## Why the Arts Matter in the District of Columbia

### National Arts Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>GDP</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.016 trillion</td>
<td>4.85 million</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>$945.3 B</td>
<td>$504.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$378.4 B</td>
<td>54,961</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$13.8 billion</td>
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The national arts and culture sector was a $1.016 trillion industry in 2021 (4.4% of the nation’s GDP), representing 4.85 million jobs (3.2% of nation’s workforce), and total compensation of $504.2 billion.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts, 2023 (2021 data collected during the pandemic)

### D.C. Arts Facts

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The D.C. arts and culture sector was a $13.8 billion industry in 2021 (7.3% of the state’s GDP), representing 54,961 jobs (2.6% of D.C.’s workforce), and total compensation of $9.1 billion.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 2023 (2021 data collected during the pandemic)

### Economic Impact of Non-Profit Arts Industry Only & Their Audiences

#### National

- **$166.3 B** Economic activity annually
- **$27.5 B** Federal, state, and local government revenue generated

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

Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, 2017 (New data coming Oct 2023)

#### District-wide

- **$3.75 B** Economic activity annually
- **1.8%** Arts & Cultural sector share of the DC Economy

Source: COVID-19’s Impact on DC’s Arts and Cultural Sector, DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities Report, 2022

### Federal Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts

- **Federal Appropriation FY23**: $207 million
- **SBA SVO Grants FY21-22**: $13 billion

Congress allocated $207 million to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in FY23. This amounts to just 62 cents per capita. Ideally, Congress should index $1 per capita funding to the NEA.

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2023.

### Public Funding Received for D.C. Arts & Culture Sector

- **District Appropriation FY23**: $2,198,276
- **NEA CARES Funds FY20-22**: $424,300
- **NEA ARPA Funds FY21-22**: $754,100
- **Direct NEA DC Grants FY22-23**: $1,793,200

Source: NEA and DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, 2023

View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts [HERE](#)
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is an independent agency in the District of Columbia government that evaluates and initiates action on matters relating to the arts and humanities and encourages programs and the development of programs that promote progress in the arts and humanities.

Interim Executive Director: David Markey
Chair: Reggie Van Lee

DC Arts Highlights

Be Sure to Check Out

DCist covers what's happening with arts and culture in DC here.
Learn more about Arts & Culture in DC here.
Atlas Performing Arts Center
Capitol Hill Arts Workshop
Critical Exposure
Dance Institutes of Washington
DC's Different Drummers
East of the River Boys and Girls Steelband
Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop
Girls Rock DC
IA&A at Hillyer
STABLE
Teatro de la Luna
Woolly Mammoth
Find more FY23 Grantees HERE

Support for Artists
CAH recognizes the importance of individuals to making DC into a culture capital. Fellowship funding provides direct financial support to individuals in the District, across 10 arts and humanities disciplines. In FY23 $3.1 Million was awarded to 421 artists. CAH has a commitment to increase the number of artists we fund annually.

The Arts Are Everywhere

Anacostia
Anacostia is the city's newest Arts & Culture District, which is only the latest chapter in a historic neighborhood that is home to the Anacostia Art Gallery & Boutique, the Anacostia Arts Center, the Anacostia Playhouse, Honfleur Gallery, Project Create, and the Anacostia Community Museum, the first federally funded community museum in the United States.

Brookland/Edgewood
Head to Brookland/Edgewood to check out the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market. The neighborhood is also home to Dance Place, the Edgewood Arts Center, and the Brookland Artspace Lofts, an apartment building providing affordable live/work space for artists in the District.

Chinatown/Penn Quarter
In Chinatown/Penn Quarter, one can find a mix of local and national offerings, including Ford's Theatre, the Hamilton Live, the National Building Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Theatre, the Shakespeare Theatre, Sixth & 1st Historic Synagogue, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre.

Dupont Circle
Dupont Circle is a hub of visual arts activity, with many participating in the neighborhood's monthly First Fridays, including Arts Club of Washington, Gallery Book Arts, Hillyer Art Space, Middle East Institute Art Gallery, Pen Arts Gallery, the Phillips Collection, and Swann Street Gallery.

Eastern Market
Eastern Market is both the name of the neighborhood AND a public market with outdoor vendors made up of painters, sculptors, independent designers, woodworkers, jewelers, potters, and photographers. It is also home to the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop and Hill Center DC, as well as As You Are a center of LGBTQIA+ community and culture.

H Street
On the H Street corridor, you can catch a variety of performances at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, from visiting artists as well as its resident companies like Capital City Symphony, Mosaic Theatre, Step Afrikal, and Visionaries of the Creative Arts, as well as catch smaller more intimate musical acts at the Pie Shop next door, or take dance classes at Joy of Motion Dance Center. And then there's also the annual H Street Festival to attend.

U Street
Once known as "Black Broadway", the U Street corridor is home to historic venues like the Howard Theatre and Lincoln Theatre, local visual arts from the Hamiltonian Artists gallery to numerous public art murals on buildings in alleyways, as well as the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum.