## Why the Arts Matter in Virginia

### 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)

### Virginia Arts Facts

**Arts & Culture for-Profit & Non-Profit Sectors Represent**

- 3.1% State's GDP
- 112,723 Jobs
- $18.8 Billion Arts & Culture
- $13.9 B Transportation
- $8.8 B Utilities

The Virginia arts and culture sector was a **$8.1 billion industry in 2021** (3.1% of the state's GDP), representing **112,723 jobs** (2.7% of Virginia's workforce), and total compensation of **$9.6 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)

**Richmond, VA**

- $211.7 M Economic activity annually
- $31.6 M State and local government revenue generated

Audiences of **5.9 million** people added another **$148.4 million** in related spending for a total of **$360.1 million** for the city in 2015.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity V, Richmond and Tri-Cities Region report, 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 Virginia Arts & Culture Sector

- State Appropriation FY23: $4,596,237
- NEA State Grant FY23: $865,600
- NEA Direct Grants FY22: $2,345,000
- SBA SVOG Grants FY21-22: $219,333,856

Source: NEA, SBA, NASAA, 2023
Unveiled to the community just months before the tragic events in Charlottesville, a statue honoring Richmond’s own Maggie L. Walker continues to be a symbol of community gathering, community celebration and positive civic discovery and dialogue.

Be sure to check out

- See who Movoto lists as the five best cities for the arts in Virginia.
- See Virginia Tourism’s 2015 report on Artisan impact in the state.
- Read more about thirteen Vibrant Cultural Districts in Virginia here.

**Virginia Commission for the Arts**

Executive Director: Janet Starke
Chair: Asa Jackson

Learn more here.

**Virginia is for Lovers... of the Arts!!**

- **The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail**, in Southwest Virginia is a 330-mile driving trail through the mountains of Southwest Virginia that connects nine Major Venues and over 60 Affiliated Venues and Festivals throughout nineteen counties, four cities, and over 50 towns. While in Abingdon, stop by The Barter Theatre, The State Theatre of Virginia and longest-running professional theatre in the nation.

- **The Roanoke Valley** has much to offer including the architectural gem, The Taubman Museum of Art. While there, check out a performance by the Roanoke Symphony. Head north toward the Alleghany Mountains to experience the world class Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs, or Southeast to the newly renovated Historic Academy Center of the Arts in Lynchburg.

- **Central Virginia** is home to hundreds of arts organizations, festivals, the #1 Public Art School in the nation as well as the internationally known Richmond Folk Festival. While in Richmond, check out the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, one of the top ten most comprehensive art museums in the US. Head north to Charlottesville, another thriving arts scene!

- **Hampton Roads & The Eastern Shore of Virginia** boast Museums galore, the world-class Virginia Arts Festival in Norfolk and a vibrant arts scene on the Eastern Shore, to name just a few.

- **No visitor to Virginia should miss the Shenandoah Valley’s American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse**, the world’s only re-creation of Shakespeare’s indoor theater located in Staunton, VA a popular hotspot for arts and culture.

- Experience the unique theatrically of Pentagon City’s Synetic Theatre or the vocal prowess of Arlington’s Urban Arias. If the visual arts and crafts are your thing, drop in on an artist studio at Alexandria’s Torpedo Factory or visit the Arlington Arts Center for a contemporary art exhibit or workshop.

- Don’t miss all the arts that Northern Virginia has to offer. Take in a musical at the Tony-Awarding Signature Theatre, catch your favorite vocal artist while enjoying a picnic under the stars at Wolf Trap, or see a jazz musician at the intimate Reston Community Center.

**Virginians for the Arts** is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to adequate funding for the arts and broad education of Virginia’s citizens about the importance of arts and culture to Virginia’s communities economically and from a quality-of-life perspective.

President: Beverly Hess

Learn more here. Join here.