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%).

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.

MISSISSIPPI ARTS FACTS

THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 2.3% OF STATE’S GDP
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes $2.6 billion to Mississippi’s economy, representing 2.3% of the state’s GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

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.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS
In 2015, the Mississippi 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 Lafayette, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated $2.7 million in economic activity. Audiences of 223,150 people added another $8.3 million in related spending for a total of $11.0 million for the city in 2015, and this generated $1.1 million in local and state government revenues and 336 FTE jobs.

FUNDING
Q What about Mississippi—how much does state government budget to the Mississippi Arts Commission each year?
A The state allocated $1,681,548 to the Mississippi Arts Commission. In FY 2017, the Mississippi Commission on the Arts also received $794,200 in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations serving 99 House and 53 Senate Districts. Another 4 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $849,200.
IN THE MAGNOLIA STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

The Whole Schools Initiative (WSI) in Mississippi uses the arts as a vehicle to promote high-quality instruction. MAC works with teachers to develop strategies that incorporate arts across the curriculum to serve 15,750 students, 1,423 teachers and administrators, and 32 schools.

THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION—
The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) was established in 1968 by the Mississippi Legislature. MAC provides financial and technical assistance for arts programming to arts organizations and educational institutions throughout Mississippi. Funded annually by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and private funds, MAC uses this support to carry forth its mission and continues to act as a core and essential function of government. > Learn more here.

MEET SOME MISSISSIPPI ARTS ADVOCATES

• **Betsy Bradley** is Executive Director of the Mississippi Museum of Art. > More
• **V. A. Patterson** won the 2018 Governor’s Arts in Community Award > More
• **Dr. Penny Wallin** is Executive Director of the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education. > More
• **Malcolm White** is Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission. > More

ART IN MISSISSIPPI

• Culturetrip.com lists 12 of the best arts destinations and festivals throughout the state here.
• Visit Mississippi offers an itinerary featuring the state’s best musical destinations here.
• The Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience opened in 2018 and offers visitors an interactive way to experience the state’s artistic legacy. Learn more here.

MISSISSIPPI ART ORGANIZATIONS

Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education  
www.msartsalliance.com
Mississippi Museum of Art  
www.msmuseumart.org
Yoknapatawpha Arts Council  
www.oxfordarts.com

MISSISSIPPI ARTS FACTS

• Starting from Memphis, Tennessee, head south on Highway 61, the Blues Highway, to get a driving tour of the birthplace of the blues. Stop in Tunica, Clarksdale, and Merigold to see the many Mississippi Blues Trail markers highlighting the people and places integral to the genre.
• Stop in Cleveland to see the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, the only museum of its kind outside of Los Angeles. Mississippi boasts more GRAMMY winners per capita of any other state.
• Head east to the literary hub of Oxford to see the charming and art-filled Courthouse Square.
• Make sure to stop in Square Books to read up on Mississippi writers, then take a tour of author William Faulkner’s home Rowan Oak.
• Recently named one of the most artistic towns in America by Matador network, the capital city of Jackson offers visitors world-class museums as well as up-and-coming neighborhoods and co-ops with artistic flair.
• East of Jackson, Meridian is home to the new Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience, “the MAX” for short. This interactive museum introduces visitors to the vast group of nationally known artists and entertainers who hail from the state.
• End your tour by heading south to Ocean Springs where you can take in the same sights and sounds that inspired Walter Anderson’s signature painting style. View his original work at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art. The Ohr-O’Keefe Museum and the Mary C. Cultural Center are worth a stop as well.

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

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

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: Arts Action Fund | @ArtsActionFund | #ArtsVote

Americans for the Arts ACTION FUND

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

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