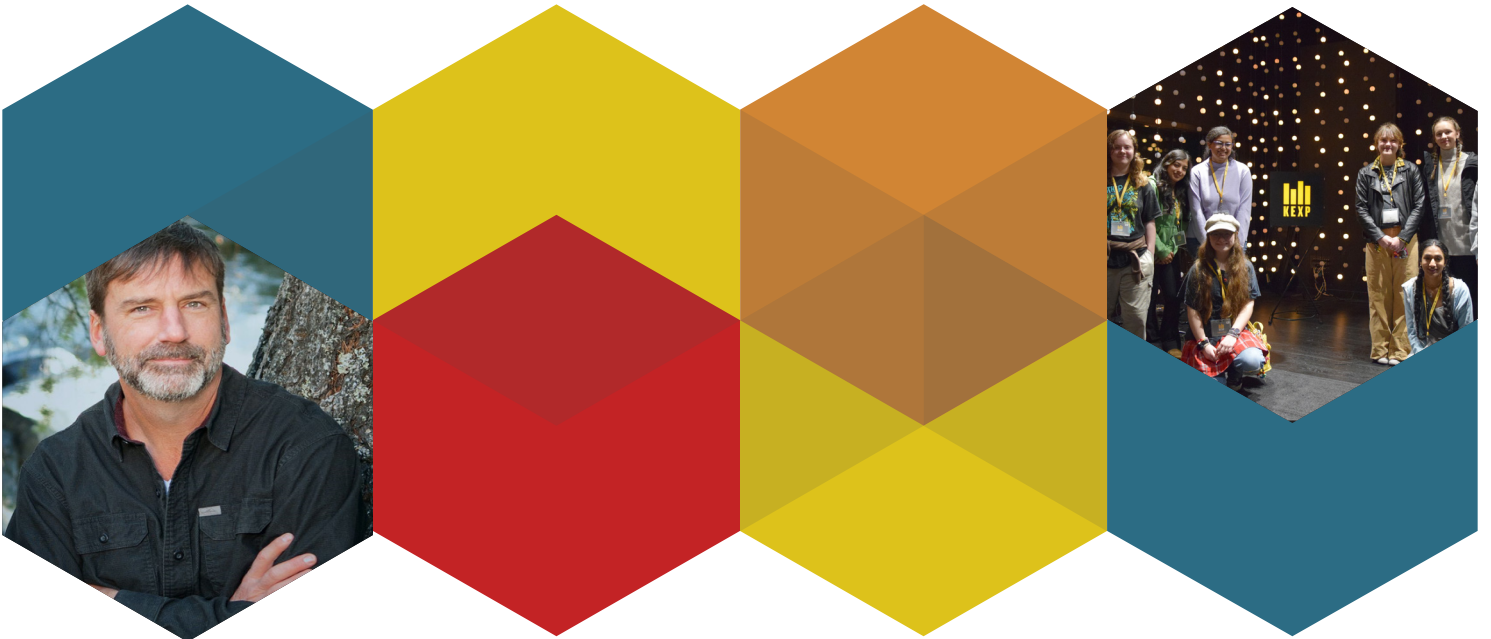




WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION



Board Meeting | Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | April 29, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 2:05 p.m. | April 30, 2025



Art in Public Places | Arts in Education | Center for Washington Cultural Traditions | Certified Creative Districts | Change Leader Institute
Wellness, Arts, and the Military | Tribal Cultural Affairs | Grants to Organizations | Washington State Poet Laureate

Left: Derek Sheffield, the 2025-2027 Washington State Poet Laureate. Photo by Heidi Swoboda.
Right: Members of the 2024-2025 WAYAL cohort in the KEXP performance space. Photo by ArtsWA.



Board Meeting Agenda

Washington State Arts Commission

Tuesday, April 29 – Wednesday, April 30, 2025 / Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 127 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81383485458>
Meeting ID: 813 8348 5458

One tap mobile
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Tuesday, April 29, 2025

- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. **Call To Order:** Charlie Robin, Chair
- Land Acknowledgement: Cheryl Wilcox, Tribal Cultural Affairs Program Manager
 - Roll Call
 - Approve Agenda
 - Rules for Public Comment
- 12:40 p.m. **Welcome to Wenatchee:** Courtney Tiffany, Director of Operations, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center
- 12:50 p.m. **Board Chair's Report:** Charlie Robin – pp. 1-2
- Governor Ferguson's Proclamation of May as Arts Education Month read by WAYAL youth with an introduction by Carina Del Rosario, WAYAL Program Specialist, and Tamar Krames, AIE Program Manager, p.3
- 1:00 p.m. **Executive Director's Report:** Karen Hanan – pp. 4-8
- 1:20 pm **Debrief of key bills** and activity during the Legislative Session: Michael Wallenfels, Legislative Liaison – p.9
- 1:25 p.m. **Fiscal Report:** Karen Hanan and Deane Shellman, Deputy Director
- 2024-25 Biennium 7th Quarter Report–Expenditures by Program - pp. 10-21
- 1:30 p.m. **CRM Dashboard preview** – Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager and Adrienne Kerrigan, Community Relations Program Coordinator
- 1:35 p.m. **Approve Consent Agenda**
- Minutes of February 4, 2025 Board Meeting
- 1:40 p.m. **Creative Districts:** Aaron Semer, Creative Districts Program Manager, and Adrienne Kerrigan, Community Relations Program Assistant – p.2

- **Approve recertification of five districts:** Issaquah, Langley Creates, Port Townsend, Tenino, and Twisp
- 2:00 p.m. **Grants to Organizations:** Miguel Guillén, GTO Program Manager
- Ratify General Operating Support for Emerging and Small Organizations – Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 – pp. 23-30
- 2:15 p.m. **Arts in Education: Tamar Krames, AIE Program Manager**
- Approve Creative Start project grants –Alexis Sarah, AIE Project Manager – pp. 31-25
 - Approve AIE Sustaining Project Grants – Tamar Krames AIE Program Manager– pp. 36-45
- 2:30 p.m. **Tribal Cultural Affairs Program: Cheryl Wilcox, TCA Program Manager**
- Approve Tribal Cultural Grants FY 2025-26 – pp. 46-50
- 2:45 p.m. **Board Development and Nominating Committee Process:** Robin Avni and Catherine Nueva España, co-chairs
- 3:00 p.m. **Poetry Out Loud (POL):** Alexis Sarah, Arts in Education Project Manager – p. 51
- **POL State Champion** - Sydney Frost of Mt. Spokane High School (Mead, WA)
 - **Poetry Forward First Place:** Sidra Marshall of Anacortes High School (Anacortes, WA)
- 3:25 p.m. **Public Comment, if applicable:** Charlie Robin
- 3:30 p.m. **Adjourn for the day**
- 3:30 – 5 p.m. **Hotel check in**
- 5 – 6 p.m. Sip & Chat:** Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visit Wenatchee Visitor Center and Tasting Room: 137 N Wenatchee Ave #101, Wenatchee, WA 98801 – Enter double glass door with heart logo
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. **Dinner:** Bob's Classic Brass & Brew, 110 2nd St, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

- 9 a.m. Coffee reception at Wenatchee Valley Museum
- 9:30 a.m. **Intro of WAYAL youth** – Tamar Krames and Carina del Rosario
- 9:35 a.m. **Center for Washington Cultural Traditions Update:** Thomas Grant Richardson, Director (30 minutes)

- 10:00 a.m. **Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Team Quarterly Meeting Recap:** Daniya Baisubanova, WAM Program Specialist and PEAR Team Leader, Karen Hanan, Executive Director – pp. 52-62
- 10:30 a.m. **Public Artist Roster Update:** Mike Sweney, AIPP Program Manager - p. 63
[Search the State Art Collection - ArtsWA](#)
- 11:00 a.m. **Recognition of Outgoing Board Members: Dr. Kelvin Frank and Ryan Hardesty, and retiring staff member, Cheryl Wilcox.** Presented by Charlie Robin and Karen Hanan
- 11:15 a.m. **Wenatchee Valley Museum Tour**
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 12:30 a.m. **Strategic Plan:** Update to the Board – a look ahead to FY 2026: Michael Wallenfels and Karen Hanan
- 1:00 p.m. **Advocacy - Updates and Future Activities:** Krishna Thiagarajan, Chair
- From Advocacy to Ambassador: Help communicate ArtsWA's resources locally and funnel data back to ArtsWA.
 - Importance of meetings during the interim with a wide constituency of elected officials, foundations, corporations, venture capital funders, and other possible partners.
 - Roundtable: Led by Krishna Thiagarajan, Advocacy Committee Chair and Board Chair, Charlie Robin
- 2:00 p.m. **Public Comment, if applicable:** Charlie Robin
- 2:05 p.m. **Adjourn**
- 7:00 p.m. **Passing of the Laurel –** Inauguration of the 2025-2027 WA State Poet Laureate, Derek Sheffield. Wenatchee Valley College. Grove Theatre. All are welcome.

Important Dates

- August 5, 2025: ArtsWA Board Meeting - virtual
- November 6, 2025: ArtsWA Board Meeting – virtual

ArtsWA Board Chair Letter

April 29, 2025

Dear Colleagues:

*In the future, there's a struggle
That we have yet to win.
Use that pride in our hearts
To lift us up to tomorrow
'Cause to sit still would be a sin...*

– from *I Know Where I've Been* – *Hairspray*

In my moments of greatest hope and deepest concern, and seemingly every point in between, my mind tends to process my thoughts by offering up what it feels are the most relevant lyrics – whether from Broadway or pop culture. Admittedly, the storytelling standard of the musical theatre genre seems to offer the far greater resource. That may be why many of the songs from *Hairspray* and some of the best anthem songs of the genre are consistent earworms these days.

It seems a firehose is the best visual I can conceive to describe the constant stream of financial, social and political stories that greet me every morning and take me to bed every night. As I navigate through all the distractions, it helps to have my musical armor that I actively engage as a defense mechanism. I find singing my favorite musical selections at full voice in the solitude of my home keeps me grounded and able to carry on – but it may startle the neighbors on occasion.

What's your stress release? Which art form do you use to re-center and re-claim your foundation? Are you actively using that these days? I highly recommend you do. Remember, it doesn't have to be for anyone else. Those moments are just for you.

As I finish my time as Chair of the Board of Commissioners, I reflect on the amazing accomplishments that ArtsWA has achieved over the past six years. The agency is unrecognizable in so many ways, and yet the people and the projects all reflect that never wavering commitment to providing access to the arts for everyone in this glorious state.

While the Legislature continues its work to tackle the tough issues weighing finances against a vast array of priorities, it is clear that the next couple of years will require a tighter focus on the mission of the agency and some truly creative thinking to get us through some challenging times. Fortunately, ArtsWA is the agency dedicated to creative thinking and its staff and Board are up to the challenge. Take pride in all that has been accomplished and have confidence that those successes are the foundation on which we build the future.

If the naysayers get you down, or rational thinking seems to have disappeared from the dialogue, pick up your pens, your paint brushes, your knitting needles, your musical instruments, or simply “sing out Louise.” We have all the tools we need to lead and thrive.

We've got this.

Let's hit the ground running and make a difference.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charlie Robin". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Charlie Robin, ArtsWA Board Chair

Arts Education Month proclamation

WHEREAS, Arts Education Month celebrates the power of arts and cultural practices in the lives of children, youth, and educators in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, creative practices are intrinsic to the human experience and include expression through disciplines such as music, visual arts, media arts, dance, theatre, literary arts, and the preservation of cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, arts education is considered a fundamental part of basic education in Washington state and is sustained by arts educators working in service of students, families, and counties; and

WHEREAS, arts learning supports student engagement and passion for learning, critical thinking, the exploration of evolving technologies, access to career pathways, and connections across global cultures and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

Arts Education Month

in Washington, and I urge all Washingtonians to join me in celebrating, sustaining, and expanding efforts that bring the arts into classrooms and communities in every region of the state.

Executive Director's Report

1. State Budget

- If we are not in special session, when the board reads this report, we will know what our budget is for better or worse.
- Governor Ferguson at the time of writing, has offered resistance to the planned tax solutions and some other aspects of both the House and Senate proposed budgets.

2. Federal Budget: Advocacy for the Arts in a New Washington

At time of writing, Mary Anne Carter remains the acting Chair at the National Endowment for the Arts. Mary Ann successfully led the agency during Trump's first term. To date, the Trump administration and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have left the NEA alone. This is in stark contrast to their actions with the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

At the IMLS, the Trump administration placed roughly 80 percent of its staff on administrative leave. Its 2024 budget of over \$290 million was larger than two other better-known culturally focused agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. An executive order by President Trump named the IMLS as one of seven small federal agencies to be — quote — "eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law." In a statement provided to the "News Hour," an administration official said the action is "part of a mandate to reduce bureaucracy and is a necessary step to fulfill that order and ensure hard-earned tax dollars are not diverted to discriminatory DEI initiatives or divisive anti-American programming in our cultural institutions."

Several days later at the NEH, Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), cancelled or rescinded hundreds of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant contracts nationwide, including those of Humanities Washington's and other Washington-based cultural organizations. Upwards of \$10 million in cultural funding in Washington alone is at stake.

At time of writing, DOGE is expected at the NEA building this week. They have been expected for the past two weeks too and have not yet turned up.

On a good note, included in your packet is the latest NEA State Fact Sheet for Washington State.

3. National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Included in your packets, is a [two-page brief from NASAA](#) that is designed to keep commission/council/board members at state and jurisdictional arts agencies informed while offering ideas for action. It includes ideas on advocacy at the state and congressional levels. It also includes links to documents describing state arts agency revenues (we are 31st in per capita ranking now) and a section that describes significant arts legislation last year.

4. Billy Frank, Jr. Statue

The ArtsWA team continues to oversee and manage all aspects of the project for the Governor-appointed Billy Frank Jr., statue committee and the Governor. On January 13th, 2025, our large and comprehensive official packet with details, drawings, designs and photos, and a cover letter signed by Governor Jay Inslee was submitted to the Architect of the Capitol for review followed by approval by the Joint Committee on the Library. Statuary Hall's engineers returned the packet to us several weeks later with requests for some minor tweaks and clarifications. The Arts WA team did as asked, and re-submitted the packet. Several weeks after that, Statuary Hall responded that they had approved our packet and were sending it on to the Joint Committee on the Library for their review and approval. On March 25th, we received notice that all required approvals for the full-sized model of the statue of Billy Frank, Jr. and pedestal design and proposed inscriptions had been received. This was much quicker than originally expected and allowed us to open a formal request for proposals to allows foundries to bid on the bronzing process. Simultaneously, we are working on bids for the statue's transport and then installation in Washington DC, and the removal and transportation home of the Marcus Whitman statue to Washington State

5. Own Your Own Art Program/Legislation

As you know, we ran legislation to authorize a statewide loan program that will offer 12-month interest-free (or low-interest) loans to U.S. residents for the purchase of artworks by contemporary Washington state artists from participating arts businesses. This is inspired by a very successful program in Tasmania, that Arts Tasmania oversees. The legislation did not make it through the committee process. However, we are proceeding anyway. Once established, the program can be used for the purchase of existing artwork or the commissioning of a work by a Washington State artist procured through a participating arts business that has been certified by ArtsWA. The program will allow people to apply for an interest-free loan: They will have to

- select their preferred artwork from a participating business (certified by ArtsWA)

- complete the Own Your Own Art application form provided by participating businesses
- once approved, they can collect or arrange delivery of the artwork.

This is a very successful program in Tasmania. It has proven effective, and we believe it can work as well here. As an example of its effectiveness, more than 6,700 Tasmanian artworks worth a combined \$22 million have been purchased through the program since 2009. Stay tuned. More to come.

6. Social Prescribing / Art Pharmacy

A promising partnership between ArtsWA, Art Pharmacy, Path with Art, and a potential funder is evolving. Following an in-person meeting with a family foundation in Seattle in March, the foundation asked for a two-page proposal. It was submitted in early April and is described in part below.

Project Overview: This proposal outlines a transformative two-year initiative to establish and expand social prescribing practices across Washington State. Building upon the established link between social health and well-being, social prescribing leverages evidence-based community interventions. These address non-medical needs, demonstrating efficacy in reducing loneliness, improving mental health, and lowering healthcare utilization. This is supported by both quantitative and qualitative studies analyzing patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, emerging research explores the neurobiological mechanisms underlying these benefits, highlighting the impact of social connection on stress response and immune function.

This project will leverage the innovative model of Art Pharmacy combined with the statewide influence, reputation and partnership capacity of ArtsWA, and the proven expertise of Path with Art. It will build a sustainable framework for integrating arts into healthcare, creating healthier, more vibrant communities.

