

Service & Activities Fee Base Funding Request Form

## Museum of Culture and Environment

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Pending Approval

### 2026-2029 Service & Activities Fee Base Funding Request Form

#### Program/Department Name

Museum of Culture and Environment

#### Program Manager

Lynn Bethke, Karisa Terry

#### Do you currently receive S&A Base Funding?

Yes

#### How does the program support the University's Vision and Mission?

<https://www.cwu.edu/about/mission-vision/>

The Museum of Culture and Environment at Central Washington University (MCE) works to support CWU's Mission and Vision by presenting exhibitions and programs that stimulate appreciation and understanding of the world around us in students of all disciplines, and foster high impact practices, sustainable practices, and community partnerships. This work also supports the core values of engagement, belonging, and stewardship for student success. This support includes: • Hands-on experience for student interns and those in other courses in the areas of exhibit design, production and installation; exhibit curation; museum collections care; and informal education. Students from disciplines across CWU campus work within the museum. Relates to high impact practices. • Multiple yearly exhibits on topics that intersect with the interests of the CWU community and are installed with assistance from CWU students. FY2024 included: We've Always Been Here: LBGTQ+ Histories of Kittitas County (student curator); Yakama Beadwork: Images in Glass (guest curator); What's Up with the Wind? (student curator); The Unchosen Ones (traveling exhibit); Bringing the World to Ellensburg: The College Elementary School Collection (student curator); Through the Empress's Wardrobe: Power and Style in 19th Century Russia (student curator); Where the Forest Meets the Road (student curator). FY2025 will include Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science (traveling exhibit); Honoring Washoe (in collaboration with the Presidents Office, CHCI, Primate, Behavior, and Ecology, and PAN). Relates to high impact practices and student engagement, community partnerships and belonging, and sustainable practices and stewardship. • Collaborations with student clubs, academic departments, and campus entities to create and enhance programming. Most recently, we collaborated with the Biology Department and Museum Studies to create an exhibit about wildlife crossings on Interstate 90. We were part of a collaboration with the Diversity & Equity Center's Dia de los Muertos Celebrations providing an ofrenda in our museum lobby area. Additionally, we provided programming for CWU College of the Sciences sponsored event The Nature of Night, that brings science education to community members. Relates to high impact practices and student engagement and belonging. We are actively working on collaborations with Pacific Islander Student Union, Native American Student Association, and American Indian Studies for programming for our Winter 2025 exhibit on indigenous knowledge from communities in Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest. • Collaborate with community groups. In the past quadrennium, an intern researched, curated, and designed an exhibit on APOYO, a local community resource. We are actively working to partner with APOYO to provide bilingual tours of an upcoming exhibit (January-May 2025). Currently, a student intern and museum graduate assistant have developed a Spanish language translation guide for our exhibit Where the Forest Meets the Road (September 2024-January 2025), and are developing a similar guide for our upcoming Roots of Wisdom exhibit (January-May 2025). We will continue bringing bilingual exhibits into the museum. Another active partnership is with the Yakama Nation. Miles Miller, a Yakama beadwork artist, curated an exhibit on beadwork and invited other artists to demonstrations and panels held at the MCE. We continue to foster relationships with the Yakama and other local indigenous groups as we develop programming for our Winter 2025 exhibit focused on indigenous knowledge and shared science. Additionally, we collaborated with TransRural Lives, a digital storytelling project focused on documenting the stories of older transgender individuals, to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance event at the museum. Relates to community partnerships, student success through belonging and stewardship of sustainable practices. • Special lectures for students and the public by visiting and CWU professionals in association with current exhibit

topics. Recently, this included an artist talk by photographer RJ Kerns, a bead working demonstration by Yakama Nation artists, a panel on preparing for climate change featuring experts from on and off campus, a talk by biology students and faculty on the I-90 wildlife crossings research and collaborations with off campus organizations, and a flintknapping demonstration by former CWU student and traditional technology expert. Relates to high impact practices, student engagement, belonging, and stewardship of sustainable practices. • Opportunities for instructors to incorporate current exhibits into their curriculum. In 2023-2024, instructors in the areas of theatre, anthropology and museum studies, apparel, marking and textile design, environmental studies, education and the Douglas Honors College brought groups of students into the gallery. Relates to student engagement, belonging, and stewardship of sustainable practices. • From 2021-2022 through 2023-2024, the MCE has averaged 2735 visitors during the academic year, from both on and off campus. Relates to student engagement and community partnerships.

### **How does your request support current CWU students?**

The MCE's request supports CWU students in two ways. First, and most immediately, S&A funds support our student employees. For the past two funding cycles, S&A has funded two student employees per year who staff the MCE's front desk and are essential to the operation of the Museum. Second, S&A funds help us to bring traveling exhibits, guest curators, and guest speakers to campus. In the past four years, S&A has supported an exhibit by Shawn Brigman, indigenous artist and canoe maker; an exhibit of photography by Erika Williams documenting the protests in the wake of Breonna Taylor's murder; an exhibit documenting the lives and work of loggers in Northern California; and an exhibit showcasing beadwork of Yakama Nation beadwork artists.

### **What metrics or assessment do you have (or intend to have) to measure the success of your program?**

Success is measured, quantitatively, by visitor numbers to both the gallery and museum hosted events. Our numbers average 2735 for each academic year from 2021-2024. Subjectively, success is measured by engagement of visitors and event attendees with particular exhibits and programs. Additionally, the Museum has been conducting surveys of the campus (85% of respondents) and surrounding communities in order to assess awareness of the Museum and its offerings, and to gauge what exhibits and programs will be of interest. We use these findings to guide decisions about future offerings.

### **Is this program associated with enrollment in academic course or academic credit?**

No

### **Identify your S&A funding category?**

Support Costs for Student Activities & Programs

### **Did any organizational changes occur in your previous quadrennial in comparison to this quadrennial ask?**

Yes

### **If yes, please explain organizational changes**

The MCE welcomed new director Karisa Terry as longtime director Hope Amason stepped down.

### **Current Annual Report\***

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### **Submit Base Funding Budget Form and Organizational Chart\***

located: <https://www.cwu.edu/about/offices/services-activities/resources/index.php>

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### **Additional Documents (optional)\***