



Sustain ongoing Arts in Education data and research

Support teachers and students across Washington with statewide arts education research

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

\$100,000 annually

Ongoing funding

Washington State law defines arts learning as fundamental to K-12 education. However, we know that race, geography, and income level reliably predict gaps in access to arts education.

Washington State needs comprehensive data to identify where and why these gaps exist, and ongoing research funding to identify trends and assess impact over time.

In 2023, the legislature funded arts education research for one year. **ArtsWA now asks the legislature to recognize the need for ongoing research by funding this request into the future.**

The problem: over a decade without data

Data reveals whether resources are distributed unfairly and helps us challenge outdated power structures and biases. ArtsWA conducted comprehensive research in 2009 to shed light on the state of art education, equity, and access in Washington. Findings provided crucial information to communities, school leaders, and policy makers.

Unfortunately, research funding was not sustained, resulting in a 15-year gap in arts education data. This gap hurts students, especially those farthest from the many benefits of arts education.

Every young person in Washington deserves access to arts education.



Alchemy Art Center's Summer outreach intern and emerging artist Ananya Bernardo with mentee Finlay Smith.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Join national partners to better understand arts education impacts on student achievement and access to career opportunities.
- » Contract with a multi-year research consultant to identify areas of success and gaps in access.
- » Bring together people, organizations, and communities inclusive of Indigenous voices and Tribal nations to ensure all young people can access arts learning.
- » Propose ongoing data-driven solutions to restore student access.

The Investment

Increasing access to arts education supports students' wellbeing, academic achievement, higher graduations rates, broad career skills, and opportunities within the creative economy.

2006 Arts in Education Research Initiative

3-year gap in comprehensive research

2009 Arts in Education Research Initiative

15-year gap in comprehensive research

In FY24, ArtsWA publishes the Washington State Arts Education Data Dashboard

In FY25, ArtsWA contracts with research consultant

FY26 and beyond: Funds are critical to continue research. Without funding, gaps to access will remain unidentified—and unresolved.