The Art Pharmacy Model: Art Pharmacy is a tech-enabled healthcare company that bridges the gap between healthcare providers and arts organizations. Their model provides an end-to-end solution:

1. **Referral:** Healthcare providers prescribe arts and cultural experiences for patients.
2. **Care Navigation:** Art Pharmacy's navigators connect patients with personalized arts engagements.
3. **Participation:** Patients engage in regular arts activities, from museum visits to creative workshops.
4. **Monitoring & Refill:** Progress is tracked, and prescriptions are renewed as needed.
5. **Reimbursement:** Art Pharmacy facilitates insurance reimbursement, ensuring accessibility.

Benefits for Washington State:

- **Improved Mental Health:** Arts engagement provides effective, non-pharmacological support for mental health challenges.
- **Reduced Social Isolation:** Community-based arts activities foster connection and belonging.
- **Enhanced Physical Health:** Active arts participation improves physical well-being.
- **Stronger Communities:** Arts engagement strengthens social cohesion and community vitality.
- **Reduced Healthcare Costs:** Reduces reliance on costly medical interventions by addressing social determinants of health.
- **Increased Access to Arts & Culture:** Social prescribing broadens cultural participation.
- **Holistic Healthcare:** Promotes a more integrated approach to health.

Benefits for Arts Organizations:

- **Increased Audience & Revenue:** Expand reach and provide stable income.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Demonstrates value as a vital community asset.
- **Diversified Funding:** Opens new funding streams through healthcare partnerships.
- **Demonstrated Social Impact:** Provides data for advocacy and funding.
- **Professional Development & Innovation:** Encourages program adaptation and growth.
- **Increased Awareness:** Partnering with healthcare increases exposure.

Partnership with Path with Art: Path with Art will provide crucial trauma-informed care training for participating arts organizations. This complements training provided by Art Pharmacy, and ensures programs are delivered sensitively and effectively, maximizing positive impact.

Proposed Two-Year Budget:

Item	Year 1	Year 2	Total	Rationale
Art Pharmacy Fees	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	Art Pharmacy will provide specialized services, including program design, technology platform access, and ongoing consultation.
ArtsWA Staffing (1 FTE)	\$130,000	\$105,000	\$200,000	Dedicated staff for project coordination, stakeholder engagement, and program oversight.
Trauma-Informed Care Training (Path)	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$70,000	Ensures arts organizations can deliver programs effectively and sensitively.

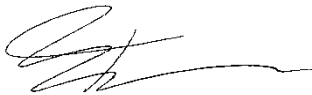
Outreach & Communications	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	Raises awareness and engages community members.
Evaluation & Reporting	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	Measures program effectiveness and provides data for future initiatives.
Total	\$325,000	\$340,000	\$650,000	

Impact and Sustainability: This project will establish a sustainable model for social prescribing in Washington State, fostering collaboration between the state, arts organizations and healthcare providers. Ongoing evaluation will ensure program effectiveness and inform future initiatives. This investment will improve community well-being, increase access to arts-based interventions, and create a lasting impact on the health of Washingtonians.

7. America 250: Commemorating Our History

- **Statewide Participation:** ArtsWA is collaborating with the Washington State Historical Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States.
- **Strategic Approach:** While state funding was not secured, we will focus on:
 - o Supporting community-led celebrations through a statewide calendar.
 - o Disseminating information and promoting local events.
 - o Integrating the Billy Frank Jr. statue installation into the commemorations.
- **Inclusive Narrative:** This initiative will acknowledge Washington State's diverse history, extending beyond the American Revolution, to foster a more inclusive and prosperous future.
- **NEA funding:** At time of writing, the NEA alerted all arts agencies to the opportunity of adding \$25,000 to our next partnership grant in support of America 250 programs and events. The window for applying was very brief – approximately 1 week. The following guidelines were provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. ArtsWA successfully submitted an application for the supplementary funding.

Respectfully submitted



Karen J. Hanan, Executive Director

FY25 Legislative Session overview

The current biennial, or “long,” session of the Washington State Legislature runs from January 13 to April 27, barring any special sessions. Key legislative deadlines throughout the session include March 12, the final day to consider bills in their house of origin, and April 16, the cutoff for bills from the opposite house.

ArtsWA actively tracks legislation relevant to Washington’s creative sector. Each week, we produce and interpret a Bill Report for the Heritage Caucus, a bipartisan group co-chaired by Representative Steve Tharinger (D-24) and Senator Judy Warnick (R-13), with membership that includes the Washington State Historical Society, Inspire Washington, and other cultural stakeholders.

During session, bills of interest often emerge. We watch the daily reports of newly introduced bills for any indication of legislation that would impact the creative sector. Noteworthy past examples include Representative Kristine Reeves’ ticketing bill (HB 1613), which stalled in the policy committee this year but advanced significantly in the previous session. Another significant piece of legislation from the 2023–2024 session was HB 1575, which codified the cultural access program.

ArtsWA Legislative Commissioners, Senators Lisa Wellman and Sharon Wylie, introduced the “Own Washington Art” bills. These made progress but ultimately failed to meet key legislative deadlines. While Commissioners and agency leadership can engage committee chair offices to advocate for hearings or votes, the scheduling and advancement of bills is beyond our control.

Several bills have successfully passed this year, including:

- **HB 1205** (Rep. Ryu): Prohibits the knowing distribution of forged digital likenesses.
- **HB 1631** (Rep. Nance): Establishes bull kelp as Washington’s official state marine forest.
- **SB 5106** (Sen. Trudeau): Recognizes Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as nonlegal state holidays.

At the time of this report, a number of bills are nearing passage. These include measures supporting students’ rights to wear ceremonial attire at graduations, mandating captioned screenings in larger theater chains, and proposals affecting historical designation and preservation processes.

No legislation this session is expected to have major direct impacts on the creative sector. Nevertheless, ArtsWA remains engaged and encourages Commissioner attendance and participation in Heritage Caucus meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager

April 21, 2025

ArtsWA 3rd Quarter Budget Report Narrative

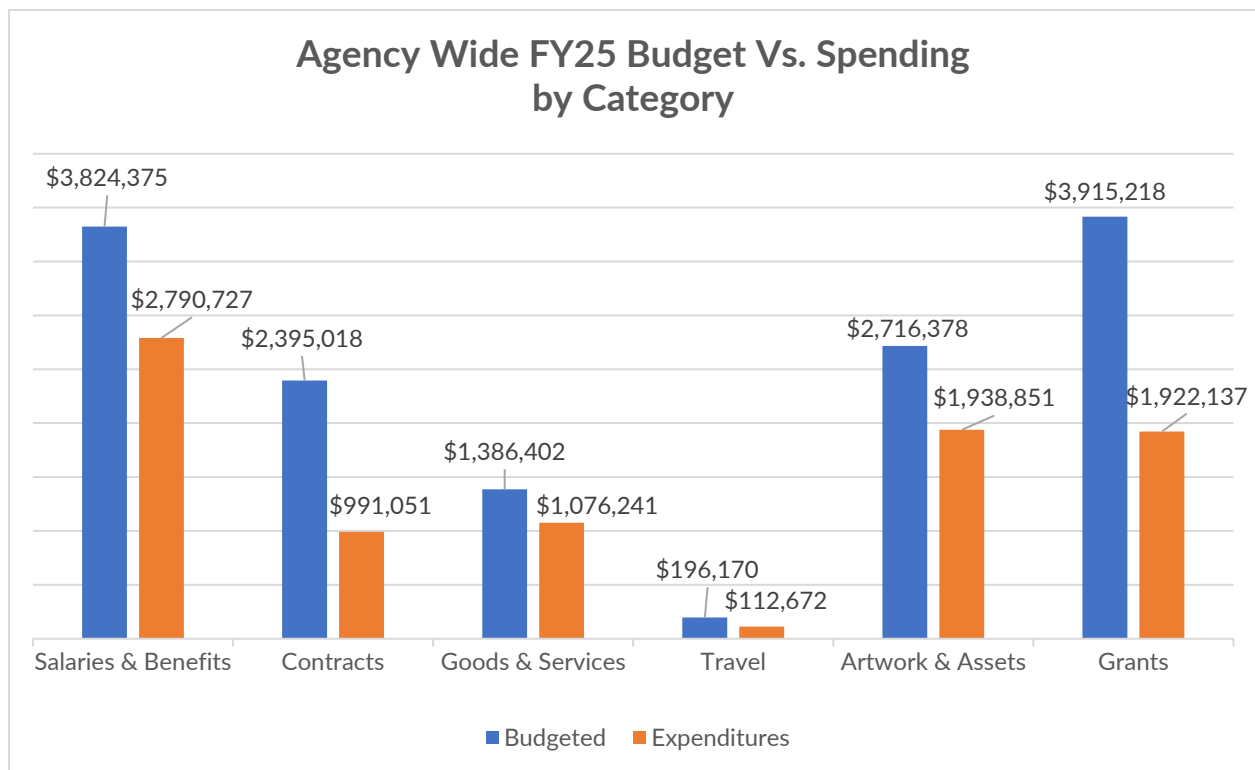
January 1 – March 31, 2025

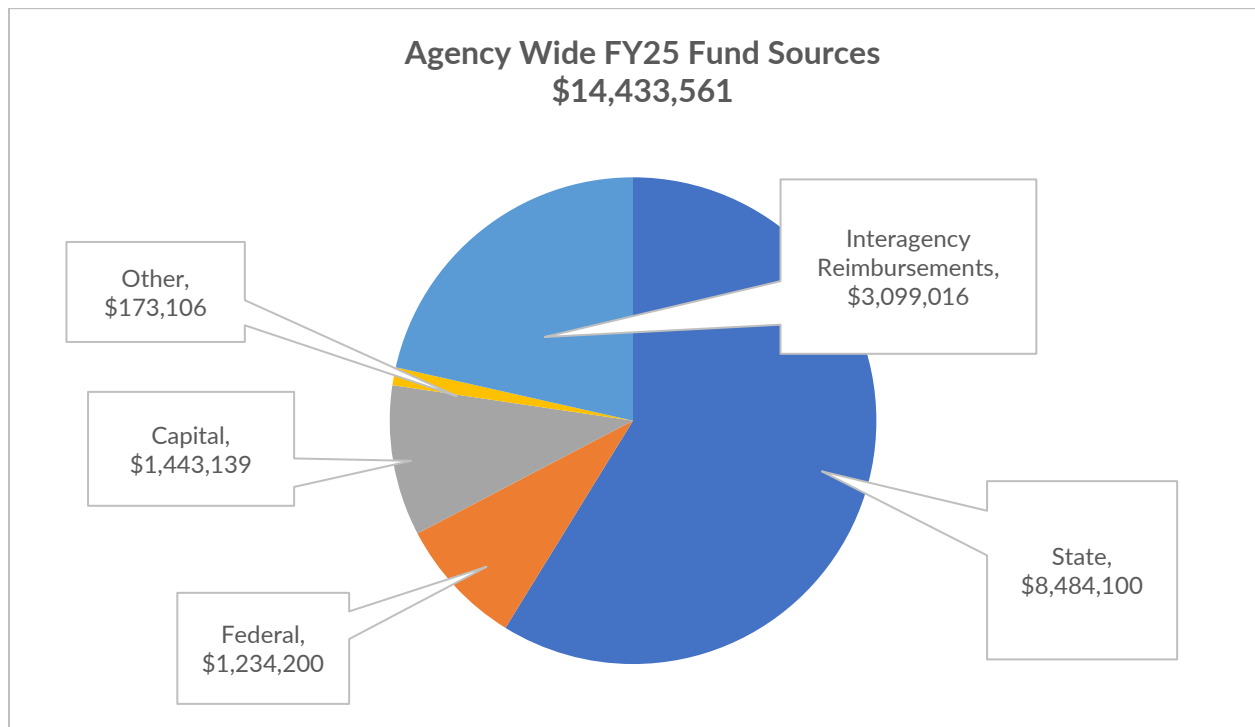
This report summarizes activity for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25).

The pie chart below represents the Agency's budget as a whole and each of our fund sources as a piece of the whole.

Agency Wide – 35.90 FTE

- \$11,334,545 spending authority (what was originally appropriated)
- \$3,099,016 interagency agreements
- \$14,433,561 total budget
- \$8,831,678 expenditures to date - **39% remaining**





***Other Funding includes:**

- \$103,964 from the Laird Norton Foundation
- \$38,461 Creative West Innovation Fund
- \$15,000 from contractor to replace damaged artwork
- \$15,000 in sponsorships for Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards
- \$681 in retro-insurance funds

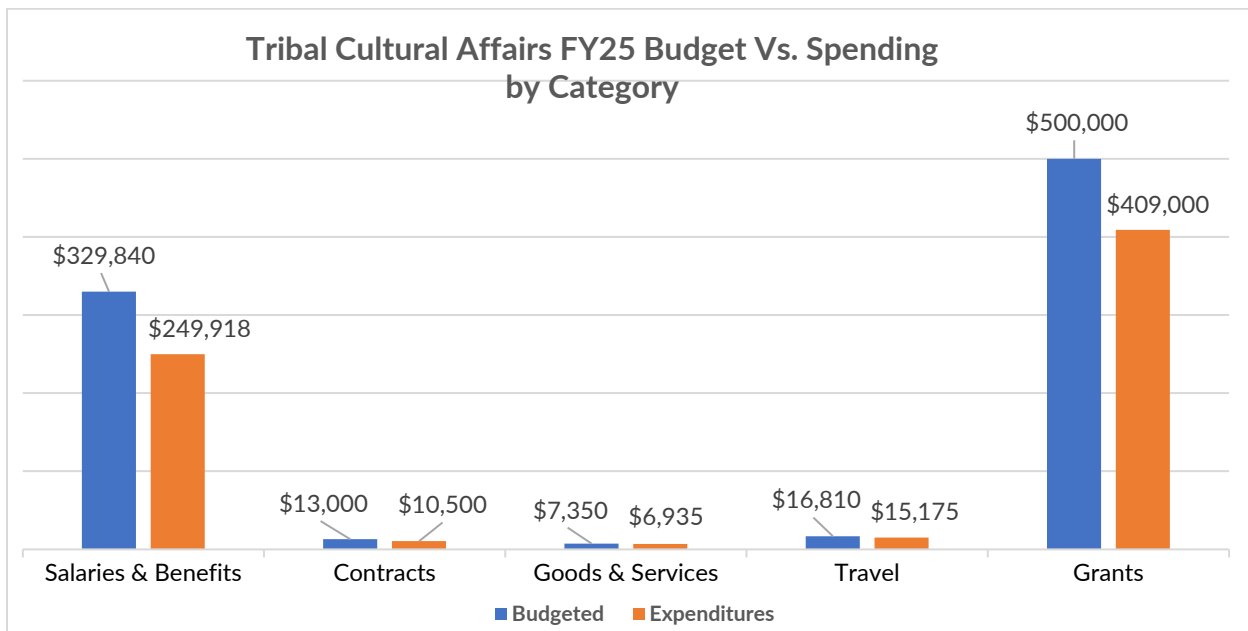
***Interagency Reimbursements includes:**

- approximately \$2.7M in anticipated reimbursements for Art in Public Places
- \$60,000 from the Governor's Office for the official Governor's Portrait
- \$50,000 from Department of Commerce for the Building for the Arts Program
- approximately \$36,000 from Employment Security Department for Career Connect WA

Tribal Cultural Affairs - 3 FTE

- \$867,000 total budget
- \$691,528 expenditures to date - **20% remaining**

Tribal Cultural Affairs (TCA) is the newest addition to ArtsWA and is funded entirely by the General Fund. In July, Linnea Ingalls joined the TCA program as Program Coordinator. She joins Cheryl Wilcox and Todd Clark in their work to support Washington tribal communities as they expand, enhance, or create space for art and culture, in a way that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs.



