WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN CONNECTICUT

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

4.4% Nation's GDP

4.85M Jobs

$1.016 TRILLION Arts & Culture

$945.3 B Construction

$378.4 B Utilities

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)

CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

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

3.4% State's GDP

53,011 Jobs

$10.1 B Arts & Culture

$7.8 B Construction

$6 B Transportation

The Connecticut arts and culture sector was a $10.1 billion industry in 2021 (3.4% of the state's GDP), representing 53,011 jobs (3.2% of Connecticut's workforce), and total compensation of $5.7 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)

Statewide

$797.2 M Economic activity annually

$72.3 M State and local government revenue generated

In Fairfield County specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated $148.6 million in economic activity.


FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Federal Appropriation FY23 $207 Million

SBA SVOG 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 CONNECTICUT ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY23 $37,635,238

NEA State Grant FY23 $906,700

ARPA Grant FY21-22 $792,900

CARES Grant FY20-21 $446,200

NEA Direct Grants FY22 $1,695,000

SBA SVOG Grants FY21-22 $150,676,545

Source: NEA, SBA, NASAA, 2023

View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts HERE
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.

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

Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA)  
[www.ctartsalliance.org](http://www.ctartsalliance.org)

CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP)  
[www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram](http://www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram)

Connecticut Art Education (CAEA)  
[www.ctarteducation.net](http://www.ctarteducation.net)

Connecticut Arts Administrators Association, Inc. (CAAA)  
[www.ctaaa.net](http://www.ctaaa.net)

**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.

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.