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 Oregon, 11,606 Arts-Related Businesses employ 46,927 people.

• In Clackamas County, 1,224 Arts-Related Businesses employ 4,026 people.
• In Multnomah County, 3,711 Arts-Related Businesses employ 18,843 people.
• In Washington County, 1,527 Arts-Related Businesses employ 6,076 people.


In 2015, nonprofit arts organizations in the state generated $687 million in economic activity annually that supported 22,299 jobs and generated $323.0 million in federal tax revenue back to the treasury. This generated $43.3 million in related spending for a total of $687.0 million for the city in 2015, and this generated $43.3 million in local and state government revenues.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, OR, and Greater Portland Area reports, 2017.

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 Oregon—how much does state government budget to the Oregon Arts Commission each year?

In FY 2020, the state allocated $4,083,460 to the Oregon Arts Commission. The Commission also received $732,200 in federal NEA funds, which it re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 52 nonprofit arts organization received direct grants from the NEA totaling $1,384,500.

IN OREGON THE ARTS UNITE US

Every year, engaged Oregonians make an estimated 250,000 donations to local arts and culture organizations!

THE OREGON ARTS COMMISSION—

Established in 1967, the Oregon Arts Commission works to enhance the quality of life for all Oregonians through the arts by stimulating creativity, leadership, and economic vitality. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities.

> Learn more here.

MEET SOME OREGON ARTS ADVOCATES

- **Brian Rogers** is the Executive Director of the Oregon Arts Commission. [More]
- **Sue Hildick** is the Executive Director of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition. [More]
- **Chuck Sams** is the Communication Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and he serves as the Chair of the Oregon Cultural Trust. [More]
- **Anne Taylor** is an active violinst and Chair of the Oregon Arts Commission. She is a 2005 graduate of the Ford Institute for Leadership and became an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow in January 2010. [More]
- **Elizabeth Woody** is the Executive Director of the Museum at Warm Springs and the past Oregon State Poet Laureate. [More]

ART IN OREGON

- Oregon Artswatch offers a compressive overview of cultural activities in the state [here].
- Oregon’s NPR-affiliate presents a weekly program and podcast highlighting Oregon artists and art [here].
- Regional Arts & Cultural Council of Portland’s event calendar can guide you to wonderful performances, music, and art exhibits [here].

OREGON ART ORGANIZATIONS

Cultural Advocacy Coalition (CAC)
oregonculture.org

Oregon Museums Association
oregonmuseums.org

Oregon Art Education Association
oregonarted.org

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Oregon’s must-experience arts event is the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, where visitors enjoy world class plays amid stunning scenery and fine Northwest cuisine.
- Pickathon, the “biggest little music festival in the Northwest,” is a truly unique multi-day outdoor music experience at the beautiful Pendarvis Farm in Happy Valley (just outside of Portland).
- No surprise that Wordstock, the largest literary festival in the Pacific Northwest, takes place in Portland, home to the world-renowned Powell’s Books.
- The Sisters Folk Festival is an annual three-day roots music festival held in Sisters, Oregon, near Bend the weekend after Labor Day.
- Literary lore meets music and epic storytelling during the FisherPoets Gathering in historic Astoria. It’s a grand gathering of writers, poets, musicians and artists.
- Pianist Hunter Noack transports his piano on a flatbed truck for “In A Landscape: Classical Music in the Wild,” presented in some of the state’s most awe-inspiring and remote destinations.
- Every summer dozens of writers gather near Eastern Oregon’s beautiful Wallowa Lake for workshops, panel discussions, open mic readings, and breakout sessions as part of Summer Fishtrap.

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

OREGON ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org
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