Cultural experiences have demonstrated the power to transform lives.

Sponsors Include: KNKX, Town Hall, Inspire Washington, Woodland Park Zoo, and Seattle Aquarium.

Steering Committee Members Include; Manny Cawaling, Kevin Hughes, Lauri Hennessey Andy Jensen, Nick Licata, and Stephen Reed.