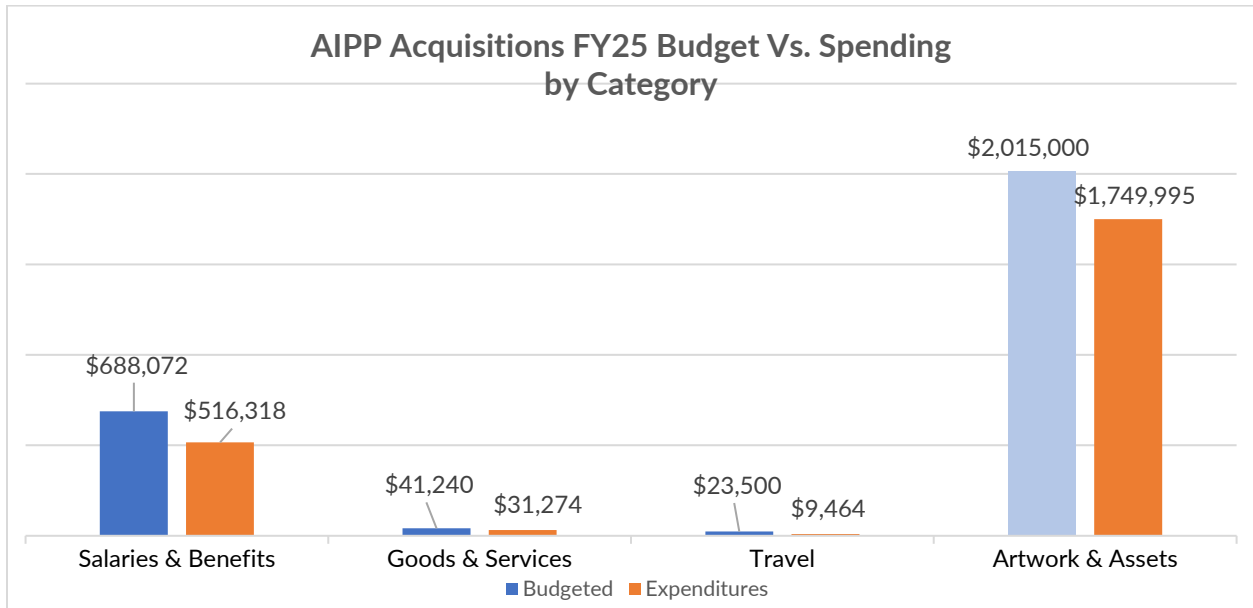
Tribal and Cultural Affairs - Notes & Updates:

\$500,000 was appropriated this year towards tribal grants. 20 of the 29 federally recognized tribes applied for funding, with grant amounts varying based on the needs of each project. We anticipate the remaining grants will be paid before the end of fiscal year.

Art in Public Places: Public Art Acquisition - 7 FTE

- \$2,310,985 expenditures to date
- \$2,309,981 interagency reimbursements to date

This program, which is funded out of the Capital budget, includes expenses for the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program including staff, administration, statewide travel to communities and new artwork acquisitions for the State Art Collection. All costs related to public art projects (including artist fees and travel, design, fabrication, and installation) are fully reimbursed through Capital Funds from other agencies.



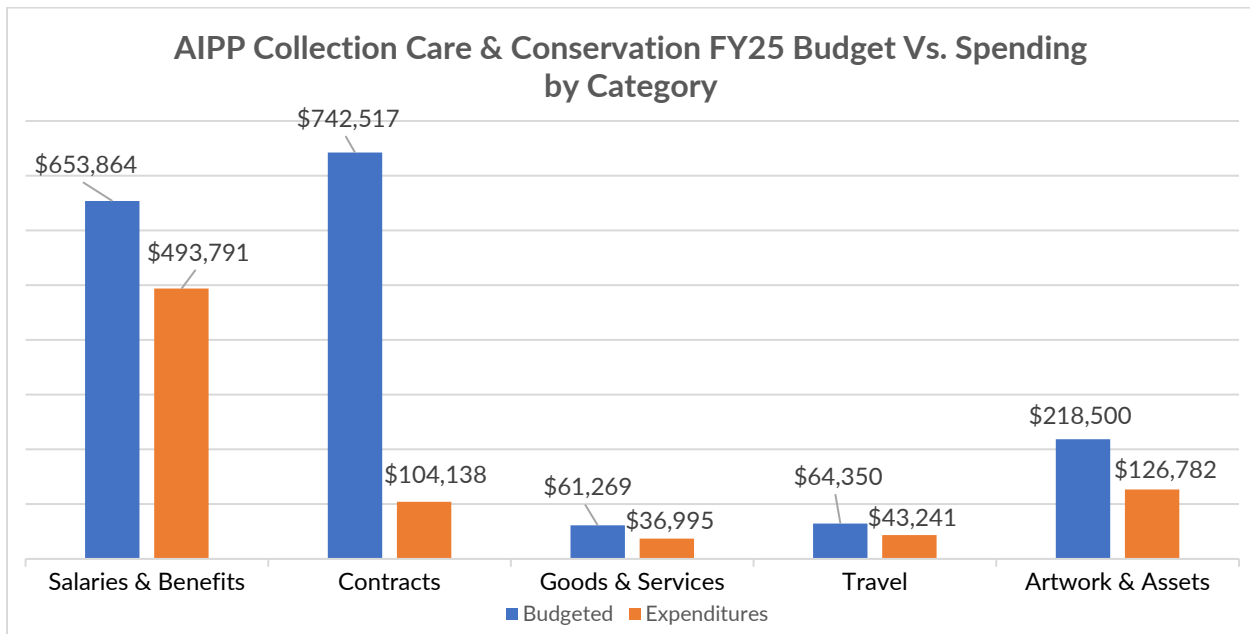
AIPP: Acquisitions Notes & Updates:

Allotments for this program are an estimate. All acquisitions are reimbursable, so the goal each fiscal year is to have all expenditures reimbursed, whatever that total amount is, by fiscal-year close. Interagency reimbursements are expected to match or exceed expenditures by the end of the year.

Art in Public Places: Collection Care and Conservation – 6.28 FTE

- \$1,540,500 spending authority
- \$200,000 interagency agreements
- \$1,740,500 total budget
- \$804,947 expenditures to date - **54% remaining**

This includes the staff and expenses to manage the care of the State Art Collection, the majority of which is covered through the agency's operating budget. In addition to salaries and benefits, expenses include database management, statewide travel for staff, tools and materials, and contracting with professional conservators to preserve and maintain the Collection.



AIPP: Collection Care & Conservation Notes & Updates:

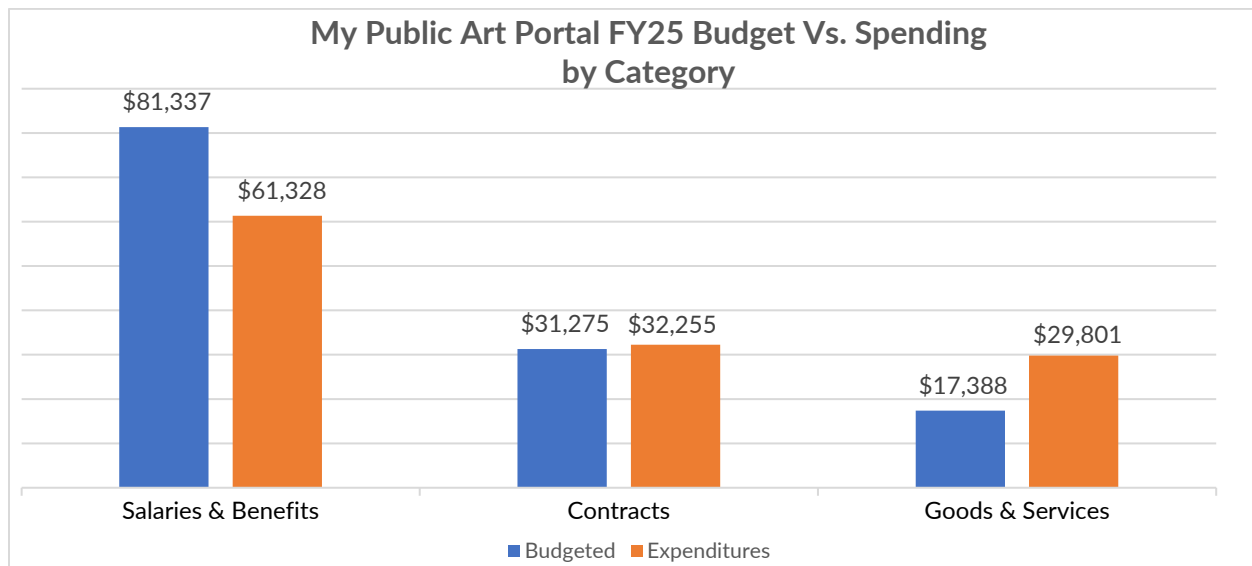
\$735,000 in Capital funds was appropriated for conservation of select artworks in the State Art Collection, which are allotted here under Contracts. \$95,550 of those funds have been paid out, and the budget request has been submitted to reappropriate any funds that have been unspent at the end of the year to next biennium.

Continued work has been done by the AIPP team on the Art Collection database migration to Axiell, in collaboration with My Public Art Portal, which went live October 1st.

Art in Public Places: My Public Art Portal – 1.12 FTE

- \$130,000 total budget
- \$123,383 expenditures to date –**5% remaining**

The portal is funded entirely through the General Fund. Expenses include research, writing, image processing, and IT management (including staff oversight and server costs) for the online version of the State Art Collection.



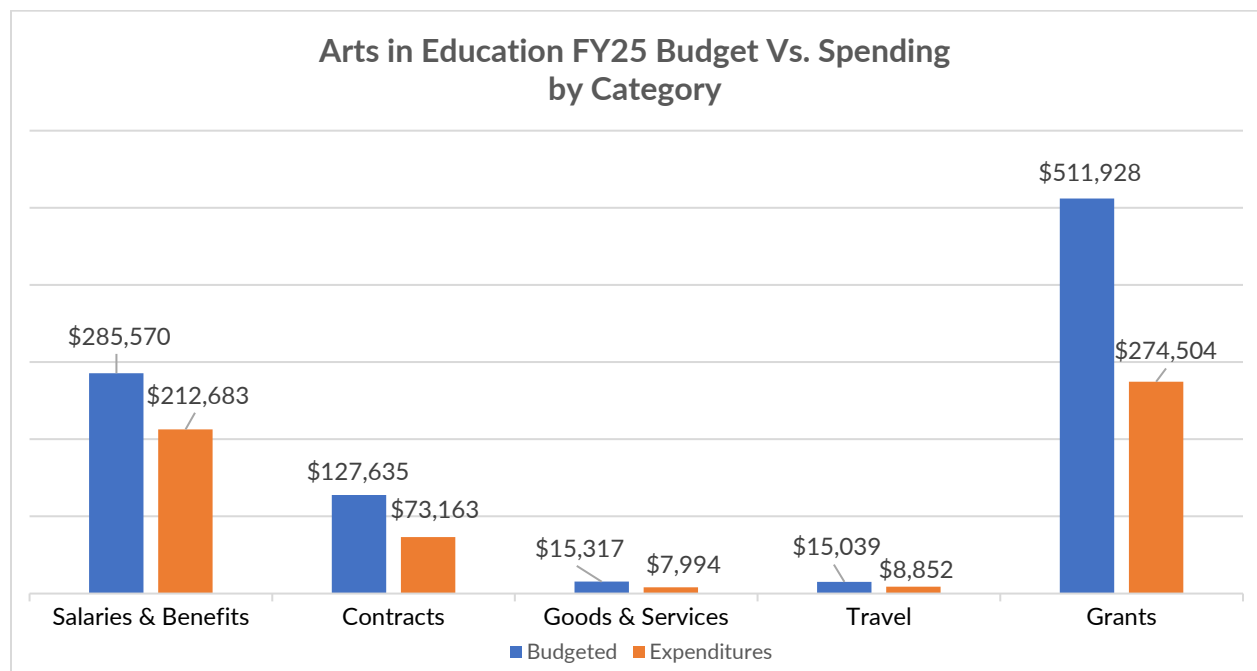
AIPP: My Public Art Portal Notes & Updates:

Much of the Portal's expenses have come at the beginning of the year with the upgrade of the Art Collection database to Axiell. Heide is working closely with Janae to manage expenses with increasing technology costs.

Community Investments: Arts in Education - 2.5 FTE

- \$919,285 spending authority
- \$36,204 interagency agreements
- \$955,489 total budget
- \$577,196 expenditures to date – **40% remaining**

This includes our AIE grant programs, Poetry Out Loud (POL), the Teaching Artist Training Lab (TATLab), and Washington Youth Arts Leadership (WAYAL). In addition to State General Funds, funding includes The National Endowment of the Arts and continued partnership with the WA Employment Security Department (ESD) for Career Connect WA. Key partnerships include the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).



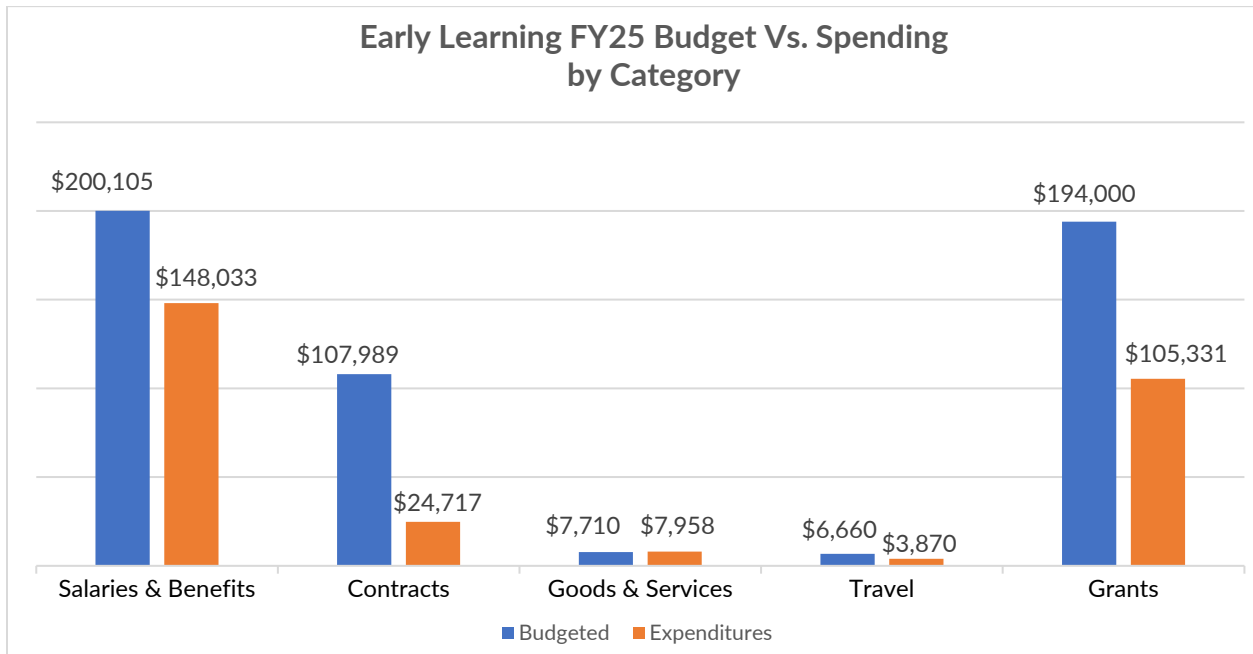
Community Investments – Arts in Education: Notes & Updates:

Approximately \$512,000 is budgeted for grants this year, with the majority being the second year of 2-year grants. Approximately half the grant funds have been paid out so far, with the remaining grant payments to be paid closer to the end of the fiscal (and school) year.

Community Investments: Early Learning - 2 FTE

- \$516,464 total budget
- \$289,908 expenditures to date – **44% remaining**

This includes the Creative Start Early Learning program, which receives funding through the General Fund and the Laird Norton Foundation. Key partnerships include the Wolf Trap Foundation.



Community Investments – Early Learning: Notes & Updates:

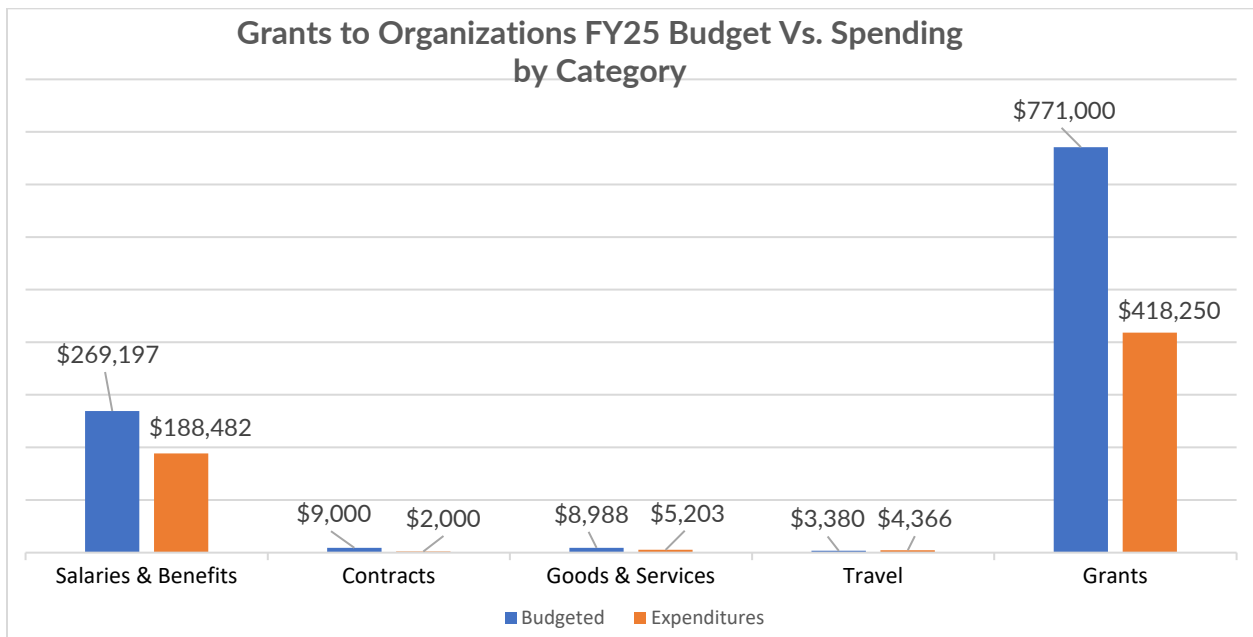
Like AIE, most expenses to date have been administrative, as most grant payments will come later in the fiscal year. \$194,000 is budgeted for grants this year through this program, with over \$105,000 having been paid out so far.

