

## ArtsWA | Washington Youth Arts Leadership

### FY26 Program Application Guidelines

[APPLY HERE](#)



### What is WAYAL?

The [Washington Youth Arts Leadership \(WAYAL\) Program](#) is an annual cohort of youth and young adults (ages 16-19) from across Washington State. WAYAL leaders work with the Arts in Education (AIE) team at [ArtsWA](#) to explore and amplify the role of arts engagement in their communities. Young artists build community among their peers, gain leadership and communication skills, and explore arts careers with mentors in the field. Youth leaders receive a stipend for their participation.

### What will selected WAYAL cohort members do?

- Explore careers in the arts and cultural sector.
- Refine multimedia communication skills.
- Engage in activities as an artist and critical thinker.
- Gain understanding of the creative economy, arts funding and related policy.
- Build community among their artist peers across the state.

### Important Dates:

- Application & Nomination Opens: **April 14, 2025**
- Application Deadline: **July 10, 2025, at 5:00pm**
- Notification to selected WAYAL cohort members: **August 1, 2025**
- WAYAL cohort members Acceptance deadline: **August 18, 2025**
- WAYAL Program: **September 15, 2025 – May 2026**

### Who Can Apply?

**Application or Nomination:** Youth ages 16-19 (by September 2025) may apply directly to this program. Mentors, teachers or community members may also nominate a youth artist from their communities; once nominated, youth will be contacted to complete the entire application to be considered.

### Eligibility: Applicants/nominated youth must be:

- Between the age of 16-19 (by start of cohort, September 2025).
- A Washington State resident.
- Living within the state of Washington throughout September 2025 – June 2026.
- Engaged in arts or cultural activities **beyond** school-related assignments.
- Interested in building leadership skills and working with youth across the state.
- Able to attend 9-12 afternoon online seminars (September – June); contribute to a collaborative project; and participate in at least 2 learning or leadership opportunities (in-person or online) outside of seminar time.

### How Does ArtsWA Select WAYAL Members?

## Evaluation and Scoring Panel

A panel of artists and educators evaluate eligible applications to the WA Youth Arts Leadership (WAYAL) Program. Panelists use scoring criteria to give a numerical score to each application. An application's final score is the combined average of all panelists' scores. Top scoring applications from each ArtsWA-defined region are selected for the WAYAL program. Panelists will assign each application a score between 1 - 35 using the evaluation and point system below. 35 points is the highest possible score for this application.

### 1. Artistic Practice (15 points possible)

- a) Description of artist work sample
- b) Engagement with art making/creative practices
- c) Interest in exploring creative careers

### 2. Interest Areas (10 points possible)

- a) Interest in exploring a variety of topics related to arts and culture
- b) Interest in joining the WAYAL Program

### 3. Self Reflection (10 points possible)

- a) Areas of Strength
- b) Areas for Improvement

## What is needed to apply?

The online application has required sections including:

- Applicant contact information
- Community References
  - Community Mentor
  - Family or Peer Personal Reference
- Work Sample:
  - Include (1) work sample as a part of your application.
    - **Option 1:** A photo (JPG), maximum (2) files; recommended for visual/media arts work sample.
    - **Option 2a:** A single video (MP4) or audio (MP3) file at a maximum of (3) minutes; recommended for performing arts work sample.
    - **Option 2b:** A single website link directly to a published video or audio file online, such as Vimeo, YouTube, or Spotify. Do not provide a link to a general website home page and do not provide a link to Google Drive, DropBox, or file-sharing sites. If your online video or audio sample is longer than 3 minutes, you're welcome to tell us the timeframe you would like to have considered as a part of your application. For example: from 2:15 - 3:15.
    - **Option 3:** A PDF or Word document with a maximum of (2) pages; recommended for literary work sample.
  - Work samples should be related to your artistic discipline(s) chosen in your application. Work samples can include, but are not limited to, documentation of a performance or a presentation, a paper, poem, or script that you wrote, image and audio files, and examples of public engagement.

- File Upload: Maximum file size is 400MB for a single upload (and 800MB for your entire application). If your file is too big, contact [kalei.matsui@arts.wa.gov](mailto:kalei.matsui@arts.wa.gov) at least by July 8 (48 hours), before the deadline to receive assistance in file conversion and file compression.
- Work samples that go beyond the limits stated below will not be reviewed:
  - Video must be between 1 – 3 minutes in length
  - Links to general websites/webpages or to file-sharing sites such as Google Drive, DropBox, or other file-sharing sites.
  - PDF or Word files must be 1 – 2 pages

## Apply in Submittable

### Online application

Applicants must submit their application through the online grant platform, [Submittable](#). ArtsWA will accept applications in Submittable starting April 14, 2025, through July 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Please see ArtsWA's [Submittable FAQ](#) for additional information on using this platform.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

### Application tip:

- **Saving:** Save your WA Youth Arts Leadership (WAYAL) application form as you work on it by clicking the "Save Draft" button located at the end of this webpage. You can log out and log back in, take a break, or work on your application over several days without losing your information.
- **Required Questions:** Questions marked with a red asterisk "\*" must be completed before you submit your nomination. You will not be able to submit your application if any required questions have been left unanswered.
- **Submitting:** Once you have completed your application, click the "Submit" button at the end of the webpage. You will receive an automated email confirming that your application has been successfully submitted.
- **Print or download** a copy of your application form by navigating to your "Personal Submissions" account list. Click on your application submission. This will open the submission's details page, where you can click the Download button in the upper right of the viewing box.

## Questions?

- Kalei Matsui, ArtsWA Arts in Education Program Coordinator, at 360-252-9987 or [kalei.matsui@arts.wa.gov](mailto:kalei.matsui@arts.wa.gov)
- Carina A. del Rosario, WAYAL Program Specialist, at 360.485.1222 or [carina.delrosario@arts.wa.gov](mailto:carina.delrosario@arts.wa.gov)