WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN ILLINOIS

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.2% OF NATION’S GDP

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector is a $764 billion industry, representing 4.2% of the nation’s GDP—a larger share of the economy than construction (4.1%) or education services (1.1%).


$764 BILLION Arts & Culture Sector
$763 BILLION Construction
$208 BILLION Education Services

BONUS: U.S. exports generate a $24.1 billion arts trade SURPLUS.

NUMBER OF ARTS-RELATED BUSINESSES AND JOBS (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

Nationally 673,656 businesses employ 3.48 million people who are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts. Based on Dun & Bradstreet data, this means that 3.9% of all businesses and 1.9% of all employees are connected to the creative industries.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Creative Industries, 2017.

673,656 BUSINESSES & 3.48M JOBS ARE INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARTS

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry alone generates $166.3 billion in economic activity annually that supports 4.6 million jobs and generates $27.5 billion in federal, state, and local government revenue.

• Spending by arts audiences generated $102.5 billion to local businesses.


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

ILLINOIS ARTS FACTS

THE ILLINOIS ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.3% OF THE STATE’S GDP

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes $25.9 billion to Illinois’s economy, representing 3.3% of the state’s GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.


$25.9 BILLION Arts & Culture Sector
$28.9 BILLION Construction
$10.7 BILLION Education Services

BONUS: In 2015, arts and culture jobs generated $14 billion in compensation for Illinois workers.

In Illinois, 22,482 Arts-Related Businesses employ 134,372 people.

• In Cook County, 10,798 Arts-Related Businesses employ 79,529 people.
• In DuPage County, 2,272 Arts-Related Businesses employ 14,689 people.
• In Lake County, 1,767 Arts-Related Businesses employ 7,037 people.


22,482 BUSINESSES & 134,372 JOBS ARE INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARTS

In 2015, nonprofit arts organizations in the state generated $4 billion in economic activity annually that supported 111,068 jobs and generated $478.5 million in federal, state, and local government revenue.

• Spending by arts audiences generated $102.5 billion to local businesses.


ART IS A $4 BILLION GDP DRIVER OF OUR STATE ECONOMY.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

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

A 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.

Q What about Illinois—how much does state government budget to the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) each year?

A The state allocated $9.9 million to IACA. In FY 2017, the agency received $1 million in federal NEA funds, which IACA re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations through the state. Another 108 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $3,695,777.

Read: “What cuts to the NEA budget would mean for Illinois,” Claire Rice, Executive Director, and E. Brooke Flanagan, Board Chair, Arts Alliance Illinois, Chicago Tribune, 2017.
To download this fact sheet, “Why the Arts Matter in Illinois” with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/IL.

Illinois Arts Facts

IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN, THE ARTS ADDRESS CHALLENGES AND BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Project FIRE (Fearless Initiative for Recovery and Empowerment) is an artist development employment program in Chicago that offers healing through glassblowing —combining glass arts education, mentoring, and trauma psychoeducation to support trauma recovery and to create jobs for youth affected by violence.

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

• Start near the southern tip of Illinois in Carbondale, where Carbondale Community Arts transformed the city’s former library into a state-of-the-art facility for exhibitions and performances, Artspace 304.
• Head north toward Mt. Vernon where the Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park surrounds the Mitchell Museum and the Shrode Art Center for education at the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts.
• Next, go west to Lebanon and the oldest college in Illinois, McKendree University, where the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts presents notable speakers, performing-arts ensembles, great films, and National Geographic Live! events for audiences of all ages.
• Be sure to hit Quincy for picture-perfect architectural landmarks on the Mississippi River—and a thriving cultural scene supported by America’s first arts council, Arts Quincy.
• In midstate Peoria, check out the sculpture walk and Peoria Riverfront Museum, then take a printmaking class at Prairie Center of the Arts.
• Galena visitors can cruise some or all 100-plus miles of the Scenic Art Loop, which includes galleries and studios, vineyards and breweries, and specialty stores and boutiques.
• Stop by Freeport’s new Civic Arts Plaza and Rockford’s Riverfront Museum Park on your way east to the Art Institute of Chicago, winner of multiple “Best Museum in the World” awards, and home to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago—six of whose graduate programs are at the top of U.S. News and World Report’s rankings.

To View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, Click Here.

Illinois Arts Need You!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

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THE ARTS IN ILLINOIS

• The Illinois Office of Tourism has a comprehensive overview of the best arts destinations here.
• Atlas Obscura knows 241 cool, hidden, and unusual things to do in Illinois here.
• IACA offers a calendar of arts festivals here.
• ArtsPartners of Central Illinois collects cultural events and creative happenings midstate here.

Illinois Art Organizations

Arts Alliance Illinois www.artsalliance.org
Illinois Association of Museums www.illinoismuseums.org
The College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign www.faa.illinois.edu/menu and www.kranntcenter.com

Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA)—was created as a state agency by the Illinois General Assembly in 1965 through legislation sponsored by Senators Paul Simon, Thomas McGloon, and Alan Dixon. The agency is governed by up to twenty-one private citizens chosen for their demonstrated commitment to the arts and appointed by the Governor. IACA’s mission is to build a strong, creative, and connected Illinois through the arts.

More than 100 local arts agencies, municipal arts councils, and area cultural commissions belong to the LOCAL ARTS NETWORK (LAN), a partnership program between IACA and Arts Alliance Illinois.

Learn more here.

MEET SOME ILLINOIS ARTS ADVOCATES

• Patricia Frazier, on the 2018 Illinois team for National Arts Advocacy Day, is the first-ever Chicago Youth Poet Laureate and the second-ever National Youth Poet Laureate. > More
• Angelique Power is President of the Field Foundation of Illinois and has reinvented its strategy around community empowerment through justice, art, and leadership investment. > More
• Claire Rice is Executive Director of Arts Alliance Illinois, supporting and promoting the value of the arts, culture, and creativity in communities across the state. > More
• Josh Shearer is fighting for the presence and power of art in southern Illinois schools. > More

Americans for the Arts

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