INSPIRE WASHINGTON
Opening doors to science, heritage, and the arts.

2026 Legislative Session Cultural Agenda
Lawmaker Leave Behind

BILLS

- HB 2194 (Parshley): Concerning sales and use tax for cultural access programs. **PRO**
- SB 5965 (Bateman) / HB 2233 (Parshley): Reducing environmental impacts associated with bags provided to customers at retail establishments. **PRO**
- HB 2447 (Reeves) / SB 6108 (Frame): Designating the state shark. **PRO**
- HB 5950 (Cortes): Celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Guru Nanak, Guru Gobind Singh, and Vaisakhi. **PRO**
- HB 2525 (Mendoza): Establishing the heritage orchard program. **PRO**
- HB 2363 (Reed): Concerning temporary exemptions from licensure for certain applicants for a license to practice music therapy. **PRO**
- HB 2579 (Stearns): Promoting and funding public media and digital equity. **PRO**
- HB 2257 (Berg) / SB 6113 (Frame): Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue. **PRO**
- HB 5574 (Nobles): Providing instruction on Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Latino American, and Black American history in public schools. **PRO**
- HB 2587 (Cortes) / SB 6245 (C. Wilson): Establishing a pilot program to advance funds to nonprofits to support grant performance. **PRO**

OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

Science education

- Pacific Science Center's flagship outreach program, Science on Wheels, is the largest provider of hands-on science outreach education in Washington serving 48 of our 49 legislative districts. Support from the state provides Science on Wheels to low-income schools at a steep discount and helps keep the program accessible for all. Without State funding, approximately 52,000 students across Washington will go without this hands-on science education.
  The ask: Please maintain $400,000 in operating support for Science on Wheels in FY27.

Washington State Historical Society

- The ask: Please maintain $13.7M biennial operational funding for the Washington State Historical Society.

Eastern Washington State Historical Society

- The ask: Please provide $20,000 from the operating budget to maintain the Collections Management System.
- The ask: Please provide $110,000 from the operating budget to hire a Tribal Liaison staff member.

WA Trust for Historic Preservation

- The ask: Provide maintenance funding for Dept of Archeology and Historic Preservation in the operating budget.

WA State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

- **Grant funding *(most important ask!)***
  The Governor's budget reduces ArtsWA's grant funding by $600,000, nearly one third of the program. This would significantly impact the level of support available for statewide creative programs and partnerships. The ask: please maintain ArtsWA's grants budget. *(Cut from the Governor's FY27 budget)*
- **Creative Districts**
  The ask: Provide $30,000 from the operating budget to sustain a proven program by maintaining funds that equitably support new and recertifying Creative Districts. *(Not funded in the Governor's FY27 budget)*
- **CRM System**
  The ask: Maintain ArtsWA's CRM system with routine technical support by approving $140,361 for FY27 in the operating budget. *(Fully funded in the Governor's FY27 budget)*
- **Administrative & Operational Stability**
  The ask: Provide $83,000 from the operating budget to maintain core operations by addressing rising costs, staffing changes, planning needs, and funding gaps. *(Fully funded in the Governor's FY27 budget)*

Humanities WA

- **Prime Time Family Reading Program:** Prime Time Family Reading is a free family reading program for ages 6-10 delivered by Humanities WA in partnership with public libraries and local elementary schools. The ask: Please provide $500,000 to maintain the Prime Time Family Reading program.

CAPITAL FUNDING REQUESTS

Washington State Historical Society

- The ask: Please provide accessibility improvements ($375K) and HVAC system repairs ($780K) for the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma in the Capital budget.

WA State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

- The ask: Provide $384,000 from the capital budget to sustain Creative Districts Capital Projects that make communities more livable, beautiful, and safe. (Not funded in the Governor's FY27 budget)