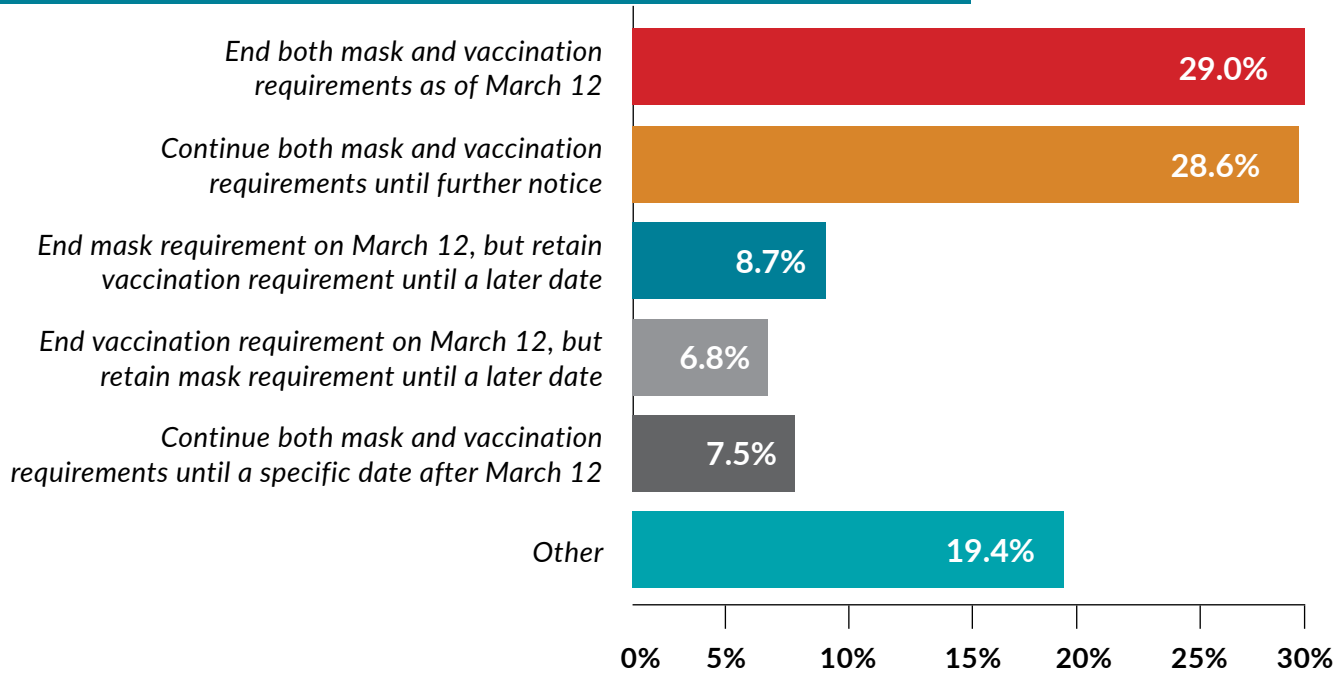




Creative Sector: Post-Mandate Plans

Washington State's mask mandate ended on March 12, 2022. The decision to require either masks or proof of vaccination—or both—now falls to individual organizations. To get a picture of the creative sector's plans "post-mandate," ArtsWA conducted a survey of 252 arts, cultural, and heritage organizations across Washington State. The wide spectrum of responses in the data reveals a sector that is still, in many ways, uncertain about the future.

When the mask mandate ends on March 12, what are your plans?



For respondents who indicated they plan to keep either a mask or vaccination requirement—or both—until a specific future date, the date most frequently cited is **May 31**.

Gray areas: voices from the organizations who responded "Other"

For many respondents, decision-making is complex and ongoing. Below is a selection of quotes from respondents who selected "Other":

"We plan to follow the state guidance to end mask and vax requirements for the public, but require for our staff when interacting with guests and public. We currently require staff to be vaccinated, and at this time that policy isn't changing."

"Our next planned event isn't until the summer and will be outdoors so we have not had detailed discussions about this yet."

