



Equitable Creative District Funding: Certification Grants

Sustain a proven program by maintaining operating funds that equitably support new and recertifying Creative Districts.

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

\$30,000

For FY27

Sustaining an Award-Winning Economic Development Program

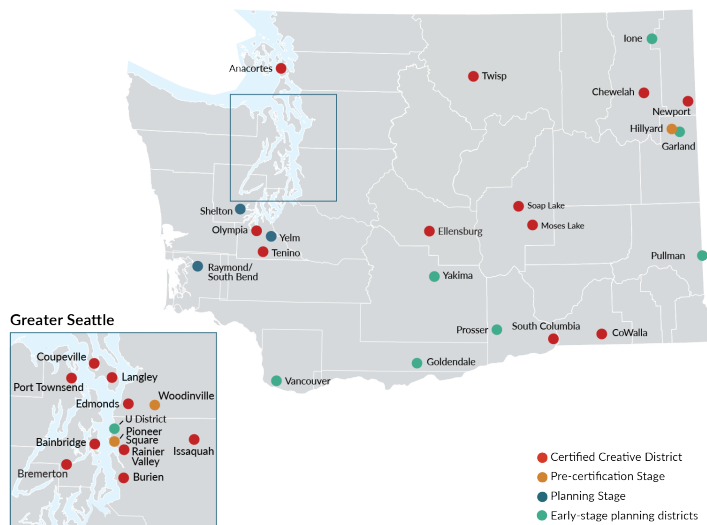
Washington's Creative Districts program is an award-winning model for arts-driven economic development. However, ArtsWA projects a funding shortfall by FY26. Without additional investment, the program will be forced to cap participation or reduce grants, limiting equitable access to communities that have already committed significant effort toward certification.

Maintaining Grant Capacity and Local Impact

This request is about preserving momentum, not expanding the program beyond its intended scale. Maintaining the current grant structure allows the program to continue serving up to five new districts annually and providing recertification support to existing districts. This approach keeps the program equitable and consistent while honoring the work already completed by local communities. It also avoids service cuts that would stall growth and reduce local economic impact.

Washington Creative Districts

August 2025



Above: The success of the Creative Districts program has led to significant statewide expansion.

Below left: A muralist at work in the Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane, one of Washington's newest Creative Districts.

What does this fund?

This investment maintains core operating support for a successful and growing statewide program.

It funds:

- » Start-up grants for new districts
- » Recertification grants for established districts
- » Administrative and technical assistance to help districts thrive

By maintaining these grant levels, Washington continues to support creative job development, placemaking, and economic vitality in both rural and urban communities.

