



# Sustain programs and improve accessibility

Fund key hires and accessibility upgrades for improved statewide services

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

FY26: \$1,045,923

FY27: \$1,141,519

Two-year funding

ArtsWA is “charged with the conservation and development” of one of the largest creative workforces in the country. ArtsWA has steadily and strategically expanded staffing to support this workforce, but we need a stronger administrative core to meet the Governor’s goal for effective, efficient, and accountable government.

## Targeted support for agency impact and equity

ArtsWA seeks to hire key staff in communications, outreach, and program administration to effectively support operations and activities agency wide.

ArtsWA also seeks to advance equitable outcomes through a suite of investments recommended by our agency PEAR team and Accessibility Coordinator, including staff training, community events, website accessibility auditing, and interpretation/captioning services for online programming.



Individual award honoree Yegizaw (Yeggy) Michael (center) with supporters at the 2022 Governor’s Arts & Heritage Awards. Photo by Shanna Paxton Photography.

## What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Hire a FTE Event Coordinator to organize community feedback sessions and assist with event-based activities like the Governor’s Arts and Heritage Awards.
- » Hire a FTE Digital Media Specialist to reach new and diverse constituencies and develop clear, accessible, and relevant content.
- » Hire FTE Administrative Supports for the Grants to Organizations and Art in Public Places programs.
- » Purchase website auditing software to ensure accessibility and functionality.
- » Dedicate funds to interpretive services for the agency website and public activities.
- » Hire consultants to train agency staff on issues related to equity and accessibility.
- » Provide scholarships to community members to attend equity-based conferences and trainings, such as the annual Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) conference.

## The investment

This investment will hire key staff for communications, outreach, and program support, and enhance equity through improved website accessibility, staff training, and community engagement, fostering a more inclusive and efficient cultural sector statewide.