## WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

**ARTS & CULTURE FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT SECTORS REPRESENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2021 GDP</th>
<th>2021 Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>$1.016 T</td>
<td>4.85M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$945.3 B</td>
<td>4.04M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$378.4 B</td>
<td>0.72M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

### SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS FACTS

**ARTS & CULTURE FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT SECTORS REPRESENT**

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<th>2021 GDP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>$7.3 B</td>
<td>53,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$13 B</td>
<td>63,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$5.9 B</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The South Carolina arts and culture sector was a **$7.3 billion industry** in 2021 (2.7% of the state's GDP), representing **53,261 jobs** (2.4% of South Carolina workforce), and total compensation of **$3.8 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)

**Charleston, SC**

- **$66.1 M** Economic activity annually
- **$19.1 M** State and local government revenue generated

Audiences of **3.1 M** people added another **$120.4 M** in related spending for a total of **$186.5 M** in 2015.


### 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 SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

- **State Appropriation FY23**: $13,929,096
- **NEA Grant FY23**: $953,600
- **Direct NEA Grants FY22-23**: $2,188,600

Source: NEA, NASAA 2023

View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts HERE

3/23/2023
Artisphere, a weekend arts festival in Greenville, has been named one of the top ten arts festivals in the country.

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION**, created by an act of the state legislature in 1967. Its mission is to build a thriving arts environment for the benefit of all South Carolinians. The agency has expanded its capacity through well-established partnerships with other state agencies and institutions and private groups, extending well beyond the traditional boundaries of the arts community.

Executive Director: David Platts  
Chair: Dee Crawford

Learn more [here](#).

**SC ARTS ALLIANCE**  
Founded in 1979, the SC Arts Alliance advances the arts for all South Carolinians through advocacy, leadership development, and public awareness.

Executive Director: GP McLeer  
Chair: Dr. Cedric Adderley

Learn more [here](#).  
Join [here](#).

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT**

- Learn more about the arts in South Carolina [here](#).
- The Hub offers a selection of arts news and a calendar of arts events in South Carolina [here](#).
- Discover South Carolina can introduce you to great music festivals and art galleries [here](#).

Arts in Basic Curriculum Project  
[www.abcprojectsc.com](http://www.abcprojectsc.com)

Palmetto State Arts Education  
[www.palmettostateartsed.org](http://www.palmettostateartsed.org)

**THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE**

- Every April, Lake City hosts ArtFields, a major visual art competition and festival that brings this small town to life every year.

- Every First Friday the Village of West Greenville, just outside of downtown Greenville, becomes alive with art as galleries and studios in this budding arts district open their doors to the community.

- In 2019, Coastal Carolina University in Conway hosted the first International Gullah Geechee and African Diaspora Conference, highlighting the important impact the Gullah community has had in the state’s history and continues to have.

- The recently renovated Columbia Museum of Art houses one of the largest collections in the state and is situated right in the heart of the state.

- Visit Spartanburg to catch creative growth in progress with the launch of the Mayfair Mill, a redeveloped historic mill that includes dedicated studio space.

- Head to Charleston to catch a number of local and regional musical acts in venues as small as coffee shops to as large as the North Charleston Coliseum, as well as performances from over a dozen theatre companies, including Charleston Stage Company, housed in the oldest theatre building in the country—the Dock Street Theatre.