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## State Art Collection In K-12 Schools

### Guidelines for the Artwork Selection Process



Mauricio Robalino, *A Moment in Time*, 2017. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Olympia School District, Garfield Elementary.

***Art in Public Places brings artworks into communities where people study, work, and gather.***

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## Introducing the State Art Collection

Established in 1974, ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program (AIPP) acquires and cares for artworks in state buildings, colleges, universities, and schools throughout Washington.

The **State Art Collection** includes over 5,000 artworks, from works on paper to paintings to large-scale installations that engage and enliven public spaces. It makes Washington home to one of the nation's largest, most diverse state public art programs.

You'll find the Collection in over 1,300 buildings and campuses across Washington. It is in urban and rural areas where the public lives, works, and learns. With sixty percent of the Collection sited in K-12 schools, Washington ensures that young students have early access to original artworks by professional artists.

We do not acquire artworks that are too costly to maintain (like fountains or clocktowers) or those that could be considered a design project (like mascots or memorials). All commissioned site-responsive artworks are unique and may not be part of an edition.

### Our program's vision

Art in Public Places is uniquely positioned to advance and support art and artists across Washington. Our goal is to build and care for a dynamic contemporary art collection that is accessible and valued. We seek impactful and lasting artworks that reflect Washington's diverse communities.



**Daniel Galvez, *Legacy*, 2017.** Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with White Pass School District, White Pass Junior-Senior High School.

Each scene in this five-panel mural features imagery reflecting a shared history and relationship to the land for residents of Randle, Washington.



## How schools receive public art

The state's capital construction budget funds the **State Art Collection and administration of AIPP**.

When the state builds a new public building, ½ of 1% of the state's construction costs goes toward artwork for the State Art Collection.

**If you have new state-funded construction in your district, the district may apply to receive a site-responsive project.** Districts may apply for up to as many projects as the number of schools with state-funded construction. AIPP staff will communicate with the district about eligibility and the application process. If awarded a project, districts should expect to start within the same biennium.

If you want original artwork for your school but your district does not have funding generated by new construction, contact us about **Adopting-an-Artwork**.

**Public school districts and ArtsWA partner to acquire and manage the artwork.** Districts enter an **Interagency Agreement** with ArtsWA. This ensures the proper display, media acknowledgement, and stewardship of the artworks in their care.

### Our partnership goals

Build opportunities for underserved communities to receive original artwork

Strengthen engagement with and access to the State Art Collection with in-person and online experiences

Promote diversity within art selection committees and empower their voices



**Bill Frymire, *Make Your Mark*, 2018.**

Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Edmonds School District, Alderwood Middle School.

The artist asked students and staff to doodle and draw freely on wood tiles. Turning some doodles into large scale screen prints, and others into stamps, he arranged the tiles and prints to create a world map.

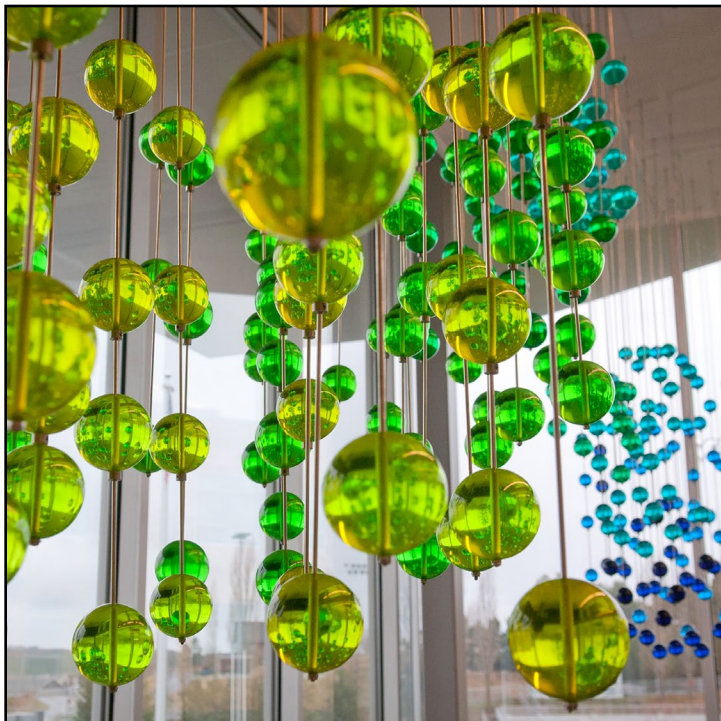
## How projects are budgeted

Each biennium, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) pools artwork funding for K-12 schools. Distribution of funds depends on the total amount of funds available and how many applicants receive projects. We are offering a greater variety of project types for the 21-23 biennium. This will allow us to provide artwork for every eligible school that wants it.

