



Transform the Governor’s Arts & Heritage Awards into a sustainable statewide investment

Deepen the impact and sustainability of Washington’s statewide celebration of culture and creativity.

Operating Budget Request

\$300,000 annually

Fully funded
in the Governor’s budget

The Governor’s Arts & Heritage Awards has been one of state’s flagship cultural events for more than 50 years, recognizing creative excellence and cultural preservation across Washington.

The Awards are a highly visible, vital touchpoint between the Governor’s office and creative sector leaders. **Washington State needs to deepen the impact and sustainability of the Governor’s Arts & Heritage Awards. ArtsWA proposes secured, ongoing funding for the annual event and grant-style awards for Award honorees to continue and deepen their work in communities.**

The innovation: impact and sustainability

ArtsWA consulted its Pro-Equity Anti-Racist (PEAR) team, who recommended expanded categories and pathways to participation.

Adding a grant to the Awards will:

- Encourage participation from a wider constituency
- Increase visibility through raised press and community interest
- Sustain valuable work that supports local economies
- Address equity by supporting underrepresented artists

ArtsWA also proposed that State government invite Awardees to 1-2 official state functions during the year of their award.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- Provide honorees \$10,000 to continue + deepen their work
- Cover event costs, including Washington-made statuette
- Hire an Event Coordinator to manage event details

The investment

Funding the Governor’s Arts & Heritage Awards will mean an ongoing, dedicated channel for targeted investment in Washington’s most vital and vulnerable communities.

Governor’s Arts & Heritage Award grants will celebrate the bountiful creativity and traditional practices of Washington State. The grants will support work that keeps communities healthy and helps them become dynamic, desirable places to live and explore.

When Washington State invests in its innovators, everybody wins.



Right: Dr. Quinton Morris, an educator and performer, received the Governor’s Young Arts Leader Award in 2016. Photo by Eva Blanchard Photography.

Top: Deepti Agrawal received a 2023 Governor’s Arts & Heritage Award for her work in traditional madhubani painting. Photo by Shanna Paxton Photography.