## Why the Arts Matter in Connecticut

### National Arts Facts

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$919.7 Billion</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$892.7 Billion</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>$269.9 Billion</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BONUS:** In 2019, U.S. exports generated a $33 billion arts trade surplus.

### Connecticut Arts Facts

#### Arts & Culture Sector Represents 3.4% of State’s GDP & 56,865 Jobs

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**BONUS:** In 2019, CT arts and culture was also larger than the Agriculture industry.

### Loss of Revenue and Jobs (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

- **Nationally,** COVID-19 has devastated creative economy businesses with a loss of $150 billion in revenue. In addition, 52% of all creative workers became unemployed (2.7 million people) as of July 2020.
  

- **In Connecticut,** COVID-19 has devastated creative economy businesses with a loss of $2.4 billion in revenue. In addition, 56% of all creative workers in Connecticut became unemployed (33,258 people) as of July 2020.
  

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<tr>
<td>Lost Revenue</td>
<td>$150 Billion</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<td>Lost Unemployment</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
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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.
  
  **Source:** Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, 2017.

- **In Connecticut,** the arts and culture generated $797.2 million in economic activity annually that supported 23,114 jobs and generated $86.6 million in local and state government revenue.
  

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### 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 allocated $167.5 million to the NEA in FY 2021, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just 51¢ per capita, yet the nonprofit arts industry generates over $13 billion in federal tax revenue back to the U.S. Treasury. Imagine what nonprofit arts groups could generate with $1 per capita.

**Source:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2021. Read: “Funding The Arts is Good for the Nation,” The Hill, 2015.

**Q** How much does the state government budget to the Connecticut State Office of the Arts each year?

**A** In FY 20-21, the state allocated $5,424,552 to the Connecticut Office of the Arts. The Connecticut Office of the Arts also received $20.3 million in local and state government revenues. The Connecticut Office of the Arts also received another $86.6 million in federal NEA funds, which the Office re-granted to hundreds of cultural organizations through the state. Another 39 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $1,165,000.

**Source:** NEA and NASA, 2021. Read: Stephan Singer on How “Arts and Culture Are Key Contributors to CT’s Economy.”
THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS (COA) - founded in 1965, COA is a State Arts Agency within the Department of Economic and Community Development. The state arts office directly serves arts organizations, artists, schools, and communities across the state through a range of programs and services, including grant support and professional development opportunities.

**Executive Director:** Elizabeth Shapiro  
**Chair:** Min Jung Kim  

> Learn more [here](#).

**CONNECTICUT ART ORGANIZATIONS**

- Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA)  
  [www.ctartsalliance.org](http://www.ctartsalliance.org)  
- CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP)  
  [www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram](http://www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram)  
- Connecticut Art Education (CAEA)  
  [www.ctarteducation.net](http://www.ctarteducation.net)

**ART IN CONNECTICUT**

- Connecticut Office of Tourism can direct you the great stages of the state [here](#).  
- Follow the Connecticut Art Trail [here](#).  
- Connecticut Critics Circle provides performance review [here](#).

**THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!**

- Grab lunch at Franklin Street Works in **Stamford** and challenge your mind with socially driven contemporary art, then take in a producing theater production at **Curtain Call**.  
- Follow the coast to **New Haven** where a myriad of arts experiences await. From the renowned Yale Center for British Art to the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, a 15-day annual festival that brings thousands together each summer for performances and dialogue with great artists and thinkers from across the world.  
- Take a leisurely drive north along the Connecticut River to **East Haddam** to take in a musical at the Tony award winning **Goodspeed**.

- While in **Hartford** be sure to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum, the oldest continuously-operating public art museum in the United States where you will also find the Amistad Center for Art & Culture.  
- Take in dinner and a show at the Infinity Music Hall & Bistro in **Norfolk** and while meandering through the Litchfield Hills be sure to swing by Five Points in **Torrington** and learn about their Launchpad program that supports recent art graduates of local universities.  
- Don't forget Connecticut's quite corner, known for its antique shops, but also filled with hidden gems such as the Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut in **Pomfret Center** and the Silver Circle Gallery in **Putnam**.  
- Then travel south to **New London** for a mural walk experience in the heart of downtown where you can visit the Hygienic Art Galleries and many other eclectic shops and restaurants.

To View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, [Click Here](#).

**CONNECTICUT 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  
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[Twitter](https://twitter.com/ArtsActionFund)  
[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ArtsActionFund)

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“Vision: Inspire. Empower. Educate. Transform. The arts are a human right. The Connecticut Office of the Arts envisions a world where the arts, in all forms, are embedded in everyday life.”  
—Connecticut Office of the Arts