

BILLY FRANK JR. STATUE PROJECT



NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE

ARTSWA

WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

Washington State passed legislation in 2021 to send a statue of activist and humanitarian Billy Frank Jr. to National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. The statue is currently slated for installation in 2026.



Project Timeline:

January 2021: Rep. Lekanoff files legislation for a statue of Billy Frank Jr. in National Statuary Hall.

April 14, 2021: Governor Jay Inslee signs House Bill 1372 into law.

September 2021: Governor Inslee selects ArtsWA to oversee artist selection and statue development with the committee

March 2022: The Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee holds its first meeting.

February 2023: The Committee announces Haiying Wu's selection.

March 2024: Joint Committee of the Library of Congress approves the design.

November 2024: Haiying Wu completes full-scale clay model

Soon (early 2026): Clay model cast into two bronze statues.

Soon (2026 / 2027): Statues installed in Washington, D.C. and Olympia.

The Legislation: Representative Debra Lekanoff (D-40th) introduced House Bill 1372 to replace the statue of Marcus Whitman in National Statuary Hall with Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually Tribal leader and treaty rights activist.

"Billy Frank Jr. dedicated his life to advocating for equality, justice, and environmental protections. He fought to protect tribal treaty rights, native cultures and traditions, and the natural resources they are based upon." —House Bill 1372



The Artist: Washington-based artist Haiying Wu was born in China and attended the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. Wu emigrated to the United States and received his Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from the University of Washington.

He has created well known memorials around the Pacific Northwest, including the *Fallen Firefighters Memorial* in Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood.

ArtsWA facilitated the process to select the artist. The Committee selected Mr. Wu in January 2023.

The Statue: Mr. Wu developed his design in consultation with the Nisqually Tribe, the Frank family, and the Committee. Mr. Wu first presented a preliminary design (right) and then sculpted a small-scale model—also known as a "maquette"—of the statue, which was followed by a full-scale model.

ArtsWA and the Nisqually Indian Tribe partnered with South Puget Sound Community College to host Mr. Wu as he worked on the full-scale clay model, giving the public a chance to watch the artist at work and learn about Billy's life and legacy.

The Billy Frank Jr. Statuary Hall Selection Committee and the Architect of the Capitol at National Statuary Hall will review and approve each design step. After the statue's final design is approved, two identical statues will be cast in bronze by a Washington-based foundry. The D.C. statue will be installed in late 2025 and the Olympia statue will follow in early 2026.



Learn more: Scan this QR code to visit the Billy Frank Jr. website, where you can learn more about the project and sign up for updates. Visit directly at: arts.wa.gov/billy-frank-jr



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