



Support for [HB 1647/SB 5530](#) concerning Building for the Arts

Program History:

[Building for the Arts](#), originally conceived and proposed by ArtsFund and the Boeing Company and adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1991, grants state capital construction funds to Arts & Cultural projects across Washington State. It is one of the key programs that supports Washington's arts and culture organizations and the communities they serve by filling critical gaps in the development of cultural facilities throughout the state. The program is tremendously successful. Since the program's inception, **Building for the Arts has supported 262 projects, providing approximately \$129M in capital support across the state.**

Talking points:

- Maintaining the lowered match for organizations will make applying more feasible for more organizations.
 - At a 4:1 match, **this is the largest barrier of access** for smaller groups to apply.
- Increasing the program's funding from **\$12M to \$18M** will grow the opportunity for more projects, thus growing the millions of dollars of economic impacts more widely.
- Projects have provided **remarkable economic returns** directly to the communities they serve and to Washington state. The 2021-2023 projects that received \$16M in Building for the Arts funding:
 - Generated **\$12.7 million in state and local tax impacts***
 - Created **934 jobs***
 - Produced **\$179.26M in aggregate sales impacts***
- In addition to the significant boost these projects provide to the economy, they also have **considerable public benefits**.
 - New or renovated facilities provide educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities to the public they serve, **enriching the lives of families and strengthening communities.**
- **I support HB 1647/SB 5530** and believe that increasing the program's funding from \$12M to \$18M and modifying the grant match will expand the positive economic and public benefits of Building for the Arts.

*Economic impacts calculated using the 2007 Input-Output Model produced by state agencies and legislative staff under the direction of University of Washington Professor Dr. William Beyers and the Office of Financial Management.