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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

State legislature formed ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program in 1974. We acquire and care for artworks in state buildings, colleges, universities, and schools throughout Washington.

The **State Art Collection** includes over 5,000 artworks. Materials range from works on paper to paintings to large-scale installations. The artworks engage and enliven public spaces. It makes Washington home to one of the nation's largest and 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. Sixty percent of the Collection is in K-12 schools. This gives young students in Washington early access to original artworks.



**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 mural reflects a shared history and relationship to the land for the people of Randle.

## Our program's vision

We have the unique position 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.

## How schools receive public art

**The state's capital construction budget funds our program.** When the state builds a new public building, ½ of 1% of construction costs go toward artwork.

**If your district has new state-funded construction, the district may apply for a project.** Districts can apply for as many projects as the number of schools with state-funded construction. Our staff will share details about eligibility and the application process with districts. Districts should expect to start projects within the biennium.

If you want original artwork for your school but your district does not have new state construction funding, 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 to doodle and draw freely on wood tiles. He arranged the tiles and prints to create a world map.

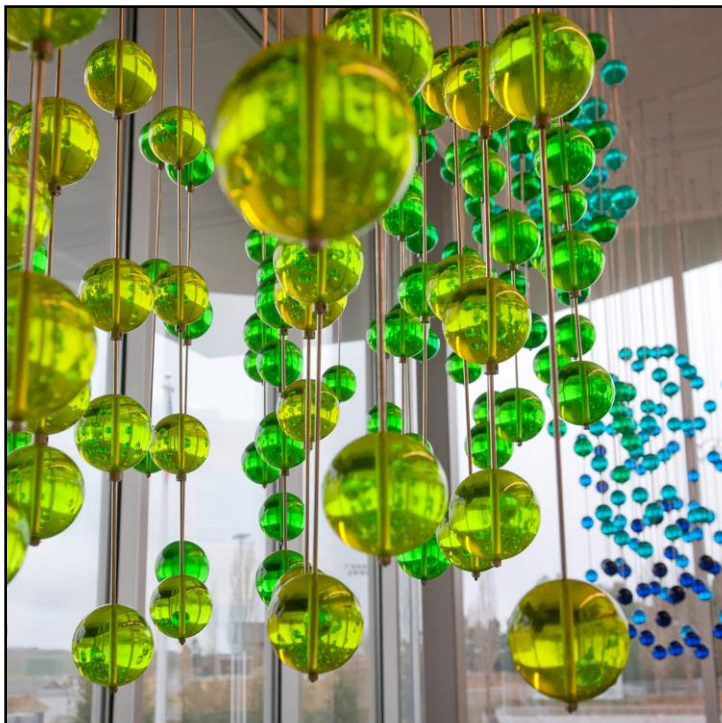
## How we budget projects

Each biennium, ArtsWA partners with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to combine K-12 artwork funds into one pool. We issue funds based on the total amount and how many applicants receive projects.

Project budgets are all-inclusive. ArtsWA manages the artist's design or curator fees, artwork fabrication or purchase, and installation, including all associated costs.

A school district may opt to add funds to the project. This might include district or PTA funds, 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 giving equipment or personnel during installation, making electrical connections, adding lighting, 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 conserved

Your school, district, and ArtsWA partner in the care of the State Art Collection artwork. Your district is responsible for routine maintenance of the artwork you host. During the artwork selection process, we will set up a maintenance and cleaning plan for your school to follow. Our staff will contact you regularly. We'll ask for you to give us an inventory of artworks along with the status of each artwork's condition.

ArtsWA is responsible for the inventory, restoration, and conservation of the State Art Collection. We address emergent care and larger repairs as we have funding.

Please contact **our Collections staff** if:

- you want advice 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.

We restored this large carved cedar artwork and placed it 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 artworks for the State Art Collection.**

This is our primary way of acquiring new artwork.

**We commission two types of artworks:**

- **Installations:** They can involve a broad range of materials. Artworks can be suspended, wall-hung, or set within windows or other elements of your building. They may be a single artwork or have more than one part or be a series. They can be both small and large-scale.
- **Painted murals:** We can more easily predict project costs with paintings. This makes them an efficient way to create impactful artwork. The artwork could be a large mural or a series of smaller paintings.

Commissioned artworks are site responsive. This means they respond to the space, school, and community. We don't commission artworks that are too costly to maintain (fountains or clocktowers) or design projects (mascots or memorials). All commissioned artworks must be unique. They may not be part of an edition.

