



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: James Lopez, Assistant City Manager
Martha Chaudhry, Special Projects Coordinator

Date: March 9, 2021

Subject: Alaska Suites Livestream Concert

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council reviews and provides direction on the request by Kirkland Interfaith Network member Margaret Schwender that the City Council provide \$1000 in support of a livestream concert by musical group "Alaska Suites" in honor of the 50th National Anniversary of Earth Day on April 24, 2021, with funding from either a) Council Special Projects Reserves, or b) the Diverse Community Event Fund that Council allocated as part of the 2021-2022 budget process.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Alaska Suite is a mixed media, musical quintet, that incorporates video imagery, photography and spoken word into musical performance. On behalf of Alaska Suite, Margaret Schwender submitted a request (Attachment A) to the City Council to support a livestream concert in honor of Earth Day 2021 at the Kirkland Performance Center (KPC). Preliminary discussions between Ms. Schwender, Nelda Swigget (band leader), Jeff Lockhart and David Bander of the KPC determined costs exceeded Ms. Schwender's budget for the setup and livestreaming, including hard costs and labor costs. The band is uncertain whether they can afford the project at the KPC without full Council support. As such, pending Council decision, the group is pursuing other venues, likely in Seattle, from which to conduct the livestream. Livestream organizers intend and agree to acknowledge the City of Kirkland's support, and to market the event to Kirkland residents regardless of livestream location (Attachment B).

Scope of Support Options:

- Option 1: \$1,000: To offset costs of a livestream production conducted at an alternative venue, likely outside of Kirkland.
- Option 2: No funding support.
- Option 3: \$4,375 Council provides \$4,375 instead to have the event at the KPC:
- a) Covers cost of the livestream and all associated hard costs at the KPC at the City's discounted rate;
 - b) Requires use of one of the City's 'free' facilities rental days at the KPC.

Table of KPC Costs for Livestream Event

KPC Services	Cost Estimate	CoK Support
Facilities Rental	\$0	Use of a City 'free facilities' day (\$2,000 value)
Day of Labor Costs	\$1,900	
Livestream Costs	\$2,475	This amount reflects a 75% discount for CoK
Totals	\$4,375	Amount of Council funding needed to support livestream from KPC

Funding Source Options:

Option 1: Council Special Projects Reserves;

Option 2: Council's Diverse Community Event Fund, allocated as part of the 2021-2022 budget process (R-5434).

NEXT STEPS

Staff seek Council direction at the March 16, 2021 Council meeting to indicate a) which of the three funding options Council would prefer (No funding, \$1000 or \$4,375); and b) which of the two funding sources Council prefers to use (Special Projects Reserve or Diverse Community Event Fund), should they choose to support the event. With Council direction on March 16, 2021, staff would return to the April 6 meeting with a fiscal note authorizing the expenditure.

ATTACHMENT A

To: Jay Arnold, Kirkland City Council

From: Margaret Schwender (Kirkland Interfaith Network (member))

SUBJECT: Partnership with the City of Kirkland to Host “Alaska Suite” Event at Kirkland Performance Center with Virtual Live Stream in honor of 50th National Anniversary of Earth Day which is honored on April 24 2021.

Purpose of this document: Request funding and promotional partnership from the City of Kirkland

Sponsor: Kirkland Interfaith Network (KIN) is a faith-based non-profit organization serving over 3,500 Kirkland families/individuals. KIN strives to serve those in need in and around Kirkland and the world in a variety of capacities.

Since KIN's formulation, 30 years ago, more than 100 outreach projects have been completed, many of which met unmet needs with families and individuals with limited incomes living throughout the Kirkland area. Over 100 members of KIN local churches in 2019 had the opportunity to view Alaska Suite at a “Meaningful Movie” offering in Kirkland. It was at this viewing that people brainstormed on how to bring this performance to Kirkland residents. Not only did many leave the performance having a much better understanding of the effects of Global Warming in Alaska, but also came away through conversation with others present with ideas of what they could do to slow down Global Warming in their homes!

During 2021 one area we are focusing on is **Global Warming** and how it is affecting each one of us on this earth.

Event: It is our hope, with the support of the City of Kirkland, to host a live stream performance of the “Alaska Suite: a story of beauty, loss and hope” in celebration of Earth Day 2021.

The Alaska Suite features a five-piece chamber jazz ensemble performing the original music of award-winning Seattle pianist and composer Nelda Swiggett. But this is not just a concert. In addition to music, the performance engages spoken words, images and poetry to connect audiences deeply and emotionally to the scientific realities of climate change. Ultimately a story of hope, the performance leaves audiences inspired to take action.

