



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

Public Art Opportunity | Western Sculpture Collection

Western Washington University
Washington State Arts Commission



L-R: Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Manus*, 1994; Fred Wilson, *A Moth of Peace*, 2018 (foreground) and *The Way the Moon's in Love with the Dark*, 2017; David Ireland, *Bigger Big Chair*, 2007.

Submissions Due: **Monday, September 30, 2024, 4 PM (Pacific)**
Artwork Budget: **\$440,000** (inclusive of design, fabrication, installation, and tax)

Overview

Commissioned through the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) in partnership with Western Washington University (WWU), this is an exciting opportunity for an artist or artist team to create artwork for WWU's internationally recognized [Sculpture Collection](#) in Bellingham, Washington. Funds for this public art project were generated through the construction of the Student Development & Success Building and renovation of the Environmental Science Building.

Contact

Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places program manager: 360.228.4080, mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov

Budget

The selected artist will receive a **\$40,000** design contract that includes travel and stamped, structural engineering. Upon design approval by the WWU Campus Art Committee, they will receive a commission contract of **\$400,000**, inclusive of all costs related to fabrication and installation, including sales tax and contingency.



Submissions

All materials are due by **4pm, Monday, September 30, 2024**, through [ArtsWA's Submittable site](#). If you are unable to submit electronically, contact Alexis Sarah (alexis.sarah@arts.wa.gov or 360.228.6359) to discuss possible accommodations.

Selection process

The WWU Campus Art Committee consists of arts faculty, curators, and artists. In a process facilitated by ArtsWA, the Art Committee will review submitted materials of all applicants and select an artist or artist team to create a design for a new campus artwork. Upon design approval, the artist will receive a commission contract for fabrication and installation.

Using the criteria below, the Art Committee will consider whether your portfolio

- **communicates a unique vision or perspective**
- **shows a potential to engage with or respond to its surroundings**
- **demonstrates skill in technique**
- **complements the WWU Sculpture Collection**



L-R: Beverly Pepper, *Normanno Wedge*, 1979; Do Ho Suh, *Cause and Effect*, 2012; and Sarah Sze, *Split Stone (Northwest)*, 2019

Submission materials

Please prepare and enter the following through [Submittable](#):

1. **Statement of interest** (limit 250 words) summarizing your interest in this project. Please describe any experience with projects of a similar scope and include anything that might help us differentiate you as a candidate.
2. **Brief biography or artist statement** (limit 250 words). Artists working collaboratively may submit a statement for each member.
3. **8 images of past works**, preferably created within past 5 years. (Horizontal orientation displays best.)
4. **Brief descriptions (1-2 sentences) for each image**. Also include title, dimensions, materials, date, location, budget/cost, and commissioning entity (if applicable).

If selected, you will

- design and propose an artwork for review and approval by ArtsWA staff, professional conservator, structural engineer, and the WWU Campus Art Committee
- travel to the project site up to three times during the proposal/design process to meet with the Art Committee and ArtsWA project manager (some meetings may be held remotely)
- be available to meet with WWU facilities staff to coordinate artwork installation
- work within the fixed budget
- maintain registration as a Washington State vendor and adhere to applicable state permitting and licensing requirements, including those relating to contracting and the paying of Prevailing Wages
- enter into contracts with ArtsWA and fulfill those requirements, including paying applicable taxes

Commission and contracts

The artwork will be commissioned through ArtsWA and will become part of the State Art Collection and WWU Sculpture Collection. Installation will be coordinated through ArtsWA and WWU. Sample [proposal](#) and [commission](#) contracts can be found on ArtsWA's [website](#).

Eligibility

You must be an established artist or artist team residing in the United States or British Columbia. Neither ArtsWA nor WWU discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity. WWU staff and artists with current or recent ArtsWA public art contracts are ineligible.

Due date and time: Monday, September 30, 2024, 4PM (Pacific)

Applications through [Submittable](#). If you do not have an account, sign-up is free.

**To avoid technical problems, please submit well in advance of the deadline.
Late submittals will not be accepted.**

ArtsWA Art in Public Places Vision Statement

Art in Public Places is uniquely positioned to advance and support art and artists across Washington. Our goal is to build and care for a State Art Collection that is impactful, accessible, and valued. We seek lasting artworks that reflect Washington's diverse communities.