



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: Judy Manchester, Youth and Family Services Supervisor
Carrie Hite, Deputy Director Parks and Community Services
Jennifer Schroder, Director Parks and Community Services

Date: April 5, 2006

Subject: "Opening Doors"- Kirkland Arts Center

RECOMMENDATION: To introduce City Council to a Kirkland Arts Center partnership program with Hopelink and the Kirkland Teen Union Building called "Opening Doors".

POLICY IMPLICATIONS: None

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION: Housed in a landmark 1891 building, Kirkland Arts Center (KAC) has been home to innovative visual art programming, including a non-profit gallery and arts classes for all ages for 43 years. Today the Arts Center continues to connect the community with art through exhibits, classes and outreach programs.

The philosophy of the Kirkland Arts Center is to encourage "seeART, makeART and experienceART". The Kirkland Arts Center presents innovative, engaging visual exhibits that showcase contemporary artists and provide opportunities for emerging curators. The Arts Center Presents satellite exhibits at Kirkland City Hall, the Kirkland Library, Kirkland Performance Center and other Kirkland locations. The Kirkland Arts Center is the only organization offering in-depth training in a wide variety of visual arts on the Eastside. In 2005 Kirkland Arts Center presented 270 classes and workshops for more than 2,200 students of all ages. Every summer the Arts Center presents Summerfest, which brings 42,000 visitors to Marina Park in celebration of arts and culture. Kirkland Arts Center also hosts free Artist Lectures, an arts-focused Literary Salon, gallery talks and other events that connect the community with the arts.

An innovative program at the Kirkland Arts Center in its second year called "Opening Doors" is a partnership with Hopelink's Kirkland Service Center and the Kirkland Teen Union Building. The program provides free art classes for youth and families served by the Kirkland branch of Hopelink. This program combines multi-week arts classes, summer art camps and family art workshops for low income students, ages 6 – 14 and parents. The youth and families served by Hopelink are low-income or homeless, and many are recent immigrants, with parents speaking little English and lacking the cultural literacy to access scholarship programs. The Kirkland Arts Center, Hopelink and the Kirkland Teen Union Building plan to build on the success of the 2005 "Opening Doors" which provided quality arts education for 82 young people and family members. This program included two 8-week art classes (ages 8 -12), a one-week summer art camp (ages 6 – 14), and two family clay workshops (6 and up with a parent). In 2006, the program plans to serve up to 128 people with two summer camps, two multi-class sessions, and four parent-child workshops.

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The Arts Center, Hopelink and the Kirkland Teen Union Building are committed to working together to bring arts to underserved populations in Kirkland and nearby unincorporated King County. The organizations have divided responsibilities for the programs based on their areas of expertise and their missions. Kirkland Arts Center will arrange all the arts classes, develop the curriculum, hire instructors, provide all the art supplies, insure teachers, purchase snacks for each class and workshop, provide space for workshops, secure funding and conduct class evaluations. Hopelink's Kirkland Service Center will publicize both arts programs to the families it serves, conduct class registration, address translation needs, and assist with program evaluations. The Kirkland Teen Union Building will donate space and provide transportation to and from the classes.