



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION



Board Meeting | Virtual
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | August 5, 2025



Art in Public Places | Arts in Education | Center for Washington Cultural Traditions | Certified Creative Districts | Change Leader Institute
Wellness, Arts, and the Military | Tribal Cultural Affairs | Grants to Organizations | Washington State Poet Laureate

Left: A muralist works on a design in the Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane.
Right: Woodinville community members celebrate the opening of Art Muse.
Both Hillyard and Woodinville are in consideration for Creative District certification.

Board Meeting Agenda

Washington State Arts Commission

Tuesday, August 5, 2026 / Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83675260945>

Meeting ID: 836 7526 0945

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 836 7526 0945

- 9 a.m. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Charlie Robin
- Land Acknowledgement: Angelena Campobasso, Tribal Cultural Affairs Program Manager
 - Roll Call
 - Approve Agenda
 - Introductions and Welcome New Commissioners: Rep. April Connors
 - Rules for Public Comment
- 9:15 a.m. **Chair's Report:** Chair Charlie Robin—p. 1
- New Commissioner Bios—p. 2
 - DRAFT 2026 Board Meeting Dates—p. 3
- 9:20 a.m. **Director's Report:** Karen Hanan—pp. 4-10
- Fiscal Report: 2024-25 Biennium 8th Quarter Report—Expenditures by Program: Karen Hanan and Deane Shellman—pp. 11-22
 - 2025-26 Budget Overview: Karen Hanan & Deane Shellman—pp. 23-25
 - CRM / Strategic Plan Dashboard
- 10:00 a.m. **Consent Agenda:** Chair Charlie Robin
- Board Meeting Minutes of April 29-30, 2025—pp. 26-33
- 10:05 a.m. **Art in Public Places:** Mike Sweney, AIPP Program Manager – pp. 34-35
- Approve Public Artist Roster
- 10:20 a.m. **Creative District Program:** Aaron Semer, Program Manager – pp. 50-51
- Approve Creative District certification for
 - Woodinville
 - Hillyard
- 10:35 a.m. **Grants to Organizations:** Miguel Guillén, Program Manager

- Ratify project support grants – pp. 52-58
 - Ratify operating support grants for midsize organizations – pp. 59-66
 - Ratify operating support grants for large organizations – pp. 67-75
- 10:50 a.m. **WACultures:** Thomas Grant Richardson, Ph.D., Director
- Approve the new cohort of Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Pairs (HAAP)
- 11:05 a.m. **Governor’s Arts and Heritage Awards:** Karen Hanan and Michael Wallenfels – preview of 2026 - p. 76
- 11:15 a.m. **Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Committee. Activity Recap / Update:** Daniya Baisubanova, Catherine Nueva España, Michael Wallenfels, Karen Hanan – pp. 77-83
- 11:35 a.m. **2026 Advocacy Strategy Discussion:** Krishna Thiagarajan, Advocacy Chair
- Review Local Advocacy Action Plan
 - One-pagers - Review and Discussion: Charlie Robin, Karen Hanan and Michael Wallenfels
 - Survey of NEA grant recipients – Overview: Karen Hanan and Michael Wallenfels
 - Strategies and Action Items for Commissioners Between Now and the November Board Meeting: David Foster (Creative West lobbyist)
 - Shannon Halberstadt, Creative Economy Sector Lead, Department of Commerce – State’s creative economy strategic plan and future directions
- 12:15 p.m. **Nominating Committee Report:** Robin Avni and Catherine Nueva España co-chairs
- Election of Officers: Proposed Slate – pp. 84-86
 - What are the ArtsWA Committees and What Do They Do?: Charlie Robin
- 12:40 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 12:45 p.m. **ADJOURN**
Outgoing chair turns meeting over to incoming chair after this meeting.

ArtsWA – Important Dates

- **November 6, 2025: ArtsWA Board Meeting – Virtual meeting**
- **February 3, 2026: ArtsWA Board Meeting – Virtual meeting**
- **February 4, 2026: Arts, Heritage & Science Day – hybrid**



ArtsWA Board Chair Letter

August 5, 2025

Dear Colleagues:

It's difficult to imagine a more uncertain future than the one we face right now. From the early part of my career in the arts, I recall the great upheaval that occurred in the late 80s and early 90s when a conservative congressional wave, led by North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, resulted in significant shifts in funding priorities at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Theatre directors, museum curators, and arts administrators in general were expected to take an obscenity pledge in order to receive any federal funding. Even without funding, the public outcry from conservatives threatened the work of many institutions and the careers of a significant number of our most prestigious arts leaders. The NEA 4, four solo artists denied funding by the NEA, sued the government claiming that the decency clause being enforced at the agency violated their First Amendment rights and was a form of artistic censorship. While winning in the lower courts, the matter was appealed all the way to the Supreme Court, which ultimately upheld the right of the NEA to consider decency standards when awarding art grants.

If we don't learn from our history, we are bound to repeat it.

ArtsWA is in a stronger position to weather this particular storm than other agencies impacted in our state, and far better than other arts commissions across the nation. In order to preserve the programs and projects the agency has nurtured and developed, there is a lot of work ahead. Inevitably there will be tough decisions that Karen and the staff will have to make. The timelines we have set out for growing some programs will need to be altered. The expectations from arts institutions and communities across the state will need to be modified. This will all need to be addressed, and we don't know if these will end up being short-term or long-term shifts in funding and priorities.

Nonetheless, the work we do is necessary. Our support for the arts as a priority in this state is vital. We are the voices for our communities, individually and collectively.

Remember that you are not alone. If you are feeling overwhelmed with uncertainty or anxiety, pick up the phone and call each other. Share your frustrations but also commit to action. There is a bright future. We simply have to fight for it, just as we always have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Robin, ArtsWA Board Chair

New ArtsWA Commissioners

Representative April Connors

A lifelong Tri-Citian, Rep. April Connors is serving her second term representing the 8th District in the state House of Representatives. In November 2024, she was elected House Republican Floor Leader by her peers. In addition to her legislative work, Connors is an accomplished residential real estate professional. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Washington State University and previously worked as a legal assistant, where she played a key role in drafting and maintaining city codes. Her legal background includes involvement in a housing case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Rep. Connors resides in Kennewick with her husband and their four children.

2026 Board Meeting Schedule and Locations DRAFT

Dates	Times	Location
ArtsWA Board Meeting Tuesday, February 3 **** Arts, Heritage & Science Day: Wednesday, February 4	In-Person: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. OR VIRTUAL **** <i>Arts, Heritage & Science Day from 7 a.m. Heritage Caucus through to 4 or 5 p.m. for legislative meetings</i> <i>Location: United Churches of Olympia 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501</i>	In-Person – TBD or virtual due to budget constraints
Tuesday, May 5	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Virtual
Tuesday, August 4 and Wednesday, August 5	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Virtual
Thursday, November 5	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Virtual

Revised: 7/28/2025

Executive Director's Report

1. State Budget

Washington is projected to face a \$720 million budget shortfall over the next four years, according to the latest quarterly revenue forecast released in late June. As a result, agencies are being asked to limit all discretionary budget requests *"consistent with efficiency and performance management efforts to streamline and improve services while reducing costs."* As a result, we are keeping our budget requests to the operating budget modest. On the capital budget side, we are requesting an increase for Creative Districts, commensurate with the growth and evolution of this popular and impactful program.

2. Federal Budget: Advocacy for the Arts in a New Washington D.C.

We received notice in late June from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) of our FY2026 award. It came in slightly higher than last year's. This was welcome news. The breakdown is as follows:

Year	State Plan (including Poetry out Loud)	Underserved Communities	Arts Education	Folk Arts Partnership	Arts and Health	America 250	Total Funds
FY 2025	\$839,800 (includes \$25,000 for Poetry out Loud)	\$199,700	\$55,700	\$20,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,115,200
FY 2026	\$860,038 (includes \$25,000 for Poetry out Loud)	\$196,800	\$55,700	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$1,182,538

Receipt of this award allowed us to complete our budgeting process for FY2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) with more precision and detail. This is especially helpful as we move forward in what we all acknowledge as a challenging budget year.

3. National Endowment for the Arts

At NASAA's request, I have been working with our state's congressional delegation, urging them to support the budgets of the NEA, NEH, and other cultural agencies.

Typical messaging is as follows:

Federal arts funding, channeled through the NEA, has a profound and positive impact right here in Washington State. A prime example is the invaluable annual partnership grant that supports

ArtsWA, our Washington State Arts Commission. This funding empowers ArtsWA to deliver essential programs and services, fostering artistic expression, cultural enrichment, and community development across our diverse regions. It ensures that arts experiences are accessible to all Washingtonians, from our vibrant urban centers to our smallest rural towns. Sustaining the NEA is not merely about preserving cultural programs; it is a strategic investment that yields tangible benefits for our economy and communities. The NEA consistently demonstrates remarkable efficiency, accountability, and a high return on investment:

- **Efficiency:** The NEA operates with a lean staff and a highly competitive grant process, ensuring that funds are distributed effectively to programs and organizations that meet rigorous standards of artistic merit and public benefit. Its model of leveraging federal dollars with state, local, and private investment magnifies its impact far beyond the initial appropriation.
- **Accountability:** The agency maintains strict reporting requirements and oversight, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and achieve measurable outcomes. Grant recipients are held to high standards, fostering transparency and trust in federal arts initiatives.
- **Return on Investment:** Numerous studies have highlighted the significant economic impact of the arts. Every federal dollar invested in the NEA stimulates additional private and local funding, creates jobs, attracts tourism, and revitalizes communities. Arts and culture are not just enriching; they are a powerful engine for economic growth, contributing billions to our national GDP and supporting millions of jobs. In Washington State, these investments translate into thriving creative industries and an enhanced quality of life that attracts and retains talent.

The NEA represents a federal commitment to the arts that ripples through every state, supporting local initiatives and ensuring that our nation's rich cultural heritage continues to flourish. The 40% of NEA grant funds that are distributed to state arts agencies like ArtsWA are essential for maintaining a strong, decentralized network of arts support that addresses unique local needs and opportunities.

I respectfully ask that you recognize the immense value of the NEA and advocate for its continued full funding in the FY2026 budget. By doing so, you will reinforce our shared commitment to creativity, community, and economic vitality in Washington State and across the nation.

4. Washington State Indian Arts and Crafts Act (WAIACA)

You might be aware that we are working on proposed Agency-request legislation titled "AN ACT Relating to the protection and promotion of authentic Indian arts and crafts in Washington State."

This act aims to create a framework for identifying and promoting genuine Indian arts and crafts in Washington, helping to prevent the sale of fakes and protecting both consumers and Native

artists. It's based on the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act but tailored for our state's specific needs.

We've been working closely with the Department of the Interior, who are currently updating the federal act. Their work has heavily influenced our Washington version. Since their federal update will likely take many years to finalize, they've given us their blessing to develop our state-specific version in the meantime. This is a great opportunity for Washington to lead the way! We're currently getting input from some Native artists and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and this will be followed by a tribal consultation process and other checks and balances to make sure whatever we finally submit is comprehensive and culturally informed.

Your understanding and future input will be really valuable as this legislation moves forward. For your awareness, some key areas in the bill include:

- **Reproductions:** Section 5(6) addresses how reproductions can qualify as "Indian Products."
- **Accuracy and Language:** We're making sure the entire bill is precise, clearly defining "Indian Product," certification, and protection mechanisms.

Regarding enforcement, we anticipate that the Department of the Interior will handle most violations. However, if a violation is unique to a Washington-specific part of this bill, our Washington State Attorney General's Office will take charge.

We're looking forward to discussing this more with you later. This effort is very important for protecting the cultural heritage and economic well-being of Indian tribes and individuals here in Washington. Special thanks to our Tribal Cultural Affairs team for their work on this.

5. Poet Laureate: Derek Sheffield

Celebrated poet and professor Derek Sheffield became Washington's eighth State Poet Laureate on May 1, 2026. Sheffield lives in the Wenatchee Valley and serves as a professor of English at Wenatchee Valley College. He has published several poetry collections and edits poetry for *Terrian.org*, and has also received fellowships from the Sustainable Arts Foundation, Artist Trust, the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, and the Spring Creek Foundation for his poetry.

When asked, Derek will tell you that he is deeply passionate about:

- **The natural world and our connection to it:** He sees nature as a wellspring of creativity and well-being, advocating for an ecological ethic in poetry and using his work to foster a deeper appreciation for the environment. His "Cascadia Field Guide" combines art, ecology, and poetry to educate and connect.
- **Mental health, particularly for youth:** He views poetry as "good medicine," encouraging mindfulness and connection—an antidote to the fast pace of modern life.
- **The "words, woods, and wellness" connection:** This concept unifies his focus on language, nature, and mental well-being.

- **Poetry's power to deepen reality:** For Sheffield, poetry isn't an escape but a tool to confront, interrogate, and more profoundly understand life.

He said, in a recent [press release](#), that “As laureate, I want to engage more of our teenagers with poetry. Whether we are writing them or reading them, poems make for good medicine,” he wrote. “Poetry helps us slow down and dwell more consciously in place and time. When we give our attention to poetry, we tend to choose sky time over screen time. Like no other pursuit I know of, poetry honors the individual life as it offers glimpses of the scintillant interiority living inside each of us.”

Derek's presence and participation is already being requested a lot. We anticipate that his tenure will be lively, busy, and deeply impactful.

6. Billy Frank, Jr. Statue

The ArtsWA team continues to oversee and manage all aspects of the project for the Governor-appointed Billy Frank Jr., statue committee and the Governor. Since we last met, the team has been very focused on working with the Department of Enterprise Services to develop the request for proposals package – now live – soliciting bids from Washington State-based foundries to cast the two, full size statues of Billy Frank Jr. This was an extremely detailed, complex and quite laborious process. Special thanks to Adam Fah, our Conservation manager, who played a critical role in this process, thanks to his many years of experience with foundries, bronze work, and the foundry process. In expert supporting roles, thanks also to Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager, Deane Shellman, Deputy Director and Budget Lead, Korja Giles, Budget Analyst and Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager. Together, we ensured that myriad details and complexities were included appropriately in the final RFP documents and package. The timeline is tight, but we are still aiming loosely, for installation of the bronze statue in Statuary Hall in Washington DC in June 2026. Stay tuned for more updates.

7. Own Your Own Art Program/Legislation

As you know, we ran legislation to authorize a statewide loan program that will offer 12-month interest-free (or low-interest) loans to U.S. residents for the purchase of artworks by contemporary Washington state artists from participating arts businesses. This is inspired by a very successful program in Tasmania, that Arts Tasmania oversees. The legislation did not make it through the committee process. However, we are proceeding anyway. Once established, the program can be used for the purchase of existing artwork or the commissioning of a work by a Washington State artist procured through a participating arts business that has been certified by ArtsWA. The program will allow people to apply for an interest-free loan: They will have to

- select their preferred artwork from a participating business (certified by ArtsWA)
- complete the Own Your Own Art application form provided by participating businesses
- once approved, they can collect or arrange delivery of the artwork.

This is a very successful program in Tasmania. It has proven effective, and we believe it can work as well here. As an example of its effectiveness, more than 6,700 Tasmanian artworks worth a combined \$22 million have been purchased through the program since 2009. Stay tuned.

Currently, we have developed documents (Included in the packet) that will assist us as we “shop” the idea to credit unions and / or other appropriate financial institutions to handle the loan aspect of the program for us. Special thanks to board members, Chonchol Gupta and Michael Cade for their very clear expertise in helping move this idea along towards reality.

8. Social Prescribing / Art Pharmacy

Project Overview: This proposal outlines a transformative two-year initiative to establish and expand social prescribing practices across Washington State. Building upon the established link between social health and well-being, social prescribing leverages evidence-based community interventions. These address non-medical needs, demonstrating efficacy in reducing loneliness, improving mental health, and lowering healthcare utilization. This is supported by both quantitative and qualitative studies analyzing patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, emerging research explores the neurobiological mechanisms underlying these benefits, highlighting the impact of social connection on stress response and immune function.

This project will leverage the innovative model of Art Pharmacy combined with the statewide influence, reputation and partnership capacity of ArtsWA, and the proven expertise of Path with Art. It will build a sustainable framework for integrating arts into healthcare, creating healthier, more vibrant communities.

The Art Pharmacy Model: Art Pharmacy is a tech-enabled healthcare company that bridges the gap between healthcare providers and arts organizations. Their model provides an end-to-end solution:

1. **Referral:** Healthcare providers prescribe arts and cultural experiences for patients.
2. **Care Navigation:** Art Pharmacy’s navigators connect patients with personalized arts engagements.
3. **Participation:** Patients engage in regular arts activities, from museum visits to creative workshops.
4. **Monitoring & Refill:** Progress is tracked, and prescriptions are renewed as needed.
5. **Reimbursement:** Art Pharmacy facilitates insurance reimbursement, ensuring accessibility.

Benefits for Washington State:

- **Improved Mental Health:** Arts engagement provides effective, non-pharmacological support for mental health challenges.

- **Reduced Social Isolation:** Community-based arts activities foster connection and belonging.
- **Enhanced Physical Health:** Active arts participation improves physical well-being.
- **Stronger Communities:** Arts engagement strengthens social cohesion and community vitality.
- **Reduced Healthcare Costs:** Reduces reliance on costly medical interventions by addressing social determinants of health.
- **Increased Access to Arts & Culture:** Social prescribing broadens cultural participation.
- **Holistic Healthcare:** Promotes a more integrated approach to health.

Benefits for Arts Organizations:

- **Increased Audience & Revenue:** Expand reach and provide stable income.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Demonstrates value as a vital community asset.
- **Diversified Funding:** Opens new funding streams through healthcare partnerships.
- **Demonstrated Social Impact:** Provides data for advocacy and funding.
- **Professional Development & Innovation:** Encourages program adaptation and growth.
- **Increased Awareness:** Partnering with healthcare increases exposure.

Partnership with Path with Art: Path with Art will provide crucial trauma-informed care training for participating arts organizations. This complements training provided by Art Pharmacy, and ensures programs are delivered sensitively and effectively, maximizing positive impact.

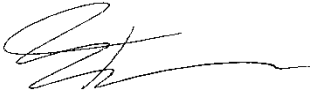
At time of writing, several funders were in the mix with a new one (Gates Foundation) being approached.

9. America 250: Commemorating Our History

- **Statewide Participation:** ArtsWA is collaborating with the Washington State Historical Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States.
 - Strategic Approach: While state funding was not secured, we will focus on:
 - Supporting community-led celebrations through a statewide calendar.
 - Disseminating information and promoting local events.
 - Integrating the Billy Frank Jr. statue installation into the commemorations.
- **Inclusive Narrative:** This initiative will acknowledge Washington State's diverse history, extending beyond the American Revolution, to foster a more inclusive and prosperous future.

