

WASHINGTON YOUTH ARTS LEADERSHIP 2025

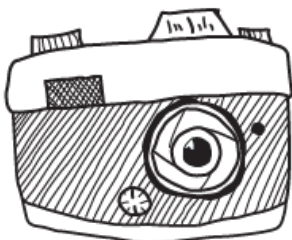
As young arts leaders from across Washington state, we urge elected officials, policymakers, educators, corporate and non-profit leaders to prioritize arts education!

SHIFT YOUR THINKING

- Recognize** inherent long-term value of the arts.
- Remember** the arts include cultural traditions and practices sustained through education.
- Understand** that DEI is not about exclusion. It's about access for all.
- Remember** the power of crafts, like woodworking, textiles, and jewelry making.
- Shift** the dialogue from secondary benefits of arts education, like corporate creativity. Move toward how it transforms the cultural landscape we live in.

LISTEN!

- Increase** town hall meetings across the state and actively seek out youth to participate.
- Ask families** why arts education is important and really listen to what they say.
- Listen to youth voices -** especially regarding their education.



artwork by Sabrina Chacon-Barajas



INVEST

- Do more than just celebrate arts education - **FUND IT**.
- Fund arts education just as you would other activities known to increase student engagement, like sports or leadership programs.
- Work with schools to fund and promote student arts competitions at the same level as other career and technical student organizations.
- Fund libraries for youth access to information.

INCREASE ACCESS

- Ensure students with disabilities can access arts learning opportunities.
- Provide music education to young learners, allowing students to build deep skills and knowledge to share with the world.
- Ensure youth can attend arts and cultural events by making tickets affordable for them and their families.
- Make space for youth to share their creative work with their communities through exhibitions and performances.
- Provide career-connected pathways for young artists and students interested in the creative economy.
- Support teen-centered community spaces and make sure youth across the state can access them.
- Provide arts learning opportunities for youth who have the least access.
- Provide more media arts and film learning resources for students.
- Create more internships and career pathway opportunities within the creative industry.

PROMOTE

- Amplify** community cultural events that youth can participate in.
- Encourage** the study of art history and global understanding in Kindergarten - Grade 12 schools.
- Recognize and support** the amazing work of arts teachers working in our schools.

2024-2025 WAYAL Cohort Members

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artwork by Soleil Olivera Hernández