In addition to the \$30,000 received this year from the Laird Norton Foundation (LNF), approximately \$70,000 in unspent LNF funds rolled over from last year to go towards the ongoing Wolf Trap partnership. These funds are budgeted here under Contracts.

Community Investments: Grants to Organizations – 3 FTE

- \$1,061,565 total budget
- \$618,301 expenditures to date - **42% remaining**

This includes administrative expenses, costs for convening and staffing panels, and working with granting partners and constituents. In addition to State General Funds, funding includes The National Endowment of the Arts.



Community Investments – Grants to Organizations: Notes & Updates:

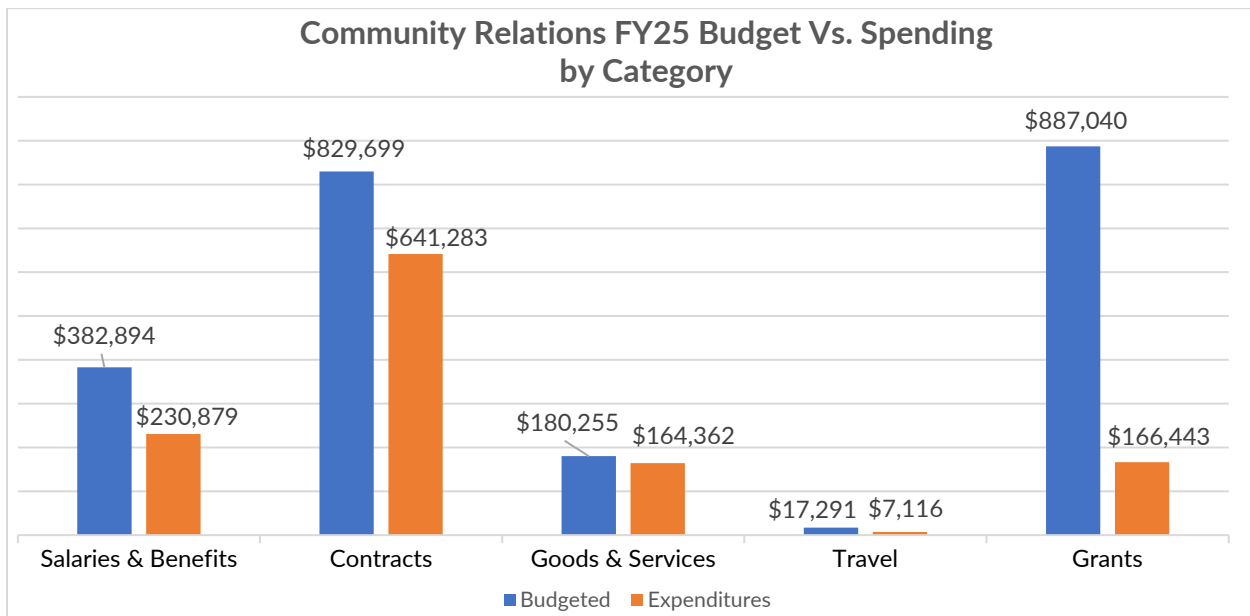
With the end of COVID Relief funds from Department of Commerce, the Grants to Organizations program returns closer to pre-COVID funding levels. Approximately \$525,500 is budgeted in grants this year, split between Art Project and General Operating Support grants.

Approximately half of the \$242,500 pass-thru grant funds for the Path With Art therapeutic arts project have been paid, with a payment for Q3 currently pending.

Community Relations – 3 FTE

- \$2,247,179 spending authority
- \$50,000 interagency agreements
- \$2,297,179 total budget
- \$1,210,083 expenditures to date – **47% remaining**

Community Relations contains both Communications and Community Development (Creative Districts, Building for the Arts, Change Leader). This area supports the administration and management of these programs, travel, webinars, meetings, constituent communications, and technical support. Funding for this program comes from several sources, including State General Funds, Capital funds, The National Endowment of the Arts, private fundraising, and partnerships with the Department of Commerce.



Community Relations - Notes & Updates:

We've paid out \$35,000 of the \$82,500 budgeted in Creative Districts operating grants for new districts and districts up for recertification (every five years). Over \$700,000 in Capital funds remains in the biennial appropriation for Creative Districts. Capital projects are underway for existing Districts, with just over \$71,000 paid out to date for FY25.

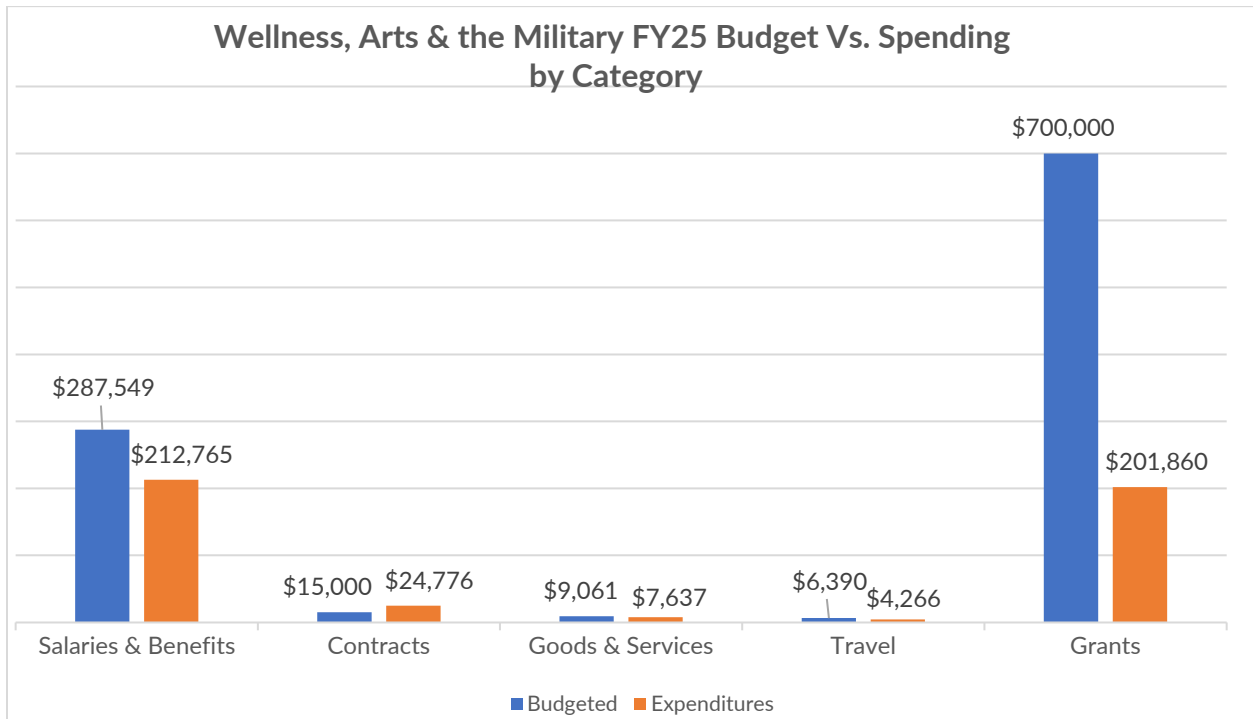
The Customer Relationship Management (CRM) project received \$889,000 in funding for FY25 and work is being done with consultants from Integrated Solutions Group (ISG) to build out the database in Salesforce. Approximately \$640,000 in expenses have been paid so far, and we anticipate the system will be ready to launch to staff in May.

A \$38,461 grant was received from Creative West (formerly WESTAF) to complete accessibility updates to the ArtsWA website, which are currently underway.

Wellness, Arts, and the Military – 3 FTE

- \$1,018,000 total budget
- \$451,304 expenditures to date - **56% remaining**

This program's budget comes from the General Fund and includes administrative costs, events, and approximately \$700,000 in grants. Key partnerships include the Department of Veteran Affairs.



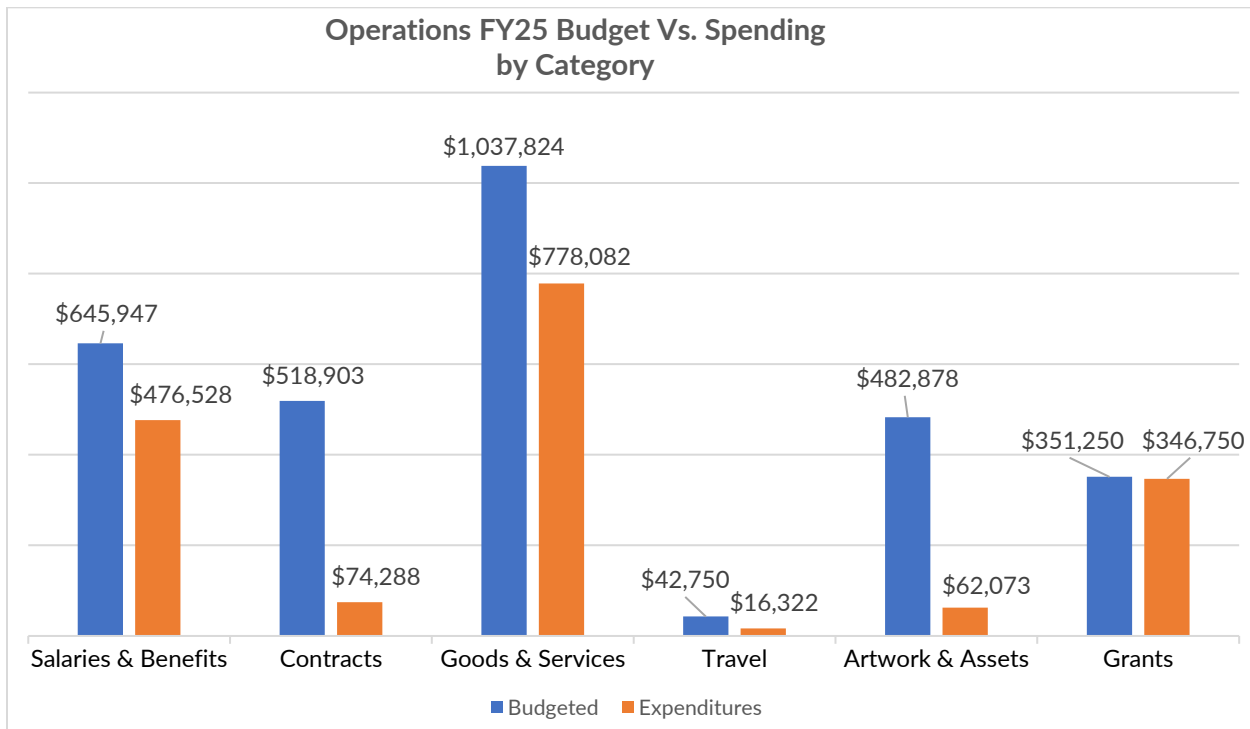
Wellness, Arts, and the Military - Notes & Updates:

This program offers Self-directed Art Practice (SAP) grants to U.S. military-connected individuals, and General Operating Support grants to organizations that offer arts programs to military-connected individuals and communities. We anticipate that the remaining grants will be paid out by the end of the fiscal year.

Operations – 5 FTE

- \$3,019,552 spending authority
- \$60,000 interagency agreements
- \$3,079,552 total budget
- \$1,695,435 expenditures to date - **45% remaining**

Operations includes a large variety of agency operational costs. Examples include commission member travel, meeting costs, building rent, telephones, membership dues for national and regional organizations, equipment, accounting, computers, and the staff working on agency-wide operations. Also included under the Operations umbrella is the Folk Arts partnership with Humanities Washington and the Billy Frank Jr. Statue project. The majority of funding comes from State General Funds and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Operations Notes & Updates:

\$944,000 is budgeted for the completion of the Billy Frank Jr. statue project in FY25. The final statue design was approved by the Architect of the Capitol and the Joint Committee of the Library. We are moving forward with the competitive solicitation for the fabrication of the bronze statue. \$708,000 of these funds are flagged for reappropriation as the project stretches into next fiscal year.

FY25 funds have been paid to Humanities Washington to support WACultures, formerly the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions (CWCT). \$150,000 pass-thru funds for the Schack Art Center's public art installation have been paid.

Creative Districts: Funding recommendations

Creative District recertifications:

Issaquah, Langley, Port Townsend, Tenino, Twisp

Recertification overview

Creative Districts are eligible for recertification after five years. Communities must fulfill certain criteria to be considered for recertification, particularly around completion of required program activities. Pending funding, recertified districts are eligible for a 'recertification grant' of \$7500.

Recertification criteria

- **Fulfillment of prior activities (50%):** Applicant demonstrates: completion of required program activities, including Creative District wayfinding and signage, submission of annual reports and attendance at mandatory events; placemaking is evident in Creative district; completion of at least one ARTS-funded capital project; advancement of strategic plan goals; demonstration of financial and organizational stability.
- **Application packet (25% of score):** Applicant demonstrates: completeness of application packet, support from local government, analysis of past challenges, demonstration of past activities.
- **5 – 10 year plan (25% of score):** Applicant demonstrates: feasible budget, comprehensive strategic plan, continued participation from community members and partners, advancement of overall community goals

Process

ArtsWA received recertification packets from Issaquah, Langley, Port Townsend, Tenino, and Twisp by our requested due date of April 15, 2025. Their respective recertification dates all fell within close proximity to one another, therefore it was decided to vote to approve all at this Board meeting. Upon review, Creative Districts Program Manager Aaron Semer confirms that each District fulfilled all recertification criteria. They are each eligible to receive a \$7,500 recertification operating funds grant.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the recertification of Issaquah, Langley, Port Townsend, Tenino, and Twisp creative districts and approve operating funds grants in the amount of \$7,500 for all 5 Districts.

Submitted by:

Aaron Semer, Creative Districts Program Manager

April 15, 2025

Grants to Organizations: FY26-27 Emerging/Small Organization General Operating Support

Program Background

This program offers General Operating Support grants to Emerging and Small Organizations. Groups can apply for Fiscal Sponsorship with our partner Shunpike through this application.

Funding amounts

Applicants can request up to \$6,000 split across two years (\$3,000 x 2) for general operating expenses. Grant amounts may vary depending on available funds.

Eligibility

- Groups must have three members or more with assigned titles, roles, and duties.
- A mission that centers arts, culture, and/or heritage.
- Publicly accessible programming.
- Emerging Organizations have at least one year of experience managing their organization and providing at least one public program.
- Small Organizations have at least three years of experience managing their organization and providing regular public programming.
- Be based in Washington State.
- Annual operating budget between \$0-\$50,000, or
- Annual operating budget is between \$50,000 and \$100,000.
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit, or Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3).
- Organizations operating as affiliates of National Organizations must be part of a group exemption.
- Unincorporated groups may apply but must gain fiscal sponsorship before July 1, 2025.

Priority Funding Process

Starting with the FY26 funding cycle, GTO implemented priority-based criteria to ensure our limited funds are distributed equitably. This funding structure and process is strategically designed to maximize support for our growing community while aligning with the objectives in the agency's strategic plan.

Priorities for Operating Support Grants/Emerging/Small Organizations

- Annual operating budgets of \$0 to \$50,000 (first consideration).
- Annual operating budgets of \$50,000 to \$100,000 (second consideration).
- Businesses located in counties identified by the state as a distressed area: Clallam, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Yakima.
- Organizations serving constituencies consisting of 25% or more of an underserved group.

"Underserved" means populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, historical exclusion and marginalization due to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economics, disability, or other social or institutionally imposed barriers.

Process

A total of 148 applications were submitted or reviewed during the application period (January 21 – February 28, 2025.) Staff reviewed applications to ensure organizations were eligible for the program and grouped applications by Priorities-met. Forty (40) organizations are recommended for funding.

Attached is a list of recommendations for funding and declines. Applicants are given 21 calendar days, from the date the denial letter is sent, to appeal these decisions.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the panel's recommendation for FY26 General Operating Support for Emerging/Small Organization grants totaling \$110,350 as provided in the packet.