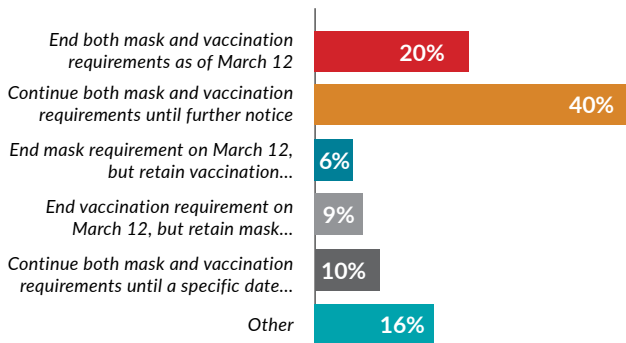
"We are still currently deciding what is best to do. We have to make sure we abide by the rules of our venue we perform in, as well as the State guidelines. However, we're leaning towards keeping the proof of vaccine/negative covid test requirement, as well as masks, until further notice."

"Since our first in-person program since the shut-down won't be until September, we're going to wait and see what other theatres do over this spring/summer and how the public responds before deciding what policy we will have in the fall."

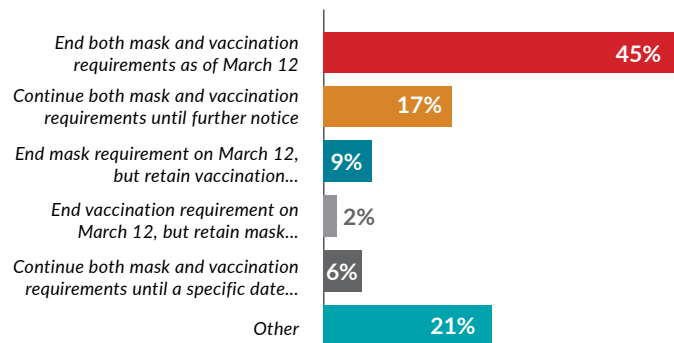
"Our next in-person presentation is April 7 - we are looking to see what our partners in the sector decide and what the numbers are at that time to inform our decision."

Regional snapshot: how plans vary by geography

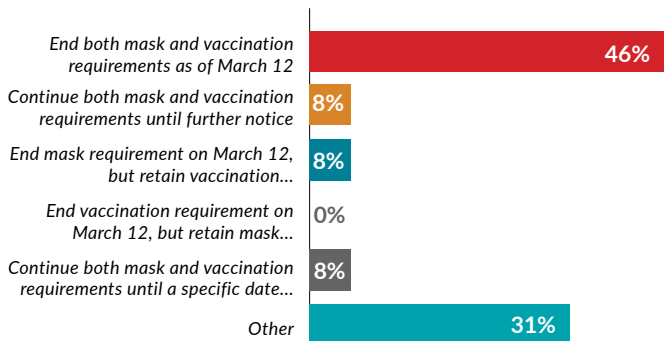
Northwest: Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom counties



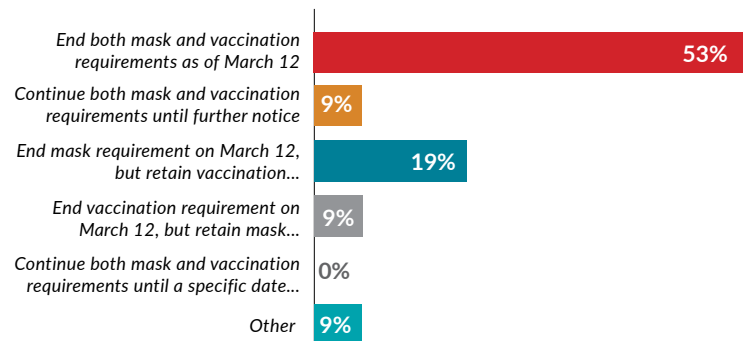
Southwest: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum counties



Central: Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima counties



Eastern: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties



Conclusion: a range of decisions, all with an eye toward the future

Washington's creative sector is determining the safest and most sensible way forward. For some, this means keeping protections in place until the Spring event season is over. For others, this means following State guidelines. While there are clear regional trends, no part of the state is united in a single vision for audience and organizational safety. Variants of the COVID-19 virus have taught our sector—and the world—that even the best-designed plans can be disrupted with little notice. Regardless of what the future holds, ArtsWA will continue to support Washington's creative sector in every way we can.

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager

michael.wallenfels@arts.wa.gov | 360-252-9831



ArtsWA is the Washington State Arts Commission. We are a state agency, formed by the Washington State Legislature in 1961. The Arts Commission is a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.

arts.wa.gov | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)