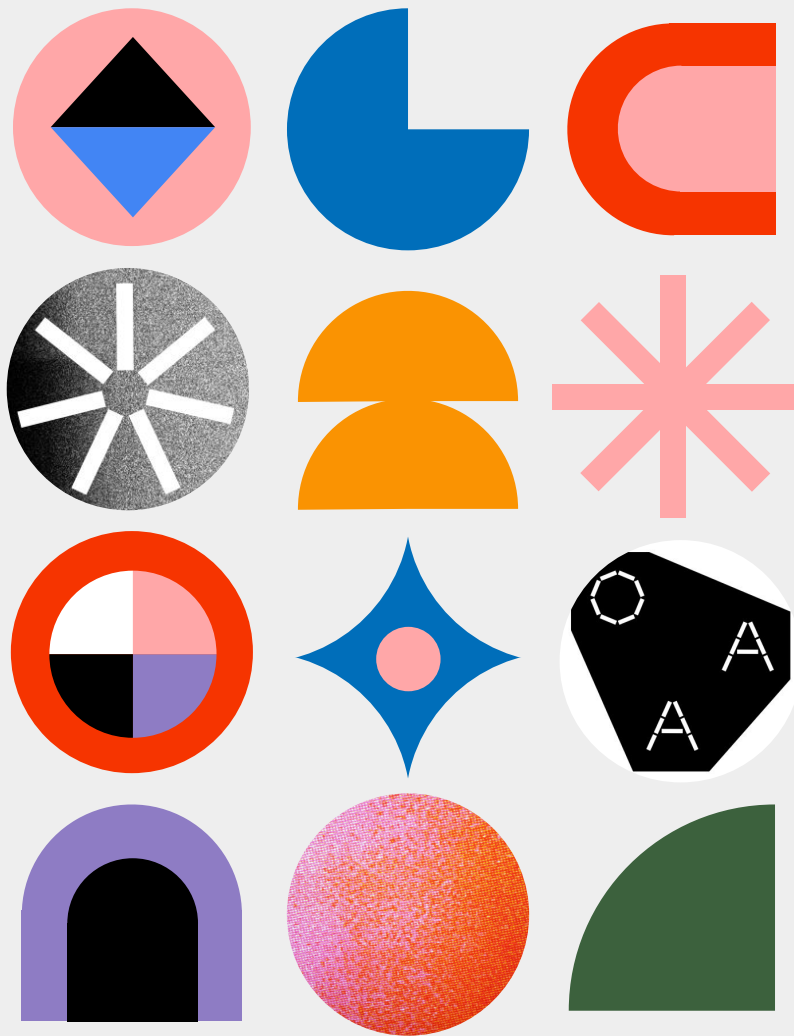


# Port Mural

Olympia Artspace Alliance





# **Strengthening Olympia's creative economy.**

Established in 2011, Olympia Artspace Alliance is a local Olympia nonprofit organization that provides programming, grants, fiscal sponsorship, and opportunities for artists in the South Puget Sound.

OAA fills a unique role in Olympia by focusing on the space needs and opportunities for artists. We also provide a voice for artists, the arts, and creative space in Olympia and Thurston County. Since 2019, our programs have supported over 125 local artists and more than 1,000 student artists, providing more than \$200,000 to strengthen their work. The following slides share more about our programming.

## **About Us**

**Olympia Artspace Alliance**

## Art in Olympia Storefronts

The Storefronts program is an ongoing project of the Olympia Artspace Alliance to create a series of temporary art installations in vacant storefront windows. This project explores the potential of downtown Olympia with temporary exhibitions that are meant to help us all see new possibilities in familiar locations.

## Space Grants

Each year OAA awards ten (10) Space Grants of \$500 each to local artists to offset space-related costs. This is a low-barrier merit-based grant with simple reporting requirements. This year we also partnered with Lacey Makerspace to provide a one-month membership to our grantees.



**Spring installation "Awaken" - Artist Fern Tallos**



## Downtown Olympia Creative District (coming soon!)

In 2019 ArtsWA began the Creative District program to help cities turn cultural activities into economic growth. The City of Olympia was one of the first to receive this new designation. In 2024 the City partnered with us to implement a strategic plan and develop a branding and engagement strategy.

