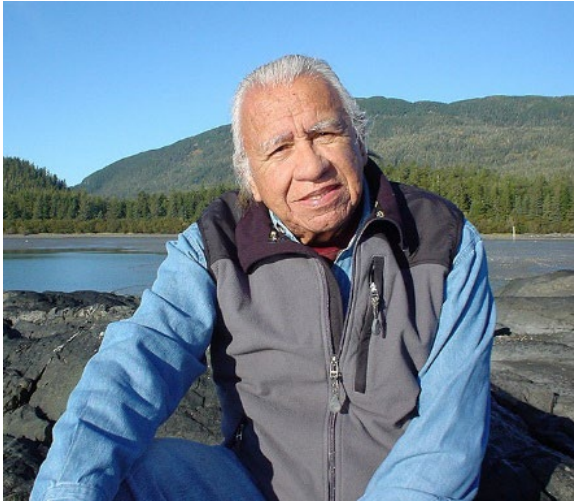


Call For Artists | Request For Qualifications (RFQ)

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)



Left: Billy Frank Jr., photo courtesy of [This is Indian Country](#), licensed via [Creative Commons](#). Right: National Statuary Hall, photo courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

Design of Billy Frank Jr. Statue for National Statuary Hall

Submissions Due: Thursday, June 9, 2022, 4 PM (Pacific) through [ArtsWA's Submittable site](#).

Design Budget: \$40,000

Overview

In 2021, Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed into law House Bill 1372, which states that the Marcus Whitman statue in the National Statuary Hall collection be replaced with a statue of Billy Frank Jr.

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist or artist team to design a unique and impactful statue of Billy Frank Jr. for placement within the United States Capitol Building in Washington D.C. A second copy of the statue may be cast and placed in the Legislative Building on Washington's State Capitol Campus in Olympia, WA. This project will be overseen by ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program in partnership with the Architect of the Capitol. ArtsWA will manage the casting, fabrication, and shipping of this project.

Eligibility

You must be an established professional artist residing in the United States or British Columbia. Washington State artists and those who have historic, cultural, and/or artistic connections to native tribes are strongly encouraged to apply. ArtsWA does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity.

Contact

Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places program manager: 360.228.4080, mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov

Budget

The Billy Frank Jr. Statuary Hall Committee may invite up to three finalists to develop a conceptual proposal for the statue. Each finalist will receive **\$3,000** to research and develop their concept presentation.

The artist selected for the Billy Frank Jr. Statue project will receive a **\$40,000** design contract that includes the creation of a small-scale model/maquette and a full-scale model. Additionally, the artist will receive travel expenses for a site visit to National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.

Background

(Excerpted from [House Bill 1372](#))

In 1864, the national statuary hall collection was established in the United States capitol authorizing each state to contribute two statues to the collection. The statues must be of deceased persons who were citizens of the respective state and are historically important figures or known for their distinguished civic or military service. Washington has contributed to the collection a statue of Mother Joseph in 1980 and a statue of Marcus Whitman in 1953. Whitman has represented the state in the statuary hall for nearly 70 years. The legislature finds that it is appropriate to replace his statue with one of a more contemporary Washingtonian to further celebrate the state and the continuous contributions Washingtonians have made in the 20th and 21st centuries.

In the 1850s, the United States government signed a series of 6 treaties with tribes in the region under which the tribes ceded millions of acres of land to the United States in exchange for agreeing to live on reservations while reserving what was most important to them: The right to continue to hunt, fish, and gather in all of their traditional places.



Billy Frank Jr. at Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission fish health lab dedication. Photo courtesy of billyfrankjr.org

Billy Frank Jr., born on March 9, 1931, on the banks of the Nisqually river in Washington, was a Nisqually tribal member and fought tirelessly to ensure that the United States government would honor the promises made in the treaties with Washington tribes. During his efforts, Billy Frank Jr. was arrested more than 50 times for exercising his treaty-protected right to fish for salmon, the first arrest being when he was 14 years old. He helped to stage "fish-ins" as protests, where he and others demanded that treaty tribes have the right to fish in their usual and accustomed places, a right that had been reserved in the treaty of Medicine Creek. His activism and perseverance paved

the way for the "Boldt decision" in *United States v. Washington*, which affirmed the right of Washington treaty tribes to take up to half of the harvestable salmon in western Washington, reaffirmed tribal treaty reserved rights, and established the tribes as comanagers of the salmon resource.