### 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. They are eligible for commissioned projects.

Every few years we hold a call to find artists for the Roster. A panel reviews portfolios. The ArtsWA board approves the panel's recommendations. 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

## 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 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>Initial design review</b> 90 minutes – 2 hours remote or in-person	Artist's first design presentation Committee questions/comments Committee deliberation and decision
Meeting 6	<b>Final proposal presentation</b> 90 minutes – 2 hours remote or in-person	Artist's final proposal presentation Committee questions/comments Committee discussion and decision Public event discussion
<b>Artwork fabrication and installation: 9-12 months</b>		
If appropriate, our 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. Construction schedules, artist availability, or other factors can affect the timeline.*

*\*\*An artist may choose to spend additional time in the community. Opportunities to host activities with the artist should be discussed with an ArtsWA 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 artists and propose 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 we hold 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
- ability to identify artworks intended for a specific location or based on a theme
- understanding and interest in responding to committee-driven ideas
- ability to professionally complete projects
- The ArtsWA board approves the panel's recommendations.



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

These colorful 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 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. Construction schedules, curator availability, or other factors can affect the timeline.*

## Adopt-an-artwork

Sometimes agencies return their artworks to ArtsWA, typically when they are remodeling. We store them until they can find a new permanent home. Any public school in Washington can adopt an artwork.

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. ArtsWA staff will coordinate 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 that 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. People can view historical artworks in a new context. Please, contact our Program Manager if you're interested in offering a forever home to an artwork.



Frank Samuelson, *See, Play, Learn, Grow*, 1986. Commissioned by the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership Kennewick School District, relocated to 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:

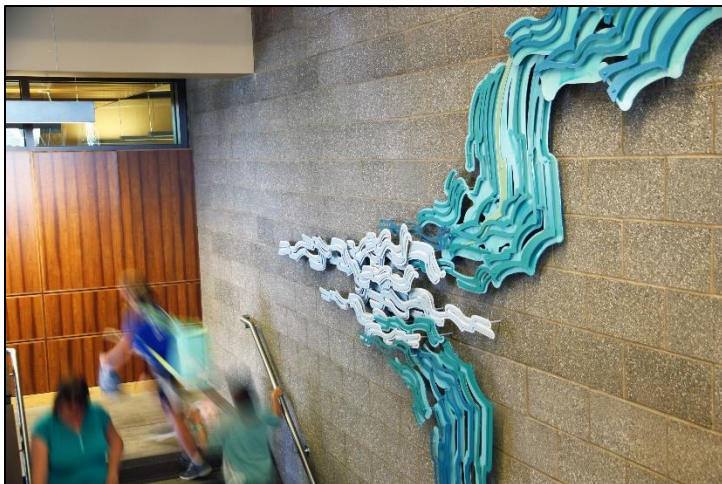
- gender balanced
- culturally diverse

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.

The artist was inspired by the spectacular waterfalls and power of the Spokane River. This sculpture is hand-painted and made of 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-an-artwork projects

- **Select artworks for your school**

## 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

During the orientation meeting, ArtsWA staff will ask your art selection committee to 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, values, or hopes
  - school curriculum or program focus
  - surrounding natural environment

### Relationship to the public

- Who are the primary and secondary audiences for the artwork?
- How could an artwork most impact these audiences?

### Relationship to its site

- How will the artwork function in the space?
- What size artwork and types of media are right for the site?
- What are the safety, functional, or technical needs?
- What is your school's maintenance capacity?
- Is there risk for vandalism?



Sara Siestroom, *DAYS AND DAYS*, 2015.

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

This is part of a collection of artworks curated by RYAN! Feddersen. The story of Chief Kamiakin inspired the collection. It honors the key role of matriarchs with works by 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's installation.

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

## How to engage the public with the artwork

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

- Write articles about the artwork in the school or district newsletter and website.
- Share details about the process, artwork, and artist with 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.

Artist team WOWHAUS made this life-size orca to celebrate this beloved but endangered resident of Puget Sound. They made it from steam-bent and carved wood native to the Pacific Northwest.

## How to credit the artwork when sharing images

You must always credit 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, such as school newsletters, pamphlets, reports, social media, or website content.

The image credit should match 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, we use the correct format 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.

The school's orchestra program inspired these music themed stained glass windows.

## How to use the artwork to enhance arts learning

Original artwork can be a focal point for your school. It can inspire, engage, and challenge both children and adults who enter the building. The artwork can foster learning across disciplines.

Our **Arts Learning Toolkit** has activities that use your school's artwork for learning in **core content areas**. You can change the activities to fit your curriculum and community. We also have a **lesson plans** at all grade levels that are based on artworks in the State Art Collection. Please contact us if you'd like to make new lesson plans around your artwork.

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

You can explore artworks in the State Art Collection online through **My Public Art Portal**. The Portal has artwork photos, information, artist bios, web exhibitions, and related content. It is a dynamic teaching tool and educational resource.

You can download this document here:



*Melissa Singh Cole, Tapteal Journey, 2021.*

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

The artist held mosaic-making workshops with students. The students added images to a series of 23 mosaics that celebrate the ecology of the Yakima River.

## Contact us

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