

Fund Creative Districts capital projects



Invest in community-driven improvements to Creative Districts across the state

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

\$416,000

Two-year funding

Creative Districts encourage economic development and job creation in the arts and culture sector—the creative economy. The creative economy generates over 10% of Washington State’s GDP. Creative Districts are a robust source of income and community pride and provide a strong sense of place.

Local communities driving the State economy

ArtsWA anticipates several new Creative Districts to be certified within the next 2-3 years. The agency requests continued funding to support small-scale capital projects for existing, new, and forthcoming Creative Districts.

Creative District communities have a wide geographic distribution (see below) and are among the most visited cities and towns in the state. Continued investment will touch millions of Washington residents—and the thousands of out-of-state visitors who regularly seek out these communities as desirable travel destinations.



A mural next to a historic gas station in Issaquah, one of Washington’s growing cohort of Certified Creative Districts.

What does this fund?

This request will continue funding for the Creative Districts program. With continued funding, the existing and forthcoming Creative Districts can install small-scale capital projects. These projects include (but are not limited to):

- » Wayfinding signage
- » Murals
- » Festival streets
- » Capital upgrades to city-supported cultural sites

The investment

These small-scale projects encourage communities to leverage additional investments in their Creative Districts. If funding for this program is not continued, the legislature would lose matched dollars and many creative communities across the state would face reduced opportunity and equity.

