



2017 Annual Artist Survey Findings

During the summer of 2017, 1,720 artists from across Washington State participated in the Artist Trust Annual Survey. Results of the annual survey allow us to better understand the artists we serve and share that information with other artist-serving organizations. With greater knowledge about the needs of artists around the state, we can all work to provide better support and further elevate the voices of Washington’s artists. Key findings are below and a full report on this research is available at artisttrust.org.

Washington State Artists’ Needs

- The top challenges for Washington State artists who took the survey are **marketing, building audiences** locally and nationally, and **finding support** from the non-arts community.
- There is wide concern about potential federal policy changes from artists of all backgrounds, including **access to healthcare, affordable housing, and threats to NEA/NEH funding**.
- Respondents identified innovative ways that Artist Trust could support artists and their artistic communities with freeform answers. **Addressing racial inequities, helping artists find work, and fostering connections** came up in many responses.
- Many artists (**69%**) want to access business practices trainings online, including short informational videos and other online resources. Although artists are interested in face-to-face workshops (**55%**), fewer are interested in participating in intensive multi-day trainings (**35%**). **FIG. 1**

FIG. 1: ARTISTS’ NEEDS



A Picture of Washington State Artists

- A fifth (**20%**) of Washington State artists who took the survey earn all their personal income from their art. An additional **29%** earned about half or more of their income from their art. **FIG. 2**
- **88%** of responding artists indicated that their art was presented in some public fashion in the last 12 months.
- The most prevalent artistic discipline of artists who took the survey was visual art (**58%**). The majority of responding artists identify that they work in more than one artistic discipline.
- Those counties with the greatest urban density show the highest rate of respondents: King (**54%**), Spokane County (**6%**), Pierce County (**5%**), and Snohomish County (**4%**). **FIG. 3**
- A large majority of respondents identify as White/European or White (**79%**), while almost a third (**30%**) of respondents identify as a race or ethnicity other than White/European. This is a higher percentage of non-white racial groups than the **19.3** percent of Washington’s population in 2015.* **FIG. 4**

FIG. 2



% Personal Income from Art

- All Income (20%)
- Half or More (29%)
- Less than half (51%)

FIG. 3: LOCATION

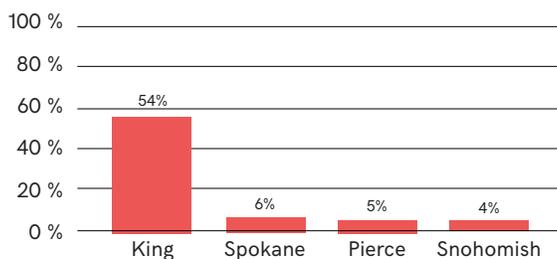
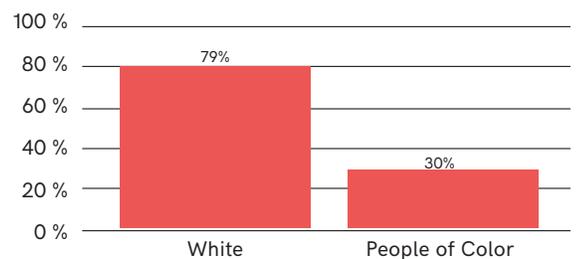


FIG. 4: RACE & ETHNICITY*



For the full survey report and more information about Artist Trust, please visit artisttrust.org.

*These identification categories were non-exclusive which makes the total percent greater than 100