



# Snohomish County Arts Commission

Mission / Vision / Purpose



The purpose of the Snohomish Arts Commission is to propose and oversee a county arts program.



**The arts commission shall serve as an advisory board to the executive branch of county government and perform the arts-related duties described below:**

- (1) shall advocate for the arts as a part of Snohomish county's culture;
- (2) shall recommend an annual arts program to the county executive for proposal to the county council for approval, which recommendation shall detail the proposed sources of funding for the arts program, including the funding provided by SCC 2.95.080(2);
- (3) shall recommend criteria for the selection of any artist or work of art to be funded through the arts program, such selection criteria to be submitted to the county executive for approval;
- (4) shall provide periodic reports to the county executive on recommended acquisitions of works of art;
- (5) shall recommend to the county executive the public site or sites at which to install, display, mount or perform any work of art funded through the arts program;
- (6) shall advise the county executive on the maintenance, conservation, removal, relocation, or alteration of any public arts facility or work of art owned by or loaned to the county;
- (7) shall make recommendations to the county executive on the funding for specific works of art;
- (8) may seek private or public donations and grants for the arts program, and
- (9) shall provide an annual written report to the county council on or before September 1 of each year that describes the activities of the commission during the current calendar year and contains the arts program described in SCC 2.95.030.

*See all county code pertaining to the Arts Commission at [snohomish.county.codes/SCC/2.95.080](http://snohomish.county.codes/SCC/2.95.080)*



*Book of Fishing by Barbara Earl Thomas*

## Our Mission

The Snohomish County Arts Commission promotes artistic diversity, expands access to arts education, supports local artists, and encourages an understanding of cultural expression. Through the arts' ability to foster empathy and respect, our communities grow/become closer to each other and their environment.

## Our Vision

### We envision a world where

- Artists have meaningful opportunities to create.
- Art education and artistic exchange are a cornerstone of community development and cultural engagement.
- Communities connect through art with the unique places and environment of Snohomish County.

# Foundational Principles

## Education

The arts of imparting and acquiring knowledge of the arts furthers understanding and appreciation of not only the cultural and emotional importance of art, but of the expression of creativity and diversity of all people.

## Opportunity

Abundant opportunities for artists to explore their craft and creativity ensures creative expression flourishes, artists and creatives can thrive in their personal lives, and public access to artistic expression increases.

## Empathy/Respect

The arts build empathy and respect for other people, communities, culture, species, and the environment. The arts are uniquely able to provide visceral, emotional, and essential expressions and explanations of the lives and experiences of others in ways that illuminate and motivate viewers to see the world beyond their own perspective.

## Access

Access to the arts fosters engagement. The only barrier to enjoyment and appreciation of the arts is an ease of access (be it financial, geographic, cultural, or social).

## Progress

Progress cannot happen without imagining, capturing, and expressing the possibilities of a better future. Artists are critical in this exploratory process

## Discovery/Exploration

Curiosity is the cornerstone to engaged citizens. The opportunity to learn, explore, participate, and discover is integral in the arts - they make you feel, make you wonder, and invoke a sense of awe and appreciation. This form of engagement fosters growth and strengthens communities.



Peter Camfferman, "Untitled" 1928, Oil on paper, Private Collection

*Mi Pueblo Mi Gente Mi Vida by Nico Inzerella*

## Our Goals

**Celebrate and promote a diversity of cultural expression** to challenge preconceived notions of what art can or should be, or who can or should make it.

**Broaden the definition of art and culture** to encourage innovative and unrecognized forms of expression to gain respect while increasing access to the arts.

**Provide easy access to arts education** in our schools and communities.

**Connect artists and communities** through events that encourage discovery, exploration, empathy, and appreciation.

**Support local artists** with resources, funding, connections, and exposure.

**Form strong partnerships** between artists, the community, and the County to encourage the arts to play a crucial role where they have previously been absent.

**Transform the Arts Commission into a respected and robust promoter of the arts.** Be a model for how such commissions can operate efficiently yet with purpose.



## Our Role

*The Arts Commission is:*

- Facilitating and supporting infrastructure
- Creating and supporting events
- Forming partnerships
- Advising on art installation
- Providing access to education

When we are  
successful, we  
will see:

- A thriving cultural and arts scene.
- Artists are supported and able to live off their work.
- County citizens have a deeper respect for one another, other cultures, and the environment.
- Everyone can access arts education no matter their age, location, or circumstance.
- The arts commission is a respected and widely emulated model of how to foster arts and culture.