Local communities driving the State economy

Creative Districts encourage economic development and job creation in the arts and culture sector—the creative economy—within communities. The creative economy generates over 10% of Washington State’s GDP. Beyond their critical role in the statewide creative economy, Creative Districts define and provide a distinctive sense of place, are a robust source of income, and are points of community pride.

Background

ArtsWA anticipates seven new Creative Districts to be certified within the next 2-3 years. The agency requests continued funding to support small-scale capital projects for existing, new, and forthcoming Creative Districts.

Because Creative District communities have a wide geographic distribution (see map, right) and are among the most visited cities and towns in the state, continued investment will touch millions of Washington residents—and the thousands of out-of-state visitors who regularly seek out these communities as desirable travel destinations.

This request aims to continue a capital project grant program designed to benefit the Creative Districts.

What does this fund?

This request will continue funding for the Creative Districts program. With continued funding, the existing and forthcoming Creative Districts can install small-scale capital projects. These projects include (but are not limited to):

- Wayfinding signage
- Murals
- Festival streets
- Capital upgrades of city-supported cultural sites

These small-scale projects encourage communities to leverage additional investments in their Creative Districts. If funding for this program is not continued, the legislature would lose matched dollars, and would reduce opportunity and equity for many creative communities across the state.

Capital Budget Request

2023-2025 Biennium $416,000

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