



# Art in Public Places

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## Public Artist Roster – Frequently Asked Questions

### Portfolio & Application Materials

#### Why is the first image in your portfolio important?

The first photo uploaded to your portfolio is the first image that selection committee members see, so it's a good idea to put your best piece there or a piece of work that best represents your body of work. We recommend a horizontal image with a 4:5 aspect ratio.

#### Is there any way to submit a video artist statement, or just audio/text?

For the 2025 Roster Application, we offer written and audio options for submitting biographical and artist statements.

#### Do you want 8 photos of one artwork or 8 photos of different artworks?

You are welcome to submit either 8 images of different works or multiple images of the same piece. Whichever best represents your artistic practice and approach to public art. Most applicants choose to show a variety of work to demonstrate range, but it is entirely up to you.

#### Do you have a suggested maximum file size or image dimension for the portfolio images?

Limit your image size to 2-5MB, JPEG or PNG file types. Very long (panorama-scale) images appear blurry. That said, we do not accept TIFF or GIF files, as they load poorly on Submittable.

### Eligibility & Reapplying

#### I'm on the present roster. Can I apply again for this period?

Please do! The current 2021-2025 roster expires this August.

#### I'm part of the current roster, but I haven't gotten any project yet. Should I resubmit?

Yes! Please resubmit to the roster, even if you weren't selected for a project in the previous roster. Every year there are new projects, and different committees, and you never know when your opportunity will come.

#### Is it possible to be accepted to the roster if you haven't done a public art project before?

Yes, it is possible to be accepted to the roster even if you haven't done a public art project before. Our roster includes both emerging and experienced artists. What's most important is demonstrating a strong artistic practice, the ability to work on a project team, and a willingness to adapt your work to public settings.



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## Roster Size & Acceptance

### How many artists are accepted to the roster?

There is no cap on the number of artists we accept to the roster.

### How many artists were accepted onto the 2021 roster?

In 2021, 633 artists applied and 467 were accepted. During the midterm in 2023 we accepted 215 more artists, bringing our total to 682!

## Artist Background & Practice

### For multidisciplinary artists, should we share one discipline or a range in our portfolio?

We encourage you to include in your portfolio any and all disciplines that are important to your artistic practice, keeping in mind the kind of artwork you would want to do for the State of Washington if selected for a project. Keep in mind that you can only submit one application.

### I've never worked as a public artist. How do I select budget categories I'm comfortable working with?

There is an option to check which budget ranges you'll accept. There's also a project manager assigned to each project who can support you in developing a realistic budget.

### What if my practice has been largely in one medium, but I want to expand?

Clearly articulate how your current practice informs your interest in a new medium in your artist statement. You could include photographs of works-in-progress in the new medium to demonstrate your desire to expand. You don't need to be fully established in the new medium, but providing context and showing intentionality can strengthen your application.

### I work full-time. Would I be able to pick and choose jobs offered to me if I was accepted into the roster?

Yes, if you're accepted into the Public Art Roster, you're absolutely able to choose which projects you'd like to pursue. Being on the roster doesn't guarantee assignments or require you to accept work; it simply makes your portfolio available to project managers who are looking to match artists with upcoming opportunities. If you're contacted about a project, you can review the details and timeline to see if it's a good fit for your schedule before committing.

## Materials & Durability

### I am primarily a textile artist working with fabric. Is this material considered durable?

Textiles can be appropriate for indoor commissions. If selected for a project, your project manager and professional art conservators will support you to design textiles that meet our conservation standards.

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### **What is the policy on the use of AI?**

ArtsWA does not prohibit the use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a creative tool. However, images solely created through AI are not acceptable as work samples or commissioned artworks because they are not protected by copyright.

## **Accessibility & Logistics**

### **Does funding cover travel if I live far from the project site?**

Our budgets are inclusive of all travel. If travel costs start to become prohibitive, speak with your AIPP project manager. We can shift some meetings to remote or move funds from the next (commission) contract to help compensate.

### **I have a physical disability that limits my ability to travel. Should I still apply?**

Yes! Most if not all our committee meetings are online. You should not consider this a barrier for application.

## **Project Details**

### **Is there preference for individual artists or teams?**

No, there is no preference between individual artists or teams.

### **Is there an average duration for public art projects?**

Project duration varies based on several factors such as construction, design, and fabrication times lines. On average, projects can take about 2-3 years from the first site visit to installation.

### **Do artists need insurance before applying?**

No, only when you're selected for a project.