- NEA funding: We have \$25,000 available for this program. Miguel Guillen's Grants to Organization team will take the lead on the development of future grant guidelines and approach to the distribution of these monies.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Hanan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen J. Hanan, Executive Director

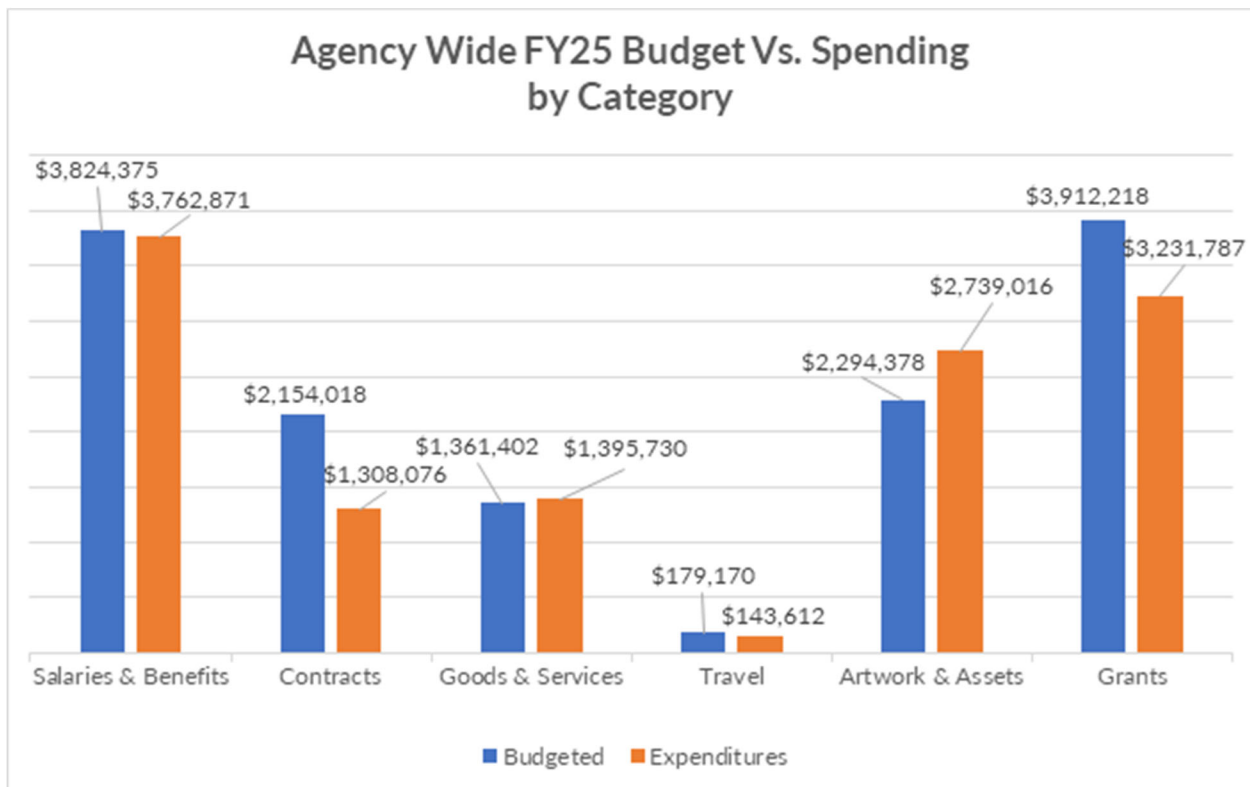
ArtsWA 4th Quarter Budget Report Narrative

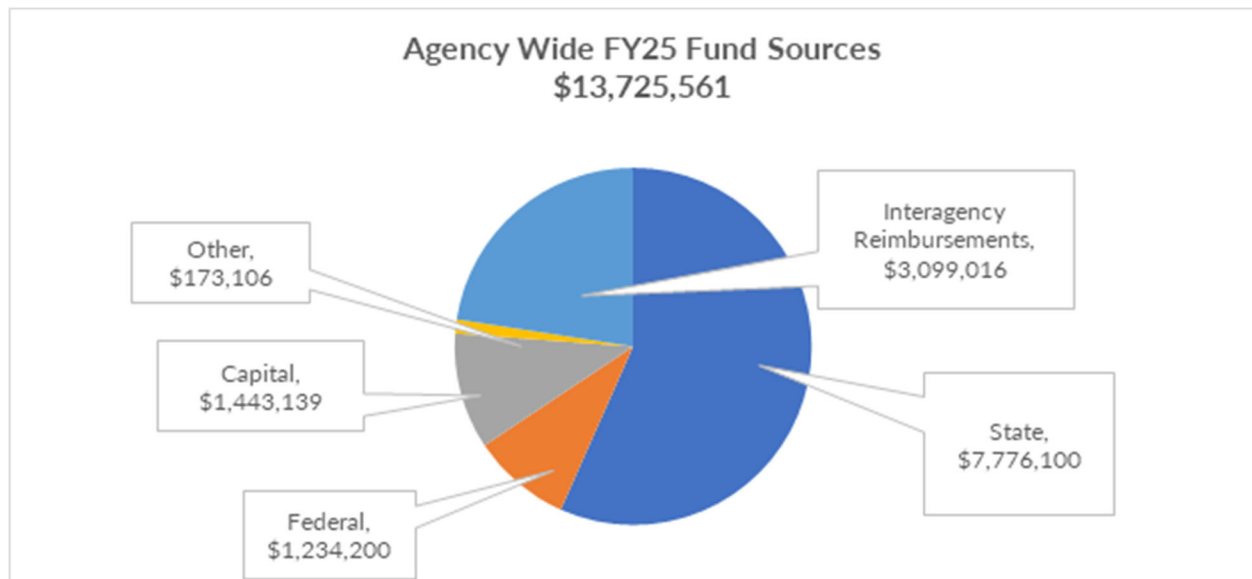
April 1 – June 30, 2025

This report summarizes activity for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25). The pie chart below represents the Agency's budget as a whole and each of our fund sources as a piece of the whole. Although we have reached the end of our fiscal year, FY25 payments are still being processed and final fiscal year-end adjustments are not reflected in this report.

Agency Wide – 35.90 FTE

- \$10,626,545 spending authority (what was originally appropriated)
- \$3,099,016 interagency agreements
- \$13,725,561 total budget
- \$12,581,092 expenditures to date - **8% remaining**





*Other Funding includes:

- \$103,964 from the Laird Norton Foundation
- \$38,461 Creative West Innovation Fund
- \$15,000 from contractor to replace damaged artwork
- \$15,000 in sponsorships for Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards
- \$681 in retro-insurance funds

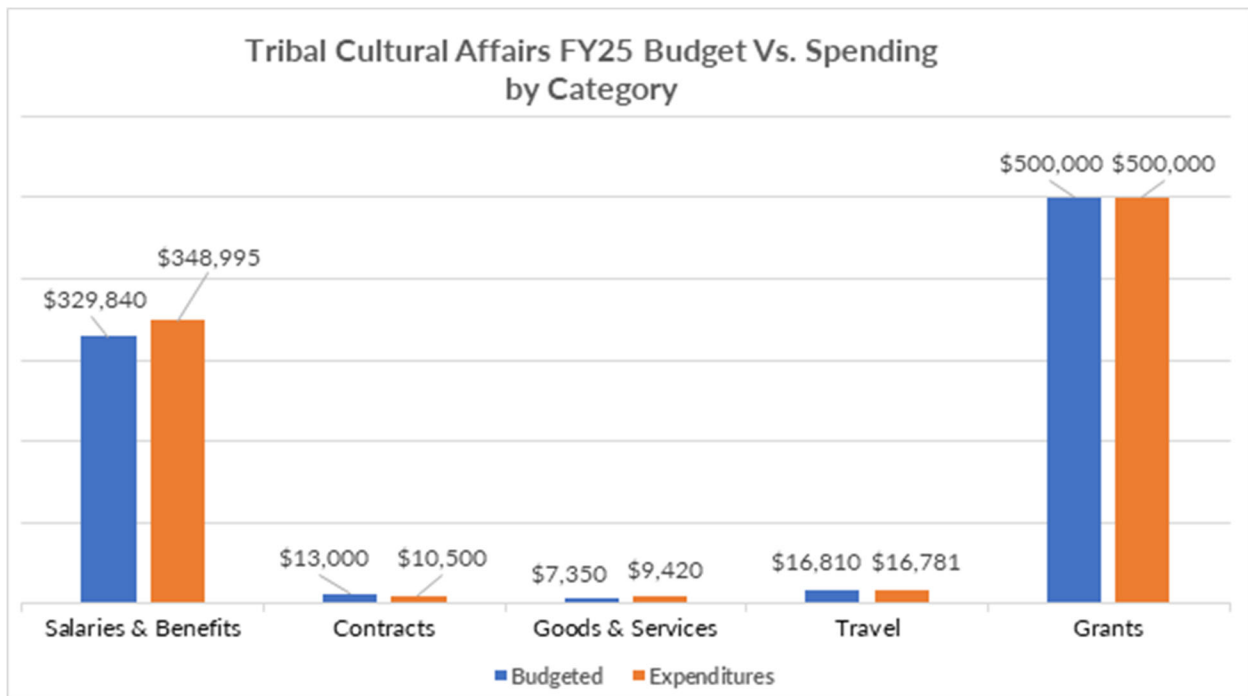
*Interagency Reimbursements includes:

- approximately \$2.7M in anticipated reimbursements for Art in Public Places
- \$60,000 from the Governor's Office for the official Governor's Portrait
- \$50,000 from Department of Commerce for the Building for the Arts Program
- approximately \$36,000 from Employment Security Department for Career Connect WA

Tribal Cultural Affairs - 3 FTE

- \$867,000 total budget
- \$885,696 expenditures to date - **0% remaining**

Tribal Cultural Affairs (TCA) is the newest addition to ArtsWA and is funded entirely by the General Fund. In April, Angelena Campobasso joined the TCA program as Program Manager, filling the role when Cheryl Wilcox retired from state service. She joins Todd Clark and Linnea Ingalls in their work to support Washington tribal communities as they expand, enhance, or create space for art and culture, in a way that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs.



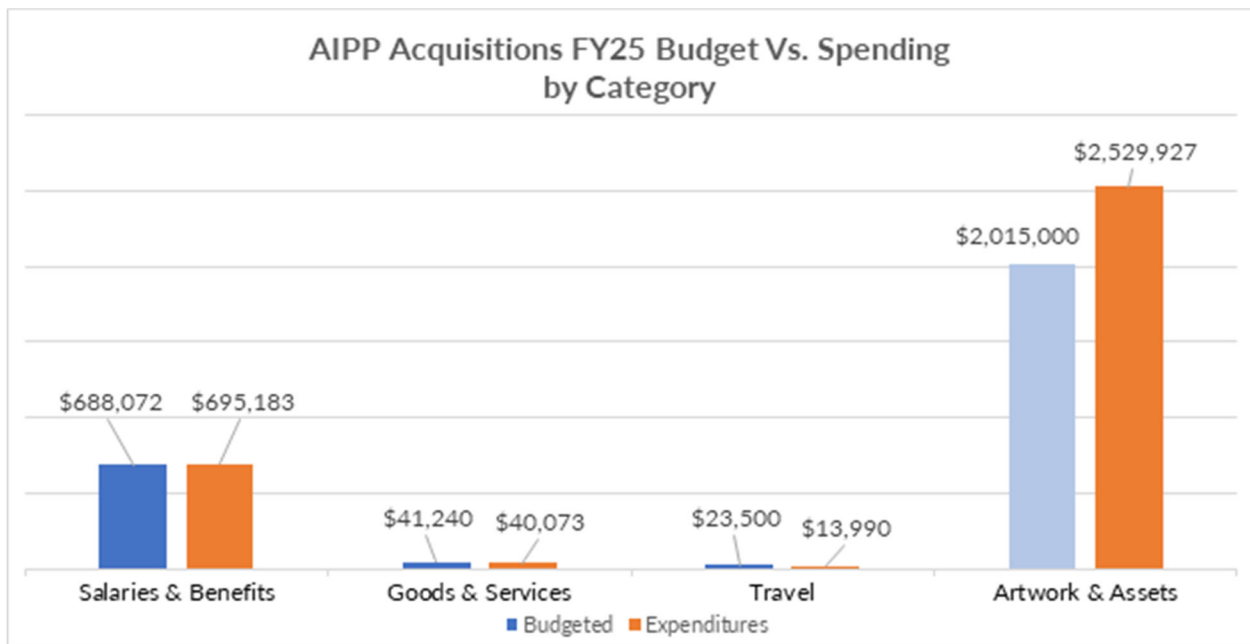
Tribal and Cultural Affairs - Notes & Updates:

\$500,000 was appropriated this year towards tribal grants. 20 of the 29 federally recognized tribes applied for funding, with grant amounts varying based on the needs of each project. All grants were paid out before the end of fiscal year. Salaries and benefits came in higher than budgeted, due to the retirement buyout for Cheryl Wilcox.

Art in Public Places: Public Art Acquisition - 7 FTE

- \$3,283,106 expenditures to date
- \$3,138,796 interagency reimbursements to date

This program, which is funded out of the Capital budget, includes expenses for the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program including staff, administration, statewide travel to communities and new artwork acquisitions for the State Art Collection. All costs related to public art projects (including artist fees and travel, design, fabrication, and installation) are fully reimbursed through Capital Funds from other agencies.



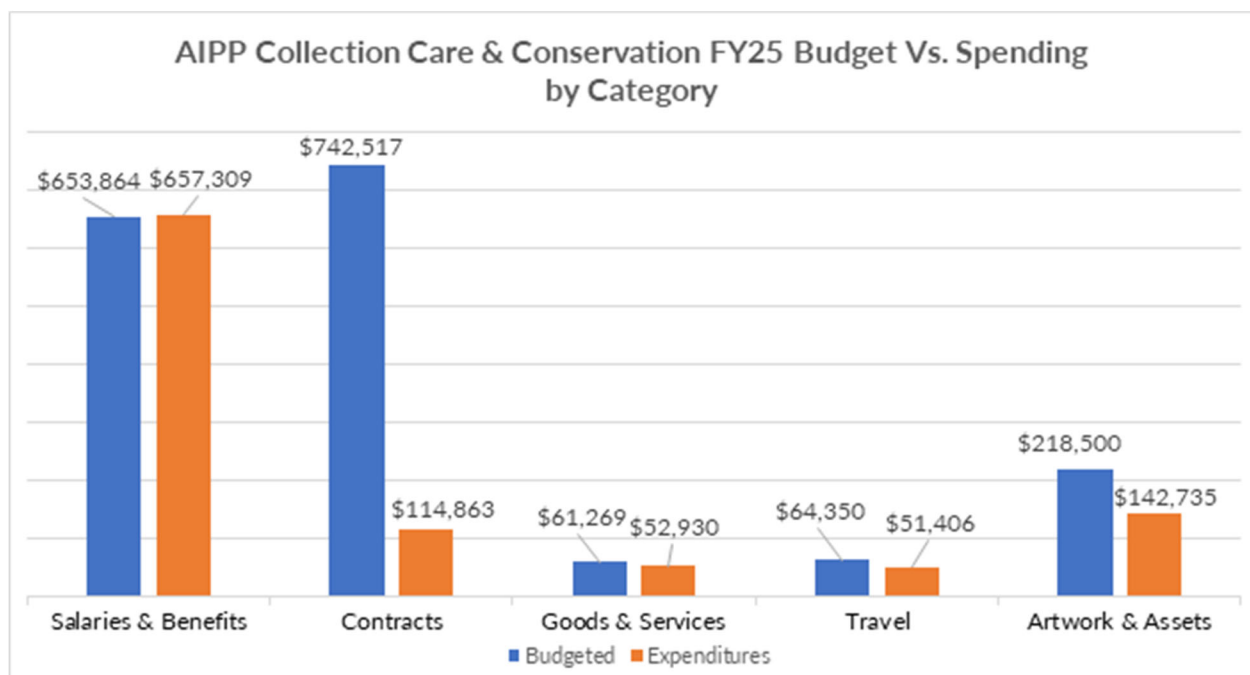
AIPP: Acquisitions Notes & Updates:

Allotments for this program are an estimate. All acquisitions are reimbursable, so the goal each fiscal year is to have all expenditures reimbursed, whatever that total amount is, by fiscal-year close. Interagency reimbursements are expected to match or exceed expenditures by the end of the year.

Art in Public Places: Collection Care and Conservation – 6.28 FTE

- \$1,540,500 spending authority
- \$200,000 interagency agreements
- \$1,740,500 total budget
- \$1,019,242 expenditures to date - **41% remaining**

This includes the staff and expenses to manage the care of the State Art Collection, the majority of which is covered through the agency's operating budget. In addition to salaries and benefits, expenses include database management, statewide travel for staff, tools and materials, and contracting with professional conservators to preserve and maintain the Collection.



AIPP: Collection Care & Conservation Notes & Updates:

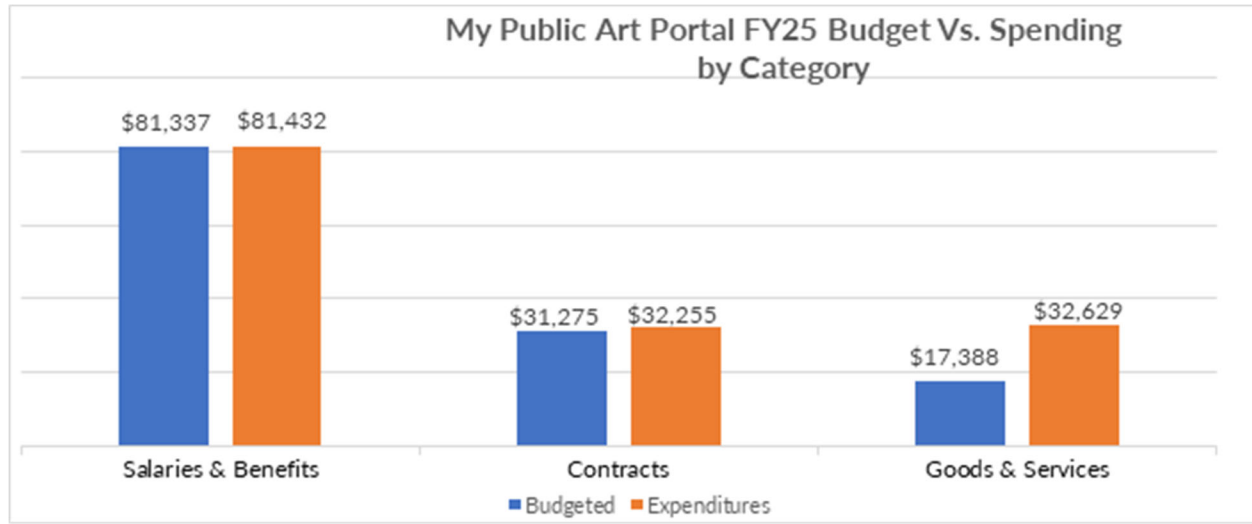
\$735,000 in Capital funds was appropriated for conservation of select artworks in the State Art Collection, which are allotted here under Contracts. \$95,550 of those funds have been paid out, and the remaining \$639,450 in Capital funds have been reappropriated to next biennium.

Continued work has been done by the AIPP team on the Axiell Art Collection database, in collaboration with My Public Art Portal, which went live October 1st. Increased technology costs shared by Collections and the Portal resulted in higher spending than budgeted in goods & services.

Art in Public Places: My Public Art Portal – 1.12 FTE

- \$130,000 total budget
- \$146,315 expenditures to date –**0% remaining**

The portal is funded entirely through the General Fund. Expenses include research, writing, image processing, and IT management (including staff oversight and server costs) for the online version of the State Art Collection.



