

Seattle Symphony remarks to King Co. BFM Ctc Meeting 11/12/15
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I would like to thank the Council and the County Executive for making this incredible investment in cultural projects, filling a need that has been pushed to the back burner for a long time by the recession and economic conditions. This would provide much-needed financial backing for a project that the Symphony will be raising over \$5M to complete, and we are well on our way already.

I want to commend 4Culture for the work they have done on this, and for their competitive grant process which was rigorous and very well managed ...

- Applications were segregated into three budget categories to support small, medium and large facilities projects
- Grant workshops presented by 4Culture staff were required for all applicants
- Rigorous application included proof of site control, project and organization budget info, evidence of community programming and engagement
- Applicants scored on project feasibility, impact on community, effect on tourism
- Grant committee representative of County's geography
- Grant committee heard from every applicant in person

Redesign of Seattle Symphony's Soundbridge facility

Soundbridge is a 2,200 square-foot facility located at Benaroya, serving visitors of every age from all across King County.

The redesign of Soundbridge will expand existing floor plan and incorporate new technology including:

- a wall-sized touch-screen display,
- advanced lighting technology,
- and digitally-enhanced room acoustics,
- linked to Benaroya Hall's main concert stage by robotic HD cameras...

...making it easier for the Seattle Symphony to broaden its reach in King County ...

- through musical performances enhanced by interactive visual and audible technology, that will appeal to the younger tech-savvy generation,
- through sensory friendly concerts for individuals with special needs,
- through behind-the-scenes experiences created clients of our Community Connections nonprofit partners that don't traditionally have access to the arts,
- through distance learning programs, in which any program created at Soundbridge can be shared via web browser on any computer or mobile device anywhere in the county or beyond,
- and by digitally connecting to schools that have limited or no music education resources, where Seattle Symphony's Link Up residency and interactive concert programs will reach a much larger share of the County's minority populations

The new Soundbridge will be the most technologically-advanced symphonic education and community facility in the world, and it will dramatically broaden access to the Seattle Symphony through innovative programming tailored specifically for young people, those in underserved communities.