



# Enhance statewide arts and culture workforce

Fund professional development to build resilience and growth in Washington's cultural workforce

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

FY26: \$147,090

FY27: \$310,865

Two-year funding

Washington's cultural workforce is comprised of over 190,000 workers, representing over 5% of all jobs statewide. They power our theaters, galleries, festivals, cultural celebrations, and more. **ArtsWA seeks to develop the capacity and resilience of this workforce through a portfolio of professional development resources.**



## Cultivating the cultural workforce

Many of the proposed resources in this request—including technical assistance, cohort-based learning, and statewide convenings—are currently provided by ArtsWA to the cultural workforce. However, ArtsWA needs direct funding for equitable and sustainable distribution of workforce development activities. The budget request seeks to expand and fully fund ArtsWA's cultural workforce professional development portfolio.



Above: ArtsWA's Wellness, Arts, and the Military (WAM) program regularly gathers a cohort of partners at annual convenings, such as the June 2023 WAM Convening pictured above. Upper right: community leaders brainstorm at the annual Creative Districts Convening, held in Chewelah in 2024.

## What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- » Support cohort-based programming at the agency, including Wellness, Arts, and the Military and the Change Leader Institute.
- » Provide translation services to assist non-native English speakers with grant applications.
- » Host "Public Art 101" sessions to introduce artists to the public art process and encourage involvement.
- » Hire a Wellness, Arts, and the Military FTE to directly support communities in Central and Eastern Washington.
- » Provide technical assistance to Creative Districts to support capacity-building.

## The investment

Washington's cultural workforce drives the state's vibrant arts scene, which in turn drives tourism and community well being.

Funding will support equitable, sustainable growth and resilience in Washington State's cultural sector.