Billy Frank Jr. dedicated his life advocating for equality, justice, and environmental protections. He fought to protect tribal treaty rights, native cultures and traditions, and the natural resources they are based upon, including fish and shellfish. Despite long-standing persecution, Billy Frank Jr. worked tirelessly to protect salmon for the benefit and enjoyment of all Washingtonians. When salmon populations

plummeted toward extinction, eventually to the point of being listed as threatened under the federal endangered species act, Billy Frank Jr. vocally advocated to unify people to reverse the trend. His endless work on salmon recovery was based on inclusivity and an understanding that tribal treaty rights will help recover salmon and would benefit the entire society and the economy in enumerable ways.

In recognition of his distinguished accomplishments, Billy Frank Jr. was awarded the Albert Schweitzer prize for humanitarianism, the common cause award for human rights efforts, the American Indian distinguished service award, the Washington state environmental excellence award, and the Wallace Stegner award. Billy Frank Jr. was posthumously awarded the presidential medal of freedom by President Barack Obama.

Billy Frank Jr.'s unwavering commitment to the fight for equality and the fight against racism and abuse was of global influence. He has been likened to other humanitarians and civil rights leaders such as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, and Nelson Mandela. Billy Frank Jr. passed away on May 5, 2014, but he continues to be an inspiration to many domestically and abroad. He is a significant historical and civil rights figure who is worthy of recognition and inclusion in the national statutory hall collection.

Vision for the statue

Through a process managed by ArtsWA, the Art Committee will select an artist or artist team to design a statue of Billy Frank Jr. that captures Billy's warmth of character and inimitable spirit. The statue will not only represent Billy, but the Nisqually tribe, the State of Washington, and our collective values.

The statue will be cast in bronze and the committee is open to designs that incorporate various patinas and finishes. Known for his colorful and distinctive style, the committee is looking for an artist who uses storytelling and emotion to convey their subjects. The committee is open to designs that incorporate elements of traditional Native design and symbolism, as well as representations of water, salmon, and/or ecological concepts, while also capturing Billy's likeness.

Billy was a tireless advocate for tribal treaty rights and the preservation of native life, culture, and traditions. Artists who have historic, cultural, and/or artistic connections to native tribes are strongly encouraged to apply.

Selection process

The Art Committee is made up of Washington legislators, tribal leaders, and public servants, facilitated by ArtsWA. The Art Committee will review submitted materials of all applicants and invite up to three finalists to develop and present conceptual designs for the statue. From the finalists, they will select an artist or artist team to create the final statue design.

Using the criteria below, the Art Committee will review and consider whether your submission:

- **communicates a unique vision or perspective**
- **shows authenticity in relation to subject matter**
- **demonstrates skill in technique**
- **relates to the vision for the Billy Frank Jr. statue**

Submission materials

Please prepare and enter the following through **Submittable**:

1. **a statement of interest** outlining your approach to statuary and summarizing your interest in this project. Describe any experience with projects of a similar scope and include anything that might help us differentiate you as a candidate. (500 words maximum.)
2. **a professional resume/CV** (limit 2 pages). Artists working collaboratively may submit a resume/CV for each member, PDF or DOC format.
3. **8 images of past works**, preferably created within past 5 years.
4. **brief descriptions (1-2 sentences) for each image**. Also include title, dimensions, materials, date, location, and commissioning entity (if applicable).
5. **three professional references** from past projects. Include name, title, and contact information, PDF or DOC format.

If selected, you will:

- design a statue of Billy Frank Jr., including preliminary proposal, a small-scale maquette, and full-scale model for review and approval by the Art Committee, and the Architect of the Capitol
- travel to National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. during the design process to meet with the Architect of the Capitol
- work within the fixed budget
- if required, maintain registration as a Washington State vendor
- enter into a design contract with ArtsWA and fulfill those requirements (fabrication in bronze and installation at National Statuary Hall will be managed by ArtsWA and the Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the artist.)

Anticipated timeline

- RFQ distributed: May 23, 2022
- all materials due: Thursday, June 9, 2022, 4:00 PM Pacific Time
- art Committee review and selection of finalists: June 15 – August 16, 2022
- notification to finalists: late August, 2022
- finalist interviews and design proposal presentations: October 25, 2022
- selected artists final design presentation: December 7, 2022
- site visit to Statuary Hall in Washington D.C.: February, 2023
- presentation of small model/maquette: June 2023
- model reviewed by Architect of the Capitol: July 2023
- full-scale model approval: December 2023
- fabrication and casting: January – June 2024
- shipping and installation: Summer 2024

Due date and time: Thursday, June 9, 2022, 4PM (Pacific)

Apply through **Submittable**. If you do not have an account, you will need to create one (there is no cost). To avoid technical problems, please submit well in advance of the deadline. **Late submittals will not be accepted.**