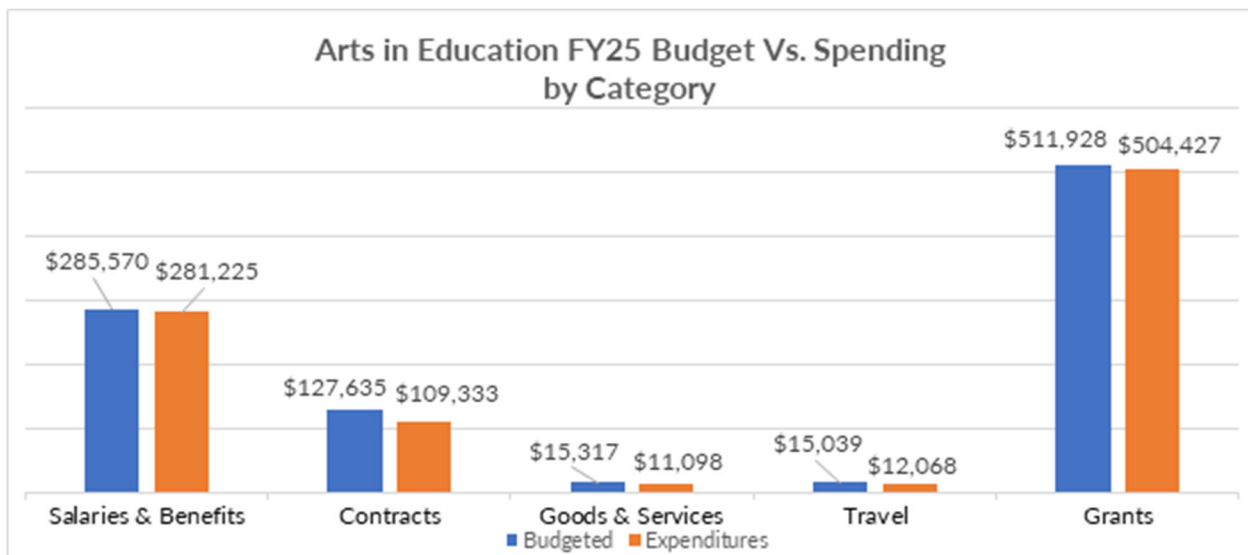
AIPP: My Public Art Portal Notes & Updates:

The recent upgrade of the Art Collection database to Axiell and increasing technology costs resulted in the Portal running over budget this fiscal year. These costs were incorporated within the agency-wide contingency for goods and services. Heide is working closely with Janae to manage ongoing technology expenses.

Community Investments: Arts in Education - 2.5 FTE

- \$919,285 spending authority
- \$36,204 interagency agreements
- \$955,489 total budget
- \$918,150 expenditures to date – **4% remaining**

This includes our AIE grant programs, Poetry Out Loud (POL), the Teaching Artist Training Lab (TATLab), and Washington Youth Arts Leadership (WAYAL). In addition to State General Funds, funding includes The National Endowment of the Arts and continued partnership with the WA Employment Security Department (ESD) for Career Connect WA. Key partnerships include the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).



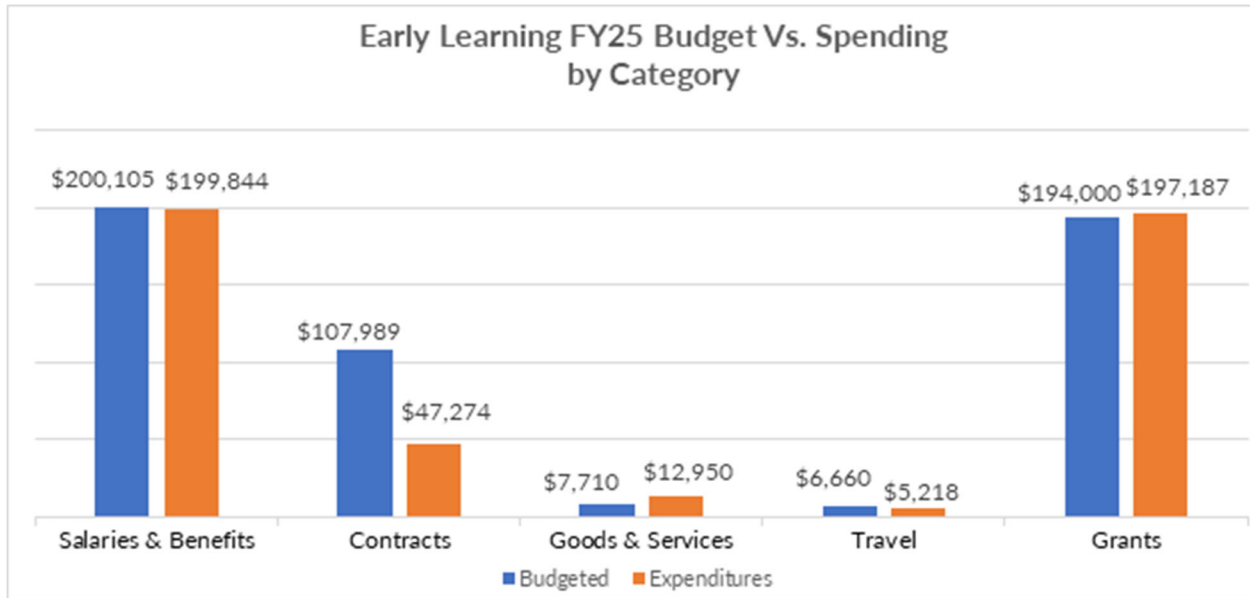
Community Investments – Arts in Education: Notes & Updates:

Approximately \$512,000 is budgeted for grants this year, with the majority being the second year of 2-year grants. Nearly all of the grant funds have been paid out to-date with most grant payments coming toward the end of fiscal year and close of school year, along with some identified program savings.

Community Investments: Early Learning - 2 FTE

- \$516,464 total budget
- \$462,473 expenditures to date – **10% remaining**

This includes the Creative Start Early Learning program, which receives funding through the General Fund and the Laird Norton Foundation. Key partnerships include the Wolf Trap Foundation.



Community Investments – Early Learning: Notes & Updates:

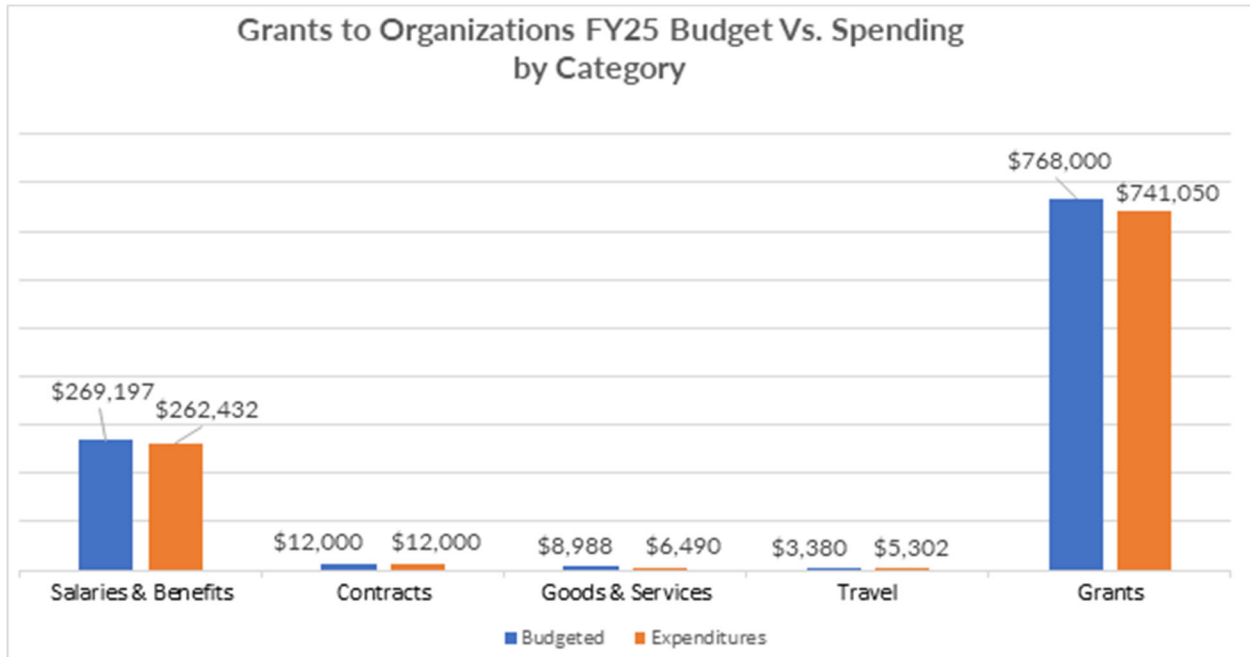
Like AIE, most grant payments later in the fiscal year to correspond with the close of the school year. \$194,000 was budgeted for grants this year through this program. Savings in other programmatic activities resulted in ELA being able to grant additional funds, for just over \$197,000.

In addition to the \$30,000 received this year from the Laird Norton Foundation (LNF), approximately \$70,000 in unspent LNF funds rolled over from last year to go towards the ongoing Wolf Trap partnership. These funds are budgeted here under Contracts, and any unspent LNF funds will carry-forward into FY26.

Community Investments: Grants to Organizations – 3 FTE

- \$1,061,565 total budget
- \$1,027,273 expenditures to date - **3% remaining**

This includes administrative expenses, costs for convening and staffing panels, and working with granting partners and constituents. In addition to State General Funds, funding includes The National Endowment of the Arts.



Community Investments – Grants to Organizations: Notes & Updates:

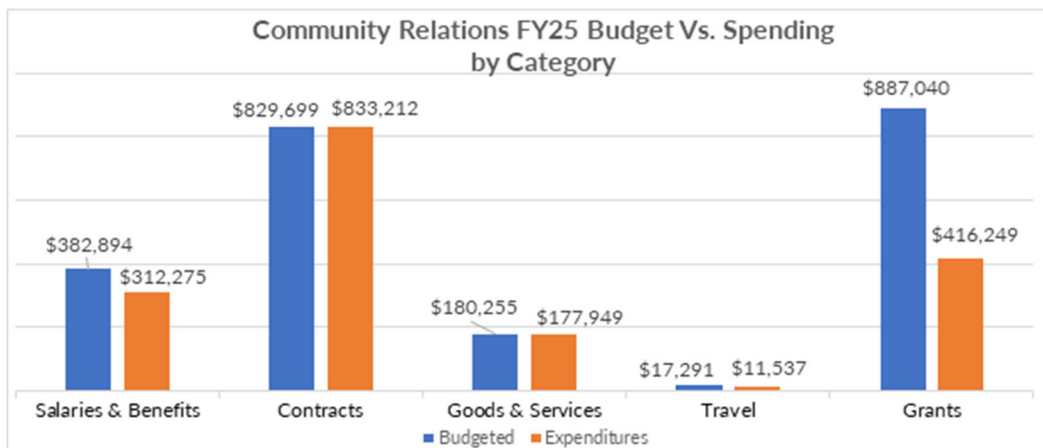
With the end of COVID Relief funds from Department of Commerce, the Grants to Organizations program returns closer to pre-COVID funding levels. Approximately \$525,500 is budgeted in grants this year, split between Art Project and General Operating Support grants. We anticipate the final remaining grant payments will be processed by fiscal year end accounting-close.

\$242,500 in pass-thru grant funds was paid out for this fiscal year for the Path With Art therapeutic arts project.

Community Relations – 3 FTE

- \$2,247,179 spending authority
- \$50,000 interagency agreements
- \$2,297,179 total budget
- \$1,751,222 expenditures to date – **24% remaining**

Community Relations contains both Communications and Community Development (Creative Districts, Building for the Arts, Change Leader). This area supports the administration and management of these programs, travel, webinars, meetings, constituent communications, and technical support. Funding for this program comes from several sources, including State General Funds, Capital funds, The National Endowment of the Arts, private fundraising, and partnerships with the Department of Commerce.



Community Relations - Notes & Updates:

Creative Districts paid out \$77,500 in operating grants for new and recertifying districts. Approximately \$244,000 in Capital project grants have been paid out to-date with another \$107,000 pending. All remaining Capital funds will be reappropriated into the new biennium.

The Customer Relationship Management (CRM) project received \$889,000 in funding for FY25 to build a new agency-wide database in Salesforce. The project was completed by the June 30th deadline, under-budget by \$963 and received final approval from WaTech.

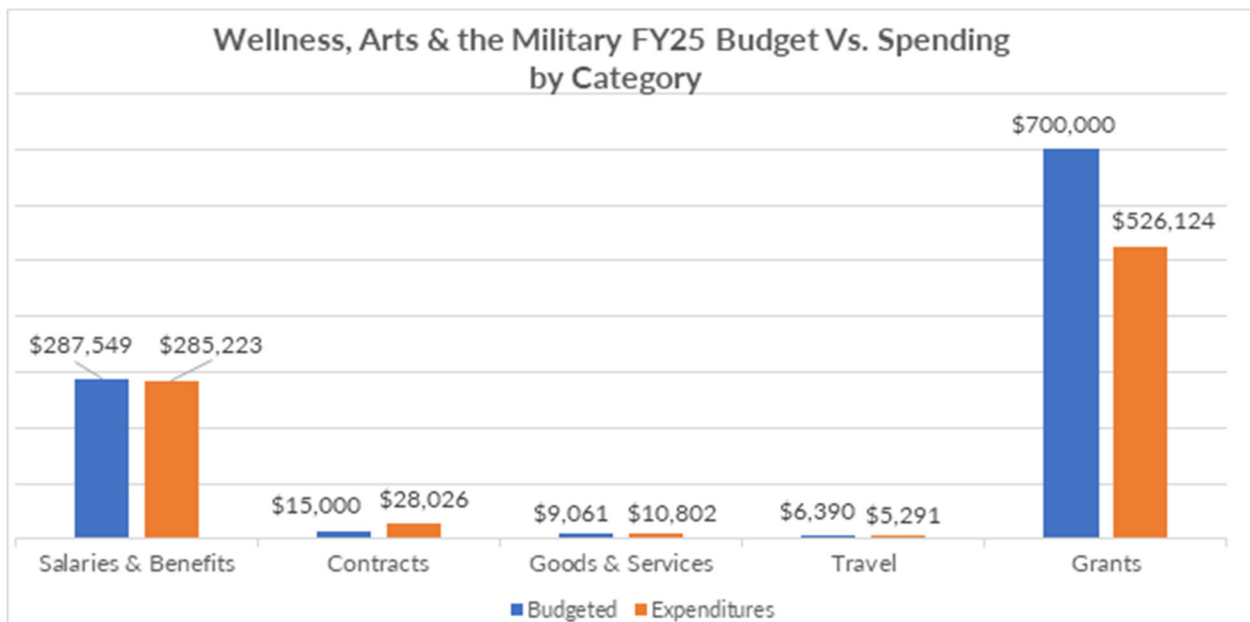
A \$38,461 grant was received from Creative West (formerly WESTAF) to complete accessibility updates to the ArtsWA website. At fiscal year-end, approximately \$8,500 of those funds remain which will carry-forward into FY26 to complete additional website upgrades.

Derek Sheffield was named the 2025-2027 Washington State Poet Laureate, celebrated at the Passing of the Laurel event on April 30. Each Poet Laureate receives \$40,000 a year for their two-year term. The final payment to Arianne True was completed and the initial payment to Derek was made.

Wellness, Arts, and the Military – 3 FTE

- \$1,018,000 total budget
- \$855,466 expenditures to date - **16% remaining**

This program's budget comes from the General Fund and includes administrative costs, events, and approximately \$700,000 in grants. Key partnerships include the Department of Veteran Affairs.



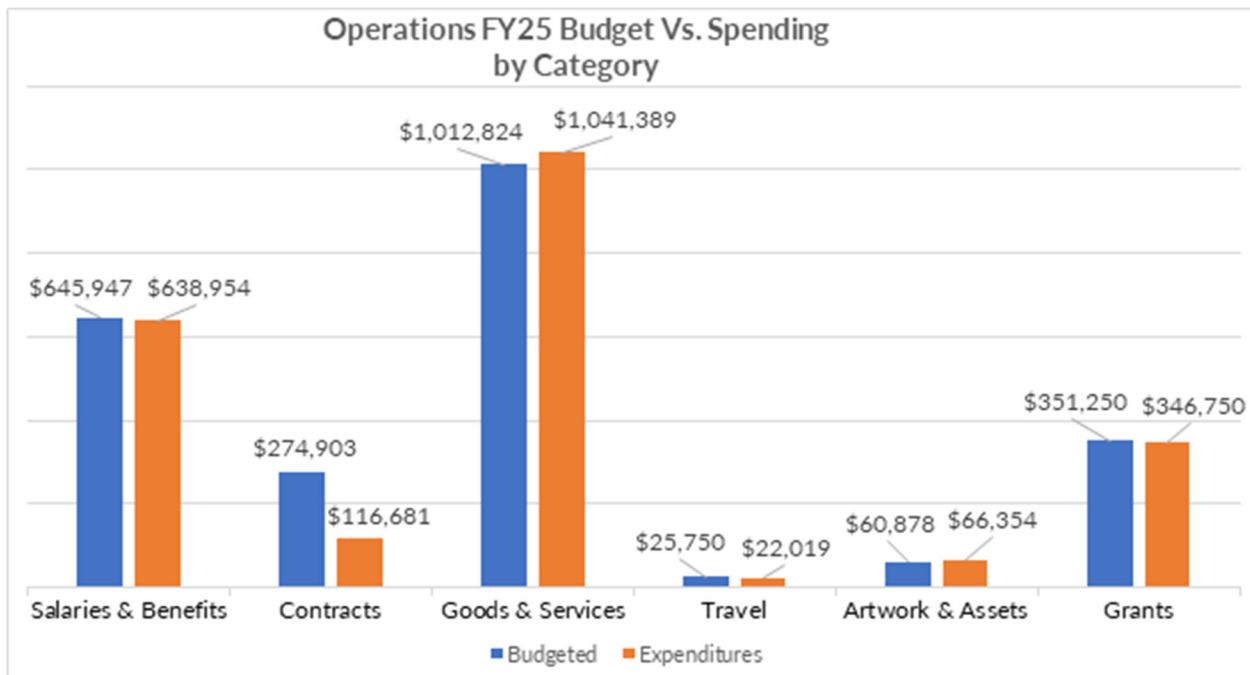
Wellness, Arts, and the Military - Notes & Updates:

This program offers Self-directed Art Practice (SAP) grants to U.S. military-connected individuals, and General Operating Support grants to organizations that offer arts programs to military-connected individuals and communities. Additionally, WAM partners with the DVA to provide arts programming in Veteran's Homes across the state. We anticipate that the remaining grants will be paid out by the end of the fiscal year-end accounting close.

