



WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN CONNECTICUT



NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR'S PERCENTAGE OF U.S. ECONOMY (Artists, University Arts, Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.3% OF NATION'S GDP & 5.2 MILLION JOBS

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector was a **\$919.7 billion industry** in 2019, representing **4.3%** of the nation's GDP, **5.2 million jobs**, and total compensation of **\$466 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019 (Prior to COVID-19 pandemic)



BONUS: In 2019, U.S. exports generated a \$33 billion arts trade SURPLUS.

CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

CT ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.4% OF STATE'S GDP & 56,865 JOBS

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed **\$9.7 billion** to Connecticut's economy in 2019, representing **3.4%** of the state's GDP, **56,865 jobs**, and total compensation of **\$5 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019 (Prior to COVID-19 pandemic)



BONUS: In 2019, CT arts and culture was also larger than the Agriculture industry.

LOSS OF REVENUE AND JOBS (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

Nationally, COVID-19 has devastated creative economy businesses with a loss of **\$150 billion** in revenue. In addition, **52% of all creative workers became unemployed** (2.7 million people) as of July 2020.

Source: Brookings, **Lost art: Measuring COVID-19's devastating impact on America's creative economy**, 2020.

\$150B
LOST REVENUE & **52%**
OF UNEMPLOYMENT

In Connecticut, COVID-19 has devastated creative economy businesses with a loss of **\$2.4 billion** in revenue. In addition, **56% of all creative workers in Connecticut became unemployed** (33,258 people) as of July 2020.

Source: Brookings, **Lost art: Measuring COVID-19's devastating impact on America's creative economy**, 2020.

\$2.4B
LOST REVENUE & **56%**
OF UNEMPLOYMENT

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry alone generates **\$166.3 billion in economic activity** annually that supports **4.6 million jobs** and generates **\$27.5 billion** in federal, state, and local government revenue.

- Spending by arts audiences generated **\$102.5 billion** to local businesses.

Source: Americans for the Arts, **Arts & Economic Prosperity 5**, 2017.

NONPROFIT ART ISA **\$166.3 BILLION** **DRIVER OF OUR NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL ECONOMY.**

In 2015, the Connecticut arts and culture generated **\$797.2 million** in economic activity annually that supported **23,114 jobs** and generated **\$72.3 million** in state and local government revenue.

- In Fairfield County specifically, nonprofit arts groups generated **\$148.6 million** in economic activity. Audiences of 2.5 million people added another **\$86.6 million** for a total of **\$235.2 million** in economic activity for the county in 2015, and this generated **\$20.3 million** in local and state government revenues.

Source: Americans for the Arts, **Arts & Economic Prosperity 5**, **Connecticut** report, 2017.

NONPROFIT ART ISA **\$797.2 MILLION** **DRIVER OF JUST ONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES.**

PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

Q So how much is the federal government investing in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)?

A Congress allocated **\$167.5 million** to the NEA in FY 2021, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just **51¢** per capita, yet the nonprofit arts industry generates over \$13 billion in federal tax revenue back to the U.S. Treasury. Imagine what nonprofit arts groups could generate with \$1 per capita.

Source: **Americans for the Arts Action Fund**, 2021.
Read: "**Funding The Arts is Good for the Nation**," *The Hill*, 2015.

Q How much does the state government budget to the Connecticut State Office of the Arts each year?

A In **FY 20-21**, the state allocated **\$5,424,552** to the Connecticut Office of the Arts. The Connecticut Office of the Arts also received **\$780,300** in federal NEA funds, which the Office re-granted to hundreds of cultural organizations through the state. Another **39** nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling **\$1,165,000**.

Source: **NEA** and **NASAA**, 2021.
Read: Stephan Singer on how "**Arts and Culture Are Key Contributors to CT's Economy**."

GDP & JOBS

COVID-19 IMPACT

ECONOMICS

FUNDING



"Vision: Inspire. Empower. Educate. Transform. The arts are a human right. The Connecticut Office of the Arts envisions a world where the arts, in all forms, are embedded in everyday life."

—Connecticut Office of the Arts



CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

IN THE CONSTITUTION STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

Artspace's City Wide Open Studios unites more than 350 artists from across Connecticut who open their doors and exhibit their work throughout the month of October each year.

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: Min Jung Kim



Department of Economic and Community Development
Office Of The Arts

> **Learn more here.**

ART IN CONNECTICUT

- Connecticut Office of Tourism can direct you the great stages of the state **here**.
- Follow the Connecticut Art Trail **here**.
- Connecticut Critics Circle provides performance review **here**.

CONNECTICUT ART ORGANIZATIONS

Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA)

www.ctartsalliance.org

CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP)

www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram

Connecticut Art Education (CAEA)

www.ctarteducation.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



CONNECTICUT ARTS ALLIANCE

> **Learn more here.**

> **Join here.**

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Grab lunch at Franklin Street Works in **Stamford** and challenge your mind with socially driven contemporary art, then take in a producing theater production at Curtain Call.
- Follow the coast to **New Haven** where a myriad of arts experiences await. From the renowned Yale Center for British Art to 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.
- While in **Hartford** be sure to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum, the oldest continuously-operating public art museum in the United States where you will also find the Amistad Center for Art & Culture.
- 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.

To View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, Click Here.

CONNECTICUT ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org/join

CALL US: 202.371.2830

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To download this factsheet, "Why the Arts Matter in Connecticut," with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund/StateFactsheets