

National Statuary Hall

National Statuary Hall was founded in 1864 through a proposal by Representative Justin S. Morrill. The entire collection consists of 100 statues contributed by 50 states, two statues each.

Each statue is the gift of a state. When the donated statue arrives at the Capitol, it is placed in a location specified by the Joint Committee on the Library.

The statue of Billy Frank Jr. is presently estimated to be installed in National Statuary Hall in 2025.



He taught us to listen. He taught us not only to read the treaties but to listen to the treaties because when we listen, our ancestors, our elders are telling us something.

-John McCoy,
Tulalip Tribes,
Washington State Senator



The Billy Frank Jr. Statue Project

I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same.

- Billy Frank Jr.

Learn more

Visit the Washington State Art Commission's website to explore timelines, watch videos, sign up for updates, and more.

arts.wa.gov/billy-frank-jr



 ARTS WA



NISSQUALY INDIAN TRIBE

Front image: Haiying Wu's final "maquette" (half-scale model) for the Billy Frank Jr. statue.





Billy Frank Jr. was arrested over 50 times while exercising his treaty right to fish on traditional lands.

Billy Frank Jr.

Billy Frank Jr. was a Nisqually tribal member who fought tirelessly to ensure that the United States government would honor the promises made in the treaties with Washington tribes.

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 co-managers of the salmon resource.

The Legislation

Introduced by Representative Debra Lekanoff and signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee at Frank’s Landing on April 14, 2021, House Bill 1372 affirms that “Billy Frank Jr. is a significant historical and civil rights figure who is worthy of recognition and inclusion in the national statutory hall collection.”

This bill began the process to send a statue of Billy Frank Jr. to National Statuary Hall.



Governor Jay Inslee (seated) signed House Bill 1372 at Frank’s Landing in 2021.

Billy taught us when to listen and when to stand firm. He displayed moral courage in the face of unfairness and brought people of different cultures together around the importance of sustaining the natural world around us.

- Denny Heck, Lt. Governor of Washington

The Artist

Haiying Wu was born in China and attended the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. Wu immigrated to the United States and received his Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from the University of Washington.

He has created well known memorials around the Pacific Northwest, including the *Fallen Firefighters Memorial* in Seattle’s Pioneer Square neighborhood.

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) facilitated the artist selection process and will next oversee the bronze casting and installation.

The worship of life and nature in Indian culture is in line with my own cultural traditions. I am honored to have this opportunity to understand more of the spiritual world of Indigenous people, and of their efforts to preserve the beautiful skies, rivers, oceans and all living things.

-Haiying Wu, artist

Haiying Wu (right) with an early model at his home studio.

