WHY THE ARTS MATTER 
IN PENNSYLVANIA

### NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

**Arts & Culture Sector Represents 4.3% of Nation’s GDP & 5.2 Million Jobs**

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector was a $919.7 billion industry in 2019, representing 4.3% of the nation’s GDP, 5.2 million jobs, and total compensation of $466 billion.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019 (Prior to COVID-19 pandemic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$919.7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$892.7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>$269.9 billion</td>
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</tbody>
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**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.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loss of Revenue</th>
<th>52% of Unemployment</th>
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<td>$150B</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.

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


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonprofit Art</th>
<th>Driver of Our National, State &amp; Local Economy.</th>
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<td>$166.3 billion</td>
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### PENNSYLVANIA ARTS FACTS

**Arts & Culture Sector Represents 3.4% of State’s GDP & 180,849 Jobs**

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed $27.1 billion to PA’s economy in 2019, representing 3.4% of the state’s GDP, 180,849 jobs, and total compensation of $13.2 billion.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019 (Prior to COVID-19 pandemic)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$27.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>$16.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>$20.1 billion</td>
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**Loss of Revenue and Jobs (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)**

In PA, COVID-19 has devastated creative economy businesses with a loss of $4.4 billion in revenue. In addition, 55% of all creative workers in PA became unemployed (97,130 people) as of July 2020.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loss of Revenue</th>
<th>55% of Unemployment</th>
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<td>$4.4B</td>
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**Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts Organizations & Their Audiences**

In 2015, nonprofit arts organizations in the state generated $3.4 billion in economic activity annually that supported 100,114 jobs and generated $402.1 million in state and local government revenue.

- In the Lehigh Valley specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated $83.2 million in economic activity. Audiences of 3.6 million people added another $103.2 million in related spending for a total of $186.4 million for the region in 2015, and this generated $18.8 million in local and state government revenues.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonprofit Art</th>
<th>Driver of Just One of Our Local Economies.</th>
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<td>$3.4 billion</td>
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### FUNDING

**Public Investment in Grants to Nonprofit Arts Organizations & Artists**

**Q** What about PA—how much does state government budget to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts each year?

**A** In FY 20-21, the state allocated $10,474,000 to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts also received $983,900 in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 176 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $4,936,400.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2021

**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.
THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (PCA)—In 1966, Governor William D. Scranton signed enabling legislation establishing the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The Mission of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) is to foster the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the Commonwealth.

Executive Director: Karl Blischke
Chair: Jeffrey A. Parks

> Learn more here.

ART IN PENNSYLVANIA
- EverVisitPA can direct you to the best destinations for arts and culture in the state [here](#).
- BestThingsPA can direct you to the best venues of live theater and dance performances [here](#).
- ArtsFairCalendar offers a calendar of art shows and craft fairs in Pennsylvania [here](#).

PENNSYLVANIA ART ORGANIZATIONS
- PA Museums: pamura.org/
- Pennsylvania Art Education Association: paeablog.org/
- Pennsylvania Music Educators Association: www.pmea.net/

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!
- Starting in the Lehigh Valley, ArtsQuest’s Musikfest attracts approximately 1 million visitors to Bethlehem each year. Musikfest is the country’s largest free music festival.
- Head south to Chadds Ford and enjoy the art of the Wyeth family at the Brandywine River Museum. In addition to the Wyeth family’s work, the museum also houses a cross-section of American art with special focus on artists from the Brandywine Valley.
- Start a tour of Lancaster with a visit to the Ware Center, the city’s newest visual and performing arts center. It is located in the heart of the arts & historical district. Down the street is the Fulton Opera House, and located along Prince Street are arts galleries to appeal to everyone’s taste.
- Head up to State College to attend the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts in July. The Festival assists the Nittany Valley Running Club in presenting the Sue Crowe Memorial Arts Festival Races, and Schlow Centre Region Library in presenting BookFest.
- Head west to Ridgway and attend the annual Chainsaw Carvers Rendevous. Over 60 carvers from around the nation participate in this experience. The 2019 event is scheduled for the end of April.
- The City of Sharon sits unassumingly in the Shenango Valley of Mercer County, nestled against Pennsylvania’s border with Ohio. But this quiet city is home to a unique arts festival—Waterfire Sharon! The festival incorporates the contributions of dozens of local galleries and works of art lining downtown Sharon. The family-friendly event offers an opportunity to walk the main streets of the city traffic-free in the glow of the river’s stunning display of fire.

PENNSYLVANIA 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
FOLLOW US:  Facebook  |  @ArtsActionFund  |  Instagram  @ArtsActionFund

To download this factsheet, “Why the Arts Matter in Pennsylvania,” with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund/StateFactsheets

4/2/2021