Submitted by:
Miguel Guillen
Community Investments
Grants to Organizations, Program Manager
April 4, 2025

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Emerging/Small Organization Operating Support

Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board of Commissioners or the Executive Director – depending on grant amounts - before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Organization	County	Ask Amt	FY26/27 Total Grant	FY26 Grant Amt
Apple Hill Art Camps	Okanogan	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Applied Education Foundation	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Art Without Borders	Franklin	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
ARTrails of Southwest Washington	Lewis	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Bayside Singers	Pacific	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
Chewelah Arts Guild	Stevens	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Clear Creek Farm	King	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Community Art Studio of Skamania	Skamania	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Das Biest Performance Project	Pierce	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Enspire Arts	Clark	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
ETERNVL	Benton	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
FEED NEEDS	Mason	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Finnish American Folk Festival of Naselle	Pacific	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Gifts of Music NW	Whatcom	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$2,600
Graycoast Guildhall	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Island Verse Literary Collective	San Juan	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Kent International Festival	King	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Long Beach Peninsula Acoustic Music Fdn	Pacific	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Museum of Special Art	Snohomish	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Mythsinger Legacy Project	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Northeast WA Community Radio Guild	Stevens	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Olympic Strings Workshop	Clallam	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Pend Oreille Players Association	Pend Oreille	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Plas Newydd Farm Arts Initiative	Clark	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000

Podular	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Pork Filled Presentations	King	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
Port Angeles Arts Council	Clallam	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,500
Rhapsody Winterguard	Snohomish	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Seattle Peace Chorus	King	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
Seattle Qabila Project	King	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,750
Songwriting Works Educational Fdn	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
South Sound Symphonic Band	Pierce	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Stage West Community Theatre	Grays Harbor	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
STANCE	King	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
String and Shadow Puppet Theater	Thurston	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Thurston County Museum of Fine Arts	Thurston	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Ukrainian School Vyriy	King	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
White Bluffs Quilt Museum	Benton	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Willapa Players, Incorporated	Pacific	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Yakima-Morelia Sister City Association	Yakima	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
	Total Ask	\$228,700	Total Granted	\$110,350

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Emerging/Small Organization Support

Not Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Generally, applications not recommended for funding did not satisfy priorities as outlined in guidelines or were not funded due to lack of available funds.

Organization	County	Request
Mid-Columbia Children's Museum	Benton	\$6,000
Chelan Pride	Chelan	\$6,000
Dangerous Women	Chelan	\$6,000
Arts of Clark County	Clark	\$6,000
Chor Anno	Clark	\$6,000
La Center Arts Council	Clark	\$6,000
Starbird Theatre	Clark	\$6,000
Art Without Borders	Franklin	\$6,000
Oak Harbor Creative Arts Foundation	Island	\$6,000
OutCast Productions	Island	\$6,000
Wolfe & Crow Productions	Jefferson	\$6,000
Art Commons	King	\$6,000
ART PARTY FESTIVAL	King	\$6,000
Artma Pop-Up	King	\$6,000
Center on Contemporary Art	King	\$6,000
Clarinetissimo	King	\$4,000
CO.DANCE LLC	King	\$6,000
Collaborative Musicians Project Inc	King	\$6,000
Culture Generation	King	\$6,000
CVC Legacy Project	King	\$6,000
Dance Theatre Seattle	King	\$6,000
Dunya Productions LLC	King	\$6,000

Eurasia Arts Foundation	King	\$6,000
Fairwood Community Group	King	\$6,000
Freakout	King	\$6,000
Guild Dance	King	\$6,000
Hollow Earth Radio	King	\$6,000
Issaquah Philharmonic Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Iu-Mien American Association	King	\$6,000
Karin Stevens Dance	King	\$6,000
Kirkland Civic Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Literary Nights	King	\$6,000
LitiArts Foundation	King	\$5,000
Mary Sigward + Artists	King	\$6,000
Master Chorus Eastside	King	\$6,000
Mechanismus	King	\$6,000
METHOD Gallery	King	\$6,000
Mongolian Cultural Center	King	\$6,000
Northwest Edvard Grieg Society	King	\$6,000
Northwest Opera in Schools, Etc.	King	\$6,000
Noveltease Theatre	King	\$6,000
Painter Pals	King	\$6,000
Parley	King	\$6,000
Peyvand	King	\$6,000
Pony World Theatre	King	\$6,000
Poser Productions	King	\$6,000
Project CliKK A Nonprofit Corporation	King	\$4,000
Redmond Tech Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Rya Art LLC	King	\$6,000
SCRiB LAB	King	\$6,000
Seattle Chamber Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Seattle Film Society	King	\$6,000
Seattle Flow Arts Collective	King	\$6,000
Seattle Qabila Project	King	\$6,000

Seattle Storytellers Guild	King	\$6,000
SIS Productions	King	\$6,000
Socks on my Hands Productions	King	\$6,000
Sustain Music Project	King	\$6,000
Swim Pony Pacific Northwest	King	\$6,000
The Queens Project	King	\$6,000
The Raven Chronicles	King	\$6,000
The Vestibule LLC	King	\$6,000
The Woodinville community Band	King	\$6,000
THIS IS INDIAN COUNTRY	King	\$6,000
Time Outside of Time LLC	King	\$6,000
Veronica Project Space	King	\$6,000
Wellspring Ensemble	King	\$6,000
Yeleen Production.org	King	\$6,000
Amabile	Kitsap	\$6,000
Enoch City Arts	Kitsap	\$6,000
Hadley Cook-Dryden	Kitsap	\$6,000
Barefoot Collective	Pierce	\$6,000
One Table Show	Pierce	\$6,000
SENC Co Creates	Pierce	\$6,000
Swan Creek Art Academy	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Light Trail	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Tango	Pierce	\$6,000
Toolbox Learning Laboratories	Pierce	\$6,000
Actors Theater of Orcas Island	San Juan	\$6,000
San Juan Islands Sculpture Park	San Juan	\$6,000
Lookout Arts	Skagit	\$6,000
Shakespeare Northwest Association	Skagit	\$6,000
Cynthia Gahan	Snohomish	\$6,000
Educational Dream Achievers	Snohomish	\$6,000
Friends of Frank DeMiero	Snohomish	\$6,000
Huong Viet Performing Arts Group	Snohomish	\$6,000

Katrina Dance	Snohomish	\$6,000
Lake Stevens Arts and Parks Foundation	Snohomish	\$6,000
Maya Soleil LLC	Snohomish	\$6,000
Poetry Northwest	Snohomish	\$6,000
Seattle Wind Symphony	Snohomish	\$6,000
Snohomish Art Community	Snohomish	\$6,000
Spark! Creativity	Snohomish	\$6,000
The Sound Ensemble	Snohomish	\$6,000
Carbonation Press	Spokane	\$6,000
Finding Human Project	Spokane	\$6,000
Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library	Spokane	\$6,000
MaryDanceStudio	Spokane	\$6,000
Spokane Folklore Society	Spokane	\$2,000
Spokane Valley Arts Council	Spokane	\$6,000
Christen Greene	Thurston	\$6,000
Moving Parts Dance	Thurston	\$6,000
Olympia Arts and Heritage Alliance	Thurston	\$6,000
South Sound Dance Access	Thurston	\$6,000
Artistic Recovery Therapies	Whatcom	\$6,000
Blaine Community Theater	Whatcom	\$6,000
Jazz Center of Bellingham	Whatcom	\$5,000
Stage Time	Whatcom	\$5,000
The Gladish Players	Whitman	\$6,000
	Total	\$643,000

Arts in Education Program - Overview

ArtsWA supports arts learning as a part of basic education for all students PreK-12. The Arts in Education (AIE) program expands arts education access through grants, professional development, youth leadership opportunities, and ongoing research.

Goal: Support statewide access to arts education for all preK-12 students.

Strategies:

1. Foster collaboration within the arts education landscape.
2. Expand learning opportunities for educators working to close the opportunity gap.
3. Strengthen youth, educator, and family civic engagement with the arts and cultural sector.
4. Ensure arts learning is accessible to all PreK-12 students in Washington State.
5. Elevate the role of arts education in Washington State through data, research, and accountability.

FY26 AIE Grant Programs – Background

Arts in Education grants invest in partnerships between schools, community and arts organizations, and teaching artists to ensure arts instruction is supported as an essential part of basic education for Preschool and K-12 students across Washington State. The AIE program is managing two grant programs for the FY26 year, the Creative Start Project Grant and the Sustaining Project Grant.

AIE Grant	Funding Source	Timeline
Creative Start Project Grant 1-Year FY26	<i>State funds only</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application opened: January 14, 2025• Application closed: February 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.• Board presentation: April 29, 2025• Notification of grant award: by May 9, 2025• Grant funded activities: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Sustaining Project Grant 2-Year FY26 - FY27	<i>State and Federal funds (NEA Partnership)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application opened: January 14, 2025• Application closed: February 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.• Board presentation: April 29, 2025• Notification of grant award: by May 9, 2025• Grant funded activities: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 & July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

FY26 Creative Start Project Grant – Overview

The Creative Start Project Grant funds projects that integrate the arts to support learning for preschool to 3rd grade students. This one-year grant focuses on helping students grow creatively, academically, and emotionally, with a strong emphasis on equitable access to arts

education. It encourages partnerships between educators, schools, families, teaching artists, and organizations to create inclusive and culturally relevant arts experiences for students.

The Creative Start Project Grant is focused on:

PreK-3 students

- Arts integration: teaching and learning that connects an arts discipline with non-arts curriculum in a way that meets standards and objectives for both
- Sequential arts integration teaching and learning

Funding Amounts:

\$10,000 (only full amounts awarded in FY26).

- No matching funds required.
- Final awards are determined by panel scores and funding priorities.

FY26 Creative Start Project Grant - Process

All grant applications were submitted electronically, via Submittable, by the application deadline on February 13, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

One grant panel reviewed all eligible applications for the FY26 Creative Start Project Grant using the review criteria published on our website and in the grant guidelines. Each application was reviewed by four panelists.

After independently submitting preliminary scores for each application, the panel met virtually on April 8th, 2025. Panelists discussed criteria-based evaluations of applications and came to a consensus on a panel final ranking order.

Following the panel, staff added ten (10) additional points to applications with project sites in distressed counties. Counties are determined as distressed based on unemployment statistics provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department in cooperation with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Staff calculated awards to match the post-panel final ranking order and the program's allotted budget.

FY26 Creative Start Grant - Panelists

Jess Peña Manalo (*Seattle*)

Jess Peña Manalo (they/them) is an arts administrator, educator, and teaching artist dedicated to Culturally Sustaining Arts Education. They are interested in how the different parts of the educational ecosystem can work together towards a liberatory arts education experience for all youth. Jess has a decade of experience teaching music in Spanish and English at dual language schools, alongside roles in city and state government education departments, and have served as both a teaching artist and arts administrator in the nonprofit sector. They are currently pursuing a Master's in Culturally Sustaining Education at the University of Washington, with research focused on the arts education as a means of affirming students' Community Cultural Wealth and imagining an Educational Otherwise. Jess is a Fulbright-Hays Scholar, a contributing author to both the Washington Ethnic Studies Now Music Education Framework and the Visual and

Performing Arts' Roots Framework from Seattle Public Schools, and a clinician on anti-oppression work through arts and storytelling.

Amy McIntyre (*Port Angeles*)

Amy is a photographer on the North Olympic Peninsula working as a communications specialist for the Port Angeles Food Bank. She's led arts and cultural nonprofits, freelanced as a teaching artist, and is a currently working artist exploring themes of place, belonging, and change. Amy earned an associate in arts degree from Peninsula College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington in Integrated Social Sciences.

Kathryn Stahl (*Ellensburg*)

Kathryn Stahl is an Assistant Professor at Central Washington University and works as an actor, acting coach, and director for several theatre companies in the south Puget Sound area. Kathryn spent two years in Nebraska, working for The Omaha Children's Theater Company as an actor, director and teaching artist. In 2018, Kathryn earned her MFA in acting from Michigan State University. Her creative practice and scholarship live within the worlds of directing, performance, theatre education, devising, theatre for young audiences, and developing sensory theatre experiences for neurodivergent participants.

Andrea Vielma (*Seattle*)

Andrea Vielma, known affectionately as "Flaquita" (Lil' Skinny) at home and "Ho'e Mahana" (Day One) with Huraiti Mana, has been involved in both dance and the performative arts since she was 4 years old. Andrea's roots lie in Central and South America, roots that she proudly explored and shared through dance. In 2017, Andrea joined Huraiti Mana, a local Polynesian Dance Troup, and due to her devotion, she stepped up as a children's dance assistant in 2023. In 2024, she took over the Adult's Beginning Ori class. For Andrea, dance has always been an expression of joy, resistance, and culture.

FY26 Creative Start Project Grant - Applications and Funding Requests

The FY26 Creative Start Project Grant program received 35 eligible applications, with a total request amount for FY26 of \$350,000.

ArtsWA's current projected budget allotment for the FY26 Creative Start Project Grant program can support an approximate 57% of the grant applicants at their full request.

Recommendation

The Board approves the panel's recommendation for FY26 Creative Start Project grants totaling \$200,000 as provided on the next two pages.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Sarah, Arts in Education Project Manager

April 29, 2025

FY26 Creative Start Project Grants - Recommended for Funding

Organization	Project	County	FY26 Recommended
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Little Voices, Big Traditions: Growing Through Language, Music, Art, and Culture	Okanogan	\$10,000.00
Key City Players, Inc	Theater Adventure Week: Early Learner Classroom Unit	Jefferson	\$10,000.00
Port Angeles School District	Creative Start- Blooming Artists Program	Clallam	\$10,000.00
Educational Service District 123	Building Blocks of Creativity	Franklin	\$10,000.00
Willapa Heritage Foundation	Mike Morris Elementary School K-3rd Arts Integration Program	Pacific	\$10,000.00
Port Townsend School District, Salish Coast Elementary School	The Song and Dance of Nature	Jefferson	\$10,000.00
Padilla Bay Foundation	Junior Artists of the Estuary: Integrating art and science learning at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Skagit	\$10,000.00
Evergreen Social Impact	Adaptation of Hispanic Myths and Legends for Children	King	\$10,000.00
Lopez Children's Center	Little Hands, Big Stories: Integrating Art and Indigenous Wisdom	San Juan	\$10,000.00
Sedro-Woolley School District	Enhancing Opportunities for Skill Development Through the Arts	Skagit	\$10,000.00
Seattle Children's Theatre Association	SCT @ Your School Residencies at Lowell Elementary	King	\$10,000.00
Freeway Park Neighborhood Group	Preschool in the Park: Creating Connections with Dance, Music, Acts of Service and Creative Play	King	\$10,000.00
Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center	Arts Equity and Learning Opportunities for BIPOC Low-Income and Foster Learners in Pierce County	Pierce	\$10,000.00
MaryDanceStudio	Bridging Cultures Through Dance: An Arts-Integrated Learning Program for PreK-Grade 3	Spokane	\$10,000.00
Orcas Island Education Foundation / Art for Orcas Kids	Art for Orcas Kids/OIEF Collaborative Arts Integration at Orcas Island School District	San Juan	\$10,000.00

Feed Needs	Nourish Sprouts: Cultivating Creativity Through Art & Gardening Storytelling	Mason	\$10,000.00
Oroville School District	Using Picture Books as a Springboard to Art Integration in Primary Classrooms	Okanogan	\$10,000.00
Empowering Youth and Families Outreach	Creative Minds Dance and Music Class	King	\$10,000.00
Seattle School District NO 1	Artist Residencies at Adams Elementary for Equitable and Dynamic Early Learning	King	\$10,000.00
Power House Theatre Walla Walla	Arts integrated field trips focusing on STEM concepts for early learning students in the Walla Walla Valley	Walla Walla	\$10,000.00
Total Requested:			\$200,000.00
Total Recommended:			\$200,000.00

FY26 Creative Start Project Grants - Not Recommended for Funding

Not Recommended for Funding	County	Request
Creator Zone Org	Snohomish	\$10,000.00
Family Rhythms	Clark	\$10,000.00
Spokane Hearing Oral Program of Excellence (HOPE)	Spokane	\$10,000.00
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation	King	\$10,000.00
Hawk Foundation for Research and Education in African Culture	Thurston	\$10,000.00
Ann Grace Ministry	Kitsap	\$10,000.00
Whidbey Children's Theater	Island	\$10,000.00
Bushwick Northwest	King	\$10,000.00
Healthy Habits 4 Life	King	\$10,000.00
Volunteers of America Western Washington	Snohomish	\$10,000.00
The Whale Museum	San Juan	\$10,000.00
Enspire Arts	Clark	\$10,000.00
Educational Service District 112	Clark	\$10,000.00
Olympic Peninsula Alpaca Rescue	Clallam	\$10,000.00
Mobius Spokane DBA Mobius Discovery Center	Spokane	\$10,000.00
Total Non-Funded Request:		\$150,000.00

FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant- Overview

The Arts in Education (AIE) Sustaining Project Grant is a two-year grant that supports a variety of arts learning projects in Washington's schools, nonprofits, Tribal communities, and other community settings. This grant funds efforts to sustain, deepen, and grow arts learning opportunities for PreK-12 students.

