

Support Washington's Indigenous creative economy



Expand the Tribal Cultural Affairs program to further sustain and promote Native arts and culture

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

\$11,522,571 annually

Ongoing funding

ArtsWA, with support from the legislature, has a history of supporting Native arts and culture. Despite the current funding, we have identified excessive gaps in access to funding and support for Indigenous communities, artists, and Indigenous organizations. **We request funding to ensure equity and expand the Tribal Cultural Affairs program.**

Investing in Indigenous art and culture

Washington State Tribes have long fought to preserve their culture, art, and language, despite historic legal and cultural suppression. Before 1978, it was illegal for Indigenous people to practice their traditions.

As of 2023, state funding for Indigenous arts and culture was introduced, marking the first time Washington has supported equitable access to these resources. Despite this investment, Indigenous people remain underrepresented in the creative economy, holding only 0.4% of creative sector jobs. ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural program aims to address these disparities, but more funding is needed to make a significant impact.



What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Develop impactful cultural, creative economy, and arts-related programs and policies
- » Support 300,000 Tribal residents with arts-based economic development, cultural activities, and training
- » Co-create culturally relevant services with Tribal leaders and stakeholders
- » Develop grants, professional development, services, and support programs
- » Provide training, curriculums, programs, research, and apprenticeships
- » Hire three FTE Program Specialists

The investment

This funding will expand ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs program to improve access to arts and culture for Tribal members.

It adds three experienced Program Specialists, enhances partnerships with Tribal and state entities, and provides substantial grants for Tribal arts and cultural programs.

The initiative will integrate with ArtsWA's broader programs and support underserved Tribal populations, aiming to make Washington a leader in national Tribal arts and culture support.

Left: youth engage with creativity at Camp Chaparral.