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.


In Nebraska, 3,242 arts-related businesses employ 18,405 people.

- In Douglas County, 1,264 arts-related businesses employ 10,866 people.
- In Lancaster County, 597 arts-related businesses employ 3,303 people.
- In Sarpy County, 212 arts-related businesses employ 647 people.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Creative Industries, Nebraska report, 2017.

In 2015, the Nebraska arts and culture sector employed thousands of FTE jobs and generated millions of dollars in economic activity. Nonprofit arts groups helped cultivate that activity.

- Spending by arts audiences generated $102.5 billion to local businesses.


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 Nebraska—how much does state government budget to the Nebraska Arts Council each year?

In FY 2020, the state allocated $1,508,852 to the Nebraska Arts Council. The Nebraska Arts Council also received $780,600 in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. An additional 20 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $395,000.

Source: NEA and NASAA. 2020.
THE NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL (NAC) is a state agency that promotes, cultivates, and sustains the arts for the people of Nebraska. In doing so, NAC helps to support creative and innovative communities, drive an integral part of the state’s economy, and enrich the quality of life for all Nebraskans.

> Learn more here.

THE NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT is the first cultural endowment in the nation to sustain both the arts and humanities, its resources enhance the programs and grants of the Nebraska Arts Council and Humanities Nebraska by raising funds and investing them to provide the $1-to-$1 match required to trigger additional investments at the State of Nebraska.

> Learn more here.

MEET SOME NEBRASKA ARTS ADVOCATES

- **Suzanne Wise** is the recipient of the 2018 Gary Young Award for extraordinary public support for the arts, an award of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Wise serves as Executive Director of Nebraska Arts Council. > More

- **Doug Zbylut** is Executive Director of Nebraskans for the Arts, a grassroots organization dedicated to advocating for the arts and arts education. > More

- **Patsy Koch Johns** is President of Nebraskans for the Arts and an elected representative of the Nebraska State Board of Education. > More

- **Jordan Huether** is the 2018 Governor’s Arts Awardee. > More

- **Todd Simon** is a passionate contemporary arts collector and supporter, serving on the boards of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts and United States Artists > More

ART IN NEBRASKA

- Visit Nebraska provides a searchable database of arts destinations and events throughout the state here.

- Visit Omaha can direct you to the city’s best venues of live theater and dance performances here.

- An interactive map of Nebraska Arts Council-supported arts events in Nebraska here.

NEBRASKA ART ORGANIZATIONS

Nebraskans for the Arts
www.nebraskansforthearts.org

Nebraska Museums Association
www.nebraskamuseums.org

Nebraska Art Teachers Association
www.nebraskaarteducators.org

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Start in Omaha for a variety of art museum experiences, ranging from the twenty galleries and public art of Joslyn Museum to the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art.

- Travel north in June to enjoy the Norfolk Arts Center and take in the Great American Comedy Festival at the Johnny Carson Theatre.

- The capitol city area of Lincoln offers a wide variety of plays and musicals through venues connected with the Lincoln Theatre Alliance.

- Scottsbluff is a hub of creativity through the Midwest Theatre and the West Nebraska Arts Center.

- North Platte was the nation’s stop for traveling WWII soldiers; now travelers stop to enjoy the activities at the Prairie Arts Center and the Neville Center for Performing Arts.

- Visiting the center of state brings you to the center of art events and activities coordinated by the Kearney Cultural Partnership.

- The halfway point to St. Patrick’s Day is always a celebration when you attend the Greeley Irish Festival.

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