**NATIONAL ARTS FACTS**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>GDP (Billions)</th>
<th>Jobs (Million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$919.7</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$892.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>$269.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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.


**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.


**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.


**Q** How much does the WV state government budget to the WV Department of Arts, History, and Culture each year?

**A** In FY 20-21, the state allocated $933,815 to the West Virginia Department of Arts, History, and Culture. The Department also received $745,600 in federal NEA funds, which the Department re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 17 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $482,500.


**WEST VIRGINIA ARTS FACTS**

**WV ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 1.9% OF STATE’S GDP & 15,725 JOBS**

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed $1.5 billion to WV’s economy in 2019, representing 1.9% of the state’s GDP, 15,725 jobs, and total compensation of $857 million.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>GDP (Billions)</th>
<th>Jobs (Million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$1.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>$0.5</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES**

In 2019, WV arts and culture was larger than the Agriculture industry.

**Q** How much did the arts groups receive directly from the West Virginia Department of Arts, History, and Culture?

**A** In FY 20-21, the state allocated $933,815 to the West Virginia Department of Arts, History, and Culture. The Department also received $745,600 in federal NEA funds, which the Department re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 17 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $482,500.

WEST VIRGINIA ARTS FACTS

MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE TO CREATE A DIVERSE CULTURE THROUGH THE ARTS

West Virginia boasts of the world’s top theater festivals. The Contemporary American Theater Festival generates $5.86 million in economic impact in Shepherdstown, Shepherd University and surrounding areas.

ART IN WEST VIRGINIA
- **Mountain Stage** is West Virginia’s ambassador to the world.
- West Virginia Tourism Office provides a 3-day itinerary for an arts and culture tour of the state [here](#).
- Tamarack Foundation for the Arts promotes artists in the Mountain State [here](#).

WEST VIRGINIA ART ORGANIZATIONS
- Allied Artists of West Virginia [alliedartistswv.org](#)
- West Virginia Association of Museums [wvmuseums.org](#)
- West Virginia Arts Groups [councilforarteducation.org/welcome](#)

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- There is much to see in the Northern Panhandle of WV. In Wheeling, explore the many diverse arts venues of the Oglebay Institute and stop by West Virginia’s Independence Hall.
- Journey southeast to Huntington and examine the impressive collection of the Walter Gropius-designed Huntington Museum of Art. Visit Marshall University’s new Visual Arts Center. Take a short trip east to Charleston and explore The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences. You may be lucky enough to catch a live show of the internationally broadcasted radio show, Mountain Stage at the Culture Center. The show “features performances from seasoned legends and emerging stars in genres ranging from folk, blues, and country; to indie rock, synth pop, world music, alternative, and beyond”.
- Further east is historic Lewisburg, which is home to the one of just four remaining Carnegie Halls still in use in the world. While there, take in an original theatre production at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre.
- Heading north visit the historic Pocahontas County Opera House in Marlinton then continue onto the art galleries of Thomas and stop in the famous Purple Fiddle for a meal and a live show from some of the best up and coming artists in the country. Further north is the city of Morgantown, home of West Virginia University and a thriving arts scene.
- Head to the Mountain State’s eastern panhandle and discover the vibrant arts communities of Charles Town and Shepherdstown. Another thriving arts town is Berkeley Springs where you can indulge in a bath of the same hot springs mineral waters used by George Washington.

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

WEST VIRGINIA 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: Arts Action Fund | @ArtsActionFund | @ArtsActionFund

To download this factsheet, “Why the Arts Matter in West Virginia,” with corresponding resource links visit [www.ArtsActionFund/StateFactsheets](#)

4/2/2021