Operations – 5 FTE

- \$2,311,552 spending authority
- \$60,000 interagency agreements
- \$2,371,552 total budget
- \$2,173,539 expenditures to date - **8% remaining**

Operations includes a large variety of agency operational costs. Examples include commission member travel, meeting costs, building rent, telephones, membership dues for national and regional organizations, equipment, accounting, computers, and the staff working on agency-wide operations. Also included under the Operations umbrella is the Folk Arts partnership with Humanities Washington and the Billy Frank Jr. Statue project. The majority of funding comes from State General Funds and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Operations Notes & Updates:

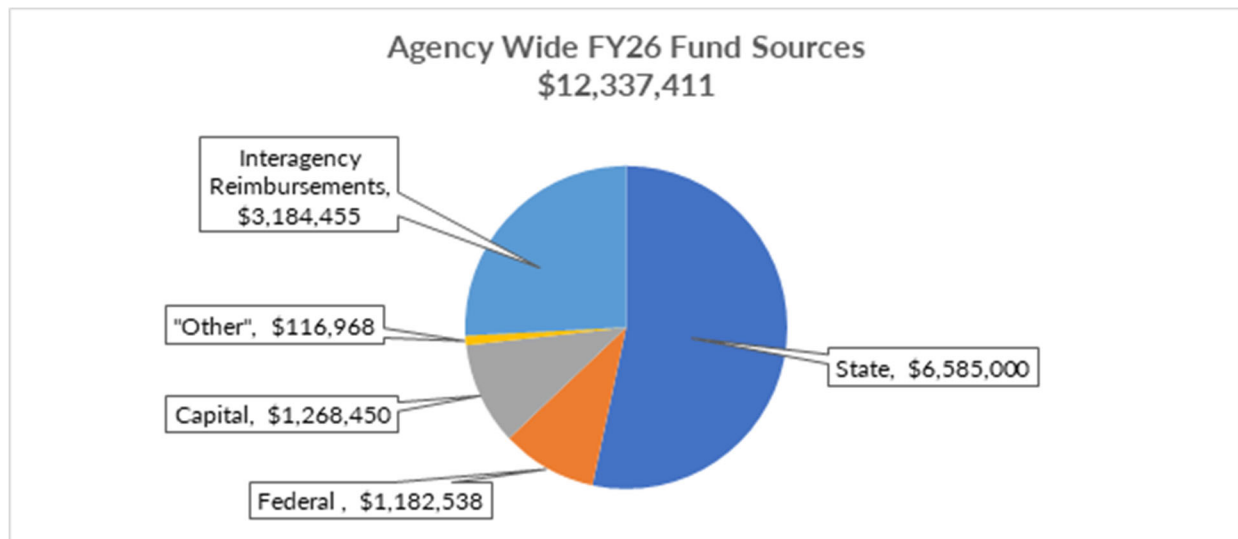
\$944,000 was budgeted for the completion of the Billy Frank Jr. statue project in FY25. \$708,000 of these funds were shifted from FY25 to FY26 as the project timeline extends. The remaining \$236,000 was spent down by end of fiscal year. The final statue design was approved by the Architect of the Capitol and the Joint Committee of the Library. The competitive solicitation for the fabrication of the bronze statue was posted on July 17 and we anticipate fabrication will begin in early FY26.

FY25 funds have been paid to Humanities Washington to support WACultures, formerly the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions (CWCT). \$150,000 pass-thru funds for the Schack Art Center's public art installation have been paid.

ArtsWA Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Budget Overview

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

ArtsWA is estimating \$9.1M in spending authority for FY26. This includes \$6.5M from the State General Fund, in addition to approximately \$1.2M in Capital funds for Creative Districts and Collections projects to conserve pieces in the State Art Collection. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) award represents our federal funding, and we anticipate approximately \$117,000 in private/local funds ("Other") to round out our budget, some new funds and some rolling over from the previous year. Lastly, we will have approximately \$3.1M in Interagency Reimbursements, mostly for the Art in Public Places program.



FUNDING BREAKDOWN

4,930,000	State General Funds	934,455	Interagency - AIPP Admin (estimated)
79,000	State Creative Districts Proviso	2,000,000	Interagency - AIPP Acquisitions (estimated)
868,000	State Tribal Cultural Affairs Proviso	200,000	Interagency - AIPP Conservation (estimated)
708,000	State BFJ Proviso	16,628	Private - Midwest NEH Funds (rollover)
1,182,538	Federal NEA Partnership Award	12,600	Private - GAHA Sponsorships (rollover)
629,000	Capital - Creative Districts (reapprop)	15,000	Private - GAHA Grant (rollover)
639,450	Capital - Collections (reapprop)	30,000	Private - Laird Norton Foundation (new)
50,000	Interagency - Building for the Arts	42,740	Private - Laird Norton Foundation (rollover)

12,337,411 TOTAL FUNDING

Tribal Cultural Affairs (TCA) – 3 FTE

\$500,000 of their budget is specifically for granting and support services. Remaining funds will cover staffing and other programmatic costs.

AIPP Acquisitions – 7 FTE

Allotments for this program are an estimate. All costs for this program are fully reimbursed through Capital Funds from other agencies.

AIPP Collection Care & Conservation – 6.28 FTE

This program reappropriated \$639,450 in Capital funds for conservation of pieces in the State Art Collection.

Arts in Education (AIE) - 3.50 FTE

\$475,000 of their budget is specifically for granting, and remaining costs will cover staffing and other programmatic costs. \$25,000 was provided by the NEA for the Poetry Out Loud program.

Grants to Organizations (GTO) – 3 FTE

\$537,000 of their budget is specifically for granting, including \$25,000 provided by the NEA for America 250 Grants and \$25,000 for the Arts & Health pilot program.

My Public Art Portal – 1.12 FTE

This program lives under Arts in Public Places and maintains the online State Art Collection.

Community Relations – 3 FTE

This program encompasses Communications, Creative Districts, Building for the Arts, the Governor's, Arts and Heritage Awards (GAHA) and the Poet Laureate program. Creative Districts was appropriated \$416,000 in new Capital funds, in addition to the reappropriated funds rolling over from the 23-25 biennium for capital grant projects.

Operations – 5 FTE

The budget for Operations includes all agency central service and administrative costs. Also included is the Folk Arts partnership with Humanities Washington, the Billy Frank Jr Statue project, and management of the new Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system.

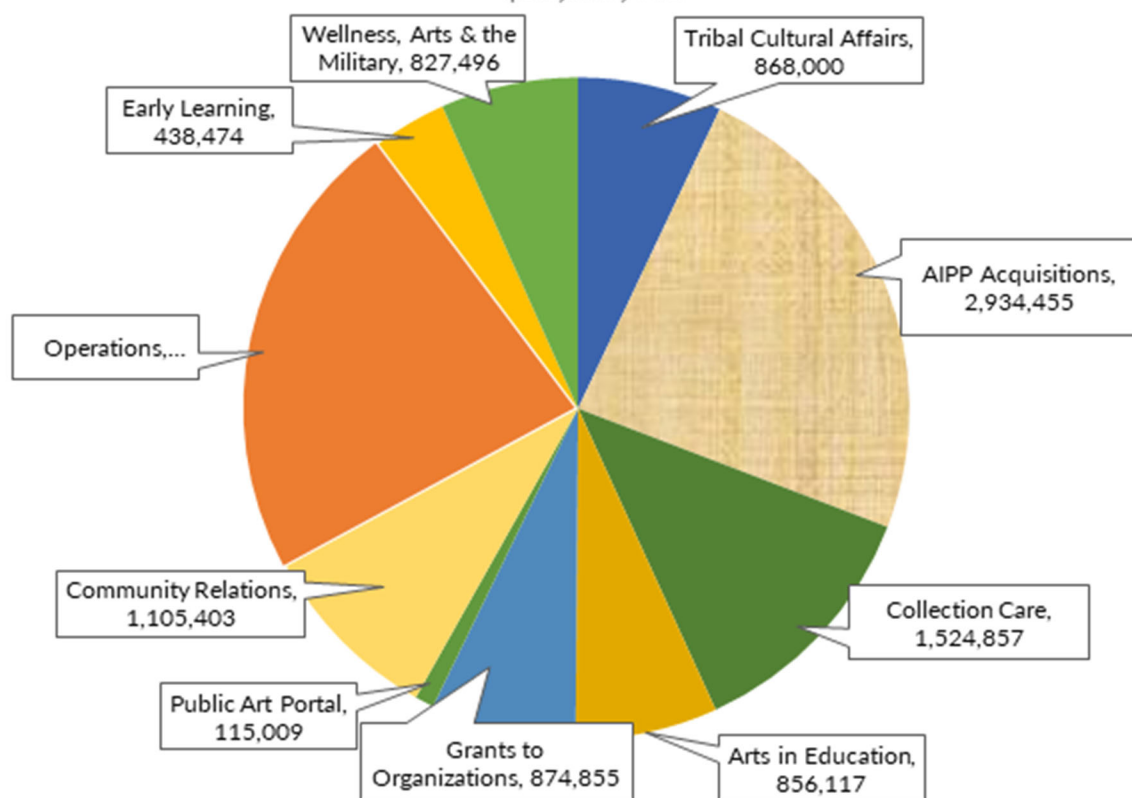
Early Learning – 2 FTE

This program received an additional \$30,000 in private funding from the Laird Norton Foundation (LNF). Approximately \$42,000 in unspent LNF funds from FY25 will rollover to FY26, to continue the Wolf Trap Foundation partnership.

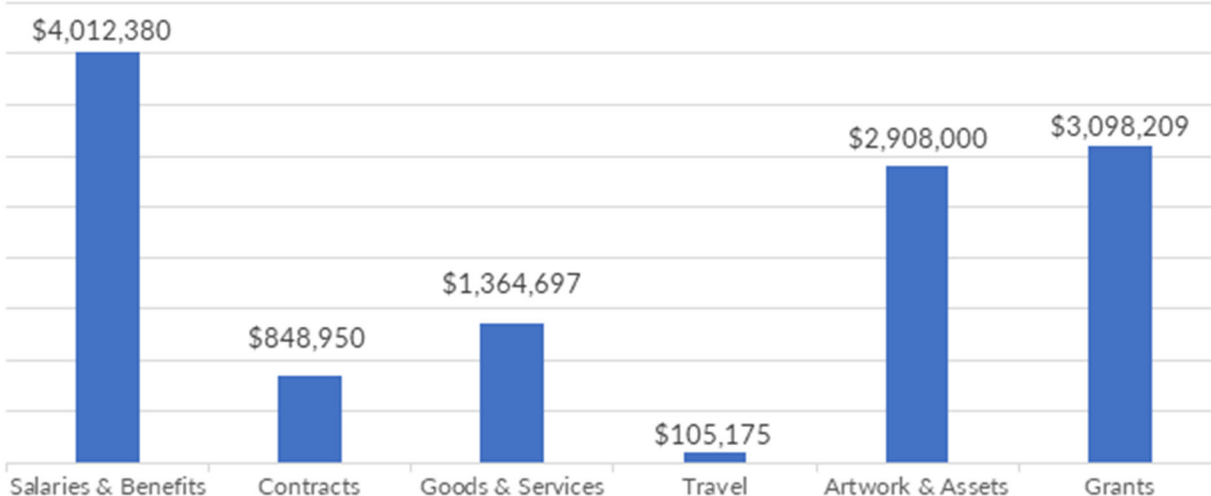
Wellness, Arts & the Military (WAM) – 3 FTE

\$500,000 of their budget is specifically for granting, and remaining costs will cover staffing and other programmatic costs.

Agency Wide FY26 Breakdown by Program
\$12,337,441



Agency Wide FY26 Budget by Category



Washington State Arts Commission

Board Meeting Minutes / Tuesday, April 29 – Wednesday, April 30, 2025 /
Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni, Second Vice Chair
Mary Big Bull-Lewis
Michael Cade
Jackson Cooper
Lou Oma Durand
Tony Ginn
Ryan Hardesty
Tisa Matheson
Terry Morgan
Noël Moxley
Catherine Nueva España
Charlie Robin, Chair
Star Rush
Krishna Thiagarajan

Commissioners Absent

Claudia Castro Luna
Chonchol Gupta
Jasmine Mahmoud, PhD, First Vice Chair
Bennyroyce Royon
Senator Lisa Wellman
Representative Sharon Wylie

ArtsWA Staff Presenters

Daniya Baisubanova, Wellness, Arts & the Military
Program Specialist and PEAR Team Leader
Angelena Campobasso, Tribal Cultural Affairs
Program
Manager
Carina Del Rosario, WAYAL Program Specialist
Miguel Guillén, Grants to Organizations Program
Manager
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager
Adrienne Kerrigan, Community Relations Program
Coordinator
Alexis Sarah, Early Learning Program Manager
Aaron Semer, Creative Districts Program Manager
Deane Shellman, Deputy Director
Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager
Michael Wallenfels, Communications Manager
Cheryl Wilcox, retiring Tribal Cultural Affairs Program
Manager

Guests & Speakers

Ramona Campobasso, constituent
Sydney Frost, 2025 Washington Poetry Out Loud
State
Champion, Mt. Spokane High School
Thomas Grant Richardson, WACultures Executive
Director
Courtney Tiffany, Director of Operations, Wenatchee
Valley Museum and Cultural Center
WAYAL PROGRAM YOUTH: Annabelle Betts,
TaeZhanæ Hays-Cormier, Olga Loktev, Afra Mizra,
Soleil Olivera-Hernandez, Dhaya Sarathy and Grace
Thykkuttathil

For a full transcript of the meeting, please view the recording at:

[ArtsWA Board Minutes-April 29-2025](#)

[ArtsWA Board Minutes-April 30-2025](#)

April 29, 2025

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Robin, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. Wilcox, Tribal Cultural Affairs Program Manager, read the land acknowledgement. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was verified. Public comment rules were shared.

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Ginn, seconded by Avni, and passed unanimously.

Courtney Tiffany, Director of Operations, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, welcomed the board. Arts and culture are the foundation of a vibrant community. ArtsWA grants have helped to grow programs that support families and children to explore arts and culture through and events.

Board Chair's Report

Robin reviewed his report (packet page 1-2). He reminded the board that we represent our communities and the artistic needs of the state in a bi-partisan manner. We are tasked with moving forward focusing on what can be done to support the arts sector and constituents in a positive way.

Governor Ferguson's Proclamation of May as Arts Education Month was read by Washington Young Arts Leaders (WAYAL) youth with an introduction by Tamar Krames, AIE Program Manager (packet p. 3). This year's proclamation was co-written by the WAYAL cohort.

Executive Director's Report

Hanan reviewed her report (packet pp. 4-8).

Governor Ferguson is reviewing the budget. Hanan previously sent commissioners a breakdown of the impacts to ArtsWA. The CRM is funded enough to get it operating and to maintain it. There is a small general wage increase for state employees and no furloughs. Funding is provided to continue the Billy Frank Jr. statute project. ArtsWA did have to make budget cuts to programs.

ArtsWA receives federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through the state partnership grant. The future of the NEA and its ability to provide these grants is currently unknown. Doge came to the NEA last week and continues its review. National Endowment for the Humanities funding was severely cut by Doge, which has impacted several vital programs that ArtsWA partners with Humanities Washington. Hanan is 1st Vice Chair of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) board. NASAA has people in Washington D.C. keeping Hanan and all state arts agencies informed of current federal administration impacts on policies and funding regarding arts, culture and the humanities.

ArtsWA continues to manage and oversee the Billy Frank Jr. project working with the Governor-appointed committee. All required federal approvals for the statue have been received. Focus is now on requests for bids on fabrication and also on transportation of the statue to Washington D.C.

The “Own Your Own Art” program development is moving forward without legislative approval. Once established, the program can be used for the purchase of existing artwork or the commissioning of a work by a Washington State artist procured through a participating arts business that has been certified by ArtsWA. The program will allow people to apply for an interest-free loan.

Hanan continues to work on the Social Prescribing / Art Pharmacy project. A promising partnership between ArtsWA, Art Pharmacy, Path with Art, the Department of Health and a potential funder is evolving. This would be a state-wide program supported by the insurance networks that would transform health care in Washington. ArtsWA’s role is to bring together all the partners, find initial funding, and then let it evolve after it is established. In Europe and the UK, this program has been operating for many years. Massachusetts is a model for this program, and Connecticut is progressing.

ArtsWA is working with several partners to help communities throughout Washington commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence through the America 250 initiative. This is a focus of the current administration, so there may be funding from the federal administration. At the least, ArtsWA will spread the word about this anniversary and whatever communities are planning throughout the state.

Debrief of key bills

Wallenfels reviewed the 2025 Legislative session (packet p. 9) and review some of the notable bills. The Heritage Caucus meets at 7 am on Wednesdays throughout the session. This is an active and supportive group. Commissioners are encouraged to attend virtually. ArtsWA presents at least once during session. Heritage Caucus is built on a bipartisan structure with Representative Tharinger and Senator Warnick are the current co-chairs. ArtsWA provides weekly bills reports as prepared by Michael. He tracks bills that have impact on arts, heritage and culture. He reviewed some of the bill highlights.

Biennium 7th Quarter Report

Hanan and Shellman, Deputy Director, reviewed the 2024-25 Biennium 7th Quarter Report (packet pp. 10-21). The budget is on track to be spent by the end of the fiscal year including artwork acquisition billing for expenditures. Remaining Billy Frank Jr. project funding will be reappropriated to the FY 2026 biennium to cover future stages of this program. Bidding for fabrication of the two statutes will be open soon. Spending all budget funds is very important to our agency. All funds not spent by the end of the fiscal year are reclaimed by the state. Private and federal funds can be carried over from one fiscal year to another, but state general operating funds cannot be rolled over into a future fiscal year.

CRM Dashboard preview

Wallenfels, Communications Manager, provided an overview of the upcoming Customer Relations Management (CRM) database and the reports it will generate. Kerrigan, Community Relations Program Coordinator, explained the CRM is a staff facing tool that can support

commissioner advocacy efforts. Commissioners will be able to make requests to staff for reports on activities within their districts prior to meetings with legislators.

Approve Consent Agenda

A MOTION to accept the consent agenda of minutes for the April 29-30, 2025 Board Meeting (handout) was made by Cade and seconded by Hardesty. There were no changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Creative Districts

Semer, Creative Districts Program Manager, and Kerrigan reviewed the list of Creative Districts to be recertified (packet pp. 22). Part of recertification includes an examination of lessons learned and their five-year future work plans. He provided a brief overview for each district. A MOTION to approve recertification for Issaquah, Langley Creates, Port Townsend, Tenino, and Twisp and operating funds grants of \$7,500 for each was made by Ginn, seconded by Moxley. Conflicts of interest: The motion was approved with two recusals due to conflict of interest Cade (Tenino), Nueva España (Port Townsend).

Grants to Organizations

Miguel Guillén, GTO Program Manager, reviewed General Operating Support for Emerging and Small Organizations – Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 (packet pp. 23-30).

This program offers General Operating Support grants to Emerging and Small Organizations. Groups can apply for Fiscal Sponsorship with our partner Shunpike through this application. Applicants can request up to \$6,000 split across two years (\$3,000 x 2) for general operating expenses. Grant amounts may vary depending on available funds.

A MOTION that the board ratify the decision of the Executive Director to approve the panel's recommendation for first-year grants for FY 2026 General Operating Support for Emerging/Small Organization grants totaling \$110,350 as provided in the packet was made by Thiagarajan, seconded by Cade, with one conflict of interest: Big Bull-Lewis (Dangerous Women). The motion passed with one recusal due to conflict of interest.

Note: exact grant amounts might be adjusted when the final FY 2026 budget is determined.

Arts in Education

Krames and Sarah reviewed two grants for approval.

Creative Start Project Grant

The Creative Start Project Grant (packet pp. 31-35) funds projects that integrate the arts to support learning for preschool to 3rd grade students. This one-year grant focuses on helping students grow creatively, academically, and emotionally, with a strong emphasis on equitable access to arts education. It encourages partnerships between educators, schools, families, teaching artists, and organizations to create inclusive and culturally relevant arts experiences for students.

A MOTION for the Board to approve the panel recommendation for FY26 Creative Start Project grants totaling \$200,000 as provided in the packet was made by Hardesty, seconded by Cade, with no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Sustaining Project Grant

The Arts in Education (AIE) Sustaining Project Grant (packet pp. 36-45) is a two-year grant that supports a variety of arts learning projects in Washington's schools, nonprofits, Tribal communities, and other community settings. This grant funds efforts to sustain, deepen, and grow arts learning opportunities for PreK-12 students.

