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.


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.

In New Hampshire, 3,170 Arts-Related Businesses employ 16,587 people.

• In Hillsborough County, 951 Arts-Related Businesses employ 9,288 people.
• In Rockingham County, 901 Arts-Related Businesses employ 3,039 people.
• In Merrimack County, 370 Arts-Related Businesses employ 1,280 people.


Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry alone generates $166.3 billion in economic activity annually that supports 4.6 million jobs and generates $275 billion in federal, state, and local government revenue.

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


In 2015, New Hampshire’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 Greater Portsmouth, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated $21.5 million in economic activity. Audiences of 1.2 million people added another $36.6 million in related spending for a total of $58.0 million for the city in 2015, and this generated $6.8 million in local and state government revenues and 1,825 FTE jobs.


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!


What about New Hampshire—how much does state government budget to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts each year? In FY 2020, the state allocated $805,229 to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. The Council also received $723,700 in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. An additional 9 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $213,000.

IN THE GRANITE STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

The League of NH Craftsmen boasts a membership of over 750 Juried Craftspeople making fine craft, by hand, right here in our state!

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS—established in 1965 as the official state arts agency — and is a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The State Arts Council promotes and supports the efforts of New Hampshire artists, arts organizations, communities and schools through grants, professional development opportunities, juried artists rosters, Traditional Arts, electronic publications, statewide research, and more. > Learn more here.

MEET SOME NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS ADVOCATES

• Former Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau is the 2015 National Public Leadership in the Arts Award recipient for Local Arts Leadership. > More
• Concord Chamber of Commerce President Tim Sink is a gubernatorially appointed member of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the 2015 Arts4NH (NH Citizens for the Arts) Advocate of the Year. > More
• State Senator Martha Fuller Clark and Representative David Danielson were named 2017 Arts4NH (NH Citizens for the Arts) Advocates of the Year. > More
• Ginnie Lupi is the Director of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. > More

ARTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

• NH Magazine lists the Best of NH 2018 Arts, Culture and People here.
• See a comprehensive list of NH Arts and Artists here.
• The state’s newspaper of record, the New Hampshire Union Leader, has a terrific arts calendar, here.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts: www.nh.gov/nharts
Arts4NH: www.arts4nh.org
New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts: www.nhbca.com

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

• The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, the nation’s first fine crafts organization, is preparing to host its 86th fine crafts fair this summer in Newbury. The 2018 fair welcomed nearly 25,000 visitors from across the U.S. and internationally.
• Park on the Common in Lebanon and walk to several venues; you can visit AVA Gallery and Art Center, Lebanon Opera House and Upper Valley Music. Then get on your bicycle and check out the public art on the Mascoma River Greenway!
• Keene also has a walkable downtown with an opportunity to see dance at MoCo Arts’ new facility, visual arts at the Thorne-Sagendorph Gallery and performances at both the Redfern Arts Center and the Colonial Theater.
• Head north to get your inner poet inspiration at the Frost Place in Franconia and take a short trip to see a performance at the other Colonial Theater and contemporary art exhibits at 42 Maple, in Bethlehem.
• Check out the new Main Street and public art in the capital city of Concord and the renovations of Capitol Center for the Arts’ new venue.
• Dover also has several new public artworks, and if you’re looking for something to do with the kids, visit the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire.
• Sculpture is big in New Hampshire! Tour Nashua’s public sculpture collection, commissioned by the Nashua International Sculpture Symposium. Nearby is the Andres Institute of Art, where sculptures are installed on wilderness hiking trails. Then, drive up to Lake Winnipesaukee and tour the Meredith Sculpture Walk!

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE 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: facebook.org/ArtsActionFund | twitter.com/ArtsActionFund | #ArtsVote


DRAFT as of 3/27/2020

“The beauty of New Hampshire’s natural resources and the ingenuity of the people who have settled here over time have combined to inspire a wide range of artistic endeavors and arts engagement.”

—NH State Council on the Arts