The Sustaining Project Grant is focused on:

PreK-12 students

- Sequential arts integration teaching and learning
- Open to both in-and out-of-school PreK-12 Arts in Education programming

Funding Amounts:

- Minimum of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$30,000, distributed over two years (FY26 & FY27).
- No matching funds required.
- Grant amounts vary depending on the available funds and number of applications received. Final award amounts are determined by panel scores and funding priorities.

FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant- Process

All grant applications were submitted electronically, via Submittable, by the application deadline on February 13, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

Three grant panels reviewed all eligible applications for the FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant using the review criteria published on our website and in the grant guidelines.

After independently submitting preliminary scores for each application, FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant panels met virtually on April 1st, April 2nd, and April 9th, 2025. Panelists discussed criteria-based evaluations of applications and came to a consensus on a panel final ranking order.

Following the panel, staff added up to 15 additional points to applications that met either of the following funding priorities:

- Ten (10) additional points to applications with project sites in distressed counties. Counties are determined as distressed based on unemployment statistics provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department in cooperation with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Five (5) additional points to applications from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with annual operating budgets of \$350,000 or less.

Staff calculated specific funding levels to match the post-panel final ranking order and the program's allotted budget.

FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant - Panelists

Mateo Acuña (Auburn)

Mateo Acuña is a poet, librettist, and actor who splits his time between Auburn and Seattle, Washington. He was the 2023-2024 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate and currently serves as the

2024-2026 Auburn Poet Laureate. He is a board member of YouthSpeaks, on the Youth Advisory Board for the LGBTQ Commission, and previously served as a panelist on the selection committee for the 2025 Seattle Civic Poet.

Sally Anvari (*Olympia*)

Sally is the granddaughter of eastern Washington farmers and grocers, family of musicians, educators, and entrepreneurs, partner of an adventurer, and mother of two. Sally has completed the Summer Dance Institute for Teachers at the Creative Dance Center, is TAT Lab alumni and holds a Master in Teaching degree from the Evergreen State College. Sally currently works with Johansen Olympia Dance Center, Ballet Northwest and SilverKite Community Arts. As founder of Inhabit Artistry, Sally offers creative and responsive programming, guidance, support and care through teaching, coaching and consultation enhanced by the art of dance and embodiment practices. Sally finds power, belonging and community in dance and sees the possibilities for people to inhabit their bodies with compassion, alight with genius, joy and love.

Kmbris Bond (*Wenatchee*)

Kmbris is an artist currently in Wenatchee, WA. She shares her passion for art in many areas of her ever broadening community both in the classroom, or at a local winery, in the after school programs or online internationally. In 2019 Kmbris completed the TAT Lab, Teaching Artist Training Lab. During the year to follow she lead a local team to start the NCW Artist Alliance which continues to connect and support artists throughout the region, facilitates a monthly art walk with map and articles in a local art magazine and collaborates with local entities to offer events and access to the arts in the Wenatchee Valley.

Domingo Gonzalez (*Wenatchee*)

Domingo is a local musician and educator from Cashmere, WA and holds a BA in Music Education from the University of Idaho. After spending 5+ years teaching throughout North Central Washington school districts, he now works at Icicle Creek Center of the Arts as well as serves on the Numerica Performing Arts Center Board. His involvement in the valley has included contributing music direction, vocals, instrumentals, and conducting in the Leavenworth Summer Theater, Icicle Creek Youth Symphony, Wenatchee Big Band, Apple Blossom Musicals, Hot August Nights, Holiday Spice, and the Wenatchee Follies among many other groups.

Ryan Hardesty (*Pullman*)

As the Executive Director for the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Washington State University, Ryan is responsible for the strategic leadership of the museum to bring the visual arts to the WSU Pullman community and beyond. Prior to coming to WSU, Hardesty held a twelve-year tenure at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (Spokane, WA). Additional museum experience includes work with the Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, MA), Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University (Waltham, MA) and Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA). Ryan holds fine art degrees from the University of Washington and Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

(*Commissioner - Appointed July 2022*).

Miranda Hein (*Spokane*)

Miranda Leigh Hein is based in Spokane and serves as ArtsEd Washington's Executive Director. Miranda is a lifelong performing artist, arts educator, and arts advocate. Her artistic passions include the intersection between performing arts disciplines, and the intersection between personal and cultural experiences; her professional passions include advocating for equitable and meaningful experiences in education.

Olga Loktev (*Spokane*)

Olga is a dancer, choreographer, and a certified dance instructor. She began her training at a young age and is still pursuing her dance career. Olga is dancing and choreographing with Vytal Movement Dance company and is working towards receiving her higher education in Psychology and Communications from Eastern Washington University.

Justin Raffa (*Richland*)

Justin Raffa is the Artistic Director of the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers in the Tri-Cities, a position he's held since 2008. A former public school music teacher, Justin is a choral director and professional singer who is active with several ensembles across the Pacific Northwest. Justin is the immediate past Chair of the Board of ArtsWA and was pleased to serve an eight-year term. He remains an active member of the agency's advocacy efforts and regularly participates in gatherings like Arts, Heritage, and Science Day in Olympia. Justin holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Westminster Choir College.

(Former Commissioner).

Bennyroyce Royon (*Seattle*)

Bennyroyce is a queer, Filipino American, dance artist, and cultural producer based in Seattle. They are a graduate of The Juilliard School, a former Broadway performer, and an award-winning choreographer. Bennyroyce is passionate about the performing arts, education, and community building. They currently serve as co-chair of the Eastside Culture Coalition, Program Director at the Filipino Community of Seattle, co-curator for the Base Residency Program, and a Washington State Arts Commissioner. Throughout their creative career, Bennyroyce continues to explore ideas of identity, culture, and belonging, inspired by love, nature, and the cosmos.

(Commissioner - Appointed July 2024).

Austin Sargent (*Seattle*)

Austin Sargent is a nonprofit consultant with years of dedicated service in the Arts and Culture, Education, and Youth Services sectors. He identifies creatively as a creative writer and theatre maker, and spends his free time at concerts, in galleries, or walking his dogs. Austin holds an MFA in Arts Leadership and a Certificate in Fundraising Leadership from Seattle University.

Andrea Vielma (*Seattle*)

Andrea Vielma, known affectionately as "Flaquita" (Lil' Skinny) at home and "Ho'e Mahana" (Day One) with Huraiti Mana, has been involved in both dance and the performative arts since she was 4 years old. Andrea's roots lie in Central and South America, roots that she proudly explored and shared through dance. In 2017, Andrea joined Huraiti Mana, a local Polynesian Dance Troup, and due to her devotion, she stepped up as a children's dance assistant in 2023. In 2024, she

took over the Adult's Beginning Ori class. For Andrea, dance has always been an expression of joy, resistance, and culture.

ArtsWA Staff

The following ArtsWA staff members scored selected applications to ensure that each application had four reviewers with no reported conflicts of interest. Staff reviewers included Judy Cullen, Alexis Sarah, Carina A. del Rosario, Daniya Baisubanova, and Gabriella Smith.

FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant - Applications and Funding Requests

The FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grant program received 126 eligible applications, with a total request amount for FY26-FY27 of \$3,565,520.50 (\$1,782,760.25 per year).

ArtsWA's current projected budget allotment for the FY26-27 Sustaining Project Grant program can support an approximately 38% of the grant applicants at a percentage of their requested amounts.

Recommendation

That the Board approves the panel's recommendation for FY26-27 Sustaining Project Grants totaling \$994,376.35 as provided on the next six pages.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager

April 29, 2025

FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grants - Recommended for Funding

Organization	Project	County	FY26-FY27 Request	FY26-FY27 Recommended
Great Bend Center for Music	Sound Scholars™	Mason	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Arts Corps	Nuestra Casa Intergenerational Arts	King	\$30,000.00	\$28,500.00
Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	EDE's Steps to Creativity Program	Kittitas	\$30,000.00	\$27,000.00
Stage Kids	Building a Musical Theater Education Program for Grant County Youth	Chelan	\$30,000.00	\$27,000.00
Hands On Children's Museum	Bringing Arts Learning to Children with Incarcerated Parents	Thurston	\$30,000.00	\$25,500.00
Toolbox Learning Laboratories	Art of CRAFT Series	Pierce	\$30,000.00	\$25,500.00
Spokane Children's Theatre	Spokane Children's Traveling Theatre	Spokane	\$30,000.00	\$24,000.00
REACH Ministries	Creative Expression Sessions	Pierce	\$15,369.50	\$12,295.60
Heartful Rootz	Plant Family: IHEAL	King	\$30,000.00	\$24,000.00
Olympia Family Theater	Empowering Youth Through Inclusive Theater Education	Thurston	\$30,000.00	\$24,000.00
DJH Kids and Community Center	Creative Kids: Long Beach Peninsula	Pacific	\$29,620.00	\$23,696.00
Eastern Washington State Historical Society	Museum to Classroom: Visual Thinking Strategies Partnership	Spokane	\$30,000.00	\$24,000.00
Columbia Basin Allied Arts	Art Box Curriculum	Grant	\$15,000.00	\$12,000.00
Ted Brown Music Outreach	Resilient Rhythms - Cultivating Strength, Expression, and Growth, One Beat at a Time	Pierce	\$26,925.00	\$20,193.75
Jack Straw Foundation (dba Jack Straw Cultural Center)	Telling Our Stories: Arts and Technology for Youth	King	\$30,000.00	\$22,500.00
Make Shift	Black Feminist Scholars Curriculum Presented by Make.Shift Art Space	Whatcom	\$15,000.00	\$11,250.00

Speak With Purpose	Speak With Purpose (In-School Programming @ Thurgood Marshall Elementary School)	King	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Educational Service District 123	Art Educator Excellence Exchange: A Consortium Focused on Growing Art Access in their Schools	Franklin	\$30,000.00	\$20,930.00
The Benji Project	Jefferson County Youth Exploring Mindfulness and Self-Compassion Through Art	Jefferson	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Union Cultural Center	ILLUMINATE Cultural Arts in Schools	King	\$29,900.00	\$21,000.00
FREE2LUV	EXPRESS IT! Enhancing, Transforming, and Saving Youth's Lives Through Mental Health Education and the Arts	King	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA)	ReWA's Youth STEAM Program: Arts in Education Project	King	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Stongertowns	YEA Music Jazz Immersion Project for improvisation/composition	Jefferson	\$22,680.00	\$15,876.00
Adaptive and Inclusive Movement Initiative	Adaptive Arts Residencies for Youth	King	\$29,650.00	\$20,755.00
Port Angeles Waterfront Center	Peninsula Performs!	Clallam	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Museum of Northwest Art	MoNA Link: Integrating Arts Education in PreK-12 Classrooms	Skagit	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Inspirations Dance Studio	Expanding Dance Access: Bringing Arts Education to Underserved Schools	Spokane	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Warehouse Theatre Group/Warehouse Theatre Company	Musical Theatre Production: Community Theatre to High School Theatre and Back Again	Yakima	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Camas School District	Minor Record Label	Clark	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
After-School All-Stars	All-Stars Creative Arts	King	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00

WA Ethnic Studies Now	Memorial Quilts: Honoring Grief Through Geometric Similarity and Transformations	King	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Rain City Rock Camp for Girls	Rain City Rock Club	King	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00
Seattle Arts & Lectures	Writers in the Schools	King	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia	SOGO 2 Schools	Thurston	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Sawhorse Revolution	We Design for Us: a youth-led community design program	King	\$20,000.00	\$13,000.00
The Blue Door Theatre	Youth Improv League	Spokane	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Seattle Repertory Theater	The Next Narrative Monologue Competition	King	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Hilltop Artists in Residence	Hilltop Artists Glass Arts Education and Mentoring Programs	Pierce	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Jazz Center of Bellingham	Jazz in Schools	Whatcom	\$28,200.00	\$19,500.00
South End Stories	South End Stories' In-Class Arts Education Program	King	\$30,000.00	\$18,330.00
Pacific Northwest Ballet Association	DISCOVER DANCE	King	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Olympia School District	ACE Internship Program (acronym currently stands for Avanti Creative Economy; proposed change to Arts Career Exploration, starting in 25-26 school year).	Thurston	\$30,000.00	\$17,875.00
Seattle Children's Theatre Association	SCT Engagement Residencies at King County Juvenile Detention	King	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Tukwila School District	Multilingual Musical Migration Stories	King	\$27,500.00	\$19,500.00
Methow Arts Alliance	Okanogan Arts Initiative	Okanogan	\$30,000.00	\$19,175.00
Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center	Experience the Arts - Breaking Arts Barriers for Low-Income Pierce County Students	Pierce	\$29,500.00	\$19,500.00

Port Angeles Fine Arts Center Foundation	Port Angeles Fine Arts Center Field Education Program	Clallam	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Allied Arts of Whatcom County	Allied Arts Education Project	Whatcom	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
Total Requested:			\$1,369,344.50	
			Total Recommended:	\$994,376.35

FY26-FY27 Sustaining Project Grants - Not Recommended for Funding

Organization	County	FY26-FY27 Request
Confluences	Clark	\$30,000.00
Centrum Foundation	Jefferson	\$30,000.00
TeenTix	King	\$30,000.00
Holocaust Center for Humanity	King	\$15,000.00
Arts Council of Snohomish County DBA Schack Art Center	Snohomish	\$30,000.00
Mending Wings	Yakima	\$30,000.00
The 5th Avenue Theatre Association	King	\$30,000.00
Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library	Spokane	\$30,000.00
Gage Academy of Art	King	\$30,000.00
Seattle Art Museum	King	\$30,000.00
Seattle Public Schools	King	\$29,280.00
Tacoma Arts Live	Pierce	\$30,000.00
Palouse Discovery Science Center	Whitman	\$25,000.00
Friends of the Columbians	Benton	\$30,000.00
Friends of KSPS	Spokane	\$30,000.00
Anacortes Arts Festival	Skagit	\$30,000.00
South Sound Dance Access	Thurston	\$30,000.00
LANGSTON	King	\$30,000.00
Refugee Choir Project	Pierce	\$30,000.00
GHASEA	King	\$30,000.00
Roosevelt PTA 4.5.55	Thurston	\$30,000.00
Seattle Collaborative Orchestra	King	\$30,000.00
Cedar Park Elementary PTA	King	\$30,000.00
The Key to Change	King	\$30,000.00
Columbia Choirs Association	King	\$28,590.00
The Rhapsody Project	King	\$30,000.00

The Salvation Army, a California Corporation DBA The Salvation Army Northwest Division	King	\$30,000.00
Northwest African American Museum	King	\$30,000.00
Spokane Valley Summer Theatre	Spokane	\$20,000.00
Sister Cities Council of Tacoma - Pierce County	Pierce	\$20,000.00
Mari's Place	Snohomish	\$30,000.00
School of Acrobatics & New Circus Arts	King	\$30,000.00
Mongolian Cultural Center	Snohomish	\$30,000.00
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra	King	\$30,000.00
The Montessori School of Pullman	Whitman	\$24,200.00
Seattle School No. 1	King	\$30,000.00
Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association	King	\$30,000.00
Peninsula Hands On Art	Pierce	\$15,000.00
Arts Impact	King	\$30,000.00
Edmonds Center for the Arts	Snohomish	\$30,000.00
Center for Global Muslim Life	King	\$30,000.00
Greenriver College Foundation Interurban Center for the Arts	King	\$30,000.00
Ethnic Cultural Heritage Exchange	King	\$30,000.00
Bandit Theater	Pierce	\$28,436.00
Coupeville School District	Island	\$30,000.00
Intiman Theatre	King	\$27,500.00
Northshore Schools Foundation	King	\$30,000.00
Youth Theatre Northwest	King	\$30,000.00
Central Kitsap School District	Kitsap	\$30,000.00
Experience Learning Community	King	\$30,000.00
Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra	King	\$30,000.00
Spark Central	Spokane	\$30,000.00
Urban ArtWorks	King	\$30,000.00
Pickford Film Center	Whatcom	\$30,000.00
Dieringer School District	Pierce	\$30,000.00
Seattle Shakespeare Festival	King	\$30,000.00
Vashon Allied Arts, Inc.	King	\$30,000.00
Ballard High School Performing Arts Boosters	King	\$30,000.00
Greentrike	Pierce	\$30,000.00
Gallery One	Kittitas	\$25,400.00
Walla Walla Community College (the Kids College program at WWCC)	Walla Walla	\$30,000.00

Museum of Glass	Pierce	\$30,000.00
SIFF	King	\$30,000.00
BAAAY	Whatcom	\$17,876.00
The Greater Seattle Bureau of Fearless Ideas	King	\$30,000.00
Chewelah Performing and Cultural Arts Center	Stevens	\$15,000.00
The Dance School	Snohomish	\$30,000.00
Tacoma Art Museum	Pierce	\$30,000.00
Events that Benefit	Snohomish	\$15,000.00
Kuntz Community Arts	Whatcom	\$20,000.00
Central Kitsap School District	Kitsap	\$30,000.00
Skagit Watershed Council	Skagit	\$24,894.00
Cascadia Art Museum	Snohomish	\$30,000.00
Bethel School District	Pierce	\$30,000.00
Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra	King	\$15,000.00
Skagit River Poetry Foundation	Skagit	\$30,000.00
Music Discovery Center through Leadership Kitsap	Kitsap	\$30,000.00
HOQUIAM School District 28	Grays Harbor	\$30,000.00
Total Non-Funded Request:		\$2,196,176.00

Tribal Cultural Affairs: FY26 Tribal Cultural Grant

Program Background

Funding for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

This non-competitive grant offers funding for Washington State Federally-recognized Tribes to support Tribal communities as they expand, enhance, or create space for art and culture that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs.

