



Stabilization and Recovery of Washington's Creative Economy



Investing in Washington's Creative Sector

Arts and cultural businesses statewide were among the first to close because of health mandates of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be among the last to reopen. As the epidemic continues many cultural organizations will be forced to close their doors permanently. Those who manage to hold on are struggling to survive. In an effort to prevent the total collapse of this important economic sector, ArtsWA has transformed our community investment grants into relief and recovery grants allowing project support grants to be applied to much needed operating support.

Washington's arts and culture sector represents:

- 8% of Washington's overall economy
- 167,004 jobs
- 17,642 creative sector businesses

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017

In the summer of 2020 we distributed \$431,600 of federal CARES Act relief funding to struggling organizations statewide. But that only represented 27% of the amount requested from the field. Another \$1.5 million of federal CARES Act relief funding through the Department of Commerce will be distributed for round two of recovery and relief grants. We anticipate requests will again far exceed the funds available.

Responding to emerging needs

We request funding for the 2021-23 biennium to stabilize, recover, and preserve our state's arts and cultural organizations that are the driving engine of Washington's multi-billion-dollar creative economy. State support will allow ArtsWA to:

- Continue the work of CARES Act Relief Funding
- Shift our funding programs to one stabilization-and-recovery grant program
- Fund up to three times more organizations than our current allotment allows
- Provide operating budget stability to support jobs, innovation in business procedures, and new hiring
- Provide an entry-point-program-approach to ensure support to vulnerable and diverse communities and organizations

Biennial Operating Budget

Request: \$2,000,000

Photo above: "Holding Pattern" by Barbara Black (detail), located at Crossroads Alternative High School, Granite Falls.

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