



Equitable Creative District Funding: Capital Projects

Sustain Creative Districts Capital Projects that make communities more livable, beautiful, and safe.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

\$384,000

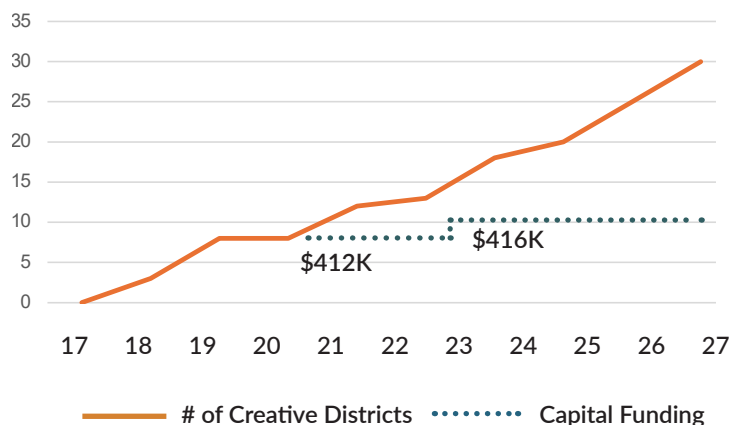
For FY27

Strong Demand, Static Funding

Washington's Creative Districts drive local economic development and tourism. By 2026–27, ArtsWA expects the number of certified districts to grow to 25, a direct outcome of the program's strong momentum and community engagement. However, the capital pool has remained fixed at \$416,000, severely reducing per-District funding.

Meeting Commitments to Certified Communities

This request is not for a new initiative, but to maintain the effective level of per-district capital investment. **To keep pace with the growing number of Creative Districts and maintain equitable funding levels, the capital pool must increase to \$800,000**, addressing a \$384,000 shortfall. This will ensure continued support for communities that have already invested in certification and are relying on this funding to implement high-impact public projects.



Capital funding has remained flat as the number of districts rises.

What does this fund?

Capital funds will support local infrastructure projects that enhance the identity, accessibility, and economic vitality of Creative Districts across Washington. These investments improve community spaces and generate employment for local vendors, maintaining the strong return on investment that this program has already demonstrated.

Capital project examples:

- » Outdoor stages for live entertainment
- » Wayfinding signage & lighting
- » Murals, sculptures, and archways
- » Pathways, trains, and safety improvements
- » Parks, plazas, and shelters

These funds preserve the momentum of an established, effective program by keeping capital support aligned with the number of active districts.



Staff from Kennewick's FrogPatch Paper & Works at the 2024 SOCO Creative Arts Festival. Photo by ArtsWA.