Teens in King County can get steeply discounted tickets to major arts events through a program called TeenTix.

TeenTix gets teens from ages 13-19 in to theater, dance, visual art, movies, music and more for just $5.

TeenTix is a free program that enables teenagers to participate in local arts by making events affordable and accessible. TeenTix was founded in 2004 by the Seattle Center and partners with 64 other arts organizations.

Some of these organizations include Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle International Film Festival, 5th Avenue Theatre, ACT Theatre, and EMP Museum.

“Essentially, our mission is to empower teens to make change through their arts community,” said Monique Courcy, executive director of TeenTix.

TeenTix is available to those in King County, but is in the process of expanding statewide.

“We are looking at who we are not already reaching that we could be reaching, and how we could do better,” Courcy said.

Twelve years ago, the Seattle Center heard about a program in New York called High 5, where tickets to arts events were only $5, thought it was a good idea and wanted to try it out. TeenTix began as a rush ticket program, but has evolved into much more.

Courcy said since its establishment, over 70,000 arts tickets have been sold to teens using their TeenTix passes.

After signing up for a free TeenTix pass, teens will be permitted to purchase $5 day-of-show tickets for any partner organization.

“In addition to the $5 pass, we offer a New Guard program and youth leadership board that helps TeenTix members develop goals for themselves for the year and work on planning events,” Courcy said.

New Guard is a teen arts leadership society that allows 13-to-19-year-olds the opportunity to get involved and help guide TeenTix.

Members of New Guard also have the opportunity to learn leadership skills through an “ever-deepening” curriculum, Courcy said.

TeenTix also provides the Teen Press Corps, which is a program that allows teens to write for TeenTix’s blog, participate in workshops and develop arts criticism skills. The TeenTix Press Corps is currently on hiatus, but is in the process of starting up again.

If interested in joining TeenTix, start by filling out an online form at www.teentix.org/sign-up. If eligible, one will receive a temporary paper pass until the hard copy arrives in the mail.

The TeenTix website provides a calendar that shows upcoming events that are partnered with the program.

After deciding on an event, tickets can be purchased at the venue with the TeenTix pass and school ID or driver’s license.

The program offers promotional days known as 2 for $10 day, on Sundays and Thursdays, where one can buy a second $5 ticket and give it to anyone of any age.

TeenTix has specific rules and regulations one must follow to successfully purchase tickets. The program allows you to buy tickets only on the day of the show, no reservations.

One must have their TeenTix pass with them to purchase a ticket.

“By nature, art is something that allows people to better understand culture and makes you think twice as an individual. For me as someone who grew up in the arts myself, I hope to provide knowledge to youth through the arts community,” said Courcy.

For more information about TeenTix, visit www.teentix.org or call 206-233-3959.