

THE STATE ART COLLECTION

STATE AGENCIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Guidelines for the Artwork Selection Process



The Washington State Arts Commission's Art in Public Places program brings artwork directly into communities where people study, work, and gather.



ON THE COVER: Do Ho Suh, *Cause and Effect*, 2012. Cast resin and stainless steel, 21' x 18' x 10'.
Commissioned by the Washington State Art Commission in partnership with Western Washington University.

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State Art Collection

In 1974, the Washington State Legislature established the Art in Public Places program (AIPP) of the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA). Washington was the second state to establish a percent-for-art program.

The [State Art Collection](#)¹ represents a wide variety of media and content and makes Washington home to one of the nation's largest, most diverse state public art programs.

Artwork acquired through state-funded construction becomes the property of the state of Washington. Collection administration is provided by AIPP. All artworks acquired under the program are viewed collectively as the State Art Collection, which:

- Is a contemporary collection
- Contains over 4,600 artworks
- Is sited in the state's colleges, universities, public schools, and state agencies
- Includes 2 and 3-dimensional, freestanding and integrated artworks
- Includes notable local, regional, and national artists

AIPP does not commission artworks that are deemed too costly to maintain (e.g., water features) or where the artwork could be construed as simply a design project (e.g., mascots, clock towers, or memorials) rather than an original, well-



Chris Bruch, *Drift*, 2016. Aluminum, 27' x 7' x 14". Commissioned by the Washington State Art Commission in partnership with North Seattle College.

¹ <https://www.arts.wa.gov/my-public-art-portal/>

considered artistic expression. All commissioned site-responsive artworks are unique and may not be part of an edition.

Stewardship

The State Art Collection is located throughout Washington under the stewardship of the public schools, colleges, universities, and state agencies that host the artwork. These partner agencies are responsible for the routine maintenance of the work.

A plan for maintenance and cleaning is discussed and approved during the acquisition process. Inventories and condition reports are regularly scheduled throughout the life of the artwork.

ArtsWA is responsible for the inventory, restoration, and conservation of the State Art Collection. Emergent care and more extensive repairs are addressed as funding is available.

Please contact the AIPP Collections Manager if you know of an artwork that needs conservation or relocation due to construction or renovation.



Claude Zervas, *Nooksack Middle Fork*, 2015. Four channel video, 50" x 47" x 5".
Commissioned by the Washington State Art Commission in partnership with Western Washington University.

Program Funding and Partnerships

The State Art Collection and administration of AIPP are funded by the state's capital construction budget. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the state's portion of construction costs for new public buildings is set aside to acquire artwork for the State Art Collection. The art allocation for state agencies and public schools applies only to new construction. Universities and colleges also receive the $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%-for-art for renovation projects exceeding \$200,000.

As per the current capital budget, up to 15% of the public art funding is reserved for program administration, and another 5% of the adjusted balance is used for the conservation of the State Art Collection.

Agencies and the Washington State Arts Commission work in partnership on acquisition and stewardship. Partner agencies enter into an [Interagency Agreement](#)² to ensure proper exhibition of the artworks, media acknowledgement, and stewardship of the artworks in their care.



Joe Feddersen, *Plateau Fish Trap* (detail), 2015. Fused glass, copper wire, and aluminum rod, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' dia x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Spokane Falls Community College.

² <https://www.arts.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Sample-IA-1.pdf>

Art in Public Places Program Goals

Acquisitions

- Shape an inclusive State Art Collection that represents the quality and diversity of professional artistic creation
- Facilitate the placement of significant, unique, contemporary works of art that are deliberately sited in public places throughout Washington

Collaborations

- Generate rewarding partnerships with partner agencies
- Address disparity of public art access through the *State Art Collection*
- Provide public access through in-person and online experiences
- Promote diversity in art selection committees
- Empower committees to make decisions that impact their communities

Technical Assistance

- Provide technical expertise in artwork siting, overall project management, and public art planning
- Support the artistic process while ensuring that commissioned works are high-quality, durable, and maintainable
- Be responsive to artists and partner agencies while minimizing administrative costs

Stewardship

- Provide collection management services including routinely scheduled artwork inventory, condition status reports, conservation implementation, and re-siting and deaccession as required
- Educate partner agencies about artwork maintenance and promote responsible stewardship
- Require a preliminary conservation consultation and full conservation review of artwork before a proposal is accepted, addressing potential maintenance and conservation concerns proactively

Funding Project Options

AIPP staff facilitate the selection of an artist from the Public Artist Roster (p. 7) to create a new and unique work of art for the State Art Collection sited at the college, university, or state agency.

