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NORTHWEST  
MUSEUM  
OF ARTS  
& CULTURE

# Statement

Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (EWSHS-the MAC)  
optimistic despite Governor's proposed budget shortfall

The Governor's budget for the next biennium (2011-2013) proposes to cut the MAC by 41% and close the facility to the public. This is in addition to the 21% decrease in state funding the museum has absorbed in the last two years.

Spokane, WA, December 15, 2010: Governor Chris Gregoire announced today that the MAC's proposed state allocation will be cut by 41 percent, and plans to close the facility to the public. While we appreciate the efforts Office of Financial Management (OFM) staff and analysts have made to draft a balanced budget, we seriously question the policy decisions that led to this approach. We have worked closely with OFM from the beginning of the downturn in a collaborative atmosphere and managed to end the year in the black despite reducing our staff by 40%.

At the same time, the Inland Northwest community responded with enthusiastic support. Campbell House was re-opened - staffed by volunteers- and over a million dollars were raised locally for the research, exhibits and education programs the MAC is known for. Despite all odds, the MAC landed *Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius* scheduled to open June 3, 2011. The first non-metro presentation of this internationally acclaimed exhibit is expected to generate over 40,000 new visitors. The MAC is an economic driver for our community with an annual impact of over \$10 million.

Several weeks ago, two experienced museum reviewers visited the MAC as part of the national accreditation process. They were amazed. Expecting to see a severely diminished facility, they told us instead how impressed they were with the quality of our curators, staff morale, the appearance of the galleries, and the engagement of the public. In short, they saw us as an example of what determined individuals can accomplish despite severe obstacles.

That's what we intend to do now. The state administration has thrown in the towel, leaving it to our elected officials to figure out a plan. **With the support of our community, regional partners, tribal leaders, and legislative delegation, we will work to keep our collections safe and the museum accessible to the public.**