



VIRTUAL

ARTS, HERITAGE, & SCIENCE WEEK

Jan 31st through Feb 4th, 2022

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

Unite for Washington's Cultural Recovery!

Within Washington's cities and towns, cultural programs are critical drivers for economy and community development. But the crushing impact of the pandemic continues. Many programs are still on pause and the ones that have restarted are struggling with their new public safety role (testing, vaccination checks, etc.). So, two years into the pandemic and much of our cultural work remains in the same awful limbo; organizations are on the brink of survival and the majority of our workers are unemployed. We can recover with a steady stream of support.

Thank you for joining your state legislative district team! Your advocacy will focus the attention of your elected officials on arts, heritage, and science opportunities. We encourage you to share specific stories of need within their communities, schools, and cultural venues. Your outreach will inspire a better understanding of the importance of cultural programming in every Washington community and the urgent need for public investment.

What are you discussing and asking your lawmakers to support?

We have assembled a high-level summary of all the cultural requests the Washington Legislature will consider in the annual session, from January to March. Your outreach brings our requests to life and connects a lawmaker's values with cultural opportunities. This summary covers the basics. What is the opportunity? What are we asking for?

Please refer to your [briefing pages for detailed policy information.](#)

Review the opportunities and find the item(s) that are most important to your unique community. We're happy to help you. Each request has a specific proponent (like Inspire Washington, ArtsWA, WA Filmworks, WA State Historical Society, and , etc.) They are your advocacy partners and information specialists.

CULTURAL RELIEF & RECOVERY

- **Cultural Recovery and Reopening Grant Program (ArtsWA)** – The Governor included \$20,000,000 in the proposed 2022 Supplemental Budget—through the Department of Commerce and in consultation with ArtsWA— to expedite relief and recovery funding to the arts, culture, and science sector. ArtsWA originated and championed the request for expedient, equitable, and broad distribution of the funding through a recovery and reopening grant program for non-profit and municipal performing arts, museums, science and cultural organizations, and other heritage programs.

The ask: Please support the Governor's request of \$20,000,000 in the 2022 Supplemental Budget for a recovery and reopening grant program for non-profit, cultural organizations. And, strengthen ArtsWA's role as a leader in the distribution of funding.

- **Cultural Access Program Amendment / House Bill 1058 (Inspire WA)** - Currently, the program is authorized by a vote of the people. Amending the statute will expand authorizing options, allowing Councils and Commissions to authorize a program through majority Council/Commission vote. Provide councilmanic authority.

The ask: Please support HB 1058, providing councilmanic authority for the Cultural Access Program.

ARTS

- **Community of Care Initiative (ArtsWA)**- ArtsWA will partner with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WADVA) to build a program that will expand and evolve the capacity of arts organizations to include and target military-connected populations in Washington. The program will also contribute to our state's creative economy through arts-based entrepreneurship and apprenticeship opportunities for veterans.

The ask: From the Governor's FY 22 Supplemental Budget, please provide \$1.5 million for the Community of Care: Wellness, Arts, and the Military (WAM) Initiative to provide equitable access to the arts for under-served veteran populations.

- **Preserving the Public Art Collection (ArtsWA)** - ArtsWA needs more resources to provide cost-effective safety checks and maintenance for a valuable, statewide asset, the Public Art Collection. Every state region will receive equal investments from home bases in Eastern, Central, and Western Washington.

The ask: From the Governor's FY 22 Supplemental budget, please provide \$514,028 to provide critical maintenance and repair for Washington's Public Art Collection through specialized staff in every region.

- **Washington State Poet Laureate (ArtsWA)** - Since 2017, ArtsWA and Humanities WA has managed the Washington State Poet Laureate program, deploying a state literary ambassador without any state support. Therefore, the poet has been paid an annual \$10,000 stipend which is far below acceptable workplace levels and not commensurate with the potential work. State funding will resolve this inequity.

The ask: From the Governor's FY 22 Supplemental budget, please provide \$75,000 to fund the Washington State Poet Laureate Program.

FILM

- **Updating and expanding the Motion Picture Competitive Program (MPCP) / SB 5760 & HB 1914– (WA Filmworks)** To support creative economy, the Bills increases the amount of Business and Occupation (B&O) tax credits that may be taken per year, per business entity, from \$750,000 to \$1 million and total amount of B&O tax credits taken annually from \$3.5 million to \$20 million. And, incentivizes productions in rural communities.

The ask: Please support SB 5760 & HB 1914 to increase the MPCP to \$20 million and incentivize rural productions and filming.

CAPITAL

- **Building for the Arts Program / House Bill 1647 & Senate Bill 5530 (ArtsFund, ArtsWA, Dept. Of Commerce)** - Since 1991, BFAP has awarded capital grants to performing arts, art museums, and cultural organizations for

acquisition, construction, and/or major renovation of facilities. Increasing the program's funding from \$12M to \$18M will grow the opportunity for more projects. Maintaining a lowered matching fund of 4:1 will make applying for the program more feasible, especially for projects outside of the Central Puget Sound.

The ask: Please support HB 1647 and Senate Bill 5530 to increase Building for the Arts Funding to \$18 million and change matching requirements to 4:1.

HERITAGE

- **Establishing the semiquincentennial committee / Senate Bill 5756 (Washington State Historical Society) -** By request of the Lieutenant Governor, Washington State Historical Society, the Bill will establish the Semiquincentennial Committee of 20 members to coordinate and provide guidance for Washington's official observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Lieutenant Governor will serve as the chair of the Committee and the Washington State Historical Society will provide administrative support.

The ask: Please support SB 5756 to establish the Semiquincentennial Committee to coordinate and provide guidance for Washington's official America 250 activities.

- **Transfer of firearms to museums and historical societies / Senate Bill 5856 (Sen. Jeff Wilson) -** The requirements for a sale or transfer of a firearm where neither party is a licensed dealer do not apply to the temporary transfer of a firearm to a museum or historical society, or return of the firearm to its owner from a museum or historical society, and museum personnel while acting in the scope of their official duties.

The ask: Please support SB 5856 so that firearms may be transferred to museums or returned to owners under standard museum practices.

ARTS EDUCATION

- **Clarifying visual and performing art instruction / Senate Bill 5878 (Sen. Rolfes) -** Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, Washington State public schools must offer regular instruction in at least one visual art and at least one performing art throughout the academic school year. Each student must receive instruction in at least one arts discipline throughout their K-8 education experience. For grades 9 through 12, all students must be given the opportunity to take arts coursework each academic year.

The ask: Please support SB 5878 to clarify visual and performing art instruction for Washington public schools, providing regular instruction for every academic school year and for every grade level.