Our public art projects are all-inclusive. ArtsWA handles the artist's design or curator fees, artwork fabrication or purchase, and installation, including all associated costs.

A school district may opt to add to the project with district or PTA funds, or independent grants, etc. Artworks acquired with or without added funds become part of the State Art Collection.

Districts can also add in-kind resources to increase the impact of their projects. This might include providing equipment or personnel during installation, making electrical connections, adding lighting, or by adding structural supports or connection points for artworks.



*Etsuko Ichikawa, Floating Colors, 2018.*

Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Pullman School District, Pullman High School.

Made of cast resin spheres, this piece explores ideas of synchronization, natural formations, and harmony.

## How artworks are cared for

Your school, district, and ArtsWA all partner in the care of the State Art Collection artwork in your community. Your district will be responsible for routine maintenance of the artwork you host. During the artwork selection process, we will set up a plan for maintenance and cleaning for your school to follow. AIPP staff will contact you for regular inventories and condition reports 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 **AIPP Collections** if:

- you want guidance on the regular care and stewardship of the artwork
- key contact personnel have changed
- an artwork needs conservation

## Our stewardship goals

Educate our partners about artwork maintenance

Promote responsible stewardship

Support the artistic process while ensuring artworks are durable and high-quality

Address potential maintenance and conservation concerns proactively



**Marvin Oliver, *Big Bird*, 1979.** Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Yelm Community Schools, Yelm High School.

This large carved cedar artwork was restored and placed indoors after a Yakama student brought the artwork's condition to the school's attention. The piece was re-dedicated in 2022.

## Commissioned artworks

**We commission artists to design and create new artwork for the State Art Collection.**

Artists develop artwork that reflects the school and its community. This is our primary way of acquiring new artwork.

**We commission two types of artworks:**

- **Installations:** They can involve a broad range of materials. They can be suspended, wall-hung, or set within windows or other elements of your building. They may be a single artwork or have multiple components or companion artworks. They can be both small and large-scale.
- **Painted murals:** Because our current Public Artist Roster includes a diverse pool of painters and muralists, we're increasing our focus on murals. Project details like materials and installation can be more predictable with murals, making them an efficient and equitable way to create site-responsive and impactful public artwork.

## Public Artist Roster

The **Public Artist Roster** is a pre-qualified list of professional visual artists. Your local art selection committee chooses an artist from the Public Artist Roster. These artists live in the United States and British Columbia and are eligible for commissioned projects. We use the Roster to ensure artists can realize a successful project and manage public funds.

Every few years AIPP holds a call to select artists to the Roster. A panel reviews submitted portfolios. They recommend artists using the following criteria.

Artists demonstrate:

- a unique vision or perspective
- an authentic relationship to subject matter
- an ability to engage a site and/or community
- skill in their technique

The panel's recommendations are approved by the ArtsWA board.

## Commissioned projects: agenda and timeline

<b>Committee Meetings: 6-9 Months*</b>		
Meeting 1	<b>Orientation &amp; Criteria Discussion</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours remote or in-person	Overview of the AIPP program and process Presentation of past public art projects Review and discuss location opportunities Preliminary criteria discussion
Meeting 2	<b>Public Artist Roster Review</b> 30-minutes remote and independent review	Criteria refinement How to review portfolios online Committee members independently review and vote for eligible artists
Meeting 3	<b>Short List Review &amp; Artist Selection</b> 2 hours in-person preferred	Review and prioritize criteria Review and discuss shortlisted portfolios Select artist and alternate(s)
Meeting 4	<b>Artist Site Visit</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours in-person preferred **	Artist presents about their art and practice Review and discuss criteria Review and discuss location opportunities Site walk-through
Meeting 5	<b>Preliminary Concept Review</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours remote or in-person	Preliminary concept presentation Committee questions/comments Committee deliberation and decision
Meeting 6	<b>Final Proposal Presentation</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours remote or in-person	Artist final proposal presentation Committee questions/comments Committee discussion and decision Public event discussion
<b>Artwork Fabrication and Installation: 9-12 months</b>		
If appropriate, AIPP program staff will schedule a review of the work in progress with committee members		
<b>Artwork Public Event</b>		
An opportunity for the artist, committee, community, and ArtsWA to gather and celebrate the completed project		

*\*Timelines are estimates and can be affected by construction schedules, artist availability, or other factors.*

*\*\*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.*



## Curated collections

For this process, we purchase existing artworks. We're able to represent multiple artists and perspectives within a cohesive collection for your school. **Committees choose a curator to research and propose artists and works of art.** The curator responds to the committee's goals and themes for the artwork. We may display artworks in one or more wall-hung locations throughout your school.