A MOTION for the Board to approve panel recommendation for FY26-27 Sustaining Project Grants totaling \$994,376.35 as provided in the packet was made by Big Bull-Lewis and seconded by Cade, with no conflicts of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: exact grant amounts might be adjusted when the final FY 2026 budget is determined.

Tribal Cultural Affairs

Wilcox, TCA Program Manager, reviewed the Tribal Cultural Grants (packet pp. 46-50). This non-competitive grant offers funding for Washington State Federally recognized Tribes to support Tribal communities as they expand, enhance, or create space for art and culture that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs. These are non-competitive grants. Two tribes that have treaty rights but are not based in Washington have asked to be included in future grants: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the [Nez Perce Tribe](#). TCA is working with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the Attorney General's Office for a formal decision, which would affect next year's granting.

A MOTION that the Board approve the recommendation for the FY26 Tribal Cultural Grant totaling \$493,000 as provided in the packet was made by Nueva España, seconded by Moxley, and passed unanimously with no conflicts of interest.

Board Development and Nominating Committee

Avni and Nueva España, co-chairs, outlined this process, which is designed to collect feedback on how the Board is accomplishing its mission, collect suggestions for future endeavors, and determine candidates for next year's board officers. They asked commissioners to provide suggestions for questions to ask the Board in the survey as soon as possible, as it will be distributed in the near future.

Poetry Out Loud (POL)

Sarah, Arts in Education Project Manager, oversees the Poetry Out Loud program with Judy Cullen, AIE Specialist (packet p. 51). POL is a core requirement of the state partnership grant with the NEA. All fifty states and six territories run POL programs simultaneously. It is a program that engages high school students in recitation of poetry. Students gain self-confidence and connect deeply with classic and contemporary poetry. Students advance from their classroom competitions, their schools, districts, then state-wide. All state finalists go to Washington D.C. for competition to determine a national champion.

This year's **POL State Champion**, Sydney Frost of Mt. Spokane High School (Mead, WA), recited *The Siren Song* by Margaret Atwood for the board.

Poetry Forward is open to all school champions and virtual POL participants to submit their original poems. This year's first place winner is competitions Sidra Marshall of Anacortes High School (Anacortes, WA).

Public Comment

Ramona Campobasso praised the efforts of ArtsWA to support tribal arts and culture.

Adjourn

Robin adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. for the day.

April 30, 2026

Call to Order / Roll Call

Robin, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Krames and del Rosario introduced the WAYAL program youth observing the board meeting.

Center for Washington Cultural Traditions Update

Thomas Grant Richardson, Director, said the Center is now known as WACultures, which is a partnership between Humanities Washington (HumWA), ArtsWA, and the National Endowment for the Arts folk arts program.

Richardson explained that on April 2, DOGE cancelled all National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grants. The oral history project is shut down. The folk arts archiving project cannot proceed, but past accomplishments leave it in good shape for the moment. Humanities WA is taking legislative, legal and philanthropic actions to continue its work. All HumWA staff are furloughed one day per week. The Mellon Foundation provided a one-time lump sum donation that will help programming continue for six months.

HumWA and ArtsWA have agreed to ensure the Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program (HAAP) continues through this year. This program helps master artists and tradition bearers foster a new generation of artisans by supporting training on a traditional trade, craft, or skill.

Richardson previewed the new WACultures website which features photographs of existing artists in Washington state.

Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Team Quarterly Meeting Recap

Baisubanova, PEAR Team Leader and Hanan provided an overview of recent work (packet pp. 52-62). In 2022, Governor Inslee signed an executive order establishing PEAR. ArtsWA has been focused on this work for the last two to three years. The PEAR team includes state constituents, ArtsWA staff, and commissioners. ArtsWA reports to the Office of Equity on accomplished work.

Current state of equity work is more challenging with the current federal environment. The Governor has outlined guidance for Washington state to navigate this environment (packet p.

61). As an organization, we tune in and adopt the changes from state and federal level guidelines. Equity work is an ongoing process. Hanan explained that state focused work, not subject to federal government guidelines, will continue to focus on equity. Work supported by federal funds will be required to follow federal guidelines.

Public Artist Roster Update

Sweney, Art in Public Places (AIPP) Program Manager, reviewed the roster process (packet p. 63). The roster is a pre-qualified list of U.S. and B.C. based artists. This list is used by local art selection committees to select the artist for their public art project. Local decisions are key to design in acquisition. The selected artist is educated on the art site and the local culture and history.

The 2025-2029 roster call has specific criteria such as a unique vision or perspective, skill in technique, and the ability to engage with a site/community. Improvements were made to the process to ensure this opportunity is more accessible to a vast array of artists including underrepresented communities such as rural, central and eastern Washington, and artists of color.

The roster application opens this week. AIPP staff will conduct online webinars and several public outreach events to reach as many artists from various regions throughout the state as possible. Sweney asked commissioners to spread the word to their constituents.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Chair Robin and Hanan recognized the contributions of outgoing commissioners Dr. Kelvin Frank, Ryan Hardesty, and Senator Matt Boehnke.

Retiring staff member, Cheryl Wilcox, ArtsWA's first Tribal Cultural Affairs Program Manager was also recognized. She successfully launched this new program and has achieved 100% participation by tribes in the granting program.

Strategic Plan

Hanan and Wallenfels reviewed information gathered from listening sessions that will inform FY 2026 program goals. Later this year, ArtsWA will begin the planning process for its future strategic plan.

Advocacy

Thiagarajan, Advocacy Chair, explained the role of commissioners is to help communicate ArtsWA's resources to their local wide constituency of elected officials, foundations, corporations, venture capital funders, and legislators, and other possible partners. After these meetings it is important to funnel back the information and insight gained from these connections.

According to the data, Washington State pays more to the federal government than it receives back. It is a "net giving" state rather than a "net receiving" state. Today we learned some of the devastating impacts of the dismantling of NEH funding. Currently, we do not know how the NEA

will be impacted. It is important to understanding and maintain state-wide funding for the arts. Thiagarajan reminded commissioners that ArtsWA is a bi-partisan entity. It is more important than ever to educate both sides of the isle about the value of the arts. Commissioners are asked to meet with their legislators and other elected officials during this interim period before the next legislative session begins.

Public Comment

Ramona Campobasso thanked the board and staff for the work they do to support arts and culture in Washington State.

Adjourn

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Art in Public Places: 2025-29 Public Artist Roster

Overview

The Public Artist Roster (PAR) is the primary tool used by the Art in Public Places program (AIPP) to select artists to create new works for the State Art Collection. Art Selection Committees, made up of community stakeholders, choose an artist from the Roster through a series of meetings managed by AIPP staff. Every four years, AIPP manages a call for artists to apply for a new PAR. Successful applicants are eligible for projects at K-12 public schools, colleges, universities, and state agencies throughout Washington. Selected artists remain on the Roster through its four-year term. In 2027, AIPP will hold a mid-term call for artists; those selected will serve for the PAR's final two years.

Update

This spring, AIPP staff managed an online application process. Over four weeks, panelists independently reviewed and pre-scored a record 779 applications online. They met via Zoom on July 21, 22, and 23 to deliberate and make final recommendations. The panel selected 595 artists, 76% of applicants. If approved, this will be AIPP's most diverse roster.

The 2025-2029 Public Artist Roster panel included:

- Daven Diaz, curator and artist, Richland
- Lauren Iida, public artist and AIPP project manager
- Elisheba Johnson, public art administrator and co-founder, Wa Na Wari, Seattle
- Tisa Matheson, NW Museum of Arts & Culture curator and ArtsWA board, Spokane
- June Sekiguchi, public artist and independent curator, University Place

Artists and artist teams living in the United States or British Columbia were invited to apply to the PAR. The panel reviewed and scored all eligible portfolios using criteria indicating that the artist:

- communicated a unique vision or perspective
- demonstrated an authentic relationship to their subject matter
- showed an ability to engage a site and/or community
- demonstrated skill in their technique

The full list of recommended artists can be found in the following pages.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the review panel's recommendation of artists to be included in the 2025-2029 Public Artist Roster.

Submitted by:

Michael Sweney, Program Manager

Art in Public Places Program

July 28, 2025

Panel Recommendation for ArtsWA's 2025-29 Public Artist Roster

11 Dimensions (Todd Moyer Designs) | Las Vegas, NV

Malin Abrahamsson | Brooklyn, NY

Renee Adams | Thorp, WA

Filmon Adelehey | Seattle, WA

Karen Albanese Campbell | Columbus, OH

Iole Alessandrini | Seattle, WA

Anida Yoeu Ali | Tacoma, WA

Volkan Alkanoglu | Portland, OR

Hailey Allen | Ferndale, WA

Shelby Allison | Spokane Valley, WA

Coco Allred | Sammamish, WA

Stacey Almgren | Woodinville, WA

Juan Alonso-Rodriguez | St. Petersburg, FL

Julie Alpert | Seattle, WA

Francisco Alvarado-Juárez | New York, NY

Madeline Alviso Ramirez | Granger, WA

Rosie Alyea | Seattle, WA

Crista Ames | Ellensburg, WA

Nikki Anderson-Joy | Tacoma, WA

Jennifer Angaiak Wood | Indianola, WA

Vasilii Anufriev | Redmond, WA

Jack Archibald | Camano Island, WA

AREA C Projects (Erik Carlson & Erica Carpenter) | Cranston, RI

Melissa Arendt | Auburn, CA

Nikita Ares | Seattle, WA

Andy Arkley | Seattle, WA

Art Bumpkin (Matthew Stubbs) | Ellensburg, WA

Art Studio at RDG Planning & Design | Des Moines, IA

ARTECLETICA (Dominic Panziera & Daniela Garofalo) | Truckee, CA

ArtWithAkirash (Olaniyi Akindiya) | Pflugerville, TX

Deborah Aschheim | Pasadena, CA

Abraham Awalom | Seattle, WA

Vaquero Azul | Tacoma, WA

Matt Babcock | Seattle, WA

Kay Bae | Seattle, WA

Shea Bajaj | Seattle, WA

Ellie Balk | Brooklyn, NY

Ball-Nogues Design (Benjamin Ball) | Los Angeles, CA

Mallory Battista | Spokane, WA

Theresa Batty | Seattle, WA

Vaughn Bell | Seattle, WA

Steve Belz | Port Angeles, WA

Gala Bent | Seattle, WA
Zack Bent | Seattle, WA
Lars Bergquist | Seattle, WA
Neil Berkowitz | Seattle, WA
Micajah Bienvenu | Dorset, VT
Clayton Binkley | Seattle, WA
Andrew Binkley | Honolulu, HI
Rebecca Bird | Brooklyn, NY
Kelly Bjork | Seattle, WA
Brady Black | Port Angeles, WA
Resa Blatman | Somerville, MA
Elora Blessing | Tacoma, WA
Valerie Bline | Olympia, WA
Nancy Blum | Brooklyn, NY
Carrie Bodle | Seattle, WA
Lauren Boilini | Seattle, WA
Dionne Bonner | Tacoma, WA
Michael Boonstra | Eugene, OR
Brian Borrello | Portland, OR
Addie Boswell | Portland, OR
Kann 'Nak' Bou | Renton, WA
Dana Boussard | Arlee, MT
Jean Bradbur | Seattle, WA
Adrian Brandon | Brooklyn, NY
Matthew Brandt | Los Angeles, CA
Monika Bravo | Miami Beach, FL
Jessilyn Brinkerhoff | Eugene, OR
Stephanie Britt | Bellingham, WA
Val Britton | Portland, OR
Scotty Broberg & Nik Penny | East Wenatchee, WA
Laura Brodax | Shoreline, WA
Stella Bronson | Sammamish, WA
Joseph Brooks | Tacoma, WA
Kathleen Frugé Brown | Maple Valley, WA
Laura Halsey Brown | Ilwaco, WA
Jasmine Iona Brown | Tacoma, WA
Damon Brown | Seattle, WA
Charde' Brown | Covington, WA
Ian Brownlee | Seattle, WA
Derek Bruno | Happy Valley, OR
Sandra & Carl Bryant | Lynden, KS
Paula Bullwinkel | Milwaukie, OR
Matt Burney & Joseph Mross | Oakridge, OR
Paul Burton | Seattle, WA

Romson Bustillo | Seattle, WA
Ben Butler | Memphis, TN
Sijae Byun | Seattle, WA
Judith & Daniel Caldwell | Seattle, WA
Flóra Carlile-Kovács | Seattle, WA
Christopher Carlson | Denver, CO
Diane Carr | Brooklyn, NY
Minh Carrico | Edmonds, WA
Libby Carruth | Portland, OR
Oliver Casillas | Portland, OR
Jennifer Cecere | New York, NY
Cedar Stained Glass (Bridget Brunner) | Eastsound, WA
John Chang | Pasadena, CA
Amirah Chatman | Shoreline, WA
Amy Cheng | New York, NY
Alex Chiu | Portland, OR
Lina Cholewinski | Seattle, WA
Kalina Chung | Seattle, WA
Jeonghee Churches | Maple Valley, WA
Civilization (Ellsworth, Gutch, Derse, Leary) | Seattle, WA
Kate Clark | Seattle, WA
Wesley Clark | Hyattsville, MD
Nate Clark | Vashon, WA
Susan Clark | Chehalis, WA
Christine Clark | Portland, OR
Julz Clementine | Portland, OR
Natalie Coblentz | Olympia, WA
Melissa Singh Cole | Spokane, WA
Seth Collier | Spokane Valley, WA
Izaya Colson | Seattle, WA
Kyle Confehr | Philadelphia, PA
Béatrice Coron | New York, NY
Jo Cosme | Seattle, WA
Breyahna (Breeze) Coston | Tacoma, WA
Epiphany Couch | Portland, OR
Oliver Crisostomo | Royal Oak, MI
Rebecca Cummins | Seattle, WA
Myron Curry | Graham, WA
DAAS | Austin, TX
Bill Dambrova | Phoenix, AZ
Debbie Daniels | Friday Harbor, WA
Jimmy Danko | Port Orchard, WA
Fareyza "Rey" Daoed | Sammamish, WA
Anna Mia Davidson | Seattle, WA

Danielle Davis | Spokane, WA
AJ Davis | Denver, CO
Nicole Davy | Phoenix, AZ
Priscila De Carvalho | Brooklyn, NY
Paz de la Calzada | San Francisco, CA
Danielle Dean | Friday Harbor, WA
Carey Dean | Blaine, MN
Erica Deeman | Seattle, WA
Deepti Designs (Deepti Agrawal) | Bothell, WA
Maryam Dehbozorgi | Seattle, WA
***Carina del Rosario** | Seattle, WA
Roberto Delgado | Los Angeles, CA
M. Florine Démosthène | New City, NY
Sarah Deppe | Seattle, WA
Desiderata Mosaic (Aja Ngo) | Portland, OR
Florence (Flory) Desrosiers | Port Orchard, WA
Vito Di Bari | Miami, FL
Rene Julio Diaz | Seattle, WA
Marita Dingus | Auburn, WA
James Dinh | Cerritos, CA
Jennifer Dixon | Seattle, WA
Susan Dory | Seattle, WA
Greg Downing (Lux Natura Photography) | Seattle, WA
Dozfy (Patrick Nguyen) | Seattle, WA
Jill Drilevich | Ravensdale, WA
Michael Dupille | Seattle, WA
Jonathan Eden | Bainbridge Island, WA
Carissa Eich | Bingen, WA
Emily Eisenhart | Austin, TX
David Eisenhour | Port Hadlock, WA
Amara Eke | Seattle, WA
Joshua Enck | Rochester, NY
Cara Enteles | Damascus, PA
Esther Ervin | Seattle, WA
Sadekaronhes Esquivel | SeaTac, WA
Nalisha Estrellas | Seattle, WA
Sheila Evans | Spokane, WA
Josh Everson | Lacey, WA
Sophia Fang | Bellevue, WA
Amiri Farris | Bluffton, SC
RYAN! Feddersen | Tacoma, WA
Daniela Feingold | Seattle, WA
Hexe Fey | Seattle, WA
Devin Finley | Vancouver, WA

Juliet Fiss | Kirkland, WA
Angela Fleet | Seattle, WA
Pete Fleming | Seattle, WA
Mark Fleuridor | Brooklyn, NY
Grace Athena Flott | Seattle, WA
Nick Alan Foote | Seattle, WA
Eroyn Franklin | Seattle, WA
David Franklin | Indianola, WA
Tory Franklin | Seattle, WA
FreelandBuck (Brennan Buck & David Freeland) | Los Angeles, CA
Adair Freeman Rutledge | Seattle, WA
Kathy Fridstein | Port Townsend, WA
Dixie Friend Gay | Houston, TX
Scott Froschauer | Sun Valley, CA
Bill Frymire | Kamloops, BC
Jennifer Fujimoto | Kaneohe, HI
Kaori Fukuyama | San Diego, CA
Alan Fulle | Burien, WA
Eva Funderburgh | Seattle, WA
Yolanda Galery | Seattle, WA
Daniela Garcia | Lynnwood, WA
Michael Garlington | Petaluma, CA
Tatiana Garmendia | Brier, WA
Guy Garrison | Seattle, WA
Aleph Geddis | Deer Harbor, WA
Matthew Geller | New York, NY
Geraluz Werc (Gera "Geraluz" Lozano & Jari "Werc" Alvarez) | Brooklyn, NY
Erik Geschke | Vancouver, WA
Azadeh Gholizadeh | Seattle, WA
Justin Gibbens | Thorp, WA
Ralph Gilbert | Atlanta, GA
Damien Gilley | Portland, OR
Ari Glass | Seattle, WA
Nick Goettling | Tacoma, WA
Pete Goldlust & Melanie Germond | Eugene, OR
Grace Gonzalez | Seattle, WA
Stacia Goodman | Minneapolis, MN
GoodSpace Murals (Greta McLain) | Minneapolis, MN
Malayka Gormally | Seattle, WA
Tom Gormally | Seattle, WA
Graham Projects (Graham Coreil-Allen) | Baltimore, MD
Kerstin Graudins | Seattle, WA
Darcie Gray | Bellingham, WA
Carrie Grey Design | Normandy Park, WA

Cable Griffith | Burien, WA
Yidan Guo | Pocatello, ID
Aaliyah Gupta | Seattle, WA
Joy Hagen | Kirkland, WA
Michael Halady | Port Orchard, WA
Tiffany Hammonds | Tacoma, WA
Blessing Hancock | Tucson, AZ
KT Hancock | Burien, WA
Lu Hanna | Olympia, WA
Rhys-Thorvald Hansen | Point Roberts, WA
Keiko Hara | Walla Walla, WA
Erika Harada | Bremerton, WA
Aisha Harrison | Olympia, WA
Arthur Haywood | Wyncote, PA
Ariana Heinzman | Vashon, WA
Sean Hennessey | Seattle, WA
Lori Hepner | Pittsburgh, PA
Hillerbrand+Magsamen | Houston, TX
Alex Hirsch | Portland, OR
Jim Hirschfield & Sonya Ishii | Chapel Hill, NC
Samantha Holmes | Seattle, WA
Hoa Hong | Seattle, WA
Seraphim Hong | Bellevue, WA
Nancy Hou & Josh de Sousa | Brooklyn, NY
Paul Housberg | Jamestown, RI
Jan Hoy | Coupeville, WA
Stacy Hsu | Seattle, WA
Hua Studios (Huameng Yu & Louis Chinn) | Mukilteo, WA
Ai Chun Huang | Mountlake Terrace, WA
Holly Hudson | Bellingham, WA
Gordon Huether Studio | Napa, CA
CJ Hungerman | Geneva, IL
Amber Marie Hunt | Ritzville, WA
Melinda Hurst Frye | Kenmore, WA
Etsuko Ichikawa | Seattle, WA
***Lauren Iida** | Bothell, WA
Kyung Hee Im | Ellensburg, WA
Stephanie Inman | Boise, ID
Nico Inzerella | Seattle, WA
Mary Iverson | Seattle, WA
Yukiko Izumi | Brooklyn, NY
David Jacobs | Tacoma, WA
David Jacobson | Seattle, WA
Rose Jaffe | Hyattsville, MD

