



WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION

Creative Districts Program Overview



Buskers in the Burg Festival Arts Parade, Ellensburg WA. Photo courtesy of Ellensburg Downtown Association.

Overview

The Certified Creative Districts program works to help communities in Washington thrive. Its purpose is to help communities strengthen their creative sector, diversify their economy, and enhance their quality of life.

What is a Certified Creative District?

A Creative District is an exciting place to live, work, and visit. It's a focal point - a geographically defined area of cultural and economic activity. It's the heart of a community - for people to gather and enjoy the arts and culture a community has to offer.

It can include cultural facilities, arts-related organizations, and creative and other businesses that support or complement these activities. It's a way for a community to grow jobs and create economic opportunities for all people through the arts. And it's a place where innovation and creativity can thrive, helping a community move enthusiastically into the future.

About ArtsWA

Established in 1961, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) works to support communities to bring art into the lives of all those who live in Washington State. Our mission is to be a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.

2017 Creative Economy in WA

BY THE NUMBERS



303,839
CREATIVE INDUSTRY JOBS



\$28.9B
TOTAL INDUSTRY
EARNINGS

\$45,138
AVERAGE EARNINGS

OCCUPATIONS WITH GREATEST
NUMBER OF JOBS STATEWIDE

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

MUSICIANS & SINGERS

WRITERS & AUTHORS



Help Your Community Thrive with Creative District Certification

By developing the creative economy, communities are investing in their future. They can grow jobs; increase economic, educational, tourism and cultural opportunities; and boost livability for residents and visitors.

How will Creative District certification benefit my community?

- State endorsement of community activities
- Grow jobs and economic opportunities for all citizens
- Attract artists & creative businesses
- Promote your community's creative identity
- Increase tourism and bring new visitors
- Attract new investment, redevelop historic assets
- Opportunities for affordable housing, live/work, and maker space
- Proactively develop your community's long-term future

How does the certification process work?



Mural painted by artist Patrick Siler on the wall of Thomas Hammer Coffee Roasters, Pullman, WA. Photo by Terry Richard, *The Oregonian*.

How does ArtsWA support my community?

We guide and support communities and their Creative Districts through the process as they seek District certification and implement their programs. We also:

- Offer specialized resources during the pre-certification phase.
- Provide grant funding opportunities.
- Track the progress of a community's creative economy after certification.
- Provide technical assistance, training and networking opportunities.

To get started, please contact: Annette Roth, Creative Districts Program Manager
ArtsWA | PO Box 42675 | Olympia WA 98504-2675 | www.arts.wa.gov
360-586-8098 direct | 360-753-3860 agency | annette.roth@arts.wa.gov