



FY2025-2027 BUDGET REQUESTS

Strengthen statewide arts & culture workforce – \$310,865 Annual Operating budget request

ArtsWA seeks investment to enhance the arts & culture workforce through professional development, translation services, public art training, and community support. Funding will ensure equitable, sustainable growth and resilience in Washington's cultural sector.

Provide critical funding to arts & culture – \$4,490,000 Annual Operating budget request

The nonprofit sector of Washington's creative economy faces challenges from pandemic impacts and rising costs. ArtsWA seeks critical funding to support nonprofits, expand arts education, bolster local economies, increase military wellness grants, and improve accessibility.

Sustain programs and improve accessibility – \$1,141,519 Annual Operating budget request

Hire key staff in communications, outreach, and administration to support operations and activities. Enhance equity through improved website accessibility, staff training, and community engagement.

Maintain agency CRM system – \$385,385 Annual Operating budget request

The legislature has invested \$1.2 million in ArtsWA's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. ArtsWA requests ongoing maintenance funds to keep this critical tool up to date.

Sustain ongoing arts education research – \$100,000 Annual Operating budget request

Washington's 15-year gap in comprehensive arts education data hurts teachers and students. ArtsWA requests ongoing funding to assess data, trends and impact over time.

Make temporary conservation position permanent – \$154,708 Annual Operating budget request

The legislature funded a temporary position to care for public art and address the maintenance backlog. ArtsWA requests funding to make this high-impact conservation position permanent.

Support the Indigenous creative economy – \$11,522,571 Annual Operating budget request

ArtsWA has identified excessive gaps in access for Indigenous communities, artists, and organizations. ArtsWA requests funding to ensure equity and expand the Tribal Cultural Affairs program.

Celebrate diverse histories for America's 250th – \$550,000 One-time Operating budget request

ArtsWA's America 250 Project aims to celebrate diversity, support underserved communities, and inspire future unity through a grant program to spotlight underrepresented histories and heritage.

Fund Creative District capital projects – \$416,000 Annual Capital budget request

Provide current and future Creative Districts the ability to install small-scale capital projects within their Creative Districts. These projects include wayfinding signage, murals, festival streets, and more.

Advance to 1% for Art – 1% of state-funded building construction costs: Agency Request Legislation

Public art enhances community spaces and provides meaningful work for both artists and local vendors. ArtsWA seeks to expand funding from one-half of 1% to a full 1% of building construction costs, with implementation in 2027.



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.



Maintain agency CRM system

Invest in ongoing maintenance and operation for ArtsWA's Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

\$385,385 annually

Ongoing funding

The Washington State Legislature knows how vital a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool is to ArtsWA's operations. Over the past two years, the legislature invested \$1.2 million to bring this technology online at ArtsWA. We request ongoing funding to cover the second and final phase of this project: maintenance, licensing, and staffing support for the ArtsWA CRM.

Critical support for a complex tool

CRMs are complex tools that require ongoing maintenance to function properly. **ArtsWA needs ongoing maintenance and operational funds to make the most of this investment and safeguard it into the future.**

Because of their data-heavy nature, agencies and organizations with CRMs hire dedicated personnel to oversee the day-to-day management of the system and surface critical insights from the data. With a total staff size of only 37, ArtsWA needs a .5 FTE Data Specialist to manage the CRM and assist the agency with reporting and data-driven decision making.



Above: Illustration © Adobe. Lower left: ArtsWA employees currently store data in unconnected spreadsheets.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Maintain and operate the agency CRM, including both day-to-day maintenance and the application of performance-enhancing upgrades
- » Sustain staff CRM licenses
- » Hire an FTE Data Specialist to manage the CRM and assist the agency with reporting and data-driven decision making

ArtsWA performed extensive research and received professional consultations in the development of this request. If funded, the state's investment in ArtsWA's CRM will be secured for the years ahead.

The investment

Through ongoing maintenance and dedicated, specialized staffing, funding for this request will directly support the statewide goal of efficient, effective, and accountable government.



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

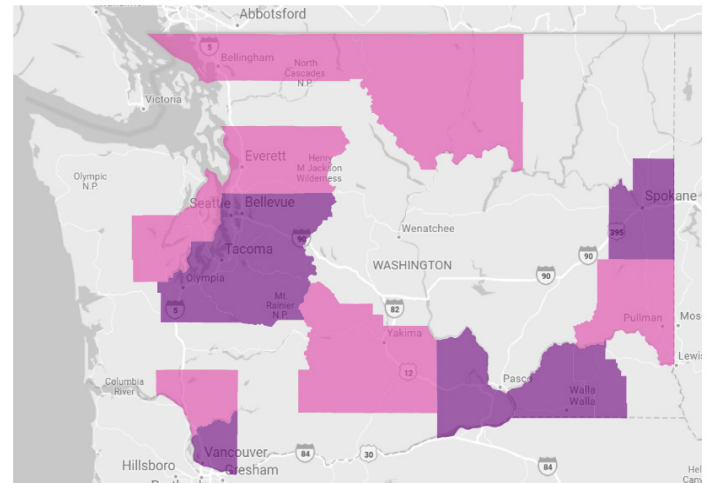
Since 1974, the State Art Collection has grown to over 5,000 artworks in 1,300 facilities. As the Collection grows and ages, ArtsWA has requested funding for adequate staffing for effective care. Inadequate staffing risks damage to these unique pieces, which require specialized maintenance beyond custodial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

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.