This year the Downtown Olympia Creative District (DOCD) became its own Washington State non-profit and received Inspire Funding for 2025-26. As fiscal sponsor, OAA is working to set up a funding plan and a new strategic advisory board to guide the future of DOCD. Stay tuned!



Sign mockup for DOCD (coming soon!)

# Downtown Olympia Mural Project





OAA works to connect artists with businesses to paint professional murals. For the past two years we have partnered with the city and the PBIA to install five new murals in the downtown core. We administer a competitive call for art, select and contract with winning artists, support their vision and install, and continue to promote and celebrate their work.

## **The Downtown Olympia Mural Project**



# **Meet Muralist Joe**

## **"wahalatsu?"**

### **Seymour**

Joe is excited to partner with the Olympia Artspace Alliance and the Port of Olympia to bring a colorful, welcoming mural to the Olympia Port. It would be one of the largest murals on the West Coast!



**Joe is from the Squaxin Island and Pueblo of Acoma tribes, and his art is heavily inspired by Coast Salish styles.**

Joe began his journey in the arts in 2003, carving a canoe paddle for the Canoe Journey to Tulalip. Since then, his art style has flourished, expanding with his experiences in glass, Salish wool weaving, photography, wood, rawhide drums, and prints.

**Joe standing in front of his installation on Views on Fifth, downtown Olympia.**



In addition to being a professional artist, Joe is also a professor in the American Indian Studies department at the University of Washington.

Joe has two prominent art pieces visible from the Port waterfront, the Canoe Journey mural behind Row facing the water, and the towering migrating salmon installation on Views on Fifth.

Read more about Joe's work in the [Olympian here](#).

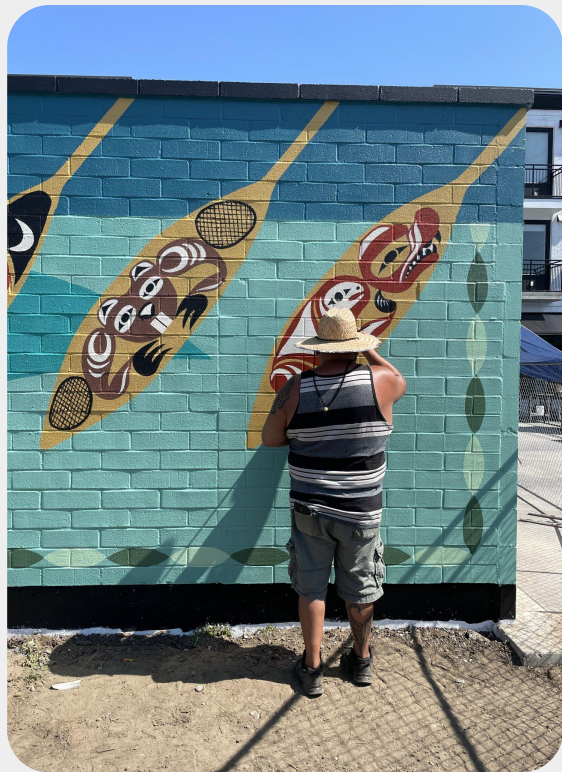


"In my career, I've worked with glass, photography, Salish wool weaving, prints, wood, steel and rawhide drums. I've been very fortunate to have a community of artists that I'm able to work with and that are very supportive of my career. If it were not for their caring and sharing of ideas, I would not be the artist that I am today."

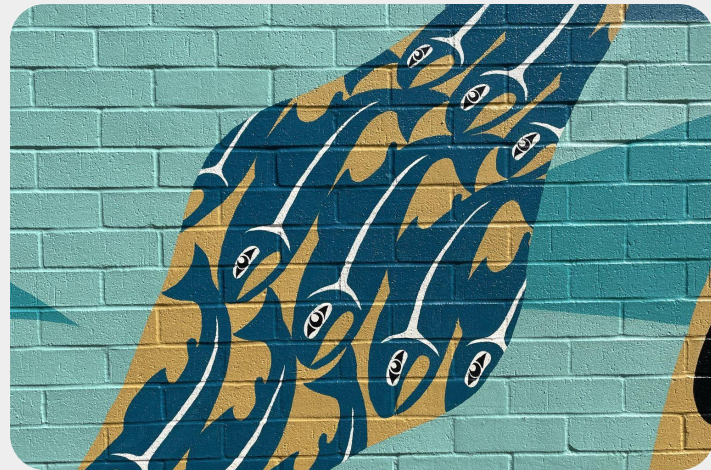
**Image left: one of Joe's beautiful rawhide drums**



