WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN CONNECTICUT

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

4.31% Nation's GDP 5.2 M Jobs

$1.102 TRILLION Arts & Culture

$1.09 T Construction

$920.5 B Transportation

The national arts and culture sector was a $1.102 trillion industry in 2022 (4.31% of the nation's GDP), representing 5.2 million jobs (3.28% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of $540.9 billion.


CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

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

4% State's GDP 54,741 Jobs

$12.8 BILLION Arts & Culture

$8.6 B Construction

$7.6 B Transportation

The Connecticut arts and culture sector was a $12.8 billion industry in 2022 (4% of the state's GDP), representing 54,741 jobs (3.17% of Connecticut's workforce), and total compensation of $6 billion.


ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

National

$151.7 B Economic activity annually

2.6 M Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated $29.1 billion in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

88.5% of audiences agreed with the statement “This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community”

87% of audiences agreed with the statement “My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations”

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

Statewide

$954.1 M Economic activity annually

16,667 Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated $275 million in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

87.5% of audiences agreed with the statement “This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community”

85.7% of audiences agreed with the statement “My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations”

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Federal Appropriation FY24 $207 Million

Congress allocated $207 million to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in FY24. This amounts to just 62 cents per capita. Ideally, Congress should index $1 per capita funding to the NEA.

PUBLIC FUNDING RECEIVED FOR CONNECTICUT ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY24 $8,215,358

NEA State Grant FY24 $1,021,100

31 Direct NEA Grants FY23 $1,835,100

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2024.

Source: NEA, SBA, NASAA, 2024
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

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**CT 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  
**President:** Denise Santisteban

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**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 Musicals.

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 quiet 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.

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**CONNECTICUT ARTS HIGHLIGHTS**

**IN THE CONSTITUTION STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US**

Learn more here.

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**CONNECTICUT ARTS ALLIANCE**

Learn more here.  
Join here.

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