### Curator Roster

The **Curator Roster** is a pre-qualified list of people available to research and suggest artworks for the **State Art Collection**. Curators have diverse backgrounds. Their experience may include work with galleries, museums, academic institutions, or as professional artists, tribal leaders, or art consultants.

Every few years AIPP holds a call for new curators. A panel reviews work samples and credentials. They recommend curators for the roster based on the following criteria.

Curator demonstrates:

- knowledge of artists and art forms
- curatorial expertise
- ability to professionally complete projects

The panel's recommendations are approved by the ArtsWA board.



Nikita Ares, *Rainbow Town*, 2019 and *I Choose Light*, 2019. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Wapato School District, Simcoe Elementary.

These colorful and exuberant drawings are part of a collection of artworks curated by Phillipe Hyojung Kim. Kim responded to the art selection committee's interest in artworks that represented Simcoe's diverse families.

## Curated collections: agenda and timeline

Committee Meetings   3-6 Months*	
Meeting 1	<b>Orientation, Criteria Discussion, &amp; Curator Selection</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours remote or in-person Overview of the AIPP program and process Review and discuss location opportunities Preliminary criteria discussion Curator selection
Meeting 2	<b>Curator Site Visit</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours In-person preferred Curator presentation Discuss criteria, locations, and budget Site walk-through with curator
Meeting 3	<b>Curator Preliminary Presentation</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours remote or in-person Curator recommendation presentation Committee discussion and questions Committee deliberation and refinements
Meeting 4	<b>Curator Final Recommendation</b> 90 minutes - 2 hours remote or in-person Curator presents final recommendations Committee comments Final approval of artworks
<b>Artwork Purchase and Installation   3-6 months</b>	
ArtsWA works with the curator to purchase artworks and have them prepared for permanent display. This includes shipping, framing, and installation.	
<b>Artwork Public Event</b>	
An opportunity for the curator, local artists, committee, community, and ArtsWA to gather and celebrate the completed project	

*\*Timelines are estimates and can be affected by construction schedules, curator availability, or other factors.*

## Adopt-an-artwork

Sometimes agencies return their artworks to ArtsWA. We store them until they can find a new permanent home. Any public school in Washington can adopt an artwork, regardless of whether you have new state-funded construction.

When we're ready to begin, you'll form a local art selection committee of 3-5 people. **The committee works directly with our staff to choose available artworks for their school.** The process includes two remote or in-person committee meetings and time for artwork preparation and installation.

Your district will sign our **Interagency Agreement**. This agreement is a commitment to maintain and care for the artwork. We may ask you to contribute some of the costs for artwork installation and transportation.

Adopting state artworks allows districts that don't have new state-funded construction to receive high-quality artwork. It's also an option for schools who do have construction but can't commit to the process needed for commissioned artwork or a curated collection. Districts who opt-out of receiving projects from the OSPI pooled funds can still adopt-an-artwork. Adopting artwork provides a unique opportunity for schools to display multiple perspectives and artistic styles from various time periods. Historical artworks can be seen in a new context. Please, contact our Program Manager if you're interested in offering a forever home to a returned artwork.



**Frank Samuelson, *See, Play, Learn, Grow*, 1986.**

Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership Kennewick School District, resited at Virginia Grainger Elementary, Okanogan School District.

Celebrating the learning environment and the Washington landscape, this 35-year-old mural found a new home at Virginia Grainger Elementary in Okanogan in 2021.

## How to form your Art Selection Committee

Schools or districts appoint their own art selection committee. It should have **at least five members and a recommended maximum of seven members**. The committee must be in place to begin the art selection process.

All committees should be:

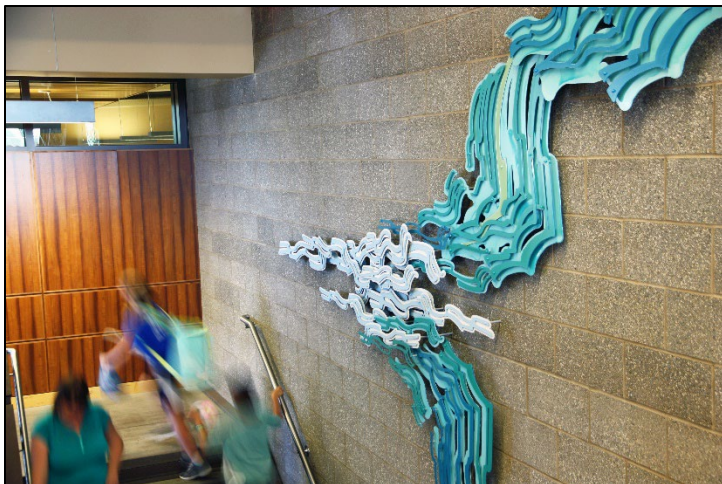
- gender balanced
- culturally diverse

Your committee **should include**:

- an administrator
- facilities staff (who may be responsible for the routine maintenance of the art)
- a professional artist

and **may include**:

- art faculty
- other teachers or staff
- a student
- the project architect
- a community member or parent



*Katy Stone, Falls, 2016.* Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Spokane Public Schools, Westview Elementary School.

