

The Arts Commission's general fund allotment in 2009 was about the same as it is today. It fell precipitously in 2010 and was reduced further, every year through FY2013. Starting in 2014, we started a slow recovery. In FY 2021, for the first time in a decade, we are slightly above the 2009 allotment. However, if you factor in inflation, we are still a long way behind. We are not alone in this. Most of the small agencies are in the same boat, still struggling to recoup and recover. A budget cut now, will set us back again. It will force a cut in critical state services at a time of great need while contributing pennies to the anticipated budget shortfall. Unlike many larger Agencies, the Arts Commission has zero places to make budget cuts that will not adversely impact our mission, and reduce core services for Washingtonians. We have no "vacancies" that can offer savings by not being filled. We have no duplication. If a staff member goes, a customer program or service goes. If we did let someone go, we have no staff that can absorb the extra work. Yet, our fixed costs remain the same. We do not see any Central Services reductions, our rent does not go down, IT remains the same even as we cut staff and programs.

Agency: Washington State Arts Commission 6/1/2020

Agency Priority H, M, L	Impact 1-5	Program/Activity	GF-S				Other Funds				FTE Change		Brief Description and Rationale	Effective Date (MM/YY)	Impacts of Reductions and Other Considerations	Law/Reg. Change Required (cite)
			FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	Fund	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 20				
M	2	Contracting reductions		48,000									Significantly reduce almost all contracts. These include elimination of professional development leadership training for traditional artisans and craftspeople apprentices, contracts for some services, no student interns, and cancelling a contract for strategic planning with an equity and inclusion focus.	7/20	Major Impact: Significantly reduces or eliminates contracts. The proposed cuts include elimination of professional development leadership training for apprentices and master crafts and trades people in the Traditional and Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. This program has been successfully training crafts people and artisans to better participate in the workforce and contribute economic value to their communities. A budget cut negatively impacts the program's ability to do this. Beyond the folk and traditional arts program, the elimination or reduction of contracts negatively impacts the agency's capacity to offer some additional customer services. It means no student interns having opportunities to learn with us. It cancels a planned contract with a respected consultant to fully implement and integrate an equity and inclusion focus into our next strategic planning process which is also required as part of our federal funding.	
H	3	Contracting for collaboration of Art in Public Places Program and Art in Education Program and planned contract for strategic planning sessions.		5,000									Two ArtsWA programs that planned to continue a collaboration to provide additional services to artists and art organizations. Easily identified contract.	7/20	A unique collaboration between the Art in Public Places and Arts in Education program will be shelved. This program aims to increase the educational aspect of the public art program to the benefit of students and teachers.	
H	3	Arts in Education: Reduce Community Consortium Granting Program.		21,000									Community Consortium grants support well-established partnerships between schools, arts organizations, and community partners. Partners work together to develop, implement, and evaluate high quality arts learning programs. Successful grantees build support for K-12 education in their community. This program awards grants throughout Washington on a two-year cycle. We are currently half way through the process and the FY 2021 grants have not yet been issued. Grantees were identified a year ago and were informed they would be granted the same amount in year two. Their budgets have already been developed but we could deny them the year two grant.	7/20	Major Impact: This proposed reduction to our already small Arts in Education and Early Learning budgets will severely impact student learning by significantly reducing available community consortium grant funds that support interdisciplinary approaches to learning. The proposed cuts will interrupt on-going programs and all activities. Proposed reduction in Arts in Education funds will result in loss of jobs to educators, teaching artists and most significantly affect students and teachers in rural communities, communities of color, and schools impacted by poverty.	
H	3	Creative Start Arts Early Learning Program for Educational School Districts, and Creative Start Arts in Early Learning Program for Pre K -3		32,000									This new legislative program requested by legislators to help them in their quest to close the opportunity gap and support pre-k-3 early learning opportunities was identified as a cut that could be made if necessary.	7/20	Major Impact: This Arts in Education program at the Washington State Arts Commission works in close partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and a diversity of arts and cultural organizations across Washington State to close the opportunity gap in early learning and K-12 schools. Together, through programming and funding that supports innovative learning opportunities, these organizations greatly improve the quality of basic education for Washington's students. The Creative Start Site Grant program supports early learning (preschool through 3rd grade) schools and communities prepared to adopt a comprehensive early learning arts integration plan. The Creative Start Regional Grant Program seeks to close the opportunity gap by supporting and expanding regional and multi-regional arts integration efforts in service of early learning communities. A cut would negatively impact a promising and exciting program and initiative.	

