**WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN ALASKA**

### NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

**ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR’S PERCENTAGE OF U.S ECONOMY (Artists, University Arts, Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)**

**ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.5% OF NATION’S GDP & 5.1 MILLION JOBS**

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector is a **$878 billion industry**, representing 4.5% of the nation’s GDP—a larger share of the economy than construction or education services. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.

- **$878 BILLION** Arts & Culture Sector
- **$790.4 BILLION** Construction
- **$206 BILLION** Education Services

**BONUS:** U.S. exports generate a $29.7 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 EMPLOYEES** 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.


**NONPROFIT ART IS A **$166.3 BILLION** DRIVER OF OUR NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL 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 allocated $162.25 million to the NEA in FY 2020, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just 49¢ 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!


Read: “Funding The Arts Is Good For The Nation,” The Hill. 2015.

**Q** What about Alaska—how much does state government allocate to the Alaska State Council on the Arts each year?

**A** The state awarded $704,400 to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. In FY 2019-20, the Alaska State Council on the Arts also received $696,500 in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 21 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $470,000.


### ALASKA ARTS FACTS

**ALASKA ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 2.6% OF STATE’S GDP AND 11,847 JOBS**

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes **$1.3 billion** to Alaska’s economy, representing 2.6% of the state’s GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.


- **$1.3 BILLION** Arts & Culture Sector
- **$1.8 BILLION** Construction
- **$0.2 BILLION** Education Services

**BONUS:** In 2017, arts and cultural compensation was $922,297,282.

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

In Alaska, 1,705 Arts-related businesses employ 5,896 people.

- In Anchorage 847 Arts-Related Businesses employ 3,196 people.
- In Fairbanks Northstar Borough, 244 Arts-Related Businesses employ 873 people.
- In Kenai Peninsula Borough, 140 Arts-Related Businesses employ 405 people.


- **1,705 BUSINESSES** & **31.6K EMPLOYEES** ARE INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARTS

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES**

In 2015, Alaska’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 Fairbanks, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated $8.7 million in economic activity. Audiences of 352,100 people added another $9.3 million for a total of $18 million in commerce for the city in 2015.


**NONPROFIT ART IS A **$1.3 BILLION** DRIVER OF JUST ONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES.

**PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS**

**Q** In 2015, how much did Alaska’s arts and culture sector receive in Federal NEA funding?

**A** In FY 2015, the Alaska State Council on the Arts received $696,500 in Federal NEA funding, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 21 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $470,000.


ALASKA ARTS FACTS

IN THE LAST FRONTIER THE ARTS UNITE US AS ALASKANS

The biggest state with the fewest people needs the arts to bring people together. The arts support the collaboration of many nonprofit organizations serving the many diverse communities of the state.

THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS—The Alaska State Council on the Arts represents, supports and advances the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations and agencies throughout Alaska. The Council works in concert with the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation (AACF), which was established in 2001. The AACF provides funding for some of the Council’s projects.

MEET SOME ALASKA ARTS ADVOCATES

- Ben Brown is a statewide arts advocate, member of Preserverance Theatre in Juneau, and has served on the Alaska State Council on the Arts. >More
- Biennial Alaska Arts Convergence. This is a statewide gathering of arts organizations and individuals. Contact the Alaska State Council on the Arts for information. > More
- Norm Campbell of Sitka is President of the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation. > More
- Sally Grimsrud is the 2018 Champion of the Arts, an honor conferred by the Alaska Arts Education Consortium > More
- Kameron Perez Verdia is the President of the Alaska Humanities Forum. > More

ART IN ALASKA

- Check out the many arts centers and community festivals, including the Anchorage Film Festival here.
- Plan a cultural trip among the art galleries and museums here.
- Discover how the state is rich in art and crafts created by indigenous communities here.

ALASKA ART ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Arts Education Consortium (AAEC)
www.akartsed.org
Juneau Arts & Humanities Council
www.jahc.org
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
www.alaskapac.org
Denali Arts Council
www.denaliarts council.org

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- In Anchorage, the Anchorage Museum tells the story of the North—a story that weaves social, political, cultural, scientific, historical and artistic threads. Explore the full diversity of Alaska Native cultures, including masterworks of Alaska Native art and design from the collections of the Smithsonian Institution.
- Go south to Seward, and you can take in the Seward Music and Arts Festival with fabulous art, live music, and dance performances. Local Alaskan artisans and food vendors are featured. It is a family-oriented festival with children’s activities and artist’s projects throughout the weekend; including the creation of a mural-in-a-day by members of the Seward Mural Society.
- Further down the coast In Ketchikan, timed for the winter holidays, the Ketchikan Arts & Humanities Council’s Winter Arts faire showcases the creations of local artists, which make for great gifts. More than 80 artists exhibit their work here, so you could easily fill all of your holiday wish lists with local, handmade gifts.
- Up in Fairbanks, you can take a riverboat tour that combines colorful river history, Native traditions and the beauty of Alaska’s interior. An Alaskan crew will share their culture as you stroll through an Athabascan Indian village. The Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival offers over 200 workshops and 100 performances held all over Interior Alaska in music, visual arts, dance, writing, theatre, healing arts & culinary arts. Offering workshops for adults and concerts for all!
- Way up in Nome, the Alappaa Film Festival showcases films that highlight many aspects of living in the Arctic: traditional dance, nature and climate change, string stories, scientific research, wildlife, and more. Recent selections have focused on children of the Arctic, Inuit tattoos, and growing up Native in Alaska.

ALASKA ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

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