Narus Carlos Jefferson | Valrico, FL
Kate Jessup | Seattle, WA
Will Jewett | Seattle, WA
Maggie Jiang | lake forest park, WA
Britta Johnson | Seattle, WA
Clare Johnson | Seattle, WA
Mary Josephson | Portland , OR
Rachael Juzeler (Ratchet Constructs) | Douglas, AK
Kamla Kakaria | Tukwila, WA
Ildikó Kalapács | Spokane, WA
Jennifer Kapnek | Portland , OR
Shaun Kardinal | Philadelphia, PA
Addison Karl | SeaTac, WA
Tori Karpenko | Twisp, WA
Sergii Karpenko | Bellevue, WA
Vincent Keele | Lake stevens, WA
Niki Keenan | Seattle, WA
Guy Kemper | Versailles, KY
Philippe Hyojung Kim | Seattle, WA
Ji Yong Kim | Brooklyn, NY
Bella Kim | Gig Harbor, WA
Nori Kimura | Tacoma, WA
Ray King | Stockton, NJ
Jennifer Kinsman | Chehalis, WA
Virginia Kistler | Gahanna, OH
Greg Klassen | Everson, WA
Mélodie Knight | University Place, WA
Kipp Kobayashi | Claremont, CA
Hannah Kohl | Ferndale, WA
Benedicta Kongaika | Kent, WA
Yumi Kori | Brooklyn, NY
Kasey Koski | Wenatchee, WA
Andrew Kovacs | Los Angeles, CA
Natalie Krick | Seattle, WA
Stephanie Krimmel | Seattle, WA
Krivanek+Breaux | Evanston, IL
Amanda Krolczyk | Missoula, MT
KSRA (Sara Ferguson) | Seattle, WA
Adam Kuby | Portland, OR
Jennifer Kuhns | Elma, WA
Katie Kurkijy | Seattle, WA
Christina Kwan | Atlanta, GA
Jill Kyong | Moscow, WA
May Kytönen | Seattle, WA

Blake La Rue | Tacoma, WA
Juan La Torre | Tacoma, WA
Kat Lam | Brooklyn, NY
Bea Lamar | Pasadena, CA
Weston Lambert | Tacoma, WA
Maëry Lanahan | Shoreline, WA
Kayleigh Lang | Walla Walla, WA
Maria-Jose & Joshua Lawyer | Santa Rosa , CA
Fulgencio Lazo | Seattle, WA
Judy Lee | Seattle, WA
Lehuauakea | Santa Fe, NM
Cheryll Leo-Gwin | Redmond, WA
Rob Leonard | Seattle, WA
Anaïs Lera | Vancouver, BC
Robert (Bob) Leverich | Olympia, WA
David Carmack Lewis | Portland, OR
Megan Lewis | Baltimore , MD
Rob Ley | Los Angeles, CA
Yuke Li | Mineola, NY
James Lilly | Renton, WA
Jessica Lilly-Maldonado | Issaquah, WA
Hyunjeong Lim | Issaquah, WA
Sujin Lim | Brooklyn, NY
Lisa Little | Los Angeles, CA
Camas Logue | La Conner, WA
Fio Lombardi | Tacoma, WA
Esther Loopstra | Seattle, WA
Aaron Loveitt | Bow, WA
Latoya Lovely | Happy Valley, OR
Mary Lucking Lucking | Phoenix, AZ
Perri Lynch Howard | Twisp, WA
Whitney Lynn | Seattle, WA
Morgan Madison | Seattle, WA
James Madison | Tulalip, WA
Shahrzad Mahmoudi | Bothell, WA
Chet Malinow | Portland, OR
Mary Mann | Tacoma, WA
Chanti Manon-Ferguson | Portland, OR
Marcell Marias | Seattle, WA
Venazir Hannah Martinez | San Francisco , CA
MASARY Studios (Edwards, Okerstrom-Lang, Stewart) | Boston, MA
Molly Mason | Port Jefferson, NY
Rohini Mathur | Bothell, WA
Matthew Mazzotta | Canton, NY

Ken McCall | Boise, ID
Cathy McClure | Seattle, WA
Nikki McClure | Olympia, WA
Maija McKnight | Vashon, WA
Sheri Medford | Spokane, WA
Hooman Mehidizadehjafari | Vancouver, BC
Victor Melendez | Seattle, WA
Bobby Mercier | Grand Ronde, OR
Santa Mercita (Thania Guerra Miranda) | Seattle, WA
*** Rebecca Merkley** | Kennewick, WA
Scott Méxcal | Seattle, WA
MGA Sculpture Studio (Mark Aeling) | Gulfport, FL
Yegizaw Michael | Seattle, WA
Katie Miller | Seattle, WA
Jake Millett | Seattle, WA
Maya Milton | Seattle, WA
Ashley Miyagishima | Seattle, WA
Anna Mlasowsky | Seattle, WA
Judith Modrak | New York, NY
Móni La Artivista (Mónica Mendoza-Cawthon) | Kent, WA
Daniel Moore | Phoenix, AZ
Judy Sutton Moore | Silver Spring, MD
Sarah More | Seattle, WA
Saya Moriyasu | Seattle, WA
Owen Morrel | Miami, FL
Liz Chikayaasiŋ Morrow | Tacoma, WA
Danielle Morsette | Poulsbo, WA
Chi Moscou-Jackson | seattle, WA
Jorge Mota | Tacoma, WA
Roxann Murray | Tacoma, WA
Susan Murrell | La Grande, OR
J Muzacz | Austin, TX
Lisa Myers Bulmash | Bothell, WA
Steven Nagode | Federal Way, WA
Yoshi Nakagawa | Tacoma, WA
Stuart Nakamura | Seattle, WA
Garima Naredi | Sammamish, WA
Alex Nason | Seattle, WA
Rodrigo Nava | Putney, VT
Christine dNguyen | Aurora, CO
Natalie Niblack | Mount Vernon, WA
Ries Niemi | Bow, WA
Teruko Nimura | University Place, WA
Gabi Nirino | Seattle, WA

Abigail Nnaji | Pullman, WA
Barbara Noah | Seattle, WA
Sarah Norsworthy | Seattle, WA
Jasmine Novack | Seattle, WA
Matthew Olds | Port Orchard, WA
Owen Oliver | Seattle, WA
Sean Orlando | Richmond, CA
Orlosky Studio (Kevin & Andrea Orlosky) | Burnaby, BC
John Osgood | Danville, CA
Shogo Ota | Camano Island, WA
Sara Owens | Langley, WA
OYAM (Bradley Gunn) | Seattle, WA
Hernan Paganini | Seattle, WA
Ian Page-Echols | Seattle, WA
Kelly Haejung Paik | Seattle, WA
Mandy Palasik | Los Angeles, CA
Io Palmer | Pullman, WA
Seth Emerson Palmiter | Rockport, ME
Shawn Parks | Bainbridge Island, WA
Gerardo Peña | Normandy Park, WA
Malia Peoples | Seattle, WA
Sydney Pertl | Seattle, WA
Clyde Petersen | Anacortes, WA
James Peterson | Los Angeles, CA
Oleksandra Petrovska | Bothell, WA
Hilary Pfeifer | Portland, OR
Ellen Picken | Spokane, WA
Curtis Pittman | Battle Ground, WA
Johanna Poethig | Oakland, CA
Tracy Poindexter-Canton | Spokane, WA
Andrea Polli | Santa Fe, NM
Warren Pope | Seattle, WA
Prentice Colbert | West Cornwall, CT
Megan Prince | Seattle, WA
Project One Studio (Adam Buente) | Indianapolis, IN
Claire Putney | Vashon, WA
Trenton Quiocho | Fircrest, WA
George Rahi | Vancouver, BC
Cory Rain (Cory Peasley) | Seattle, WA
Nichole Rathburn | Tacoma, WA
Cat Raya | Taholah, WA
Jenee Redecker | Oakville, WA
Erwin Redl | Brackney, PA
Peter Reiquam | Seattle, WA

Kyle Reynolds | Seattle, WA
Kait Rhoads | Seattle, WA
Elizabeth Richardson-Isom | Tenino, WA
Jane Richlovsky | Seattle, WA
Ride Art Studio (Saori Ide & Jonathan Russell) | Berkeley, CA
Devin River | Olympia, WA
Aureliano Rivera, Pablo Ruiz Arroyo, Pancho Pescador | Berkeley, CA
Mauricio Robalino | Tacoma, WA
Sarah Robbins | Edmonds, WA
Greg Robinson | Vancouver, WA
Philip A. Robinson, Jr. | Beaverton, OR
Nathan Robles | Kennewick, WA
John Rogers | Portland, OR
Rogue Murals & Signs (Kirsten Sandlin) | Memphis, TN
Glynn Rosenberg | Seattle, WA
Joan Stuart Ross | Seattle, WA
ROTATOR (Lance Kagey, Adam Auter, Kendon Shaw) | Tacoma, WA
Brad Rude | Walla Walla, WA
Sherry Ying Ruden | Seattle, WA
Joe Rudko | Seattle, WA
Eric Rue | Portland, OR
Reza Safavi | Pullman, WA
Ivan Salcido | Portland, OR
Suneeva Saldanha | Seattle, WA
Colton Sampson | Seattle, WA
Frank Samuelson | Port Townsend, WA
Chiyo Sanada | Lacey, WA
Brian Sanchez | Seattle, WA
Kyle Sanchez | Lacey, WA
Amaranta Sandys | Burien, WA
Blanca Santander | Seattle, WA
Norie Sato | Seattle, WA
Rebecca Scarborough | Seattle, WA
David Schafer | Los Angeles, CA
Harro Scharbau IV | Shelton, WA
Steven Scheibe | Olympia, WA
Gregg Schlanger | Ellensburg, WA
Will Schlough | Seattle, WA
Ann Marie Schneider | Seattle, WA
Genevieve Scholl | Cascade Locks, OR
Jaime Scholnick | Los Angeles, CA
Cori Schuman | Spokane, WA
Leni Schwendinger | New York, NY
Karl Schwiesow | Ellensburg, WA

Roy Secord | Bronx, NY
June Sekiguchi | University Place, WA
Colin Selig | Walnut Creek, CA
Mikaela Shafer | Olympia, WA
Tori Shao | Seattle, WA
Stevie Shao | Seattle, WA
Shan Shan Sheng | San Francisco, CA
Erin Shigaki | Seattle, WA
Mary Shindell | Phoenix, AZ
Saman Shojaei Barjuei | Everett, WA
Sara Siestreem | Portland, OR
Ronald Simmer | Burnaby, BC
Buster Simpson | Seattle, WA
Joshua Sin | Portland, OR
Laura Sindell | Seattle, WA
Preston Singletary | Seattle, WA
Alexander Siniscalchi | Renton, WA
Karen D. Sixkiller | Port Angeles, WA
Daniel R. Smith | Seattle, WA
Timothy Robert Smith | Upland, CA
John Smither | Seattle, WA
Snack Break Studio (Vivian Li & Shannon Kao) | Seattle, WA
SOFTlab (Michael Szivos) | New York, NY
Katana Sol | Seattle, WA
Lisa Soranaka | Spokane, WA
Chris Soria | Nyack, NY
Alisa Sozonyk | Mill Creek, WA
Spanky Loco (Javier Silva) | Silverdale, WA
Sparks Designs (Heather Dawn & Islando Sunrise Sparks) | Bellingham, WA
Speker (Lorenzo Fontanella) | Pasadena, CA
Katherine Staib | Cheney, WA
Shima Star | Redmond, WA
Aaron Stephan | Portland, ME
Jennifer Stillwell | Victoria, BC
Lisa Stirrett | Bremerton, WA
Kenji Stoll | Tacoma, WA
Alyson Storms | Seattle, WA
John Strohhahn | Sequim, WA
Taka Sudo | Vancouver, BC
Patrick Sullivan | St. George, UT
Angelita Surmon | Portland, OR
Kerry Sutton | Federal Way, WA
Matthew Szösz | Seattle, WA
Aiko Szymczak | Denver, WA

Sasha Tai | Redmond, WA
Emi Tan | Portland, OR
Pearlyn Tan | Portland, OR
Kana Tanaka | Albany, CA
Ann Tarantino | State College, PA
Soonae Tark | Phoenix, AZ
TheyDrift (Carlos Aguilar) | Seattle , WA
Cappy Thompson | Seattle, WA
Meghan Thréinfhir | Seattle, WA
Joe Thurston | Nehalem, OR
Christie Tirado | Yakima, WA
Bruce Clayton Tom | Seattle, WA
Anna Tono | Seattle, WA
Jose Trejo Maya | Baldwin Park, CA
W. Scott Trimble | Seattle, WA
Owen Tucker | Anchorage, AK
Jud Turner | Eugene, OR
Nathan Turrell | Seattle, WA
Sophy Tuttle | Medford, MA
Mihail Tyutyunik | Brooklyn, NY
uckiood (Missy Douglas & Kim Rask) | Seahurst, WA
Elizabeth Umanzor | Houston, TX
UrbanRock Design (Jeanine Centuori & Russel Rock) | Los Angeles, CA
Gia Valente | Seattle, WA
Vaeomatoka "Toka" Valu | Seatac, WA
Mary Van Cline | Shelton, WA
Jen Vickers | Seattle, WA
Angelina '179' Villalobos Soto | Burien, WA
Orquidia Violeta Velasquez | Portland, OR
April Wagner | Pontiac, MI
Catherine Wagner | San Francisco, CA
Susan Elizabeth Walker | Issaquah, WA
Maureen Walsh | Shade, OH
JoEllen Wang | Seattle, WA
Patti Warashina | Seattle, WA
Kai Watson | Lawrenceville, GA
Jesse Joshua Watson | Port Townsend , WA
Martin Webb | Oakland, CA
Jing Wei | Brooklyn, NY
Liz Weickum | Tacoma, WA
Wesi Mural Studio (Christian Tellez Garcia) | Portland, OR
Rene Westbrook | Lacey, WA
Jeff Whipple | Jacksonville, FL
Clark Wiegman | Seattle, WA

Joshua Wiener | Boulder, CO
Andrea Wilbur-Sigo | Shelton, WA
Bruce Willen | Baltimore, MD
Dyanne Williams | Canton, OH
Sam Wood Wilson | Seattle, WA
Kalina Winska | Seattle, WA
Rickie Wolfe | seattle, WA
Stewart Wong | Seattle, WA
Allyce Wood | Seattle, WA
Rock Woodall | Kennewick, WA
Chandra Wu | Seattle, WA
Sumi Wu | Portland, OR
Haiying Wu | Issaquah, WA
Ko Kirk Yamahira | Seattle, WA
Stephen Yates | Port Townsend, WA
Andy Yoder | Falls Church, VA
Ben Zamora | Seattle, WA
Brandon Zebold | Mercer Island, WA
Claude Zervas | Bellingham, WA
Féven Zewdi | Seattle, WA
Carrie Ziegler | Olympia, WA
Morgan Zion | Seattle, WA
Bobby Zokaite | Tempe, AZ
Janet Zweig | Brooklyn, NY
Ilana Zweschi | Seattle, WA

Creative District Certification Recommendations

Certification Program Overview

The Certified Creative Districts program helps communities turn arts and culture into economic opportunities. The program was launched in January 2018. There are currently twenty certified Creative Districts across Washington State. The Northeast Public Development Authority (NEPDA) recently applied for consideration on behalf of the **Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane**, and Woodinville Arts Alliance applied on behalf of the **City of Woodinville**. ArtsWA convened two panels to review each application, respectively.

Certification Review Criteria

- **Creative District Information (30% of score):** Applicant demonstrates; strength of organizational structure, feasible budget, well-defined Creative District boundaries, comprehensive goals, and strong mission/vision/values.
- **Creative District Characteristics (40% of score):** Applicant demonstrates; strength of competitive advantage, understanding of community history, broad appeal to visitors, sense of place, walkability, and ancillary activities.
- **Community Buy-In (30% of score):** Applicant demonstrates; support from local government, participation from community members and partners, outreach to community, advancement of overall community goals, economic data, and cohesiveness with existing economic development goals.

Hillyard (neighborhood of Spokane) Application Panel Review

Panelists

- Michael Cade, ArtsWA Commissioner and Thurston Economic Development Council (Thurston)
- Catherine Nueva España, ArtsWA Commissioner and Consultant (King)
- Charlie Robin, ArtsWA Commissioner and E.D. of The Capitol Theatre (Yakima)

Process

ArtsWA received Hillyard's application on June 16, 2025. The panel convened on July 2, 2025 to review Hillyard's application. The panel followed all applicable rules for Conflict of Interest. There were no conflicts of interest.

The panel voted unanimously to certify Hillyard Creative District.

Recommendation

That the Board ratify the panel's approval for Hillyard Creative District certification.

Woodinville Application Panel Review

Panelists

- Charlie Robin, ArtsWA Commissioner and E.D. of The Capitol Theatre (Yakima)
- James Henderson – City of North Bend Community & Economic Development Director (King)
- Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager, ArtsWA (Thurston)
- Miguel Guillen, Grants to Organizations Manager, ArtsWA (Thurston)
- Claire Schechtman, Art in Public Places Project Manager, ArtsWA (Thurston)

Process

ArtsWA received Woodinville's application on June 16, 2025. The panel convened on July 14, 2025 to review Woodinville's application. The panel followed all applicable rules for Conflict of Interest. There were no conflicts of interest.

The panel recommended that Woodinville adjust their workplan to focus their Creative District work more on their central core as opposed to further outlying areas and to work toward better integrating all communities into Creative District planning and execution. The panel voted unanimously to certify them.

Recommendation

That the Board ratify the panel's approval for Woodinville Creative District certification.

Submitted by:

Aaron Semer, Creative Districts Program Manager

July 22, 2025

Grants to Organizations: FY26 Art Project Support

Program Background

This grant offers project-specific funding to groups seeking to provide community arts and cultural experiences. Organizations do not need to have an arts-focused mission to apply.

Funding amounts

Applicants can request between \$1,000 - \$3,000 for their project. Grant amounts may vary depending on the available funds and number of applications received.

Eligibility

- Project must be open to the public.
- Project must happen between July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.
- Project must have arts, heritage, and/or culture as a primary component.
- Project must take place in Washington State.
- Applicant organization must be one of the following:
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit
 - *501(c)(3)s must have current state corporate nonprofit status and current federal tax- exempt determination under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*
 - Local Arts Agency
 - *Local Arts Agencies are officially designated by a local government to provide art services to the public on behalf of the local government.*
 - Tribal Government
 - Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. [More about fiscal sponsorship.](#)

Priority Funding Process

Starting with the FY26 funding cycle, GTO implemented priority-based criteria to ensure our limited funds are distributed equitably. This funding structure and process is strategically designed to maximize support for our growing community while aligning with the objectives in the agency's strategic plan.