M	2	Goods and Services		37,000										Reduce IT services, reduce membership dues if possible, and reduce printing	7/20	This cut leaves us with total reliance on WaTech staff, and NO on-site staff coverage. As is typical for a small agency, we have no IT person on staff. This cut would be detrimental to staff, a barrier to an efficient work environment, and potentially dangerous in terms of web security. Reduced printing impacts our ability to target certain populations, and to communicate effectively.	
H	2	In State Travel		36,950										Curtail most in-state travel. Use technology instead. Move board meetings on-line.	7/20	Major Impact: Much of our travel is curtailed due to COVID-19 but with technology we are able to continue some of our meetings. Board meetings conducted on-line are adequate for the moment, but in the long term negatively impacts our ability to network, interact with host communities, meet new board members, and get them trained and acclimated. It also negatively impacts our ability to engage in robust and in depth discussions, and community interactions. Creative Districts planning meetings and site visits are another example of meetings best done in person. We work primarily with smaller, rural and frequently underserved communities. They request and rely on in-person meetings. The same is true for our Art in Public Places program, which relies heavily on community input to work through the process. The requested and often preferred in-person options will be reduced or eliminated.	
M	1	Out of State Travel		22,000										Cut all out-of-state trips currently planned for agency staff and our programs. These include trips to conferences, and to other networking and educational events.	7/20	We value our staff and support them in their career path and training aspirations as much as possible. We also value our appointed commissioners and support their attendance at select, out-of-state professional development and other community interaction opportunities when possible. These options will not be possible with this cut. Out-of-state travel is an important venue for learning, networking, sharing, and refreshing. At conferences and professional development events, arts and creative organizations share information on multiple topics. Examples include equity and inclusion strategies, the conservation of public art, the acquisition process and best practices around a state public art program, the creative economy, creative districts, community investment programs, arts in education, federal audits, and many other relevant topics for arts commissions, organizations and state agencies. These opportunities would be eliminated. This constitutes a loss of access to information on best practices, as well as connections with peers around the nation. It would mean a reduction in our ability to carry out our mission in the very best way possible.	
M	1	Equipment		5000										Minimal loss. Cover purchase in another year.	7/20	Minimal loss.	
H	3	Grants		42000										Cut the "snap grant" program that targets smaller, emerging and underserved arts organizations. This is a rolling grant with award decisions made several times during the year. It is funded through state general fund.	7/20	Major impact. Affects the role of the agency. The Grants to Organizations program at the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) nurtures the arts in communities across Washington State. Our grant programs provide much needed support to arts organizations and cultural institutions for programming that expands arts participation by Washington State citizens. Our grant programs have a specific focus on achieving cultural equity and strengthening and growing Washington State's robust creative economy. ArtsWA grants are matched by funds raised by the grantee boosting the value of this investment. The Snap Grants program offers support to small and emerging groups and organizations based primarily in rural, immigrant, and other historically underserved communities. The program offers professional development assistance to build confidence in these young and struggling organizations by teaching them grant writing skills preparing them for our highly competitive federal programs. Skills that sustain them across multiple funding platforms within and outside our agency. The loss of this program will set back the steady increase we have seen in under-served and under-resourced organizations competing for and receiving larger grants. Additionally, to meet these programmatic cuts we will have to highly streamline our panel process for all our grant programs by moving panels online further reducing the community-building value of our grant programs.	
M	1	Do not fill one vacancy		18,000										Position will be vacant effective 7/1/2020 and with the hiring freeze we will be unable to fill.	7/20	Impact to efficiency in the agency and increases workload for several people. We have no overlap of staff, each has their own role, so these duties will have to be piled onto others. May have some union impact because the position is in the bargaining agreement.	Union negotiations
H	3	Reduce salaries with one day furlough per month		57,000										Reduce salaries for all 20 staff members, represented and non-represented by one day furlough per month for one year	7/20	Major Impact: This cut would have an enormous negative impact on all ArtsWA staff both financially and emotionally. We have tried hard to raise salaries over the past 5 years to be in line with other state equivalent employees. We have been getting there. This cut would set us back enormously. It will hurt a loyal and very hardworking team, and negatively impact agency staff cohesion and morale. It may also impact union negotiations, and hurt the agency's ability to retain highly qualified staff.	Union negotiations

H	3	Reduce benefits for the reduced salary furlough		15,000										Reduce benefits for all staff for the one day per month furlough	20-Jul	Major impact as above. Affects union negotiations. May have impact on retirements, and staff retention and morale.	Union negotiations
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Priority:
L = Low priority agency activity or program
M = Medium priority agency activity or program
H = High priority agency activity or program

Impact:
1 = Allows continuation of the program/activity at a reduced level
2 = Eliminates the ability to perform program objectives
3 = Eliminates agency function
4 = Long term implications (moves the problem to next biennium)
5 = Short term (reduction to one time increase)