Celebrate diverse histories for America 250

Invest in grants to honor
underrepresented communities
for America's 250th anniversary

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

\$550,000 annually

Two-year funding

Washington's nonprofit arts and heritage organizations will be crucial for America's 250th Anniversary celebrations in 2025-2026. ArtsWA's America 250 Project aims to celebrate diversity, support underserved communities, and inspire future unity. **We seek funding for an America 250 grant program to support research and archiving and to showcase underrepresented histories and cultural heritage.**

Highlight history on America's anniversary

The ArtsWA Grants to Organizations Program promotes diverse cultural expressions in Washington. The America 250 project builds on this by supporting events that foster reconciliation and celebrate marginalized communities. The grant enhances representation, allowing underrepresented groups, including Latine, LGBTQ+, disabled, and immigrant communities, to preserve and honor their histories.



Artist Dean Wong's photograph *Welcome*, part of the State Art Collection, captures the joyful expression of a young Laotian-American boy celebrating his mother's U.S. citizenship. The image was captured on the Fourth of July, 1993 as part of a naturalization ceremony at Seattle Center.



Borderline (2020) by John Werle, part of the Washington State Art Collection, located at Blaine High School.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Fund approximately 30 grants to eligible arts, heritage, and culture organizations for two years of public events recognizing diverse histories.
- » Fund approximately 20 individual projects for eligible nonprofits to nurture community engagement and recognize diverse histories through public events.
- » Dedicate \$100,000 for partnerships to facilitate workshops, event management, and consultations, including collaborations with groups like the Washington Museum Association and Washington Library Association to highlight underrepresented histories.

The investment

ArtsWA seeks to honor America's 250th anniversary through operational support grants, community engagement projects, and strategic partnerships. This investment will sustain diverse organizations, support impactful community projects, and facilitate workshops with key partners, enhancing representation and preserving underrepresented histories.



Enhance statewide arts and culture workforce

Fund professional development to build resilience and growth in Washington's cultural workforce

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

FY26: \$147,090

FY27: \$310,865

Two-year funding

Washington's cultural workforce is comprised of over 190,000 workers, representing over 5% of all jobs statewide. They power our theaters, galleries, festivals, cultural celebrations, and more. **ArtsWA seeks to develop the capacity and resilience of this workforce through a portfolio of professional development resources.**



Cultivating the cultural workforce

Many of the proposed resources in this request—including technical assistance, cohort-based learning, and statewide convenings—are currently provided by ArtsWA to the cultural workforce. However, ArtsWA needs direct funding for equitable and sustainable distribution of workforce development activities. The budget request seeks to expand and fully fund ArtsWA's cultural workforce professional development portfolio.



Above: ArtsWA's Wellness, Arts, and the Military (WAM) program regularly gathers a cohort of partners at annual convenings, such as the June 2023 WAM Convening pictured above. Upper right: community leaders brainstorm at the annual Creative Districts Convening, held in Chewelah in 2024.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Support cohort-based programming at the agency, including Wellness, Arts, and the Military and the Change Leader Institute.
- » Provide translation services to assist non-native English speakers with grant applications.
- » Host "Public Art 101" sessions to introduce artists to the public art process and encourage involvement.
- » Hire a Wellness, Arts, and the Military FTE to directly support communities in Central and Eastern Washington.
- » Provide technical assistance to Creative Districts to support capacity-building.

The investment

Washington's cultural workforce drives the state's vibrant arts scene, which in turn drives tourism and community well being.

Funding will support equitable, sustainable growth and resilience in Washington State's cultural sector.



Provide critical funding to arts & culture orgs

Strengthen Washington’s creative sector with strategic grants for arts and culture nonprofits

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

FY26: \$2,740,000

FY27: \$4,490,000

Ongoing funding

Washington’s creative economy generated \$70.2 billion—over 9% of our state GDP—in 2022. While the state has steadily increased funding for arts and culture across Washington, additional funding is necessary to meet the urgent needs of the sector.

Critical support where it is needed most

Lingering pandemic impacts and rising costs have forced essential community-based cultural institutions to cut staff, reduce hours, and limit services across the state.