Priorities for Art Project Support Grants

- Businesses located in counties identified by the state as a distressed area: Clallam, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Yakima. (first

consideration) Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Island, Lincoln, Skagit, Walla Walla, Whitman, San Juan (second consideration)

- Organizations serving constituencies consisting of 25% or more of an underserved group. *"Underserved" means populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, historical exclusion and marginalization due to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economics, disability, or other social or institutionally imposed barriers.*

Process

A total of 92 applications were submitted or reviewed during the application period (April 14, 2025 – May 12, 2025) Staff reviewed applications to ensure organizations were eligible for the program and grouped applications by Priorities-met. Forty-nine (49) organizations are recommended for funding. Forty-three (43) were not recommended.

Included in this packet is a list of recommendations for funding and declines. Applicants are given 21 calendar days, from the date the denial letter is sent, to appeal these decisions.

Recommendation

That the Board ratify the Executive Director's Approval for FY26 Project Support grants totaling \$109,130 as provided in the packet.

Submitted by:

Miguel Guillen

Community Investments

Grants to Organizations, Program Manager

July 29, 2025

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Art Project Support

Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board of Commissioners or the Executive Director – depending on grant amounts - before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Recommended for Funding	County	Request	Grant
Arts Corps	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Bainbridge Ballet Performance Group	Kitsap	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Blue Hour Theatre Group	King	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Book-It Repertory Theatre	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of the Columbia Basin	Grant	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County	Skagit	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Brave and Unbroken Project	Pierce	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Capital Lakefair Inc	Thurston	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Cascade Celtic Festival	Chelan	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Center for Global Muslim Life	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Chewelah Performing and Cultural Arts Center	Stevens	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Columbia Basin Allied Arts	Grant	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
CREATE48 Media Network	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
DAIPANbutoh Collective	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Envision Kalama	Cowlitz	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Foundation for International Understanding Through Students	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Future of Film Foundation	Snohomish	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Greater Kent Historical Society	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Highland Community Support Coalition	Okanogan	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Hugging Tree Legacy	Jefferson	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00

Hummingbird Studio	Thurston	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Iranian Women's Institute for Life and Liberty	King	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
JHP Cultural and Diversity Legacy	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Joyas Mestizas	King	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Longview Downtowners	Cowlitz	\$1,720.00	\$1,720.00
Maryhill Museum of Art	Klickitat	\$2,160.00	\$2,160.00
Meander Dance Collective	Island	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Ninaad	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Orcas Microcinema	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Out of the Ashes	Whatcom	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Pacific Northwest Ballet Association	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Peninsula Chamber Singers	Clallam	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Pratt Fine Arts Center	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rambler Arts	Kitsap	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Resonance Studio Theatre	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rod's House	Yakima	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Sadhana	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Seattle Envelopes	King	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
Seventh Wave Magazine Inc	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Snohomish Artist Guild	Cowlitz	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Solstice Symphony Orchestra	King	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Spectrum Singers	Spokane	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Spokane Chinese Association	Spokane	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Spokane Is Reading	Spokane	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
TwispWorks Foundation	Okanogan	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance -			\$2,000.00

Washington (UTOPIA WA)	King	\$3,000.00	
Village Community Services	Snohomish	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Vox Pacifica	Whatcom	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Yes And Productions Foundation	Benton	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total Request	\$144,130.00		
Total Recommended		\$109,130.00	

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Art Project Support

Not Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Generally, applications not recommended for funding did not satisfy priorities as outlined in guidelines, applied in more than one category, or were not funded due to lack of available funds.

Not recommended for funding	County	Request
Applied Education Foundation	Jefferson	\$3,000.00
Artemis Theatre Project	King	\$3,000.00
Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council	Kitsap	\$3,000.00
Bainbridge Island Youth Orchestra	Kitsap	\$3,000.00
Capoeira Life	King	\$3,000.00
Capoeira Vida	Pierce	\$3,000.00
Capital City Chorus	Thurston	\$3,000.00
Columbia City Beatwalk	King	\$3,000.00
Community Enrichment for Klickitat County (CEKC)	Klickitat	\$3,000.00
Das Biest Performance Project	Pierce	\$3,000.00
DogtagDND	Snohomish	\$3,000.00
Encanto Arts	King	\$3,000.00
Friends of the Lower Grand Coulee	Grant	\$1,000.00
Island Verse Literary Collective	San Juan	\$3,000.00
Issaquah Cultural Circle	King	\$3,000.00
Kintsugi Somatic Art	King	\$3,000.00
Latitude Theatre	King	\$3,000.00
Liberty Lake Better Together Fund	Spokane	\$3,000.00

Live Music Project	King	\$2,900.00
Make Shift	Whatcom	\$3,000.00
Mary Sigward + Artists	King	\$3,000.00
MaryDanceStudio	Spokane	\$3,000.00
Museum of Glass	Pierce	\$3,000.00
Newport Creative District	Pend Oreille	\$3,000.00
Northwest Associated Arts	King	\$3,000.00
Northwest Repertory Singers	Pierce	\$3,000.00
Northwest Theatre Productions	King	\$2,900.00
Oni Arts Foundation	King	\$3,000.00
Rain City Rock Camp for Girls	King	\$3,000.00
Saint Martin's University	Thurston	\$3,000.00
Short Shorts	King	\$3,000.00
South Sound Studio Tour Foundation	Thurston	\$3,000.00
Southwest Washington Wind Symphony	Clark	\$1,050.00
Spokane Valley Arts Council	Spokane	\$3,000.00
Stanwood-Camano Arts Advocacy Comission	Snohomish	\$3,000.00
Team-Tomorrow, LLC	King	\$3,000.00
Ted Brown Music Outreach	Pierce	\$3,000.00
The Fred Oldfield Western Heritage and Art Center	Pierce	\$3,000.00
The Friendship Circle of Washington	King	\$3,000.00
The Jazz Project	Whatcom	\$3,000.00
Therapeutic Riding Of Tri-cities	Benton	\$2,000.00
Two Rivers Gallery	Chelan	\$3,000.00
ELLENSBURG DANCE ENSEMBLE	Kittitas	\$3,000.00
Total Non-Funded Request		\$123,850.00

Grants to Organizations: FY26-27 Midsize Organization General Operating Support

Program Background

This grant offers two-year funding to support the day-to-day costs of arts organizations in their work of providing creative experiences with and for the people of Washington State.

Funding amounts

Applicants can request up to \$6,000 split across two years (\$3,000 x 2) for general operating expenses. Grant amounts may vary depending on available funds.

Eligibility

- A mission that centers art, culture, and/or heritage
- Publicly accessible programming
- At least three years of programming history
- A physical address located in Washington State
- An annual operating budget between \$100,000 to \$350,000.
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit or
- Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) [Click here for ArtsWA's Fiscal Sponsorship Requirements](#)
- Local Arts Agency
 - Must be officially designated to provide art services on behalf of the local government.
- Tribal Government

Priority Funding Process

Starting with the FY26 funding cycle, GTO implemented priority-based criteria to ensure our limited funds are distributed equitably. This funding structure and process is strategically designed to maximize support for our growing community while aligning with the objectives in the agency's strategic plan.

Priorities for Operating Support Grants/Emerging/Small Organizations

- • Businesses located in counties identified by the state as a distressed area: Clallam, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Yakima. (first consideration) Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Island, Lincoln, Skagit, Walla Walla, Whitman, San Juan (second consideration)

- Organizations serving constituencies consisting of 25% or more of an underserved group. *"Underserved" means populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, historical exclusion and marginalization due to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economics, disability, or other social or institutionally imposed barriers.*

Process

A total of 112 applications were submitted or reviewed during the application period (March 3, 2025 – April 7, 2025.) Staff reviewed applications to ensure organizations were eligible for the program and grouped applications by Priorities-met. Fifty-five (55) organizations are recommended for funding. Fifty-four (54) were not recommended.

Included in this packet is a list of recommendations for funding and declines. Applicants are given 21 calendar days, from the date the denial letter is sent, to appeal these decisions.

Recommendation

That the Board ratify the Executive Director's Approval for FY26 General Operating Support for Midsize Organizations grants totaling \$110,000 as provided in the packet.

Submitted by:

Miguel Guillen

Community Investments

Grants to Organizations, Program Manager

July 29, 2025

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Midsize Organization Operating Support

Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board of Commissioners or the Executive Director – depending on grant amounts - before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Recommended for Funding	County	Request	Grant
Olympic Theatre Arts	Clallam	\$6,000	\$2,000
Lelooska Foundation	Cowlitz	\$6,000	\$2,000
Central Basin Community Concert Association	Grant	\$6,000	\$2,000
StrongerTowns	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$2,000
Midsummer Musical Retreat Society	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$2,000
Laughing Horse Arts Foundation	Kittitas	\$6,000	\$2,000
Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	Kittitas	\$6,000	\$2,000
Fire Mountain Arts Council	Lewis	\$6,000	\$2,000
Mason County Historical Society Museum	Mason	\$6,000	\$2,000
The Merc Playhouse Society	Okanogan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Confluence Gallery and Art Center	Okanogan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Water Music Society	Pacific	\$6,000	\$2,000
Friends of Chinook School	Pacific	\$6,000	\$2,000
Northwest Carriage Museum	Pacific	\$6,000	\$2,000
Woodland Productions	Stevens	\$6,000	\$2,000
Tieton Arts and Humanities	Yakima	\$6,000	\$2,000
Larson Gallery Guild	Yakima	\$6,000	\$2,000
Explore Your Wild	Yakima	\$6,000	\$2,000
Mid-Columbia Mastersingers	Benton	\$6,000	\$2,000
Whidbey Island Dance Theatre	Island	\$6,000	\$2,000

Island County Historical Society Museum	Island	\$6,000	\$2,000
Kitsap County Historical Society	Kitsap	\$6,000	\$2,000
Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council	Kitsap	\$6,000	\$2,000
Friday Harbor Film Festival	San Juan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Underground Writing	Skagit	\$6,000	\$2,000
The Ladies Musical Club of Seattle, Washington	Snohomish	\$6,000	\$2,000
Chamber Music Madness	Snohomish	\$6,000	\$2,000
Art Salvage	Spokane	\$6,000	\$2,000
Olympia Lamplighters	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000
Carnegie Picture Lab	Walla Walla	\$6,000	\$2,000
The Little Theatre of Walla Walla	Walla Walla	\$6,000	\$2,000
Bellingham International Film Festival	Whatcom	\$6,000	\$2,000
Make Shift	Whatcom	\$6,000	\$2,000
Bellingham SeaFeast	Whatcom	\$6,000	\$2,000
The Jazz Project	Whatcom	\$6,000	\$2,000
Artisans at the Dahmen Barn	Whitman	\$6,000	\$2,000
Regional Theatre of the Palouse	Whitman	\$6,000	\$2,000
Washington Idaho Symphony Association	Whitman	\$6,000	\$2,000
Braided Seeds	Pierce	\$6,000	\$2,000
BurlyCon	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Bushwick Northwest	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Capoeira Life	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Dacha Theatre	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
FREE2LUV	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Gostia LLC	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Living Voices	King	\$6,000	\$2,000

Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Pacific Northwest Center for Architecture & Design	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Partners in Print	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Refugee Choir Project	Pierce	\$6,000	\$2,000
Short Run Seattle	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Social Justice Film Institute	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
SUPPORT OF OLD LADY ARTISTS	King	\$3,000	\$2,000
Totem Star	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Total Request	\$327,000		
Total Recommended		\$110,000	

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Midsize Organization Support

Not Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Generally, applications not recommended for funding did not satisfy priorities as outlined in guidelines, applied in more than one category, or were not funded due to lack of available funds.

Not recommended for funding	County	Request
ANACORTES MUSIC PROJECT	Skagit	\$6,000
Art - Not Terminal Gallery	King	\$6,000
Art Start Northwest	Snohomish	\$6,000
Bainbridge Chorale	Kitsap	\$6,000
Ballyhoo Theatre	Snohomish	\$6,000
Bandit Theateer	King	\$6,000
Base	King	\$6,000
Bellevue Youth Choirs	King	\$6,000
Camano Arts Association	Island	\$6,000
Camp Jitterbug	Snohomish	\$6,000
Choral Arts	King	\$6,000
Dace's Rock 'n' More Music Academy	King	\$6,000
Drama Dock	King	\$6,000
Early Music Guild of Seattle	King	\$6,000
Encanto Arts	King	\$6,000
Experience Education	King	\$6,000
Fred Oldfield Western Heritage and Art Center	Pierce	\$3,600

Fremont Arts Council	King	\$6,000
Hmong Association of Washington	King	\$6,000
Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Magenta Theater	Clark	\$6,000
Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Mirror Stage	King	\$6,000
Northwest Architectural League	King	\$6,000
Oak Harbor Music Festival	Island	\$6,000
Orquesta Northwest	King	\$6,000
Puckduction	King	\$6,000
Seattle Children's Chorus	Snohomish	\$6,000
Seattle Collaborative Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Seattle Latino Film Festival	King	\$6,000
SecondStory Repertory	King	\$1,496
Sister Cities Council of Tacoma-Pierce County	Pierce	\$6,000
Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society	King	\$6,000
Spark Central	Spokane	\$6,000
Spokane Area Childrens Chorus	Spokane	\$6,000
Stanwood-Camano Arts Advocacy Commission	Snohomish	\$6,000
Steel Magic Northwest	Snohomish	\$6,000
Subdued Stringband Jamboree	Whatcom	\$6,000
Tacoma Concert Band	Pierce	\$5,000
Team-Tomorrow	Thurston	\$6,000
The 14/48 Projects	King	\$6,000
The Family Guide	Spokane	\$6,000
The Habit Productions	King	\$6,000

The Phffft Company, Inc.	King	\$6,000
The Shattered Glass Project	King	\$6,000
Theatre Off Jackson	King	\$6,000
Third Place Technologies	King	\$6,000
Tibetan Association of Washington	King	\$6,000
Union Cultural Center	King	\$6,000
Uttoron	King	\$6,000
Valley Theater	Benton	\$6,000
Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association	King	\$6,000
Washington Ensemble Theatre	King	\$6,000
Windz of Change Alliance	King	\$6,000
Total Non-Funded Request		\$316,096

Grants to Organizations: FY26-27 Large Organization General Operating Support

Program Background

This grant offers two-year funding to support the day-to-day costs of arts organizations in their work of providing creative experiences with and for the people of Washington State.

Funding amounts

Applicants can request up to \$6,000 split across two years (\$3,000 x 2) for general operating expenses. Grant amounts may vary depending on available funds.

Eligibility

- A mission that centers art, culture, and/or heritage
- Publicly accessible programming
- At least three years of programming history
- A physical address located in Washington State
- An annual operating budget of over \$350,000
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit or
- Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) [Click here for ArtsWA's Fiscal Sponsorship Requirements](#)
- Local Arts Agency
 - Must be officially designated to provide art services on behalf of the local government.
- Tribal Government

Priority Funding Process

Starting with the FY26 funding cycle, GTO implemented priority-based criteria to ensure our limited funds are distributed equitably. This funding structure and process is strategically designed to maximize support for our growing community while aligning with the objectives in the agency's strategic plan.

Priorities for Operating Support Grants/Emerging/Small Organizations

- • Businesses located in counties identified by the state as a distressed area: Clallam, Cowlitz, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Yakima. (first consideration) Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Island, Lincoln, Skagit, Walla Walla, Whitman, San Juan (second consideration)

- Organizations serving constituencies consisting of 25% or more of an underserved group. *"Underserved" means populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, historical exclusion and marginalization due to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economics, disability, or other social or institutionally imposed barriers.*

Process

A total of 145 applications were submitted or reviewed during the application period (March 3, 2025 – April 7, 2025.) Staff reviewed applications to ensure organizations were eligible for the program and grouped applications by Priorities-met. Fifty-five (55) organizations are recommended for funding. Ninety (90) were not recommended.

Included in this packet is a list of recommendations for funding and declines. Applicants are given 21 calendar days, from the date the denial letter is sent, to appeal these decisions.

Recommendation

That the Board ratify the Executive Director's Approval for FY26 General Operating Support for Large Organization grants totaling \$110,000 as provided in the packet.

Submitted by:

Miguel Guillen

Community Investments

Grants to Organizations, Program Manager

July 29, 2025

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Large Organization Operating Support

Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board of Commissioners or the Executive Director – depending on grant amounts - before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Recommended for Funding	County	Request	Grant
Friends of the Columbians	Benton	\$6,000	\$2,000
Icicle Creek Center for the Arts	Chelan	\$6,000	\$2,000
National Youth Performers	Chelan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center	Chelan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Port Angeles Fine Arts Center Foundation	Clallam	\$6,000	\$2,000
Port Angeles Waterfront Center	Clallam	\$6,000	\$2,000
Oregon Performing Arts Academy	Clark	\$6,000	\$2,000
Columbia Theatre for Performing Arts	Cowlitz	\$6,000	\$2,000
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport	Grays Harbor	\$6,000	\$2,000
Key City Players, Inc	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$2,000
Port Townsend School of the Arts	Jefferson	\$6,000	\$2,000
Deaf Spotlight	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Holocaust Center for Humanity	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Jack Straw Foundation	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Music of Remembrance	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Northwest African American Museum	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Open Space for Arts & Community	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Seattle Arts & Lectures	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Seattle Opera	King	\$3,000	\$2,000

SV Archive	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Taproot Theatre	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Theatre Puget Sound	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Wa Na Wari	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Washington State Jewish Historical Society	King	\$6,000	\$2,000
Admiral Theatre Foundation	Kitsap	\$6,000	\$2,000
Bainbridge Island Museum of Art	Kitsap	\$6,000	\$2,000
Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation	Kitsap	\$6,000	\$2,000
Chehalis Ballet Center	Lewis	\$6,000	\$2,000
Methow Arts Alliance	Okanogan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Winthrop Music Association	Okanogan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Ted Brown Music Outreach	Pierce	\$6,000	\$2,000
Alchemy Art Center	San Juan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Orcas Center	San Juan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival	San Juan	\$6,000	\$2,000
San Juan Community Theatre	San Juan	\$6,000	\$2,000
Anacortes Arts Festival	Skagit	\$6,000	\$2,000
Celtic Arts Foundation	Skagit	\$6,000	\$2,000
Fidalgo DanceWorks	Skagit	\$6,000	\$2,000
Museum of Northwest Art	Skagit	\$6,000	\$2,000
All Aboard of America 1	Snohomish	\$6,000	\$2,000
Hispanic Business Professional Assn	Spokane	\$6,000	\$2,000
Terrain Programs	Spokane	\$6,000	\$2,000
Arbutus Folk School	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000
Ballet Northwest	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000
Hands On Children's Museum	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000

Indigenous Performance Productions	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000
Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000
The Bridge Music Project	Thurston	\$6,000	\$2,000
Power House Theatre Walla Walla	Walla Walla	\$6,000	\$2,000
Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival	Walla Walla	\$6,000	\$2,000
BAAV	Whatcom	\$6,000	\$2,000
The Capitol Theatre Committee, Inc.	Yakima	\$6,000	\$2,000
Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA)	Yakima	\$6,000	\$2,000
Yakima Valley Museum & Historical Association	Yakima	\$6,000	\$2,000
Total Request	\$327,000		
Total Recommended		\$110,000	

Grants to Organizations

FY26 Large Organization Support

Not Recommended for Funding

Recommendations require approval by the Board before they are official. Direct any public inquiries to staff.

Generally, applications not recommended for funding did not satisfy priorities as outlined in guidelines, applied in more than one category, or were not funded due to lack of available funds.

