



Protect the state’s \$50 million investment in public art

Make a high-impact, temporary Conservation Technician position permanent

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST
\$154,708 annually
Ongoing funding

In 2023, the Legislature approved a specialized position to care for Washington’s public art and address the State Art Collection’s long-standing maintenance backlog. The position is currently funded for only two years, limiting its potential just as results are becoming apparent. **We request funding to make this high-impact, temporary conservation position permanent.**

A high-impact investment

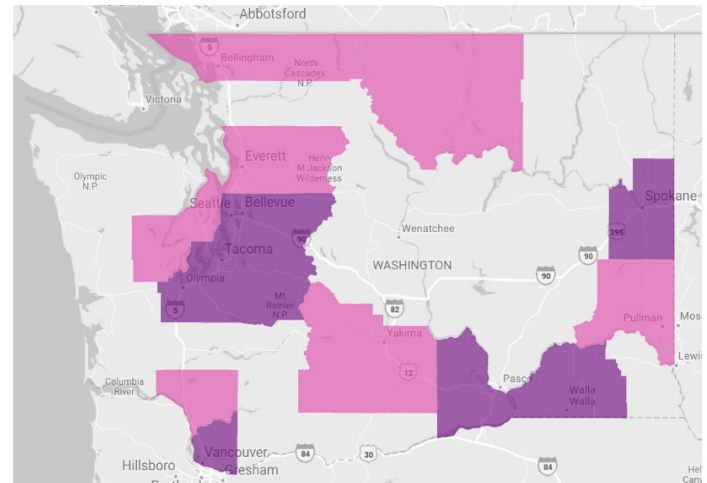
Since 1974, the State Art Collection has grown to over 5,000 artworks in 1,300 facilities. As the Collection grows and ages, ArtsWA has requested funding for adequate staffing for effective care. Inadequate staffing risks damage to these unique pieces, which require specialized maintenance beyond custodial work.

The temporary position funded by the legislature has made a significant impact. In FY24 we completed 73% of our annual conservation goal—a dramatic increase from the previous five-year average of 20%. Losing this specialist would jeopardize our investment. To ensure continued care, we request funding to retain this position through the 2025-2027 biennium and beyond.



Counties served by temporary conservation technician

● Temporary conservation technician ● Other staff



Above: Even with the delay from the hiring and onboarding processes, the incumbent was highly successful in the position’s first year. She maintained and repaired 120 artworks, 1/3 of the total completed in FY24. In just the first year, the temporary technician has worked at 23 campuses and facilities across eight counties.

Lower left: temporary technician conserves an artwork.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Make the temporary Conservation Technician position permanent

The investment

The legislature recognized the importance of this conservation position by funding it for two years. Its impact has been immediate and transformational. Funding for this request would help protect the state’s \$50 million investment in public art and support our statewide goal for healthy and safe communities.