Why the Arts Matter in Montana

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

Arts & Culture Sector’s Percentage of U.S. Economy
(Artists, University Arts, Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

**Arts & Culture Sector Represents 4.3% 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%).


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<th>Industry</th>
<th>GDP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$804Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$746Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>$244Billion</td>
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**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.

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**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.**

**Economics**

What about Montana—how much does state government budget to the Montana Arts Council each year?

The state allocated $525,305 to the Montana Arts Council and authorized $482,784 through the Montana Cultural Trust. In FY 2019-20, the Montana Arts Council also received $808,700 in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 54 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $2,323,800.


**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 49c 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 BIG SKY COUNTRY, THE ARTS UNITE US

Engaging fourth graders, the Missoula Writing Collaborative strengthens connections to Montana history, geography, and culture through creative writing.

THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL
Montana is known far and wide as “The Land of Creativity,” where the arts are essential to the creativity, imagination, and entrepreneurship that make Big Sky Country the very best place on Earth to live, learn, work, and play. Established in 1967, the Montana Arts Council develops the creative potential of all Montanans, advances education, spurs economic vibrancy, and revitalizes communities through involvement in the arts. > Learn more here.

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

• Start in Montana’s biggest city, Billings, and catch an outdoor performance of Backyard Theater or a show at Billings Studio Theater, the Alberta Bair Theater, or the Sacrifice Cliff Theater Company. For music, there’s the Billings Symphony Orchestra and the Yellowstone Chamber Players. The city is home to many museums and galleries of art and Western heritage.

• Head west to Bozeman for the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture, with its art gallery, films, and art classes and workshops for adults and children. In addition to dozens of art galleries, Bozeman has a museum for every interest: the American Computer Museum, the Gallatin Historical Society’s Pioneer Museum, and the Museum of the Rockies with its awesome dinosaur skeletons.

• In Butte, the Covellite International Film Festival shows 100 films every June, and the Orphan Girl Children’s Theater produces plays and musicals for both grownups and kids.

• Drive north on route 90 to Missoula, home to the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theater (producer of the wonderful Ballet Beyond Borders festival), the Montana Museum of Arts and Culture, the Montana Book Festival, the International Wildlife Film Festival, the Wilma Theater, many galleries, and museums devoted to Western history.

• Further north is Pablo and the Flathead Indian Reservation, where the People’s Center preserves the rich cultural heritage of the Salish, Pend d’Oreille, and Kootenai tribes.

• Great Falls has the Great Falls Symphony, the Community Concert Association, the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, the Cascade County Historical Society High Plains Heritage Center.

• Here are more events that exhibit Montana’s cultural vibrancy: Red Ants Pants Festival, White Sulphur Springs; Montana Folk Festival, Butte; Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild, Lincoln; Crow Fair, Big Horn County.

MEET SOME MONTANA ARTS ADVOCATES

• Tatiana Gant is Executive Director of the Montana Arts Council. > More

• Cynthia Andrus is Mayor of Bozeman and Chairman of the Montana Arts Council. > More

• Cortni Harant is the President of the Montana Art Education Association. > More

• Rick Bass is one of our nation’s best fiction writers and the recipient of the Governor’s Arts Award. > More

• Mandy Smoker Broaddus and Melissa Kwasny are the current Montana Poets Laureates. > More

ART IN MONTANA

• Visit Montana has an overview of the best arts destinations throughout the state here.

• Lively Times offers a calendar of arts events in Montana here.

• Find out about all the state’s great art galleries, live performances, Indian Nations’ events, and museums here.

MONTANA ART ORGANIZATIONS

Montana Performing Arts Consortium
www.mtperformingarts.rocks

Montana Museums Association
www.montanamuseums.org

Montana Art Gallery Directors Association
www.magdamt.wordpress.com

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