ArtsWA seeks funding to fortify and empower our state’s creative economy through strategic, high-impact grants, administered by its existing suite of programs: Grants to Organizations, Arts in Education, Creative Districts, and Wellness, Arts and the Military. Additional grants will support accessibility improvements to cultural facilities, services, and activities.



What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Directly support arts and culture nonprofits statewide by funding Grants to Organizations at \$1,000,000 in FY26 and \$2,500,000 in FY27.
- » Foster arts education opportunities by dedicating \$500,000 to grants from ArtsWA’s Arts in Education program.
- » Invest directly in local creative economies through operating grants from ArtsWA’s Creative Districts program.
- » Expand the impact of ArtsWA’s Wellness, Arts, and the Military program through increased granting capacity.
- » Promote statewide arts engagement with Community Accessibility grants for facility upgrades, interpretation services, and more.



Above: The Northwest Girls Choir onstage, an ArtsWA grantee. Upper right: attendees at Short Run Seattle, an ArtsWA grantee.

The investment

This investment will support nonprofits, expand arts education, bolster local creative economies, increase military wellness grants, and improve accessibility statewide through targeted grants.



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.

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.





Advance to 1% for Art

Fund Art in Public Places at 1% for art for a more beautiful, dynamic Washington State

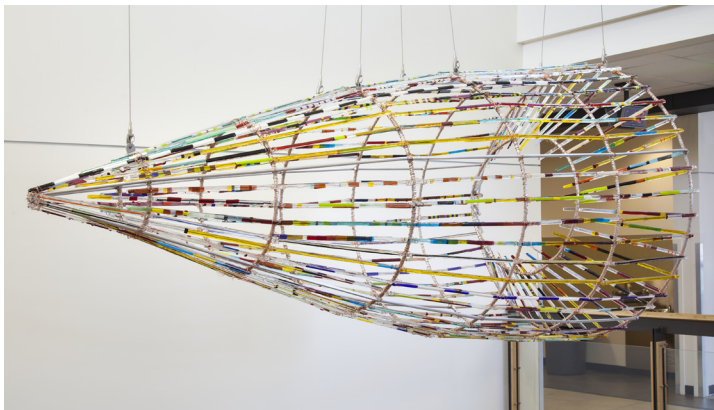
CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
1% of state-funded building construction costs

For 50 years, ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program has made the state's public spaces more beautiful, welcoming, and inspirational. The State Art Collection is a \$50 million investment that includes over 5,000 artworks in more than 1,300 locations statewide. Public art projects provide meaningful work for both artists and local conservators, engineers, fabricators, and installers.

Since its founding in 1974, funding for Art in Public Places' public art projects has derived from ½ of 1% of state capital construction costs for new buildings, colleges, and schools. **ArtsWA now asks Washington State to recognize the value of public art and join other states nationwide by investing in 1% for art.**

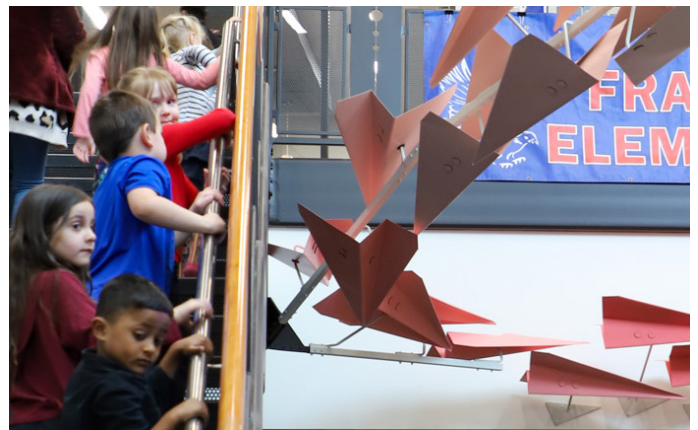
"[Plateau Fish Trap] really speaks to the plateau native people of Eastern Washington [...] it ties us to a sense of history and place in which we can honor the land on which our college is built."

—Cozette Philips, Spokane Falls Community College



Plateau Fish Trap (2012) by Joe Feddersen. Photo courtesy of the artist, by Joe Nuess.

"For me, it was a really life-changing experience to be able to pursue a project that I could never do on my own." —Nick Goettling, artist



Students explore Learning / Experience / (2023) by Nick Goettling.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Expand and deepen the Art in Public Places program
- » Streamline the funding process
- » Hire a Capitol Campus Curator
- » Fund conservation costs as the Collection ages and grows

The investment

Funding ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program at 1% of project costs will put Washington in alignment with other state agencies nationwide, further enriching the spaces where Washingtonians live, learn, work, and play with stunning works of art.