WHY THE ARTS MATTER
IN CONNECTICUT

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

4.3% of Nation’s GDP & 5 Million Jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector is a $804 billion industry, representing 4.3% of the nation’s GDP—a larger share of the economy than construction (4%) or education services (1.1%).


$804 BILLION Arts & Culture Sector

$746 BILLION Construction

$244 BILLION Education Services

BONUS: U.S. exports generate a $25 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

What about Connecticut—how much does state government budget to the Connecticut State Office of the Arts each year?

A

The state allocated $5,499,552 to the Connecticut State Office. In FY 2019-20, the Connecticut State Office received $737,400 in federal NEA funds, which the Office re-granted to hundreds of cultural organizations through the state. Another 31 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $379,500.

Source: NEA and NASA, 2020. Read Stephan Singer on how “Arts and Culture Are Key Contributors to CT’s Economy.”

CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

CT ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.5% OF STATE’S GDP & 57,409 JOBS

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes $9.1 billion to Connecticut’s economy, representing 3.5% of the state’s GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2016

$9.1 BILLION Arts & Culture Sector

$7.7 BILLION Construction

$6 BILLION Education Service

BONUS: In 2016, CT arts and culture jobs produced $4.7 billion in compensation.

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

In Connecticut, 10,403 Arts-Related Businesses employ 39,419 people.

• In Fairfield County, 4,040 Arts-Related Businesses employ 15,359 people.

• In New Haven County, 2,048 Arts-Related Businesses employ 7,152 people.


10,403 BUSINESSES

39,419 EMPLOYEES

ARE INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARTS

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

In 2015, the Connecticut arts and culture generated $797.2 million in economic activity annually that supported 23,114 jobs and generated $72.3 million in state and local government revenue.

• In Fairfield County specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated $148.6 million in economic activity. Audiences of 2.5 million people added another $86.6 million for a total of $235.2 million in economic activity for the county in 2015, and this generated $20.3 million in local and state government revenues.


NONPROFIT ART IS A $797.2 MILLION DRIVER OF JUST ONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES.

FUNDING

Q

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

A

Congress has proposed allocating $162.25 million to the NEA in FY2020, 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?

IN THE CONSTITUTION STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

Artspace’s City Wide Open Studios unites more than 350 artists from across Connecticut who open their doors and exhibit their work throughout the month of October each year.

THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS (COA) – founded in 1965, COA is a State Arts Agency within the Department of Economic and Community Development. The state arts office directly serves arts organizations, artists, schools, and communities across the state through a range of programs and services, including grant support and professional development opportunities. The COA is funded by the State of Connecticut and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

MEET SOME CONNECTICUT ARTS ADVOCATES

- Former Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman is the recipient of AFTA’s 2018 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for State Arts Leadership. > More
- Lisa Scails is Executive Director of the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut. > More
- Connecticut Arts Alliance President Amy Wynn extolls the value of the arts sector. > More
- New Haven Mayor Toni Harp and Representative Toni Walker were recognized as arts leaders in New Haven and Connecticut. > More
- Fritz Jellinghaus is the Chair of the Connecticut Arts Council. > More
- LeAnne Hinkle is the President of the Connecticut Art Education Association. > More

ART IN CONNECTICUT

- Connecticut Office of Tourism can direct you the great stages of the state here.
- Follow the Connecticut Art Trail here.
- Connecticut Critics Circle provides performance review here.

CONNECTICUT ART ORGANIZATIONS

- Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA) www.ctartsalliance.org
- CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP) www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-arts-program
- Connecticut Art Education (CAEA) www.ctarteducation.net

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Grab lunch at Franklin Street Works in Stamford and challenge your mind with socially driven contemporary art, then take in a producing theater production at Curtain Call.
- Follow the coast to New Haven where a myriad of arts experiences await. From the renowned Yale Center for British Art to the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, a 15-day annual festival that brings thousands together each summer for performances and dialogue with great artists and thinkers from across the world.
- Take a leisurely drive north along the Connecticut River to East Haddam to take in a musical at the Tony award winning Goodspeed.
- While in Hartford be sure to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum, the oldest continuously-operating public art museum in the United States where you will also find the Amistad Center for Art & Culture.
- Take in dinner and a show at the Infinity Music Hall & Bistro in Norfolk and while meandering through the Litchfield Hills be sure to swing by Five Points in Torrington and learn about their Launchpad program that supports recent art graduates of local universities.
- Don’t forget Connecticut’s quite corner, known for its antique shops, but also filled with hidden gems such as the Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut in Pomfret Center and the Silver Circle Gallery in Putnam.
- Then travel south to New London for a mural walk experience in the heart of downtown where you can visit the Hygienic Art Galleries and many other eclectic shops and restaurants.

CONNECTICUT 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: Arts Action Fund | @ArtsActionFund | #ArtsVote

CONNECTICUT ARTS ACTION FUND


3/3/2020