The artwork may be a stand-alone piece that responds to a space or it may be integrated into the architectural design of a building.

The process can start after an Interagency Agreement has been signed, and an art budget of at least \$45,000 has been set. “Art budget” is the amount available for art after AIPP administrative (15%) and collection care (4.25%) costs are deducted from the capital art allocation. Therefore, the original art allocation, along with any contributed funds, must total at least \$55,725.

Benson Shaw, *Resources* (detail), 2009. Glass shard mosaic, stainless steel, and acrylic light diffuser, 53” x 30” x 30” each (8). Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Central Washington University.

A single allocation may generate the art budget, or if there are multiple building projects within a campus or agency, art allocation monies can be combined for a single project. Artwork does not need to be sited near the construction project that generated the art allocation.

If the art budget is less than \$45,000, a campus or agency has four options:

- Select artwork already existing in the State Art Collection (see Resiting)
- Curate a collection of existing artworks (see Curated Collections)
- Augment art allocation from other sources with written confirmation
- Hold the allocation temporarily to combine with future allocations projected for approval in the next biennium

Resiting

Art in Public Places program staff facilitate the selection of works of art that are already part of the State Art Collection. These works of art were removed from their original location and require a new permanent location. This process requires three two-hour meetings to develop criteria, identify potential sites, and to review available works at the Washington State Arts Commission's offices in Olympia. Program staff arrange delivery and installation of the selected works of art. The art allocation generated by the construction project will be used to conserve works of art in the State Art Collection.



Tom Otterness, *Farmers and Bankers* from the series *Wildlife*, 2010. Bronze, cast concrete, and stainless steel, 49" x 86" x 66" each (6). Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with the Department of Corrections and the City of Connell.

Curated Collections

The art selection committee selects a curator from AIPP's Curator Roster to acquire artwork for State Art Collection.

AIPP project managers facilitate this process. These are deliberate, site-responsive collections and respond to criteria developed by the committee. The process entails three two-hour meetings, during which the curator recommends work(s) of art to be located within the campus or agency. The curator coordinates with program staff; meets with the committee; researches artists and works of art; prepares the artwork recommendation presentation and support materials; and coordinates the purchase, delivery, and installation of accepted artworks. Duration of this process is typically under six months.

Public Artist Roster

The Art in Public Places program maintains a commitment to public process and accountability. One of the ways this is achieved is by use of the Public Artist Roster, a roster of professional artists eligible for percent-for-art projects.

Every three years, AIPP holds an open call for applications to establish the Public Artist Roster. A panel of professional artists and arts administrators evaluates applications and recommends artists to the ArtsWA board for approval, based on published criteria.

The Public Artist Roster ensures that local artwork selection committees choose professional artists that have the capacity to realize successful publicly-funded projects for the State Art Collection.

Artists from the United States and British Columbia are eligible to apply. The Public Artist Roster represents varied approaches to art-making, including interior or exterior, architecturally integrated or stand-alone works of art. Read more about the call roster [online](https://www.arts.wa.gov/public-artist-roster/)³.

Curator Roster

The Curator Roster provides a pre-qualified list of curators to work with AIPP project managers and local art selection committees to recommend works of art



Kana Tanaka, *Cascade*, 2013. Handmade clear and dichroic glass and stainless steel wire, 17' x 8' x 130'. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Washington State University, Spokane.

³ <https://www.arts.wa.gov/public-artist-roster/>

for the State Art Collection that respond to community context and the physical environment. A professional visual arts panel reviews applications and recommends curators for the roster based on published criteria. Panel members include curators and arts professionals and the composition of the panel changes with every competition. Curators interested in applying should read more about the open regional call for applications. Curators currently serve four year terms.

Artwork Selection Timeline

The process of selecting an artist and accepting a proposal generally takes place over six meetings over seven to ten months. Once the design is completed, the artist generally has nine to twelve months to fabricate and install the artwork. If appropriate, program staff will schedule a review of the work in progress with committee members.



Lead Pencil Studio, *Endless*, 2009. Concrete and welded stainless steel rods, 32' x 50' x 64'. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Bellevue College.