Not recommended for funding	County	Request
Mid-Columbia Symphony Society	Benton	\$6,000
Columbia Dance Ensemble	Clark	\$6,000
Journey Theater Arts Group	Clark	\$6,000
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts	Island	\$6,000
A Contemporary Theatre Inc	King	\$6,000
Africatown Community Land Trust	King	\$6,000
After-School All-Stars	King	\$6,000
Ascendance Pole And Aerial Arts	King	\$6,000
Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas	King	\$6,000
City of Kent Arts Commission	King	\$6,000
Classical 98.1	King	\$6,000
Columbia Choirs Association	King	\$6,000
Coyote Central	King	\$6,000
Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association	King	\$6,000
Earshot Jazz Society of Seattle	King	\$6,000
El Centro de la Raza	King	\$6,000
Emerald City Music	King	\$6,000
Experience Learning Community	King	\$6,000

Gage Academy of Art	King	\$6,000
Intiman Theatre	King	\$6,000
Kirkland Arts Center	King	\$6,000
Kirkland Center of the Performing Arts	King	\$6,000
Mini Mart City Park	King	\$6,000
Music Center of the Northwest	King	\$6,000
Northwest Film Forum	King	\$6,000
Northwest Folklife	King	\$6,000
Not An Alternative, Inc.	King	\$6,000
On the Boards	King	\$6,000
Pacific Ballroom Dance	King	\$6,000
Pottery Northwest	King	\$6,000
Pratt Fine Arts Center	King	\$6,000
Richard Hugo House	King	\$6,000
Sawhorse Revolution	King	\$6,000
School of Acrobatics & New Circus Arts	King	\$6,000
Seattle Art Museum	King	\$6,000
Seattle Children's Theatre Association	King	\$6,000
Seattle Jazz Orchestra	King	\$6,000
Seattle JazzED	King	\$6,000
Seattle Public Theater	King	\$6,000
Seattle ReCreative	King	\$6,000
Seattle Repertory Theater	King	\$6,000
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras	King	\$6,000
Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council	King	\$6,000
SIFF	King	\$6,000

Sound Theatre	King	\$6,000
Southeast Effective Development	King	\$6,000
Tasveer	King	\$6,000
TeenTix	King	\$6,000
The Key to Change	King	\$6,000
The Redmond Academy of Theatre Arts	King	\$6,000
The Residency	King	\$6,000
The Rhapsody Project	King	\$6,000
The Vera Project	King	\$6,000
Theatre33	King	\$6,000
Town Hall Association	King	\$6,000
University Heights Center for the Community Association	King	\$6,000
Urban ArtWorks	King	\$6,000
Vashon Allied Arts, Inc.	King	\$6,000
Velocity Dance Center	King	\$6,000
Village Theatre	King	\$6,000
Whim W'him Contemporary Dance	King	\$6,000
Wing It Productions	King	\$6,000
BREMERTON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	Kitsap	\$6,000
Acoustic Sound	Pierce	\$6,000
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	Pierce	\$6,000
BYTM Building Youth Through Music	Pierce	\$6,000
Hilltop Artists in Residence	Pierce	\$6,000
Museum of Glass	Pierce	\$6,000
Northwest Sinfonietta	Pierce	\$6,000

Symphony Tacoma	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Art Museum	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Arts Live	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Community Boat Builders	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Little Theatre and Drama League, Inc.	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Opera Association	Pierce	\$6,000
Tacoma Youth Symphony Association	Pierce	\$6,000
Melodic Caring Project	Skagit	\$6,000
Arts Council of Snohomish County	Snohomish	\$6,000
Edmonds Center for the Arts	Snohomish	\$6,000
Olympic Ballet Theatre	Snohomish	\$6,000
Pilchuck Glass School	Snohomish	\$3,000
Holy Names Center At Fort Wright	Spokane	\$6,000
Spokane Valley Summer Theatre	Spokane	\$6,000
Washington Center for the Performing Arts	Thurston	\$6,000
Walla Walla Symphony Society, Inc.	Walla Walla	\$6,000
Allied Arts of Whatcom County	Whatcom	\$6,000
Bellingham Symphony Orchestra	Whatcom	\$6,000
Jansen Art Center	Whatcom	\$6,000
The Bellingham Circus Guild	Whatcom	\$6,000
Whatcom Museum Foundation	Whatcom	\$6,000
Total Non-Funded Request		\$537,000

Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards – 2026 Planning Update

In 2025, we successfully transitioned the Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards to a new venue—the Kenneth J. Minnaert Center—and aligned the event with Arts, Heritage, and Science Week, strengthening its visibility and relevance. This shift was guided by our Strategic Plan, which calls for continual refinement of this signature event.

Looking ahead to 2026, our planning is focused on building upon the successes of 2025 while addressing areas for improvement. Enhancements will include the reintroduction of live performances and the selection of a widely recognizable Arts Champion awardee. At the same time, we are working to streamline the registration process for honorees and implement more targeted outreach to legislators and elected officials to increase attendance and engagement.

Due to ongoing budget constraints and limited staff capacity, we will not be offering grant awards or conducting a public nomination process this year. Instead, we are taking a different approach in recognition of a major milestone.

2026 marks the 60th anniversary of the Governor's Arts Awards. To honor this legacy, we plan to host a celebratory gathering of past honorees. Each ArtsWA program will have the opportunity to highlight one past awardee during the stage program, creating a dynamic showcase of impact across the decades. We are currently holding the date of Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Minnaert Center.

Desiree Johnson is leading the significant effort to gather contact information and verify the current status of honorees from the past 60 years. Once this data is compiled, we will move forward with creating a formal announcement, save-the-date, and invitations.

More details to follow soon.

Respectfully,

Michael Wallenfels

Communications Manager

Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Resource Proposal for ArtsWA Board

Goal

Get ArtsWA Board Commissioners

To better work with staff, fellow commissioners, and community members of all different backgrounds to help them get the services and support they need

By participating in PEAR meetings and year-round resource sharing

Areas of Learning

	Area of learning	Staff Training Example	Resources	Lead
Internal	Recruit and steward board members equitably	Executive Order 24-04	WA State toolkit	Daniya; Karen with support of noms committee
	Inclusive work culture - ensuring that our board honors diverse perspectives and fosters an environment of continuous learning	WA State employee DEI Training Enterprise Employee Equity Competences	TBD Board-sourced resources	
External	Work with diverse people of all backgrounds, including, but not limited to, legislators, grantees, community members in general, etc.	Executive Order 22-04 WA State employee DEI Training	Washington for All Community Engagement Toolkit Boards and Commissions	Daniya

			Resources for Appointees Working with Tribal Governments	
			TBD Board-sourced resources	Jasmine/Catherine to manage resource folder
	Recognize inherent biases and racism when we talk about arts and culture	n/a	TBD Board-sourced resources	Jasmine/Catherine to manage resource folder

Resource Drive (Jasmine)

- Links to ArtsWA-specific training resources
- Links to Jasmine “curated” training resources
- Folder for board members to share resources
- Document for board members to share questions and feedback
- Resources updated yearly to comply with Executive Order and also to include best practices / new ideas / new learnings. This can live within a Google Drive and a board webpage when / if it becomes available.

Cadence

- Virtual meetings: 10 minute update. In-person meetings: up to 20 minutes, as available, with an update
- Topic to be organized in advance between Daniya (and / or another ArtsWA staff member) and Catherine / Jasmine/ another board member
- Proposed 2025-26 calendar year schedule
 - August 2025
 - Misc. PEAR updates from Daniya
 - Catherine/Jasmine to share proposed framework and timeline and receive feedback from board.
 - Additional context in the Nominations section of the agenda, as applicable.

- November 2025
 - PEAR updates from Daniya.
 - Select board members to highlight a resource they shared in the board folder.
- Spring 2026 board meeting - focused discussion in breakout groups? Co-training with board and staff?
- August 2026 - review resource folder and update as needed

Submitted by:

Catherine Nueva-Espana, ArtsWA Board Member

7/28/2025

WE'RE MAKING A CHANGE



FROM PEAR TO IMPACT

The Washington State Office of Equity (EQUITY) believes in clearly communicating what we are doing. We also believe in doing better when we know better. We understand some of the language we use has been confusing and unclear. So, we are transitioning from the phrase 'pro-equity anti-racism (PEAR)' to '**Impact**'. Our office exists to make a positive change (impact) in how state government operates (RCW 43.06D), so we are changing our language so our work is easier to understand.

Our focus is answering the following questions, "Is government making a positive difference in the lives of the people who call our great state home? Do people feel a difference?"

Over the next year, we will update our tools, guidance, consultation, and technical assistance.

Impact: Making a positive difference that people can feel.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

'**Impact**' better communicates our goal of improving how state government operates. The term is grounded in **action and data-focused results**.

- Plain language builds trust, transparency, and engagement – especially with communities who have historically been and continue to be excluded from opportunities.
- This is not about "moving away from the hard work" – it's doubling down in a way that clearly communicates what we're doing so we can be held accountable for achieving results.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

- **Agency Implementation Guidance:** Checklist of key considerations and actions, and more guidance at our agency impact leader workshops. (**Summer - Early Fall 2025**)
- **Language Transition Toolkit:** Glossary, Examples, Crosswalk Guide, Templates (**Fall 2025**)
- **Updates to the Resources, Policies, and Guides, including the Playbook (Fall - Winter 2025)**

WE'RE MAKING A CHANGE



PLAIN LANGUAGE GUIDE

Previous Term	Current Term	Definition
-	Impact	We use data to evaluate whether or actions are making a real difference in Washingtonian's ability to access and navigate government processes. We also will evaluate whether government decisions are fair.
Community	Community	Every single person who lives, works, or spends time in Washington State—no exceptions - truly everyone.
PEAR Team	Impact Team	A core group of workers, local community members, agency leaders, and topic experts who work together to make sure state government practices, processes, and procedures are fair to everyone.
Determinant of Equity	Statewide Impact Area	We use outcomes to evaluate whether state government practices, processes, and procedures are fair. Some examples are: access to affordable internet and technology, healthcare, living wage jobs, food, housing, and education.
Indicators, Baseline Indicators	Community Conditions	A collection of indicators, or data measurements to assess how Washington's communities, or populations (groups of people) are doing in comparison to the statewide goal.
PEAR Service Lines	Impact Service Lines	We review a state agency's processes, practices, and procedures to understand what changes need to happen to make state government fair for all.
Equity Impact Assessment, Equity Impact Review	Organizational Impact Assessment	An internal assessment agencies complete on an annual cadence, working with community members and the Office of Equity. This assessment is a strategic planning tool that helps an agency understand how their processes, practices, and procedures influence state government outcomes.
Impact Hub	Impact Hub	We evaluate the community conditions using dashboards and other ways of visualizing data.
Agency Goal	Agency Goal	The objectives an agency sets to accomplish to make its processes, practices, and procedures fairer and easier to navigate and use.



FAQ



Q: Are the missions of the Impact teams different from the mission of the PEAR teams?

A: While our language is changing, our mission is not. Maintain your commitment to delivering effective government services that address the issues and meet the needs of everyone.

Q: Is this a Federal Mandate? Can we obtain a clear understanding of any replacements for the term “Equity”?

A: We are not changing the term “equity”. The Office of Equity has been working on describing our work in a way that everyone can understand since late 2023. Equity remains the heart of the Office of Equity (EQUITY), and no changes are needed to the work we do. Washington law enshrines the right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sex, military status, sexual orientation, or disability. (RCW 49.60.030; RCW 49.60.400). Washingtonians are already working hard; their hard work should pay off. In Washington State, equity means having access to opportunities and eliminating obstacles so that all people can have the opportunity, through hard work and access, to thrive and flourish. (RCW 43.06D.020).

Q: Where can agencies obtain information on implementing necessary changes?

A: Our office will continue to send guidance to Agency Impact Team Leaders through the Equity Leader Series. Contact us at info@equity.wa.gov if you need clarification on implementation.

Q: When will there be an official legal or policy update to Executive Orders to reflect the shift from PEAR to Impact?

A: We are working on updates. In the meantime, we can continue to move forward and serve the people of Washington.

Q: How much flexibility do agencies have in shaping their equity priorities under the Impact language changes?

A: Agencies are the leaders in their equity work. They create action plans based on the agency's priorities. Agencies can transition to the new language when they are ready.



FAQ



Q: Will the Office of Equity provide any resources, funding, staffing support, or toolkits to help implement this shift, particularly in terms of community engagement?

A: We are developing a media toolkit, including a checklist and resources, to help engage with community members. We are available to provide consultation and support to agencies. As subject matter experts, commissions and agencies are also available to offer specific advice, recommendations, and support to the communities and tribes they work with.

Washington State's People-Focused Commissions and Agencies:

- [Commission on African American Affairs \(CAAA\)](#)
- [Commission on Asian and Pacific American Affairs \(CAPAA\)](#)
- [Commission on Hispanic Affairs \(CHA\)](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment](#)
- [Governor's Office of Indian Affairs](#)
- [LGBTQ Commission](#)
- [Women's Commission](#)

Q: What are your expectations for agencies in the first year of transition from PEAR to Impact?

A: Our expectations are to continue doing this critical work, attend the Impact Leader Series, and meet the expectations (as directed by EQUITY staff) under [EO 22-04](#).

Q: How do you recommend I discuss the change to build trust and minimize confusion?

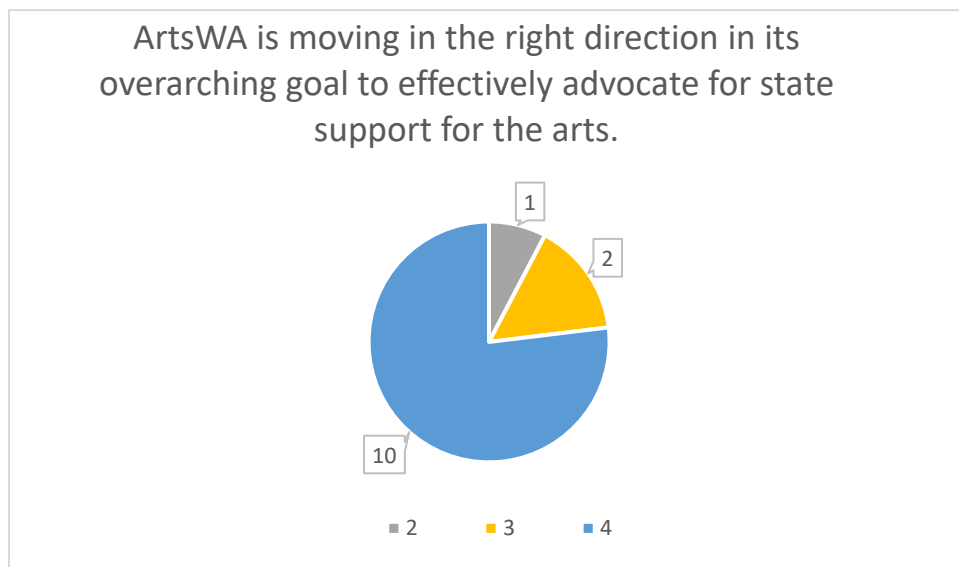
A: We hope that this guide will help share the changes and explain why they are happening. We are developing a template email and talking points to communicate the change. We are sending it out via GovDelivery, and then agencies can communicate it to their staff. We are here to create systems change in state government so that we can build a Washington for All, where everyone has access to what they need to thrive. So, while our language is changing, our mission and vision remain unchanged – our purpose unwavering.

EQUITY will be using the new language going forward and will provide resources through the Impact Language Toolkit.

If you have additional questions not answered here, don't hesitate to get in touch with us through [this form](#) or by emailing us at info@equity.wa.gov

Commissioner Survey Results

Responses from the 2025 ArtsWA Commissioner Survey offer insights into commissioners' perceptions of the organization's effectiveness and areas for improvement. Key themes include ArtsWA's advocacy efforts for state support, the accessibility of arts programs, and the representativeness of the current board composition, particularly concerning diverse populations. Commissioners also commented on the effectiveness of internal communications, meeting formats, and opportunities for dialogue, alongside the importance of community engagement and the financial climate's impact on ArtsWA. Finally, the survey sought recommendations for future leadership roles, with several commissioners suggesting specific individuals for officer or committee chair positions.



The survey responses offer several key insights into the strengths, challenges, and aspirations of ArtsWA and its commissioners:

Strong Commissioner Engagement and Appreciation for Staff:

- Commissioners feel productive and engaged in meetings, which is seen as a testament to the transparency and trust in the staff and their work
- There is high praise for the staff and Executive Committee's communication regarding strategy, actions, planning, and risk mitigation
- ArtsWA is described as the "most drama-free board" by one commissioner
- The resilience of the organization in navigating uncertainty while promoting the value of the arts is highly admired
- Commissioners appreciate the staff's efforts in communicating work and current difficulties, especially Karen's efforts, and Leslie's work on scheduling

Emphasis on In-Person Meetings and Their Impact:

- Commissioners deeply value in-person meetings, particularly those held throughout the state, as they affirm the work, inspire advocacy, and connect commissioners to the impact of ArtsWA in various communities
- Despite understanding budget restrictions and the effort involved in organizing them, there is a strong desire to return to biannual in-person meetings
- The educational component of each meeting is considered valuable for understanding the scope and depth of ArtsWA programs
- While commissioners will feel the loss of in-person meetings, there is confidence in the existing structure for efficient virtual work

Areas for Growth in Diversity and Community Engagement:

- While one comment states the current board composition effectively represents Washington State, this is directly contradicted by others.
- There is a clear insight that the Latine population, as the second largest in the state, is not adequately reflected in the board's composition.
- A strong call exists for more Ethnic and Tribal Members on the Board
- Commissioners express a desire for ArtsWA to expand efforts in reaching citizens who have languages other than English as their native language
- A significant area for expansion is providing leadership in working with communities living with disabilities, suggesting an integration of priorities and services across agencies
- While staff focus on creating opportunities for communities to have dialogues rather than directly facilitating them, there's a recognized "growing edge" for ArtsWA in setting up structures to better engage communities
- There's a suggestion to develop a feedback loop or town hall style series for counties across Washington to learn about the State Arts Commission and how citizens can join

Advocacy and Legislative Relations:

- ArtsWA is seen as moving in the "right direction" in its goal to advocate for state support for the arts and ensure accessibility for all citizens
- Commissioners acknowledge that working with legislators is difficult
- There is a concern that the board may sometimes be "preaching to the choir," with potentially only conservative voices from legislative appointees, suggesting a need for broader political dialogue

- Specific advice for legislative engagement includes the importance of Advocacy Committee Training, understanding the process for meeting legislative assistants, professional attire, and how to submit questions to Senators and House Members
- A commissioner believes ArtsWA has the "best possible relationships with our government, legislation and governor"
- There's an expressed need to "tell the Story about Arts in Washington State since the Commission was established"

Funding as a Persistent Concern:

- The "current climate around funding for the arts" and its impact on ArtsWA is a significant consideration
- Severe budget restrictions are acknowledged as a reason for limiting in-person meetings
- There's a hope that sufficient funds will be secured to support all added programs and people

Commissioner Comfort and Dialogue:

- A desire exists for "more times for informal conversation built in" during meetings
- There's a wish that "all commissioners would feel fully comfortable expressing themselves," as some feel unable or uncomfortable sharing opinions after the fact

New Board assignments

Chair: Krishna Thiagarajan

1st Vice Chair: Jasmine Mahmoud

2nd Vice Chair: Lou Oma Durand