

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN RHODE ISLAND



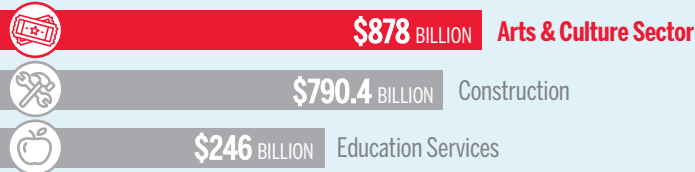
NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.5% 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.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.



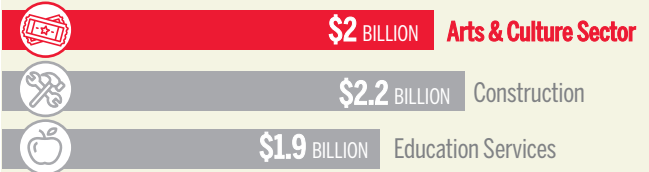
BONUS: U.S. exports generate a \$29.7 billion arts trade SURPLUS.

RHODE ISLAND ARTS FACTS

RI ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.4% OF STATE'S GDP & 17,823 JOBS

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes **\$2 billion** to Rhode Island's economy, representing 3.4% of the state's GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.



BONUS: In 2017, RI arts and culture jobs generated \$1 billion in compensation.

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.



In Rhode Island, **2,305 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **13,536 people**.

- In Kent County, **317 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **1,855 people**.
- In Newport County, **311 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **1,202 people**.
- In Providence County, **1,221 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **8,951 people**.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Creative Industries*, Rhode Island report, 2017.



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.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, 2017.



In 2015, Rhode Island'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 Providence, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated **\$93.8 million** in economic activity. Audiences of 3,839,971 people added another **\$112.0 million** in related spending for a total of **\$205.8 million** for the city in 2015, and this generated **\$20.9 million** in local and state government revenues and **5,115 FTE jobs**.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, City of Providence report, 2017.



PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

Q So how much is the federal government investing in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)?

A 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!

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2020.

Read: "Funding The Arts is Good For the Nation," *The Hill*, 2015.

Q What about Rhode Island—how much does state government budget to the Rhode Island State Council (RISCA) on the Arts each year?

A In FY 2020, the state allocated **\$2,669,748** to RISCA. The RISCA also received **\$735,800** in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. An additional 19 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling **\$522,500**.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2020.

Read: "About Turnaround Arts: Providence," Micah Salkind, 2017.



“The arts enhance the quality of life for Rhode Islanders and serve as an important economic driver within our state. I’m pleased these funds will be used help to support jobs in the arts, bolster education and ensure the Ocean State remains an exciting place to live, work, and visit.”

—Congressman Jim Langevin



RHODE ISLAND ARTS FACTS

IN THE OCEAN STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

Community Music Works (CMW) supports free music educational and performance programs for at-risk children and youth. Activities include a music instruction, a leadership development program, performance opportunities for students, and professional concerts by resident musicians.

THE RHODE ISLAND STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (RISCA)—

Established in 1967, RISCA is charged by the state legislature to stimulate public interest and participation in the arts and to serve as the liaison to the state arts community. Honoring its state mandate, RISCA expands the state’s cultural resources and the public’s participation in them; assesses the needs of the arts state-wide and makes recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; provides opportunities in arts education; and protects freedom of artistic expression.

> Learn more [here](#).

MEET SOME RHODE ISLAND ARTS ADVOCATES

- **Kristin Murphy Heynen** is the President of the Rhode Island Art Education Association. > [More](#)
- **Randall Rosenbaum** is the Executive Director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. He is a recipient of the Gary Young Award for outstanding public support for the Arts. > [More](#)
- **Elizabeth Woodhouse** is Artistic Director of the Newport County Youth Chorus and President of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Newport County. > [More](#)
- **John MacLaughlin** is the President of the Courthouse Center for the Arts in West Kingston. > [More](#)

ART IN RHODE ISLAND

- Visit Rhode Island can guide you to cultural destinations throughout the state [here](#).
- *Rhode Island Monthly* has the Art Buyer’s Guide to Rhode Island [here](#).
- Arts Now RI offers a calendar of wonderful arts events all over the state [here](#).

RHODE ISLAND ART ORGANIZATIONS

Community Music Works
communitymusicworks.org
Alliance of Artists Communities
artistcommunities.org
Rhode Island Art Education Association
riaea.org

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Start in **Providence** and visit the Providence Athenaeum. One of the oldest and most beautiful libraries in the country, the Athenaeum is known for its distinct, humanities-first programming: reading groups, great lectures, and a wonderful children’s library. Every summer, the city lights the Providence River on fire for Waterfire, an amazing art installation! Catch a theater performance at Trinity Repertory Company, RI’s professional theater company, which also has engaging educational programs for children, teens, and adults. And Don’t miss the RISD Museum,

a fantastic, world-class museum of arts representing diverse cultures from ancient times to the present.

- The Gamm Theatre, in **Warwick**, has brand new facilities for its cutting-edge theater performances, lectures, classes, and workshops.
- In **Cranston**, the Park Theater presents popular music and performances of the State Ballet of Rhode Island.
- The **Newport** Art Museum offers 2,600 works of arts. The collection concentrates on American and contemporary art, from the 18th century to

the present. Newport also has many art galleries. Island Moving Company offers performances of contemporary ballet.

- In **Pawtucket**, visit Slater Mill, the birthplace of the industrial revolution in the U.S.
- In South County, the town of **Charleston** offers many art galleries, not far from beaches and marinas. And in nearby **Wakefield**, the Contemporary Theater Company has karaoke singing competitions and community theater.

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

RHODE ISLAND 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

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To download this fact sheet, “Why the Arts Matter in Rhode Island,” with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/StateFactsheets.