WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN CONNECTICUT

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.2% OF NATION’S GDP & 4.6 MILLION JOBS
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector was a $876.7 billion industry in 2020, representing 4.2% of the nation’s GDP, 4.6 million jobs, and total compensation of $446 billion.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts, 2022 (2020 data collected during the pandemic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>GDP (Billion)</th>
<th>Jobs (Million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$876.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$572</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$341.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BONUS: In 2020, the arts & culture sector ranked 3rd among comparison sectors.

CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

CT ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.2% OF STATE’S GDP & 49,159 JOBS
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed $8.9 billion to Connecticut’s economy in 2020, representing 3.2% of the state’s GDP, 49,159 jobs, and total compensation of $5 billion.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 2022 (2020 data collected during the pandemic)

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<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
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<td>Arts &amp; Culture Sector</td>
<td>$8.9</td>
<td>49.159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$7.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$5.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BONUS: Arts & culture value added in CT ranked 2nd among the comparison sectors in 2020.

LOSS OF REVENUE AND JOBS (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

Between 2019 and 2020, the U.S. arts economy shrank nearly twice the rate of the economy as a whole. Arts and cultural production fell by 6.4% when adjusted for inflation, compared with a 3.4% decline overall.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022 (Data collected during the pandemic)

See Americans for the Arts regularly updated COVID-19 Impact on the Arts Research Update.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP Lost (Billion)</th>
<th>Jobs Lost (Million)</th>
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<tr>
<td>$53.6</td>
<td>600,000</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.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, 2017 (Prior to COVID-19 pandemic)

In 2015, the Connecticut arts and culture generated $797.2 million in economic activity annually that supported 23,114 jobs and generated $72.3 million in state and local government revenue.

• In Fairfield County specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated $148.6 million in economic activity. Audiences of 2.5 million people added another $86.6 million for a total of $235.2 million in economic activity for the county in 2015, and this generated $20.3 million in local and state government revenues.


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<td>$797.2</td>
<td>23,114</td>
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PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

Q How much did Connecticut receive in public funding for the arts and culture?

A In FY22, the state allocated $1,498,298 to the Connecticut Office of the Arts. The Connecticut Office of the Arts also received $846,000 in federal NEA funds, $792,900 through ARPA, $446,200 through the CARES Act, and a state appropriation of $15,000,000 for COVID relief. All of this funding has benefitted 400 arts organizations and 150 individual artists in CT. Another 19 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling $1,325,000.

Source: Connecticut Office of the Arts & NEA, 2022

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

A Congress allocated $180 million to the NEA in FY22. This amounts to just 54 cents per capita. Ideally, Congress should index $1 per capita funding to the NEA. For COVID economic relief, Congress also allocated $75 million in CARES Act and $135 million in ARPA funding for distribution by the NEA. Additionally, Congress allocated $16 billion to the SBA for shuttered arts venues plus billions more for PPP and EIDL.

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2022
“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

**CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS**

**IN THE CONSTITUTION STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US**

RiseUp for Arts has created over 75 murals and place-making projects (and counting) across Connecticut since 2015 working with 40+ local artists and partnering with 100s of communities, organizations and hosts.

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**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:** Jack Rosenberg

Learn more here.

**ART IN CONNECTICUT**

- Replace CT office of Tourism blurb with: You will find Connecticut arts and culture experiences through the CT Office of Tourism here.
- Explore Connecticut's rich artistic heritage here.

**CONNECTICUT ART ORGANIZATIONS**

Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA)  
www.ctartsalliance.org  
CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP)  
www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram  
Connecticut Art Education (CAEA)  
www.ctarteducation.net  
Connecticut Arts Administrators Association, Inc. (CAAA)  
www.ctaaa.net

Learn more here.  
Join here.

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**THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!**

- Visit the Norwalk Art Space and meet up and coming resident artists in their studios and grab something sweet or savory at their café, then head over to the Wall Street Theater for a movie, concert or show.
- Follow the coast to New Haven where a myriad of arts experiences await. Take in the world-class collection at Yale Art Gallery, explore experimental contemporary art at ArtSpace or attend 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.
- Take in a show at Hartford Stage or TheaterWorks where you’ll find live theater of the highest quality in intimate settings.
- 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.

**CONNECTICUT ARTS ALLIANCE**

Founded in 2008, Connecticut Arts Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization that works to build political, financial, and grassroots support to ensure that arts are a vital part of life for everyone in Connecticut.

**Executive Director:** Brett Thompson  
**Chair:** Calida Jones

Learn more here.  
Join here.

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**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  
FOLLOW US:  
Facebook Art Action Fund | Twitter @ArtsActionFund | Instagram @ArtsActionFund

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

3/3/2022