

WAYAL Mission (written by WA Youth Arts Leaders 2023)

Young artists are the future of arts leadership. Youth have important perspectives to share in the arts world, yet we are often left out of leadership conversations. Young artists are active and creative members of all communities. Through the Washington Youth Arts Leadership Program, we expand our knowledge and skills to advocate for ourselves and other teen artists.

WAYAL Vision: A diversity of youth from every region of the state are visible members of the arts and cultural field. Youth receive ongoing mentorship and invitation to explore creative careers and pathways. Young arts leaders are included in efforts to:

- support arts education in their communities.
- support career pathways for creative young people.
- honor diverse ideas across cultural identities.
- experiment with new media and new dreams of the future.

Call to Action: WA Youth Arts Leaders encourage *you* to:

- Invite youth perspectives in adult-centered arts and cultural spaces.
- Advocate for youth interests, equity, and representation.
- Identify and address barriers to teen engagement within the creative sector.

We need time and mentorship to practice leadership skills for the future! We want to thrive artistically and expand opportunities for youth! We are the future of arts leadership!

