WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN ILLINOIS

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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 state and local government revenue.

• In Chicago specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated $3.2 billion in total economic activity and $336.5 million in local and state government revenue. Audiences totaled 36.3 million people.

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 $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.

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

The state allocated $63 million to IACA. In FY 2019-20, the agency received $863,000 in federal NEA funds, which IACA re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations through the state. Another 165 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $3,844,500.

Source: NEA and NASA. 2020.
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.
“The arts are not practiced in isolation. The Illinois Arts Council Agency promotes unity among diverse communities. Differences shared create unique mosaics; they enrich the lives of Illinoisans.”
—Illinois Arts Council Agency

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 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.

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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