Inspired by the spectacular waterfalls and power of the Spokane River, this sculpture is made from hand-painted, and laser-cut aluminum shapes.



## What the committee will do

**Attend all scheduled meetings** and participate in decisions. Meetings are usually between 90 minutes to two hours long and may be remote or in-person.

**Develop broad criteria**, providing community context and feedback

**Recommend locations** for the artwork

### For commissioned projects

- **select an artist** to design an artwork
- review, provide comments, and **approve the design**

### For curated projects

- **select a curator** to research and recommend artworks
- **approve the final artwork selections**

### For adopt a state artwork projects

- **Select artworks for resiting**

## How to center equity as a committee

Be open to diverse ideas and perspectives

Embrace the unexpected

Prioritize authenticity when celebrating specific cultures

Be a passionate advocate



**Horatio Law, *Sanctuary*, 2019.** Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Pasco School District, Marie Curie STEM Elementary School.

During the first year of this project, the artist held workshops with students about the lifecycle and migration pattern of monarch butterflies. The butterflies symbolize the collective immigrant and migrant experiences of the school's community.

## Criteria brainstorming questions

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

### Goals, values, and/or themes

- What should the artwork communicate to the public? Consider:
  - history of the site, school, or community
  - local culture or values
  - school curriculum or programmatic focus
  - surrounding natural environment

### 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 its site

- How will the artwork function within the public space?
- What size artwork and type of media are most 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?



Sara Siestreem, *DAYS AND DAYS*, 2015.

Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Pullman School District, Kamiak Elementary.

This piece is part of a collection of artworks curated by RYAN! Feddersen that draw on inspiration from the story of Chief Kamiakin. The collection honors the essential part matriarchs play by highlighting female and two-spirit Indigenous artists.

## Hosting a public event for the artwork

**We encourage you to host a public event or dedication after the artwork is installed.**

This could be part of a regular school assembly or a more elaborate event. It is an opportunity to celebrate the completed project. In addition to the artist, you should invite the art selection committee, your community, and your AIPP project manager to the event.

## How to engage the public with the artwork

**Please share information about the artwork with your community.** Suggestions include:

- Writing articles in the school or district newsletter and website in preparation for the artwork installation.
- Sharing information about the process, artwork, and artist to the staff and community.
- Create learning activities with students that build upon the artwork. Involve students in documenting the process.



**WOWHAUS, ORCA, 2021.** Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Central Kitsap School District, Central Kitsap Middle School.

Constructed of steam-bent and carved wood native to the Pacific Northwest, artist team WOWHAUS created this stylized, life-size orca whale to celebrate the beloved but endangered inhabitant of the Puget Sound.

## How to credit the artwork when sharing images

You must always acknowledge the artist and commissioning agencies when sharing an image of an artwork in the State Art Collection. This includes both print and digital forms used for any purpose, i.e., school newsletters, pamphlets, reports, social media, or website content.

The acknowledgment should follow this format:

Artist name, artwork title (*italicized*), date installed. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with the school district, specific school.

As a reference, the correct format is used for all images in these guidelines.



Cappy Thompson, *Salk Symphony*, 2019.

Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Spokane Public Schools, Salk Middle School.

This series of eight stained glass windows were inspired by the school's exceptional orchestra program and the theme of music.



## How to use the artwork to enhance arts learning

Original artwork can be an impactful focal point for your school. It has the power to inspire, engage, and challenge both children and adults who enter the building. The artwork can foster object-based learning across multiple disciplines.

Our **Arts Learning Toolkit** provides activities that use your school's artwork for learning in core content areas. You can adapt the activities to best fit your curriculum and community. We also offer a **selection of existing lesson plans** based on artworks the State Art Collection. If you're interested in developing other lesson plans around your artwork, please contact AIPP staff.

## View the State Art Collection on My Public Art Portal

**My Public Art Portal** is the online presentation of artworks in the State Art Collection. The Portal includes artwork images, information, artist bios, web exhibitions, and related content. It is a dynamic, valuable teaching tool and educational resource.

This document can be downloaded from:



**Melissa Singh Cole, *Tapteal Journey*, 2021.**

Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Richland School District, Tapteal Elementary.

As part of the project, the artist held mosaic-making workshops with students at Tapteal Elementary. The students contributed imagery to a series of 23 mosaics that celebrate the ecology of the Yakima River.

## Contact us

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