

Arts & Heritage Day Talking Points

ArtsWA Budget

Impact on ArtsWA's Budget

- Governor Inslee's operating budget proposes a \$350,000 cut to ArtsWA's biennial budget, all of which will come from Grants and Community Investments.
- The Governor's budget also cuts \$305,000 from the Online Portal Project (My Public Art Portal).
- In total, the proposed budget cut totals \$655,000 or a cut of 24.8% from ArtsWA's biennial budget.

Impact on Grants/Community Investments

- Because ArtsWA operates on a very lean budget, the proposed \$350,000 cut will largely come from Grants/Community Investments.
- In FY 16 ArtsWA distributed 26 Arts in Education grants across the state, 120 project support grants, and 5 cooperative partnership grants.
- Small grants went to organizations from the Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival in Twisp to Oroville's Tumbleweed Film Festival; from the North Bank Community Project in Vancouver to the Penn Cover Water Festival in Coupeville; to the Story People of Clallam County in Port Angeles to the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers in Richland.
- Medium sized grants helped fund the Walla Walla Symphony, the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma, Longview's Columbia Theatre Association for the Performing Arts, Skagit Valley College's McIntyre Hall Performing Arts & Conference Center, and the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council.

- The larger grants went to many of Washington’s iconic arts and cultural institutions such as Tacoma’s Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Copper Canyon Press in Port Townsend, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Issaquah’s Village Theatre, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. These are just a few examples of the community investments made by ArtsWA.
- Cooperative Partnership grants went to five large organizations whose work and outreach is statewide, helping with ArtsWA’s statewide reach.
- ArtsWA requires a 1:1 match from our grantees. If we are forced to cut \$350,000 from our grants/community investments program, the ripple effect would have a major impact on the state’s creative economy, which generated (in 2024) \$19.2 B in total creative industry earnings and 147,106 creative jobs.
- For example, if we were to use the FY 16 ArtsWA grant numbers, a cut of \$350,000 would have meant \$8,750,000 fewer public and private dollars generated in matching funds, earned income, and supplemental grants.

Impact to “My Public Art Portal” Project

- A \$305,000 cut to the Online Portal project would mean there would be no budget to continue the project.
- Three valuable staff members working on the Portal Project would have to be cut.
- The first physical assessment of the 4,500 artworks in the State Art Collection will not be completed, a survey that is long overdue.
- My Public Art Portal would be halted with only 40% of the State Art Collection available online.