



Pierce County  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**JANUARY  
2026**

# PIERCE COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION 2025 YEAR END REPORT

## THE PIERCE COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

Formed in 1985 to serve as a volunteer advisory group to Pierce County government. The commission is appointed for their interest, experience, and support of the arts.



### THE COMMISSIONERS

District 1 - Vacant  
District 2 - Vacant  
District 3 - Kate Cendejas Thun

District 4 - Cathy Satava  
District 5 - Mizu Sugimura  
District 6 - Christopher  
Michael Escobedo Sr.

District 7 - Anna Jensen  
At Large - Faaluaina Pritchard  
At Large - Vacant



# OVERVIEW

The Economic Development Department (EDD) manages the various programs related to the County's arts programs, 1% for the Arts Fund, and the Arts Commission. This report features activities for 2025:

## 1% for the Arts Fund

- Rotating Art Collection
- Permanent Art Collection

## General Arts Program

- Art Grant Program
- Traffic Signal Box Art Wraps
- PSED Regional High School Art Show Awards
- Economic Development Specialist - Arts

## Special Projects

- PC Mural Project

## 1% FOR THE ARTS FUND

The mission of the 1% for the Arts Fund is to increase access to the arts for all Pierce County residents through a lasting legacy of publicly held artwork located in county-owned or county-leased facilities. The program has facilitated the establishment of the Rotating Art Collection (110 pieces), and the completion of the Election Center Mural Project brings the Permanent (site-specific) Art Collection up to 17 pieces.

### Election Center Mural Project

- 2,200 sq. ft mural for the exterior of the Pierce County Election Center
- 72 applicants from across the country and beyond
- 4 selected finalists received \$1,000 stipend for design proposal
- Budget: \$60,000

**Status: Completed**



# GENERAL ARTS FUND:

## TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX ART WRAPS

**100** LOCATIONS COMPLETED TO DATE

- County logo on each box
- Website updated as locations are completed



## ANNUAL ART GRANT PROGRAM

Funded through EDD's general fund to provide art grants in underserved areas of the County. In 2025 **\$27,500** in grants helped to create:

- **8 PROJECTS**
- **15,375 ART EXPERIENCE PARTICIPANTS**

Since 2021:

**330%** increase in applications

**300%** increase in funding requests

**7670%** increase in hours of programming

### *Thank You Community Partners!*

- Northwest Sinfonietta
- Peninsula Hands on Arts
- Greentrike
- Hilltop Artists- Arts Connect Program
- Tacoma Art Museum
- Ariva

**777K**

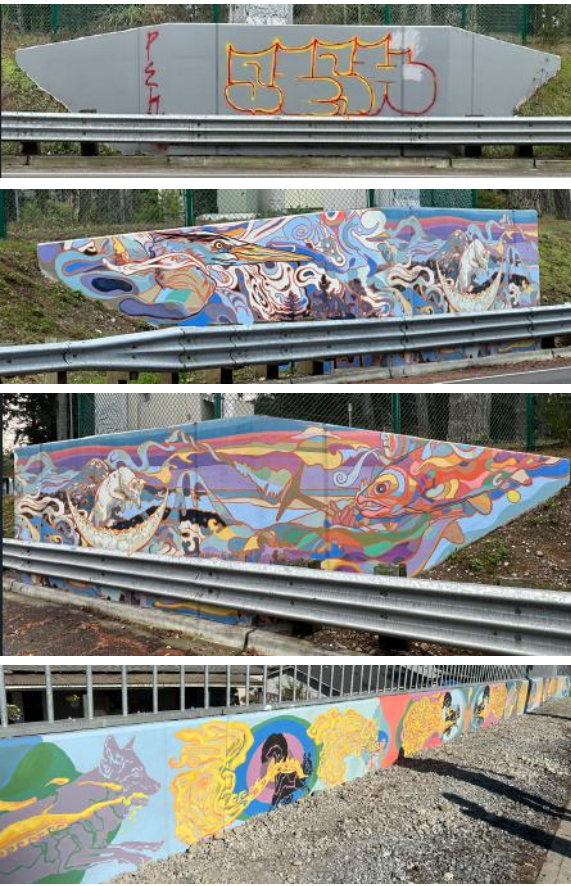
HOURS OF ART INSTRUCTION PROVIDED FOR PIERCE COUNTY RESIDENTS



# PC MURAL PROJECT

This County-funded project creatively reduces vandalism and graffiti by transforming frequently targeted areas into vibrant works of public art. Through community engagement and the involvement of artists, the program seeks to beautify public spaces, promote civic pride, and foster a sense of ownership and respect for shared environments.

- Walkway barrier and retaining wall near **152nd St E & 22nd Ave E** (Parkland/Spanaway). Artist Raul Ayala created 'Two Winds' (left), inspired by the community's request to honor local Native American culture.
- **Sprinker Recreation Center's Harold E. LeMay Skate Park** (Tacoma-Parkland community). Artists Brady Black, Timothy Robert Smith, and Joseph Brooks transformed the skate park into an immersive work of art reflective of the skate and riding community (below).
- Four artists, 14,500 sq. feet of mural, \$250k total budget



# PSESD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW AWARDS

Open to students enrolled in grades 9-12 in any public or state-approved private school, as well as home-schooled students, in the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) region. The PSESD conducts the competition and the Pierce County Arts Commissioners judge the Pierce County entries.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST- ARTS

**IN 2025, HAVING STAFF DEDICATED TO ADVOCATING AND WORKING TOWARDS ARTS EDUCATION, PROGRAMMING, NETWORKING AND OUTREACH MADE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS POSSIBLE:**

- Annual grant online application streamlined to provide an improved user experience
- Site visits conducted with each grant recipient to strengthen community relationships
- Completion of Election Center public art mural
- Completion of 100 total Art Wraps, which are featured on a website with mapping options & artist information.
- Educational components added to all *Call For Entry* as well as each step in the annual Art Grant
- Development, creation and execution of PC Mural Project leading to the completion of four additional public art murals in two different locations covering 14,500 sq. ft.

Betty Baublits, Director  
betty.baublits@piercecounywa.gov  
253.798.6926

Kari Rinn, Economic Development Specialist - Arts  
kari.rinn@piercecounywa.gov  
253.798.7365

Valerie Hamby, Administrative Program Manager  
valerie.hamby@piercecounywa.gov  
253.798.7382

### Pierce County Executive Award

**HANNAH HANSON**

'A Beautiful Prison'  
Eatonville High School  
Grade 12



### Pierce County Arts Commission Award

**JISUN KIM**

'Fragment of Self'  
Steilacoom High School  
Grade 10



### Pierce County Honorable Mention Award



**IAN TUDELA**

'Fear in All'  
Steilacoom High School  
Grade 10



**LUCA CORDOVA**

'Kachina Mask'  
Steilacoom High School  
Grade 12



**MARIIA (MASHA) SKULSKA**

Untitled  
Bonney Lake High School  
Grade 12