# Joe's Canoe Journey Mural

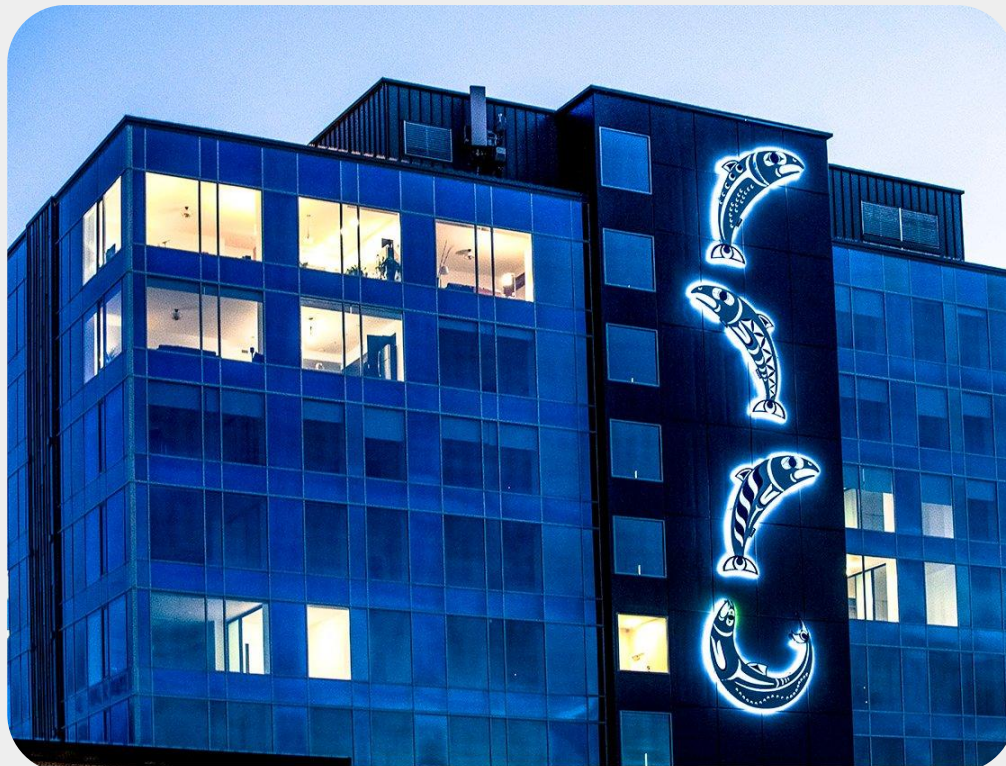
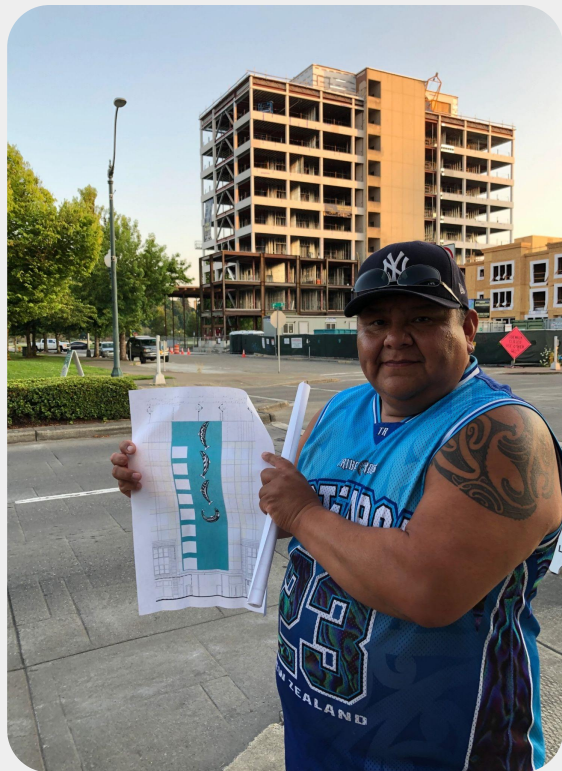




