WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN
MAINE

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)

MAINE ARTS FACTS

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

2.5% State's GDP 16,743 Jobs

$2 BILLION Arts & Culture

$2.6 B Construction

$0.8 B Agriculture & Forestry

The Maine arts and culture sector was a $2 billion industry in 2021 (2.5% of the state's GDP), representing 16,743 jobs (2.6% of Maine's workforce), and total compensation of $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)

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFILE ARTS
INDUSTRY ONLY & THEIR AUDIENCES

Statewide

$150.6 M Economic activity annually

$12.3 M State and local government revenue generated

In Portland specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated $46.6 million in economic activity.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, Maine and Portland reports, 2017

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
MAINE ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY23 $1,028,241
NEA State Grant FY23 $882,500
CARES Act FY20-21 $426,800
Federal ARPA FY21-22 $750,000
State ARPA FY21-22 $511,667
NEA Direct Grants FY22 $1,405,000
SBA SVOG Grants FY21-22 $52,024,293

Source: NEA, SBA, NASAA, 2023

View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts HERE

As of 4/7/2023
MAINE ARTS HIGHLIGHTS
FROM BICENTENNIAL DISAPPOINTMENT TO INNOVATION

For the past 18 months, the Maine Arts Commission has been engaged in a process of creating a new strategic plan that will guide our work through 2028. The plan has been delayed allowing us to listen to focus groups across the state and engage both the staff and commission members in a robust conversation about the key role the Maine Arts Commission can play in the state.

THE MAINE ARTS COMMISSION fosters and encourages public interest and participation in the cultural heritage and artistic expression in our state. We pursue our mission through partnerships and collaborations, initiatives, advocacy, and grants for organizations, individual artists, communities, and schools throughout Maine.

Executive Director: David Greenham
Chair: David Hopkins

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT
- The arts are everywhere in Maine. Whether you’d like to stroll around the grounds of Winslow Homer’s Studio, take a studio class in an idyllic oceanside setting, or explore the arts, crafts, music and dance of 15,000 years of Wabanaki history, Maine arts can be found in every corner of our state.
- Explore Maine Crafts and buy Maine Made products through the Maine Crafts Association.
- Visit Artist Studios with the help of the Union of Maine Visual Artists.
- Visit Museums with the help of the Maine Art Museum Trail.
- Find wonderful events, fairs and festivals with Maine Invites You.
- Visit Creative Portland as the go-to resource for all things in the arts.

Union of Maine Visual Artists www.theumva.org
Maine Alliance of Arts Educators www.maineartsed.org
Maine Humanities Council www.mainehumanities.org

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!
- Let’s start at Fort Kent, at the very top of Maine (where US 1 begins). Stop by the Acadian Archives at UMaine at Fort Kent and listen to recordings of traditional folk songs.
- Down the road, you’ll pass the Musée Culturel Du Mont-Carmel which features French classic architecture and an extensive collection of Acadian and Québécois artifacts.
- In Houlton, visit the Historical and Art Museum to see the collection of paintings and other artworks created by German POWs during the final years of World War II.
- Catch a performance from the world-class Bangor Symphony Orchestra.
- If you want to head “downeast” you’ll find terrific art on the Canadian border at Eastport’s Tides Institute & Museum of Art.
- In the busy village of Bar Harbor, take in the history and culture of Maine’s Native people, the Wabanaki at the Abbe Museum.
- Southwest of Acadia National Park, Deer Isle is home to the world-renowned Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, an artist residency program founded in 1950.
- Heading due south from Bangor, follow the Penobsbot Bay to Rockland, one of the liveliest arts communities in the state. The city also overflows with museums, galleries and studios.
- Brunswick is home to the Bowdoin Museum of Art and the Maine State Music Theater.
- United in creative endeavor are Maine’s contemporary centers for artists, craftspeople, and performers. Among them are Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts in Edgecomb, Celebration Barn in Paris, and Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport.
- Lewiston’s Bates Dance Festival is a world class institution. The city is home to many diverse arts offerings, including cultural arts classed led by the Somali Bantu Community Association.
- No time to venture all the way north? Southern Maine is a treasure trove of arts. Portland’s Indigo Arts Alliance cultivates the artistic development of people of African descent.
- Further south you’ll find the Ogunquit Playhouse featuring the very latest in musical theater. Stone Mountain Arts Center in Brownfield presents well known musicians in the most intimate performance setting you can imagine. And right on the border in Kittery, The Dance Hall practically dares you not to jump up and jive.

THE CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF MAINE
During the early days of Covid, 16 long-time leaders from cultural institutions around the state began weekly conversations on ways to unite, support each other, strengthen the sector’s position, and impact funding, health, and safety policies. From those conversations, The Cultural Alliance of Maine was born. Our Alliance seeks to bring together and create a strong, unified voice at the local, state and national levels for Maine’s widely geographically and culturally diverse creative sector, including but not limited to libraries, historical societies, arts organizations, creative industries, and artists and other cultural workers.

Learn more here.

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!
E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org FOLLOW US: facebook twitter

As of 4/2023