

ARTS AND HERITAGE DAY 2016 ISSUES BRIEF / TALKING POINTS

On February 10, cultural advocates (administrators, board members, artists, arts educators, commissioners, volunteers, and community arts and heritage leaders) from across our great state were on campus to talk about the value of the arts and heritage's positive effects on engagement, education, and the economy.

LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT

SUPPORT legislation ([HB 2583](#)) that would authorize local governments to designate a creative district within territorial boundaries subject to certification by the Washington State Arts Commission. Communities and jurisdictions would apply to the Arts Commission for a statewide certification of a creative district in their communities.

SUPPORT legislation ([SB 6409/HB 2755](#)) A bill introduced by request of the Council of Presidents that authorizes an institution of higher education to expend up to ten percent of the projected art allocation (from the percent for art funds) for a project during the design phase in order to select an artist and design art to be integrated in the building design. Currently the funds are only used for the construction of the project.

LEGISLATION TO FOLLOW

FOLLOW legislation ([HB 2655](#)) that would provide a business tax exemption for crowdfunding donations and to improve the sales tax structure as it applies to crowdfunding in order to simplify the tax code, improve fairness, and promote economic growth.

FOLLOW legislation ([HB 1996](#)) Music education funding for voluntary all-day kindergarten programs shall be phased-in beginning with schools with the highest poverty levels, defined as those schools with the highest percentages of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch support in the prior school year.

MENTION TO LEGISLATORS

MENTION Washington is ranked 46th in the nation for state arts funding. While the national average is around one dollar per capita, our allocation to arts funding is just 17-cents per capita, due in part to a severe decrease in the arts commission budget over the last decade. While we are only pursuing small strategic increases in 2016, our hope and expectation is to return in the 2017 session to begin working with the legislature towards a full reinvestment in creative economy and local arts and culture throughout the state. We hope you will join us in this effort next year.