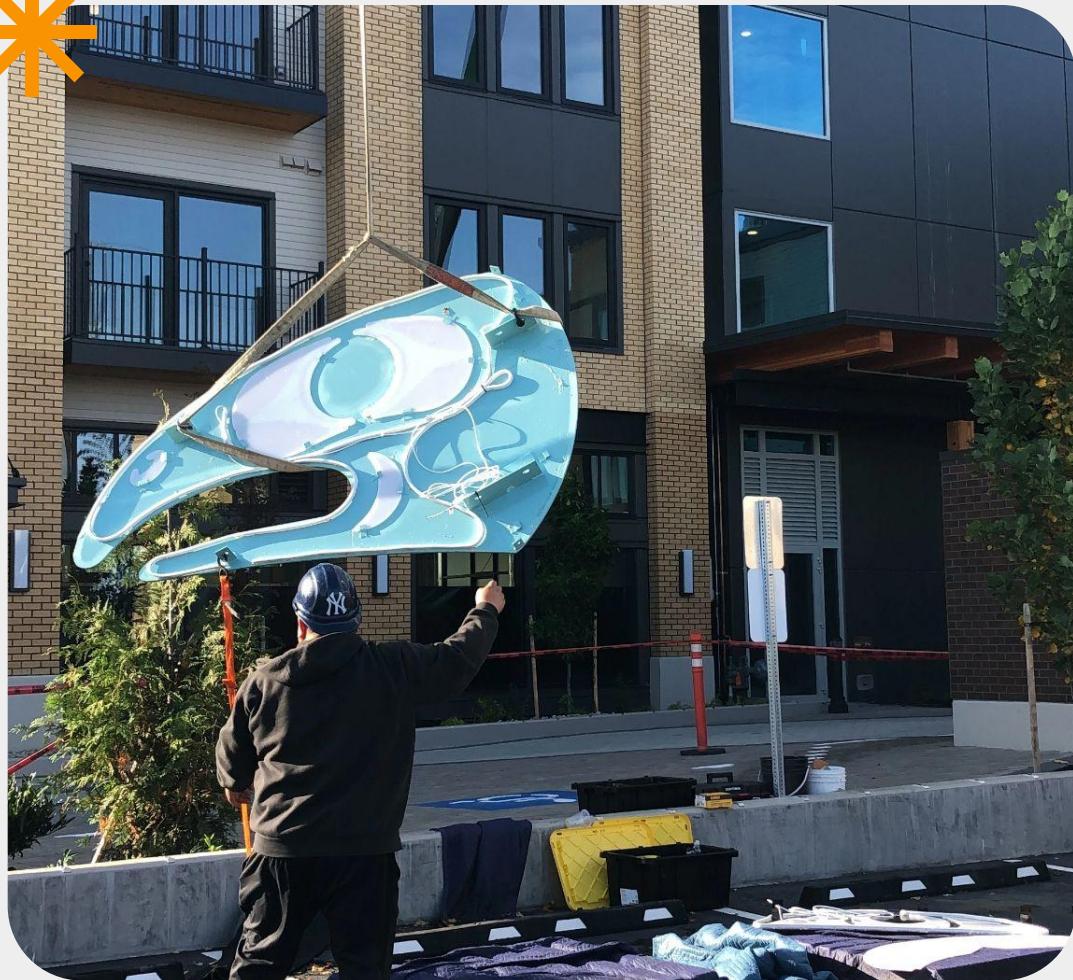




# Views on Fifth Salmon Project







## **About the vision for this project:**

- 5 murals at a cost of \$12,000 each
- A two year project starting this summer
- 2 of the murals to begin in August 2025
- Teams of artists and youth to work on the murals
- The largest mural on the west coast

# Port concept: Welcome message





"I hope that as I continue in my artistic career, I can pass on the teachings and nurturing spirit that have been shown to me."

## **Original Canoe Journey Mural**

**Joe paints with community, and will assemble an incredible team of youth and artists for this project.**