Funding amounts

The current allocation amount per application this cycle is \$17,000 per Tribe if all 29 Tribes apply. The application includes space for each Tribe to identify an additional funding request that will be considered if additional funding becomes available, or if all Tribes do not apply. Funding not requested by the closing date will be reallocated as additional funding to those that applied.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a Washington State Federally-recognized Tribe.
- Each Tribe may submit one application, but the application may support several different projects.
- Funds may support Tribal cultural activities: this will be determined by your Tribe including but not limited to language, foodways, gathering spaces, classes or mentorships, regalia making, carving, weaving, Tribal museums, support for culture teachers, and more.

Tribal Cultural Grant Priorities

- Support Washington Tribal communities as they expand, enhance, and create space for art and culture, in a way that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs.
- Support projects, programs, and services spanning a diversity of cultural/art disciplines and traditions.
- Foster equity and expand the creative economy by funding Tribes and Indigenous artists that have historically been excluded from government arts funding.

Process

The application period for this grant was February 3, 2025 – March 31, 2025.

After the application period officially ended on March 31st, staff reviewed the final list of submitted applications. A total of 29 out of the 29 Tribes applied for funding.

Following is a list of the 29 recommended eligible applications, and 0 declined eligible applications. Applications are listed by Tribal name and includes project, county, request, and recommended grant amount.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the recommendation for the FY26 Tribal Cultural Grant totaling \$493,000 as provided in the packet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Wilcox, Tribal Cultural Affairs, Program Manager

April 9, 2025

Tribal Cultural Affairs

FY26 Tribal Cultural Grant | Recommended for Funding

Recommendations over \$5,000 require approval by the Board of Commissioners before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Recommended for Funding	Project	County	Request	Recommended
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Summer Youth Camp	Yakima	\$36,000	\$17,000
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Elders Cultural Arts and Gathering	Grays Harbor	\$21,429	\$17,000
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Old Time Made New & Tech and Art	Okanogan	\$36,000	\$17,000
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cowlitz Weaving Program	Cowlitz	\$38,000	\$17,000
Hoh Indian Tribe	Cultural Classes	Jefferson	\$38,000	\$17,000
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Inviting S'Klallam Language into Our Daily Lives	Clallam	\$28,000	\$17,000
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Kalispel Culture and Canoe Journey	Pend Oreille	\$38,000	\$17,000
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Honoring Tradition: Potlatch Preparations Continue	Clallam	\$21,000	\$17,000
Lummi Nation	Culture is Prevention: Reconnecting Lummi families involved in the Child Welfare system with ancestral ways of living and being	Whatcom	\$36,000	\$17,000
Makah Tribe	Continuation of Makah Art: Gathering, Classes, Talks and Dance Gear	Clallam	\$43,000	\$17,000
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	Traditional Arts and Crafts	King	\$28,000	\$17,000
Nisqually Indian Tribe	spədpədalikʷ gʷət ʔə tə sqʷalɪʔabš swatiχtəd - Plants of the Nisqually Land	Thurston	\$25,000	\$17,000
Nooksack Indian Tribe	Empowering Youth Through Culture: A Coast Salish Mural, Crafts, and Educational Incentives Program	Whatcom	\$25,500	\$17,000

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Port Gamble S'Klallam Cultural Classes	Kitsap	\$24,000	\$17,000
Puyallup Tribe	Historic Creation Rendering Project (HCRP)	Pierce	\$36,000	\$17,000
Quileute Tribe	Quileute Tribe Print and Online Dictionary Project	Clallam	\$24,000	\$17,000
Quinault Indian Nation	Quinault Language Events	Grays Harbor	\$24,000	\$17,000
Samish Indian Nation	Support for Samish Chelángen (Culture) Resource Specialist	Skagit	\$68,000	\$17,000
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	Cultural Resource Weaving Programs	Skagit	\$23,000	\$17,000
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe	Weaving Together Knowledge through Cultural Stewardship, Preservation, and Art.	Pacific	\$36,000	\$17,000
Skokomish Indian Tribe	Skokomish Food Preservation Project	Mason	\$36,000	\$17,000
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe	Snoqualmie Tribe Child Development Culture Lab, Harvest Kitchen, and Greenhouse Classrooms	King	\$23,000	\$17,000
Spokane Tribe of Indians	High Top Moccasin Class and Traditional Immersion Stories, Games, and Wilderness Camp	Stevens	\$26,000	\$17,000
Squaxin Island Tribe	Woven Wisdom: A Journey in Regalia Making	Mason	\$60,000	\$17,000
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Stillaguamish Salmon Ceremony	Snohomish	\$25,000	\$17,000
Suquamish Tribe	Reconnecting Lushootseed with our Suquamish People	Kitsap	\$20,000	\$17,000
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	Ethnobotany of Swinomish Book	Skagit	\$28,000	\$17,000
Tulalip Tribes	bedachelh Culture Nights	Snohomish	\$29,000	\$17,000
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Planning & Design Upper Skagit Cultural Museum	Skagit	\$30,000	\$17,000
		Total Request	\$925,929	
		Total FY26 Recommended		\$493,000

Tribal Cultural Affairs

FY26 Tribal Cultural Grant

Not Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board of Commissioners before they are official.
Direct any public inquiries to staff.

All eligible applications are recommended for funding.

2025 Washington State Poetry Out Loud

Program Overview

- Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a core requirement of our partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.
- Launched in 2005, the program engages high school students (grades 9–12) in the art of poetry recitation.
- Students build public speaking skills, gain self-confidence, and connect deeply with classic and contemporary poetry.

2025 Statewide Participation

- Total Students: 8,332
- Schools Represented: 37
- Students advanced through classroom, school, and regional competitions.
- Virtual participation is offered for homeschool students and those whose schools do not participate.

State Final – March 9, 2025

- Held at Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma, WA
- Finalists: 11 top-scoring students from 4 regions + 1 POL Virtual participant

Winners

- **State Champion: Sydney Frost**, Mt. Spokane High School (Eastern Region)
 - Will represent WA at the National Finals, May 6–7 in Washington, D.C.
 - ([See video](#))
- **Runner-Up: Nascha Martinez**, Stanford Online High School (POL Virtual)
 - ([See video](#))
- **Honorable Mention: Elizabeth McAleer**, Battle Ground High School (SW Region)
 - ([See video](#))



2025 POL State Final Winners
Photo by Pavel Verbovski

Poetry Forward – Original Poetry Contest

- Open to all school champions and Virtual POL students.
- Winners recognized during the POL State Final.
 - **First Place: “Home” by Sidra Marshall**, Anacortes High School (NW Region)
 - **Honorable Mentions:**
 - **Luis Mata**, River Ridge High School (SW Region)
 - **Elizabeth McAleer**, Battle Ground High School (SW Region)
- Listen to 2025's recognized poems recited by their authors, [here](#).

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Sarah, Arts in Education Project Manager
Judy Cullen, Arts in Education Program Specialist

April 29, 2025



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

EXECUTIVE ORDER 24-04

**INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN WASHINGTON
STATE GOVERNMENT**

PREAMBLE

Washington state is committed to fostering a diverse workforce that reflects the richness of all our residents and an inclusive and welcoming work culture that promotes belonging and equal and fair opportunity for all.

WHEREAS, Executive Order 22-02, Achieving Equity in Washington State Government, was signed in January 2021 because state government recognizes and embraces its responsibility to dismantle discrimination and institutional and systemic barriers; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 22-04 was signed in March 2021 to advance a pro-equity anti-racism ecosystem and require real systemic and policy change so that each person in this state has a fair chance to live life to the fullest, regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sex, veteran or military status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, or the presence of sensory, mental, or physical disability; and

WHEREAS, achieving equity and diversity within our state agency workforce requires a comprehensive approach to recruitment and hiring that identifies and eliminates barriers to employment and institutional discrimination. It also requires every employee to understand how our processes create burdens for some in our community and access for others and that understanding systems barriers is a lifelong journey we are each responsible for; and

WHEREAS, Washington state strives to be a leader in the movement towards equity and justice, and we are committed to demonstrating our progress in measurable ways, starting within our own state agencies which employ more than 50,000 people in service to nearly eight million residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the state of Washington do, effective immediately, hereby order and direct as follows:

To achieve consistent and measurable progress in inclusive employment opportunities throughout Washington State government, executive and small cabinet agencies shall take steps within the scope of each agency's responsibility, including but not limited to these listed below, to accomplish the requirements and goals of this Executive Order.

1. Hiring Standardization

The On-Line Recruiting System (OLRS) was implemented across state agencies in 2010 to streamline the recruitment process and facilitate efficient candidate management. Agencies use the OLRs inconsistently across the enterprise. This results in a lack of enterprise data to understand where people from historically marginalized communities may be experiencing barriers and exclusion in the recruitment process.

Effective March 1, 2025, state agencies will use the OLRs to comply with the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and Office of Financial Management State Human Resources (OFM SHR) policy, including the appropriate assessment, categorization, and movement of candidates through the recruitment process stages. This includes compliance with recruitment and referral language in accordance with the Washington Administrative Code and collective bargaining agreements.

2. Improving Access to State Employment

State agencies will move towards a competency-based hiring process as a proven best-practice to create objective skills-based hiring. This will reduce bias in candidate selection. State agencies will:

- Remove degrees as the only way to meet a required qualification unless the degree is required by law to perform the essential functions of the job. Instead, agencies must either offer at least one other alternative way to meet that qualification (e.g., years of related experience) or list competency-based requirements. This action is also required by SHB 2216, effective June 2024.
- By July 1, 2025, remove certifications, specific years of required experience, and other biased qualifications (e.g. required English proficiency, driver's licenses, lifting 50lbs., etc.) unless there is an established standard for it by OFM SHR or their agency HR.
- By December 31, 2025, agencies will replace degree and year requirements (unless required by law or as an industry or profession standard) with the skills, abilities, and knowledge (competencies) necessary for performing the role. Applicants must demonstrate how they meet the skills, abilities, or knowledge for the role which may include degree, or work, personal, or lived experience.

By February 1, 2025, the Washington State Office of Equity (EQUITY), DES, OFM SHR and the Statewide DEI Council, will complete a toolkit to assist agencies in advancing equity in hiring, as well as provide guidance on how to incorporate competency-based qualifications in the toolkit.

3. Improving Washington State Government's Equity Competency

To equitably and fairly serve all people in Washington state, every state employee must have an awareness of two principles: people (both individually and as communities) face different obstacles to accessing state services; how we choose to treat people has the power to make it easier or harder for them to be successful.

Effective July 1, 2025, job announcements for employees in executive branch agencies, and the position descriptions they are based on, must contain at least one required equity-minded qualification.

To foster a workforce where all people are served equally and equitably, all state employees must continue their equity competency training. By December 31, 2025, EQUITY, Results WA, DES and OFM SHR, will deploy a statewide equity competency assessment based upon the current [Enterprise DEI Competencies](#), that every Washington state agency must take.

4. Recruitment and Hiring Requirement

Beginning March 1, 2025, every person participating in any part of the recruitment and hiring of new employees shall complete an anti-bias in hiring training. Employees must take the training prior to participating in the hiring and recruitment process. Training is valid for 12 months. After the first year, employees must complete an anti-bias refresher course annually to remain eligible for participation in the state hiring and recruitment process.

By January 1, 2025, DES will publish the required learning objectives of anti-bias in hiring training, and offer both initial and refresher trainings. However, for agencies who develop their own training, DES will manage an approval process.

By March 1, 2025, OFM SHR, EQUITY, and the DEI and Talent Management councils will provide a toolkit for how agencies can improve equity throughout the hiring and recruitment processes.

5. Pay Equity (OFM)

To achieve our goals of equal pay for same or similar work, hiring managers must apply a pay equity lens upon making compensation offers to prospective hires. In addition to following the Equal Pay and Opportunities Act (EPOA), hiring managers should work with their agency HR to review the compensation of their current team members and a compensation offer for any new employee should be given with the understanding of how it relates to other team members with similar skills doing similar work.

By December 1, 2024, OFM SHR in collaboration with EQUITY will provide guidance on how to apply a pay equity lens for compensation offers and current employees in the toolkit referenced in section 2.

6. Reporting Requirements

Below is an overview of reporting requirements for impacted agencies. It is important to note that for all sections, reporting time frames and processes may require adjustment due to the One Washington ERP implementation. Timely notification of any changes will be communicated to reporting agencies.

By December 1, 2024

- DES and OFM SHR will provide Online Recruitment System (OLRS) training and standard definitions for agencies to follow. This process will improve the collection and reporting of statewide data to understand the effectiveness of Washington state's recruitment processes.
- OFM SHR will also track demographic data to identify which specific communities are disparately falling out of each part of the process. This data will help identify and design targeted process improvements.

By March 1, 2025

- Agencies will report to OFM SHR their initial hiring plan, including what actions they will take to transition towards their future competency-based hiring process. OFM SHR will provide information about how to create these plans by February 1, 2025.

By September 30, 2025

- Agencies will report the progress on their pay equity plan, annually, through a reporting process to be determined by SHR.

By October 30, 2025

- Agencies will report the progress on their competency-based hiring plan through a process to be determined by OFM SHR.
- Agencies will report agency compliance, annually, through a reporting process to be determined by DES and OFM SHR.

By April 30, 2026

- OFM SHR will submit an annual report on agency compliance to the governor's office and data will be published on OFM SHR and EQUITY's dashboards.

By October 30, 2026

- Agencies will report annual compliance through a process to be determined by SHR.

By April 30, 2027

- OFM SHR will submit an annual report on agency compliance to the governor's office and data will be published on the OFM SHR and EQUITY dashboards.

I encourage other statewide elected officials, institutions of higher education, agencies of the judiciary, agencies of the Legislature, and boards and commissions to follow all applicable provisions of this Executive Order.

Provisions of this Executive Order are not intended to alter any existing collective bargaining agreements. This Order is not intended to confer and does not confer any

legal right or entitlement and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any rule or any other action or inaction of the governmental entities and employees subject to it.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington, on this 4th day of December, AD, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State



Guidance to Agencies: FAQ on Equity and a Washington for All

“Washington is a place that supports every resident’s civil rights. We recognize that diversity, equity, and inclusivity is a strength.” -Governor Bob Ferguson

Purpose

Washington State is committed to ensuring every person in Washington has access to the opportunities and resources they need to pursue the life they want to lead. We cannot leave anyone behind. This document provides resources, guidance, and support to help you serve all Washingtonians. We will continue to update it as questions come and circumstances change. We are committed to a Washington for All and we must work collectively. There is no hidden message or covert effort. “Washington for All” means just that; our work benefits every single Washingtonian.

FAQs

What does “equity” mean in Washington State?

Washington law clearly enshrines the right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sex, military status, sexual orientation, or disability. (RCW 49.60.030; RCW 49.60.400). In Washington State, equity means creating access to opportunity and eliminating barriers so that all people can have the opportunity, through hard work *and* access, to thrive and flourish. (RCW 43.06D.020).

Why was the Washington State Office of Equity created?

The Washington State Office of Equity exists within the Office of the Governor to promote access to equitable opportunities and resources that reduce disparities and improve outcomes statewide. ([RCW 43.06D.020](#); RCW 43.06D.040)

How can we continue doing our work?

Maintain your commitment to delivering effective government services free of unnecessary burdens for anyone. Prioritize the unique needs of those who require access to government services. Use plain language to be clear about your intention to serve all Washingtonians.



How do we understand what people need?

