

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Resolution: AR-2025-02-04
**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION TO INCREASE ART INDOORS ON
CAMPUS**

Short Title:	Indoor Campus Beautification
Author(s):	Shelby Davis, Senator Kaelen Armstrong, College Senator (Statler)
Sponsor(s):	Colin Street, Senator Michael Mugnano, College Senator (Chambers) Molly Meeker, Senator Matthew Olivero, President Pro Tempore Tris Silva, College Senator (Eberly) Cate Magrogan, College Senator (HSC) Alex Tadros, College Senator (Statler)
Contributor(s):	Gracey Champ, Intern Remy Bogan, Green Guardian Ben Heinlein, Green Guardian Jake Shafer, Green Guardian Giuliana Groth, Green Guardian Kennedy Janowick, Green Guardian Cody Hiet, Green Guardian Thomas Putnam, Green Guardian
Committee Endorsement:	Community and Government Relations
First Reading Date:	4/2/2025
Second Reading Date:	4/9/2025
Date of Approval:	4/9/2025
Presidential Signature:	

Whereas, the West Virginia University mission statement reads, “As a land-grant institution, the faculty, staff and students at West Virginia University commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education, healthcare and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity;”¹ and,

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association (SGA) vision statement reads, “To be a Student Government Association that serves the students, West Virginia University,...creating a campus that can accommodate everyone...participating in meaningful community service, fostering healthy lifestyles, and developing innovative partnerships with students, faculty, staff and other key stakeholders.”²; and,

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association (SGA) is a student advocacy organization; and,

Whereas, college students will spend around 400 hours in classrooms³; and,

Whereas, up to 80% of prospective students prioritize the visual appeal of a campus when making enrollment decisions⁴; and,

Whereas, a study done in King County, Washington revealed that 60% of residents cited art a key factor in their decision to locate there⁵; and,

Whereas, images of stereotypical objects associated with a major or people in a major can cause underrepresented students feeling excluded in their classrooms³; and,

Whereas, a study in which students who were introduced to art around their campus in 2023 claimed that the students’ sense of community was greatly broadened within the class and beyond; students felt more connected to, and empathetic toward, the people in the community, which shed light on their own experiences, personal histories, and

¹ [Mission - West Virginia University](#)

² [Mission and Vision | Student Government Association | West Virginia University](#)

³ [Designing Classrooms to Maximize Student Achievement](#)

⁴ [The Strategic Impact of Art in Higher Learning](#)

⁵ [The Social Impact of the Arts Study](#)

preconceptions⁶; and,

Whereas, students self-report substantial improvements in various aspects when exposed to well-designed learning environments, including increased engagement (84%), enhanced grades (72%), greater motivation to attend class (72%), and heightened creative abilities (77%)⁴; and,

Whereas, as studied in Arts on Chicago and Art Blocks programs, residents living on blocks with community-based art were 1.6 times more likely to report feeling connected with their neighbors and “1.5 times more likely to rate their neighborhood as good or excellent in terms of opportunities for creative expression”, “1.8 times more likely to state that it was very important to them to be civically engaged in their neighborhood”⁷; and,

Whereas, only 5.4% of respondents reported satisfaction with the amount of art displayed around campus⁸; and,

Whereas, multiple SGA 2025-2026 Senator-Elects and the Green Guardians, a leadership capstone group, are focusing on campus beautification showing a push and student support for improving campus aesthetics; and,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: WVU SGA will work with the university to display student art on campus, with art focusing on themes of Appalachia, nature, or the university itself as reflected by the participants in the survey⁸; and,

Section 2: WVU SGA will consult with WVU Facilities Management to review survey results; and, install preferred art mediums in the identified buildings from the student survey⁸; and,

Section 3: WVU SGA will work with WVU Facilities Management to install preferred art

⁶ [Short- and Long-Term Outcomes of Community-Based Art Education among Students in Higher Education](#)

⁷ [Adding It Up Executive Summary](#)

⁸ [Indoor Campus Beautification Survey Results](#)

mediums in the identified buildings from the student survey⁸; and,

Section 4: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

Mandates:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students

Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)

University President Gordon E. Gee

Charlie Long, Student Body President

Abigail Browning, Student Body Vice President

Haley Orcutt, Executive Secretary

Daily Athenaeum

Chuck Roberts, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

Joe Patten, Assistant Vice President for Construction and Transportation Services
