Americans for the Arts, Creative Industries, 2017.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes $35.6 billion to Washington’s economy, representing 7.8% of the state’s GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.


BONUS: In 2015, WA arts and culture jobs grew by 5.0% while the national average was 2.1%!

In Washington, 17,642 Arts-Related Businesses employ 69,844 people.
• In King County, 8,108 Arts-Related Businesses employ 34,536 people.
• In Pierce County, 1,408 Arts-Related Businesses employ 4,317 people.
• In Spokane County, 1,046 Arts-Related Businesses employ 6,172 people.

In 2015, Washington’s arts and culture sector employed thousands of FTE jobs and generated millions of dollars in economic activity. Nonprofit arts groups helped cultivate that activity.
• In Tacoma, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated $74.6 million in economic activity. Audiences of 2.7 million people added another $62.6 million in related spending for a total of $137.2 million for the city in 2015, and this generated $14.0 million in local and state government revenues and 3,656 FTE jobs.

ART IS A $166.3 BILLION DRIVER OF OUR NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL ECONOMY.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

So how much is the federal government investing in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)?

Congress has proposed allocating $155 million to the NEA in FY 2019, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just 47¢ per capita, yet the nonprofit arts industry generates over $13 billion in federal tax revenue back to the treasury. Imagine what nonprofit arts groups could generate with $1 per capita!

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2019.

What about Washington—how much does state government budget to the Washington State Arts Commission each year?

The state allocated $1,166,000 to the Washington State Arts Commission. In FY 2017, the Washington State Arts Commission also received $820,400 in federal NEA funds, which the Commission re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 32 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $2,585,400.

IN THE EVERGREEN STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US
Washington Creative Forces Summit II – Healing in Community will be aimed at arts organizations and individuals interested in working with and improving knowledge of our target military population grappling with Post Traumatic Stress or Traumatic Brain Injury.

THE WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION—Established in 1961, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) is a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.

> Learn more here.

MEET SOME WASHINGTON ARTS ADVOCATES
- Manual Cawaling is Executive Director of Cultural Access Washington. > More
- Shannon Halbertstadt is Executive Director of Artist Trust. > More
- Karen Hanan is the Executive Director of ArtsWA. > More
- Christopher Shainin is President of Washington State Arts Alliance. > More

ART IN WASHINGTON
- Best Things Washington can direct you to the best venues of live theater and dance performances here.
- Artist Trust offers a calendar of arts events in Washington here.
- ExperienceWA offers a list of arts and cultural activities in Washington here.

WASHINGTON ART ORGANIZATIONS
Washington State Arts Alliance
washingtonstateartsalliance.org
Washington Museums Association
washingtonmuseumassociation.org
Washington Art Education Association
waeaboard.net

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!
- Start in the coolest coastal town in the state, Port Townsend, and experience Centrum, featuring jazz, literary arts, and the Port Townsend Film Festival.
- Hit Bellingham’s picturesque Fairhaven District and enjoy the Arts & Music Festival and the best selection of microbrews in the state.
- Head South to Seattle to enjoy world-class theatre, music, visual arts, literary arts and dance presented by Seattle Theatre Group, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northwest Folklife, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Symphony, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle Arts & Lectures, and a year of cultural festivals at Seattle Center.
- Nearby Bellevue presents innovative Arts & Design at the Bellevue Arts Museum, and experience the Bellvue Arts Fair.
- In Eastern Washington, Spokane hosts a citywide Arts Month in October, and is the home of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.
- Head Southwest to the Maryhill Museum of Art, overlooking the beautiful Columbia River Gorge.
- Tacoma’s Museum District is a jewels of the South Sound. You can walk to six premier museums, including the State History Museum, the Tacoma Art Museum, the Museum of Glass, the LeMay Car Museum, the Foss Waterway Museum, and the Children’s Museum of Tacoma.

WASHINGTON ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!
E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org
VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org/join
CALL US: 202.371.2830 x2067
FOLLOW US: Facebook Arts Action Fund, Twitter @ArtsActionFund, #ArtsVote

To download this fact sheet, “Why the Arts Matter in Washington,” with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/WA.

2019