The best way to understand the needs of the people we serve is to talk to them, seek their input on changes, and be honest about foreseeable challenges. Prioritize community engagement and assessment and analysis of data to understand the needs and priorities of those who utilize and are affected by state services. Agencies may want to consult with their agency's assigned Assistant Attorneys General (AAGs) when appropriate. Best practices in this process include:

1. Meeting with people in different communities to understand their unique needs.
2. Using additional reliable data sources (qualitative and quantitative) to supplement information shared in community-based meetings.
3. Create targeted approaches that address the needs of all Washington state communities.
4. Maintain and grow engagement to keep community needs current, relevant, and focused on eliminating barriers and improving access.

Why are all these steps necessary?

Government must serve ALL its people. To achieve this, government employees must understand and remove barriers based on factors such as geographic location, economic status, disability status, family situation, or spoken language. Government employees must understand the variety of needs of Washingtonians to remove such barriers.

How can we talk about equity?

How would you describe your work to your friends and family? Know your audience. Talk about our work in a way that people understand. Equity work is about fair access and removing barriers in government systems so we don't leave anyone behind.

What is an example of equity in action?

Every agency has recruitment, hiring, and retention processes. These processes may contain unnecessary barriers that exclude people from competing for jobs they have the skills to perform. Through [Executive Order 24-04: Increasing Employment Opportunities in Washington State Government](#), state employees are actively removing barriers from the hiring process to create a fair system so people can apply for the jobs they desire and have the skills, abilities, and knowledge to do.



What about our equity-related positions?

Equity work is about removing barriers in state government so that every person in Washington can easily access the services they need. Your equity-related position descriptions, title and work, strategic plans, performance metrics, documents, and communications should reflect this goal. The work is not going away, and we must describe it in plain talk so everyone can easily understand it without a dictionary.

How can we continue to meet different needs?

We serve ALL Washingtonians, and we acknowledge that government has not always done this well. At times, the focus has been on serving some at the expense of others, which has contributed to the disparities that exist today. As agencies that serve all Washingtonians, we cannot operate for some while excluding others. We must engage with all communities and build a better picture of what is needed for all people in Washington to access government services that support their goals. We can do this by using principles like [targeted universalism](#) to organize data in a way that helps us to understand the different needs that exist in Washington. Engage with the [people-focused commissions and agencies](#) to support and build trust with communities that have historically been excluded from access to opportunities in Washington.

How should we communicate to reach all Washingtonians?

Develop [accessible](#) public-facing documents that are written in plain language (plain language meaning one does not need a dictionary to understand) and then translated into multiple languages. Translate previously created documents into multiple languages as needed. A list of the most commonly used languages can be found [here](#). Communicate using different approaches to reach different learning styles. Communicate across digital and traditional communications methods to reach all Washingtonians.

What internal agency policies should be current?

We recommend you review, and update as needed, your agency's public disclosure, records retention, data protection policies, and the model policies directed in [HR Directive 20-03](#). We also recommend that you review your agency's Keep Washington Working policy or applicable model policies developed by the Attorney General's Office. Agencies may want to consult with their agency's assigned AAGs when appropriate.



What Washington laws, executive orders, and directives will support us in advancing a Washington for All?

1. Remain in compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act, [RCW 43.17.425](#). The relevant part of the Act requires:

*Except for [as required to comply with state or federal law; in response to a lawfully issued court orders; as necessary to perform agency duties, functions, or other business, as permitted by statute or rule, conducted by the agency that is not related to immigration enforcement; as required to comply with policies, grants, waivers, or other requirements necessary to maintain funding; or in the form of deidentified or aggregated data, including census data], **no state agency, including law enforcement, may use agency funds, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to investigate, enforce, cooperate with, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal registration or surveillance programs or any other laws, rules, or policies that target Washington residents solely on the basis of race, religion, immigration, or citizenship status, or national or ethnic origin. This subsection does not apply to any program with the primary purpose of providing persons with services or benefits, or to RCW 9.94A.685.** (emphasis added)*

2. Understand the Washington state statutes, executive orders, directives, and guidance listed in [appendix A](#).

Available Support

The following Commissions and Agencies are available to provide advice, recommendations and support to ensure every person in Washington is welcome and has access to the opportunities and resources they need to thrive.

Washington State's People-Focused Commissions and Agencies:

- [Commission on African American Affairs \(CAAA\)](#)
- [Commission on Asian and Pacific American Affairs \(CAPAA\)](#)
- [Commission on Hispanic Affairs \(CHA\)](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment](#)



- [Office of Equity](#)
- [LGBTQ Commission](#)
- [Women's Commission](#)

Appendix A: Washington State Statutes, Executive Orders, Directives, and Guidance

RCWs

- [RCW 42.56.475: Department of corrections and private detention facilities.](#)
- [RCW 43.17.425: Immigration and citizenship status—State agency restrictions.](#)
- [Chapter 49.58 RCW: WASHINGTON EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES ACT](#)
 - Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Guidance: [Equal Pay & Opportunities Act](#)
- [RCW 49.60.040: Definitions.](#)

Executive Orders

- [Executive Order 16-01: Privacy Protection and Transparency in State Government “Modernizing State Agency Privacy Protection](#)
- [Executive Order 17-01: Reaffirming Washington’s Commitment to Tolerance, Diversity, and Inclusiveness](#)
 - Highlights include:
 - [RCW 49.60.030: Freedom from discrimination—Declaration of civil rights.](#)
- [Executive Order 19-01: Veteran and Military Family Transition and Readiness Support](#)
- [Executive Order 21-01: Affirming Washington State Business Resource Groups](#)
 - [HR BRG Participation Policy](#)
- [Executive Order 22-01: Equity in Public Contracting](#)



- [Executive Order 22-02: Achieving Equity in Washington State Government](#)
 - [HR Directive 23-01: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training \(DEI\) training](#) for state employees
- [Executive Order 22-04: Implementing the Washington State Pro-Equity Anti-Racism \(PEAR\) Plan & Playbook](#)
- [Executive Order 24-04: Increasing Employment Opportunities in Washington State Government](#)
 - Washington State must improve its ability to serve every person in Washington. Each state agency leader and staff person must be able to flex and adapt to the needs of different communities in Washington State. The toolkit to support agency implementation is coming in February 2025
- [Executive Order 24-05 Improving Employment Outcomes for People with Disabilities in State Employment](#)

Directives

- [Directive of the Governor 16-11: LGBTQ Inclusion and Safe Place Initiative](#)
- [HR Directive 20-03: Requirement for model policies](#)
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
 - Respectful work environment
 - Anti-discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment
 - Reasonable accommodation

Art in Public Places: 2025-29 Public Artist Roster Call

Overview

The Public Artist Roster is the primary tool used by the Art in Public Places program (AIPP) for the selection of artists who create new artworks for the State Art Collection. Art Selection Committees, made up of community representatives, choose an artist from the roster through a series of meetings managed by AIPP staff.

Every four years, AIPP holds an application process for a new roster¹. Those who are successful are eligible for projects at K-12 public schools, colleges, universities, and state agencies throughout Washington. Five arts professionals serve as panelists, including one ArtsWA board member and one staff member from AIPP. They review application materials and score them against published criteria. The panel recommends artists for the roster with final approval required from the ArtsWA board. At the end of four years, the roster expires and artists serving on the roster must reapply to subsequent calls. AIPP holds a mid-term roster call at the two-year mark using the same criteria; those who are successful serve the final two years of the roster's term.

Update

AIPP is preparing for the 2025 Public Artist Roster Call. Continuing the approach of our successful 2021 call, we are increasing outreach to emerging public artists and underserved communities of artists. We have made changes to the application with accessibility in mind, increased our presence on social media, and are participating in workshops and trainings aimed at artists who have not typically responded to our roster call. Online applications are available on May 6 and will close on June 17.

The review panel is scheduled to meet in late July, with artist recommendations submitted for Board approval at the August meeting.

Submitted by:

Michael Sweney, Program Manager

April 18, 2025

¹The application and committee processes are managed in accordance with relevant ArtsWA Washington Administrative Code (WAC): Rosters, 30-12-016; Applications, 30-12-017; and Panels, 30-12-030.

The National Endowment for the Arts is the only funder, public or private, that supports the arts in all 50 states in the United States.

IN THE PAST 5 YEARS...

The National Endowment for the Arts distributed more than **\$20,348,708** in grants in **Washington**.



PC Ryan P. DeWolfe works with Danielle Vetro Kalseth, Music Therapist, HJF, in support of Creative Forces at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) in Anchorage, Alaska. Army photo/John Pennell

In one year alone...

- Arts and cultural production in Washington added **9.8% or \$79 billion** to the state's economy.
- Washington's arts and cultural industries employed **190,684** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling **\$33.4 billion**.
- **44.7%** of Washington's adults attended live music, theater, or dance performances, while **18.2%** attended art exhibits.

National Endowment for the Arts Programs



The **Blue Star Museums** program provided free admission to thousands of active military personnel and their families at **119 participating museums** in Washington.



More than **5,440 students** from **142 high schools** in Washington participated in **Poetry Out Loud**.



The **NEA Big Read** program generated community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **2,634** adults and students in Washington.



The **Shakespeare in American Communities** program in Washington enabled schools to offer **3,132** children the opportunity to see live professional performances of Shakespeare, or to engage in educational programs.



Creative Forces brings creative arts therapies to military personnel and veterans who are experiencing post-traumatic stress, mild traumatic brain injury, and related psychological illnesses. The program also offers community arts programming to improve the well-being and resilience of all military-connected people.

Produced 2025

Various Locations of Arts Endowment-Supported Projects

WA-01

BELLEVUE FARMERS MARKET
KIDSQUEST CHILDRENS MUSEUM
MEANINGFUL MOVIES

WA-02

EVERGREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE
SAN JUAN ISLANDS MUSEUM OF ART
SKAGIT COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
SQUALICUM HIGH SCHOOL
ST JOSEPH CENTER SCHOOL

WA-03

COLUMBIA PACIFIC HERITAGE MUSEUM
COLUMBIA VALLEY GARDENS
HAYES FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL
OKANOGAN HIGH SCHOOL

WA-04

DELTA HIGH SCHOOL
LAKE ROOSEVALE HIGH SCHOOL
MIGHTY TIETON WAREHOUSE
TA&H FUELING STATION
TROUT LAKE SCHOOL
YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM

WA-05

ASOTIN ELEM WILCOX GYM
LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL
TERRAIN GALLERY
THE ALLIANCE FOR MEDIA ARTS + CULTURE WILBUR
SCHOOL GYM

WA-06

ANNIE WRIGHT SCHOOL - UPPER SCHOOL FOR
GIRLS FORKS HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS
FORKS TIMBER MUSEUM
FORT WORDEN STATE PARKMEAD HIGH SCHOOL
PANTAGES THEATER - JONES BUILDING

WA-07

CASCADIA ELEMENTARY
ON THE BOARDS
OPEN BOOKS: A POEM EMPORIUM
PHELPS CENTER
SEATTLE CONVENTION CENTER
VELOCITY DANCE CENTER

WA-08

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
CWU STUDENT UNION AND RECREATION CENTER
FIRST STAGE
GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL MUSEUM
WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

WA-09

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON MERCER ISLAND
COYOTE CENTRAL
EMERALD PARK ELEMENTARY
MS HELEN'S SOUL FOOD BISTRO
NAUTILUS K-8
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

WA-10

CONCORDIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
OLYMPIA TUMWATER FOUNDATION
PELL PRODUCTIONS STUDIO
TASTE OF SAMONA, MAMAPUA BAKERY

**National Endowment
for the Arts:**



Your State Arts Agency:

Washington State Arts Commission

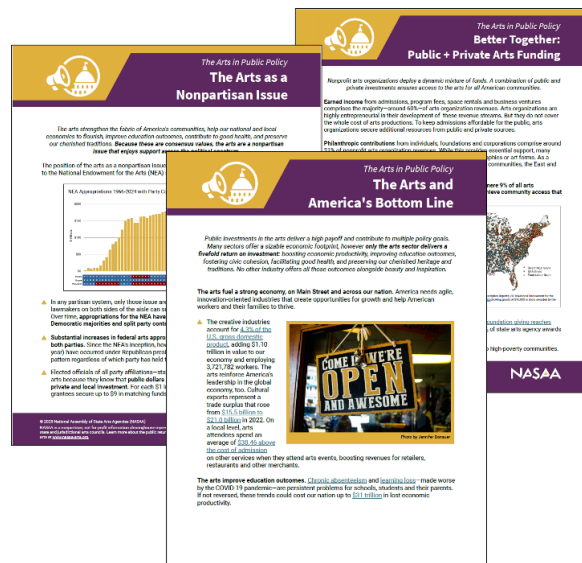
www.arts.wa.gov

This two-page brief is designed to keep council/board members at state and jurisdictional arts agencies informed while offering ideas for action. Include it in the materials for your next meeting!

New Advocacy Tools Help You Make the Case

State legislative sessions and the 119th Congress are in full swing—and as an arts leader, you can convey to your elected officials the value of funding the arts. NASAA's three new policy papers can help! Each offers concise talking points and relevant data to help you communicate the impressive return on investment delivered by government arts funding:

- [The Arts and America's Bottom Line](#)
- [Better Together: Public + Private Arts Funding](#)
- [The Arts as a Nonpartisan Issue](#)



In addition, council members have found these NASAA tools to be especially helpful:

- [Three Simple Ways to Advocate for the Arts](#)
- [Advocacy vs. Lobbying: An Arts Primer](#)

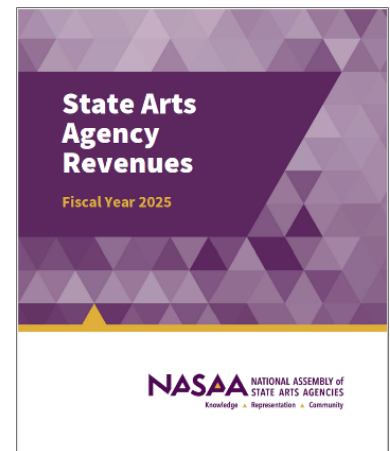


Relationships with Congress Are Key

The National Endowment for the Arts has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress for a long time. Nevertheless, it is important to keep your federal delegation educated and apprised. Fortified with tools and talking points like those above, respectfully share your agency's work and how the [federal-state partnership](#) supports your community. Emphasize that public funding for the arts is a high-return investment that benefits every American in every city, town and rural community. Find more tips in NASAA's advocacy messaging guide, [Arts and Creativity Strengthen Our Nation](#). It's designed to help you advocate using language that resonates across the political spectrum. Discover even more [advocacy tools](#) you can put to use today!

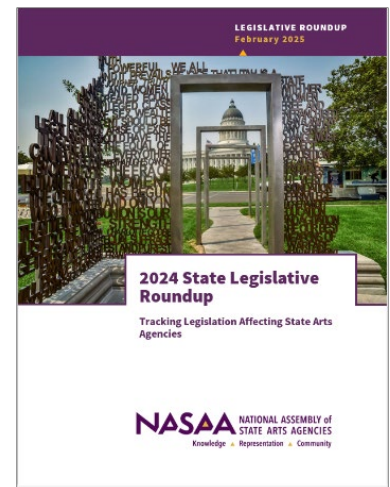
State Arts Agency Revenues, FY2025

Legislative appropriations to state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) decreased from \$755.2 million in fiscal year 2024 to \$694.3 million in FY2025. The overall decline is largely attributed to reductions in a few large-budget states. The good news is that current funding levels remain above prepandemic baselines, indicating a continued commitment to support of state arts funding. To learn more about SAA funding sources, turn to NASAA's [FY2025 State Arts Agency Revenues](#) report. Our [press release](#) offers top level data points and highlights, and our [interactive dashboards](#) make it easy to visualize regional comparisons, trends over time and more. [Contact NASAA](#) to explore how you can use the data in meetings with policymakers and others to support your case.



Significant State Arts Legislation in 2024

For a national view of recent state legislation related to arts and culture, check out our [2024 State Legislative Roundup](#). NASAA tracked 412 noteworthy arts and culture bills in 2024, 73 of which are highlighted in this report. Topics include the creative economy, public art, arts education, pandemic relief and emergency preparedness, state arts agency structure, and more. If you have questions about advocating for state arts funding, have a legislative challenge coming up or would like a sounding board as you plan meetings with legislators, be sure to [call on NASAA](#).



Connect with Peers

Join us at the next chair and council member virtual peer group session, **April 9 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. Eastern**, for a federal policy briefing. Keep an eye out for more details via email—or [register now](#). These informative and free gatherings help you advance your leadership and connect you to peers around the country. Watch our [events calendar](#) for more sessions throughout the year.

Champion the Arts
TOGETHER



Advocacy Powered by You

Your generosity makes NASAA's advocacy possible! Every gift helps provide the resources—like the advocacy tools featured above—that empower you and other influential arts advocates to grow support for the arts in your state. [Learn more](#) or [contribute now](#) to help with this work. Public funding for the arts depends on strong advocacy, and your support makes a difference. Thank you!