The Alaska Suite performance debuted on Earth Day 2017. It has since been performed 24 times, touching over 1300 people with its message of hope and call to action.

“... wonderfully inspiring.... The content was informative without being preachy; the music was magical...”

— Gail M.

“... conversations and emails have been “a buzz” of enthusiasm and appreciation for your concert and climate message. It was indeed remarkable...”

— Linda Jack

Why Alaska? While the earth has warmed on average about 2°F since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the Arctic is warming nearly twice as fast. The impacts of climate change are significant and alarming in Alaska right now, and this should be a wake-up call for all of us.

For Alaska Suite sound clips, videos and quotes, please visit : www.alaskasuite.com

Alaska Suite's mission:

“To use the power of artistic expression — live music, spoken words, images and poetry — to connect our audiences deeply and emotionally to the scientific realities of climate change, and to inform and inspire them to act now to address it.”

“We believe climate change transcends politics. It is an unprecedented existential threat that affects us all. We believe our greatest challenge is to overcome misinformation and for each of us to find the courage to act individually and together. Acknowledging the dire consequences and sheer scale of climate change can be deeply emotional, yet our response must be based on scientific understanding, technological innovation, sound economics, and effective policy. We believe the performing arts have a unique and powerful role to play in facilitating society’s response to climate change.”

KIN believes co-sponsoring a performance by Alaska Suite with the City of Kirkland would result in the following benefits: Date to be decided.

1. Increased community awareness of global warming as we honor Earth Day through the interweaving of science and the arts.
2. Creation of a new venue through which Kirkland residents can be informed about the Kirkland Sustainability Master Plan approved in December 2020. (referral websites/links)
3. Creation of an opportunity for Kirkland residents to learn about volunteering for future Green Kirkland activities. (referral websites/links)
4. Promotion of opportunities for Kirkland residents to engage in global warming activism. {links Olympia, upcoming legislation) (network with activist groups) (People for Climate Action) (Lutheran Peace Fellowship).

It is our hope that a site can be secured to help this KIN Outreach activity become a reality, thus taking this event out of the pews of a single church and into a COMMUNITY LOCATION with the hope of reaching the broadest range of community members possible. Scheduling around Earth Day is desirable but to be determined.

Present Community Commitments:

1. KIN sponsorship will promote this event to over 3,500 Kirkland households.
2. KIN \$500 financial support to help cover expenses.
3. Lutheran Peace Fellowship: sponsor/ promotion of event to over 1,200 Kirkland/family/individual households.

Specific Needs from Kirkland City Council/Staff:

1. Designate this Alaska Suite performance as the recipient of one of the four days that the City has use of Kirkland Performance Center at the City’s reduced cost. It is estimated a total of 4 hours needed for set up and take down.
2. Support in the amount of \$1,000 from City Council’s Discretionary Fund to help with the \$1,500 estimated expenses to rent Kirkland Performance Center at the City’s reduced rate, thus allowing ticket sales and donations to cover the cost of the musician’s performance expenses.
3. Promote advertising of this event on City’s website, in newsletters, on Facebook, and any further promotion with linked organizations to help spread the word about this Earth Day offering.

Call To Action:

This event will bring not only educational awareness around the issue of Global Warming, but also inspire and provide community actions to slow down the effects of Global Warming in our local neighborhoods.

We will await a favorable response for this Kirkland Interfaith Network outreach offering.

Respectfully Submitted:

Margaret Schwender, KIN Volunteer

206 226 5358

margschwender@gmail.com

Attachment B

Alaska Suites Earth Day Livestream: City of Kirkland Acknowledgment

Livestream organizers have indicated they will integrate the following into event visuals, marketing and partnerships should the Council provide funding for the event, regardless of livestream location.

1. Visual representation of the City of Kirkland on the stage: Organizers referenced working with David Barnes or another City staff member to locate a banner or flag or other such visual representing City of Kirkland during the livestream;
2. Profits: should there be profits from event ticket sales, the group intends to donate them to a Kirkland-based nonprofit organization working in the climate change prevention space, preferably a youth organization. Organizers intend to work with David Barnes and/or other City staff to the extent appropriate for help identifying a suitable recipient;
3. Call to Action (in Kirkland): Organizers plan to insert slide(s) at the end of the PowerPoint deck (part of the mixed media performance) listing nonprofits or groups in the City of Kirkland that are working in the climate change prevention space. Concert viewers can contact these organizations to get involved in climate change prevention directly. Organizers intend to work with City staff to the extent appropriate to identify these organizations and mentioned David Barnes, the Volunteer Coordinator, Neighborhood Coordinator.
4. Marketing: Organizers intend to mention support from the City of Kirkland in all marketing and event materials, platforms and communications. The marketing plan has yet to be determined.