Formation of the Selection Committee

- Each campus or agency appoints its own art selection committee that is facilitated by AIPP program staff
- The committee must be in place in order to begin the art selection process
- Committees should be gender balanced and culturally diverse
- A committee should include an administrator and facilities staff (who may be responsible for the routine maintenance of the work of art), and may include art faculty, staff, a student, the project architect, and a community member
- A professional artist should be on the committee
- For commissioning new works of art and for curated collections, the committee must have no fewer than five members and a recommended maximum of seven members
- For the resiting process, the committee must have no fewer than three members and a recommended maximum of five members. At least two committee members must be present at the Olympia meeting



Paul Vexler, *Circuity* (detail), 2013. Douglas fir and laminated plastic, 15' x 30' x 8'. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership Green River College.

Role of the Art Selection Committee

- The committee members need to attend all six scheduled meetings and be active participants in decision-making. Meetings range from two to three hours in duration
- The art selection committee's role is to develop broad criteria and provide community context and concerns to the artist
- The committee may recommend site options for the project
- The committee selects an artist to create a concept proposal, reviews and provides comments, and is empowered to approve or reject the proposal

Criteria Development Worksheet

The art selection committee should consider the following factors when developing criteria on behalf of their community:

Expressive Vocabulary

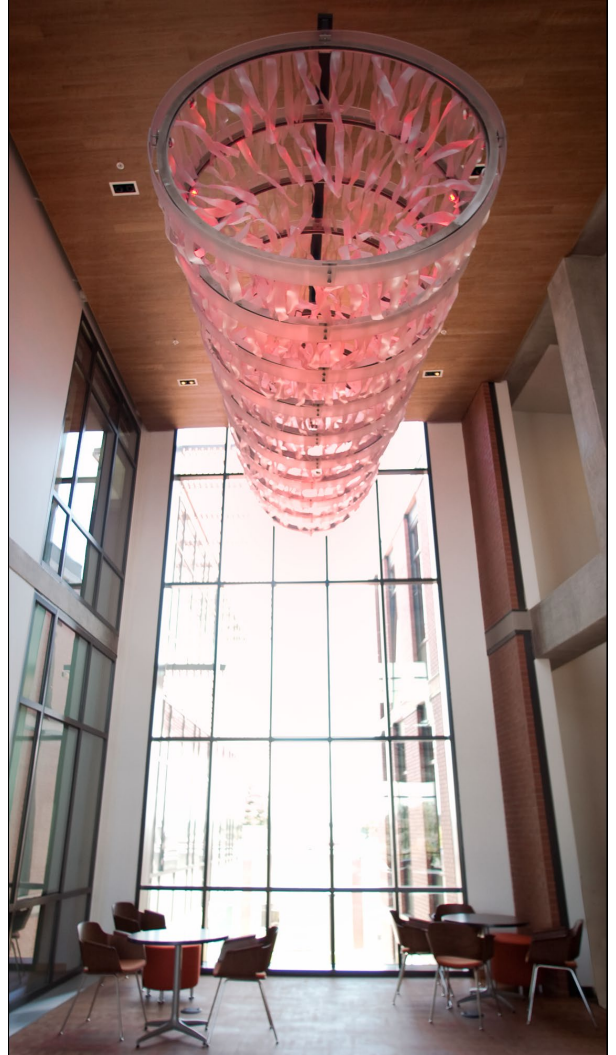
- What should the artwork communicate to the public?

Relationship to the public

- Who are the primary and secondary audiences for the artwork?
- What is the anticipated interaction of the artwork with the viewing public?

Relationship to the site

- How will the artwork function within the public space?
- What size artwork is appropriate in relation to the physical site?
- What types of media are appropriate for the site?
- What are the necessary safety, functional, or technical requirements?
- What is the maintenance capacity of the hosting site?
- Is there potential for vandalism?



Beliz Brother, *Bloom*, 2009. Eco Resin, LED lights, and stainless steel, 96"x 96"x 192". Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Everett Community College.

Meeting Agendas for Commission Process

Meeting #1: Orientation & Preliminary Criteria Discussion (2 hrs)

- Introductions
- Overview of the Art in Public Places program
- Role of art selection committee
- Presentation of past public art projects
- Site walk-through and/or review of architectural renderings
- Preliminary criteria discussion
- Schedule next 2 meetings and adjourn

Meeting #2: Public Artist Roster Review (3 hrs)

- Welcome and process review
- Criteria development refinement
- Portfolio review of artists eligible for the project
- Select 15-20 semi-finalists
- Confirm next meeting and adjourn

Meeting #3: Short List Review (3 hrs)

- Welcome and process review
- Criteria review
- Portfolio review of semi-finalists
- Select finalist and alternate(s)
- Pick possible meeting dates and adjourn

Meeting #4: Artist Site Visit (2 hrs)

- Introductions and process review
- Artist presentation
- Committee comments
- Site walk-through and/or review of architectural renderings
- Review criteria
- Wrap-up, schedule next meeting and adjourn

**An artist may choose to spend additional time in the community. Opportunities to host activities with the artist may be discussed with an AIPP Project Manager.*

Meeting #5: Preliminary Concept Review (2 hrs)

- Welcome and process review
- Preliminary concept presentation
- Committee questions/comments/ feedback
- Committee deliberation and decision
- Wrap-up and adjourn

Meeting #6: Proposal Presentation (2 hrs)

- Welcome and process review
- Artist final proposal presentation
- Committee questions/comments
- Committee discussion and decision
- Public event discussion
- Wrap-up and adjourn

Public Outreach

Suggestions to engage the public with the artwork are:

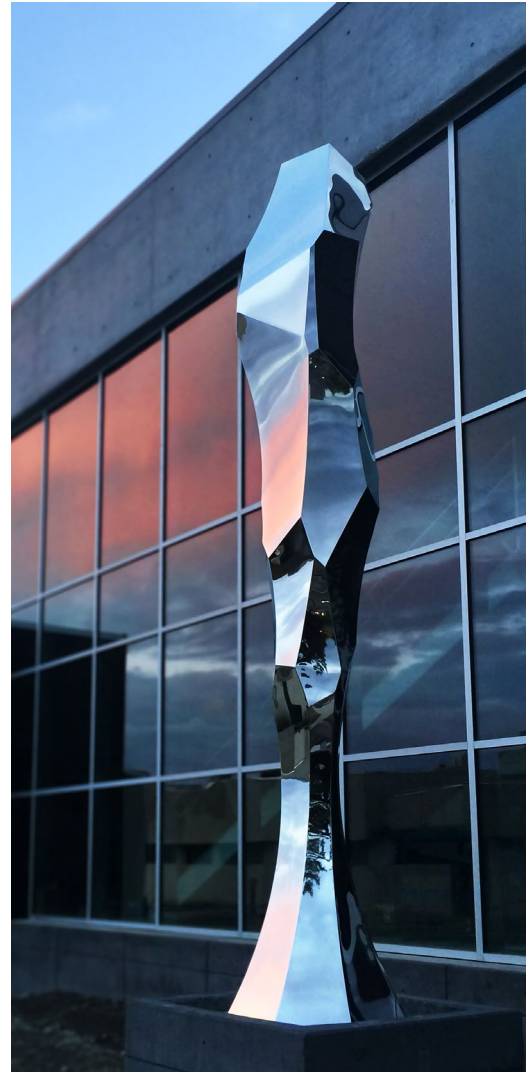
- Placing articles in agency newsletters and websites in preparation for the artwork installation
- Distributing information about the process, artwork, and artist to the staff and community

Artwork Acknowledgment

When using imagery of a work of art in the State Art Collection in any form or for any purpose, it is necessary to acknowledge the artist and commissioning agencies. The acknowledgment should include: Artist name, *artwork title (italicized)*, date installed. Media, artwork dimensions (height x width x depth). Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with the agency. As a reference, the correct format is used within this handbook to cite artwork information.

Artwork Dedication

The dedication is an opportunity for the art selection committee, the artist, the community, and Washington State Arts Commission representatives to gather to celebrate the completed project.



Heath Satow, *YES*, 2015. Polished stainless steel, 18' x 4' x 4'. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Bates Technical College.

What Next?

My Public Art Portal

[My Public Art Portal](https://www.arts.wa.gov/my-public-art-portal/)⁴ is a growing, dynamic, web-based database of artworks in the State Art Collection. The Portal includes State Art Collection works and related maps, images and context about these vital state assets and is a valuable educational resource.

Collection Care

AIPP will contact the agency regularly throughout the life of the artwork to conduct scheduled artwork inventories and conservation. Please continue to keep us apprised of changes to key contact personnel, and do not hesitate to contact the AIPP Collections Manager for guidance on regular care and stewardship of the completed artwork or if an artwork needs conservation.



Paul Sorey, *Fractal Tree Archway*, 2010. Stainless steel and LED lights, 15 ½' x 17'. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Skagit Valley College.

⁴ <https://www.arts.wa.gov/my-public-art-portal/>

This document can be downloaded from:

<https://www.arts.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Public-Art-Guidelines-Agencies-Colleges.pdf>

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