



# WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN NEW YORK



## NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

**ARTS SECTOR'S PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT** (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

### ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.2% OF NATION'S GDP

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector is a **\$764 billion industry**, representing 4.2% of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than construction (4.1%) or education services (1.1%).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015.

**\$764 BILLION** Arts & Culture Sector

**\$763 BILLION** Construction

**\$208 BILLION** Education Services

**BONUS:** U.S. exports generate a \$24.1 billion arts trade SURPLUS.

## NEW YORK ARTS FACTS

### THE NEW YORK ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 8.3% OF STATE'S GDP

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes **\$114.1 billion** to New York's economy, representing 8.3% of the state's GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015.

**\$114.1 BILLION** Arts & Culture Sector

**\$46.2 BILLION** Construction

**\$28.2 BILLION** Education Services

**BONUS:** In 2015, NY arts and culture jobs generated \$46.7 billion in total compensation.

**NUMBER OF ARTS-RELATED BUSINESSES AND JOBS** (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

Nationally **673,656 businesses** employ **3.48 million people** who are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts. Based on Dun & Bradstreet data, this means that 3.9% of all businesses and 1.9% of all employees are connected to the creative industries.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Creative Industries*, 2017.

**673,656** & **3.48M** ARE INVOLVED IN THE  
BUSINESSES JOBS CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION  
OF THE ARTS

In New York, **50,337 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **396,666 people**.

- In Kings County, **5,556 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **26,974 people**.
- In New York County, **15,620 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **218,794 people**.
- In Suffolk County, **4,300 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **33,804 people**.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Creative Industries*, *New York* report, 2017.

**50,337** & **396,666** ARE INVOLVED IN THE  
BUSINESSES JOBS CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION  
OF THE ARTS

**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.

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

In 2015, New York's arts and culture sector employed thousands of FTE jobs and generated millions of dollars in economic activity. Nonprofit arts groups helped cultivate that activity.

- In the **Western New York** region, nonprofit arts groups generated **\$156.0 million** in economic activity. Audiences of 6.6 million people added another **\$196.1 million** in related spending for a total of **\$352.1 million** for the region in 2015, and this generated **\$40.3 million** in local and state government revenues and **10,160 FTE jobs**.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, *Western New York* report, 2017.

**ART IS A \$114.1 BILLION GDP DRIVER OF OUR STATE ECONOMY.**

**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 has proposed allocating **\$155 million to the NEA in FY 2019**, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just **47¢ per capita**, yet the nonprofit arts industry generates over **\$13 billion** in federal tax revenue back to the treasury. Imagine what nonprofit arts groups could generate with **\$1 per capita!**

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2019.

Read: "Funding The Arts Is Good For The Nation," *The Hill*, 2015.

**Q** What about New York—how much does state government budget to the New York State Council on the Arts each year?

**A** The state allocated **\$45,17,000** to the New York State Council on the Arts. In FY 2017, the New York State Council on the Arts also received **\$736,720** in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 553 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling **\$16,578,210**.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2017.

Read: "Arts Add \$114B to New York State Economy," NY State Council on the Arts, 2018.

GDP

JOBS

ECONOMICS

FUNDING



“The arts are essential to our identity as New Yorkers, embodying our spirit of innovation as they drive economy, build community and enhance education. From the millions who visit our museums, theaters, concert halls, public artworks and festivals to each individual student whose world is broadened in the classroom, our state’s creative culture enriches our lives.”

—Mara Manus, Executive Director, New York State Council on the Arts



## NEW YORK ARTS FACTS

### IN THE EMPIRE STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

The Albany Symphony Orchestra’s summer festivals along the Erie Canal bring together as many as 23,000 fans from diverse communities across the state, celebrating our industrial and artistic innovation.

#### THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

—The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSICA) preserves and expands the rich and diverse cultural resources that are the heritage of New York’s citizens. NYSICA was established in 1960 through a bill introduced in the NY State Legislature by State Senator MacNeill Mitchell, with backing from Governor Nelson Rockefeller. The Council awards more than 1,900 grants each year to arts, culture, and heritage non-profits and artists throughout the state.

> Learn more [here](#).

#### MEET SOME NEW YORK ARTS ADVOCATES

- New York State Senator **Jose M. Serrano** is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation and an advocate for the transformative effect of arts on economies, communities and education. > [More](#)
- Arts advocate and philanthropist **Agnes Gund** recently founded the Art for Justice fund. > [More](#)
- **Stephen Butler** is the Executive Director of CNY Arts and a leader of Arts NYS. > [More](#)
- New York State Assemblymember **Daniel O’Donnell** is Chair of the Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development Committee. > [More](#)
- **Janet Langsam** is the CEO of ArtsWestchester and a leader of Arts NYS. > [More](#)

#### ART IN NEW YORK

- I ♥ New York’s [New York State bucket list](#) details must-see cultural attractions.
- Catch a show from Broadway to Buffalo with [this comprehensive guide](#).
- Learn all about New York museums [here](#).

#### NEW YORK ART ORGANIZATIONS

ArtsNYS Coalition  
[www.artsnys.org](http://www.artsnys.org)  
 CNY Arts  
[www.cnyarts.org](http://www.cnyarts.org)  
 New York State Arts Teachers Association  
[www.nysata.org](http://www.nysata.org)

### THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

New York State has 10 Arts Regions with wonderful offerings:

- **Western New York.** Did you know Buffalo is a hotspot for NYS arts? Head to contemporary art haven Albright-Knox Art, then, check out Frank Lloyd Wright’s Darwin Martin House and hear JoAnn Falletta—the first female conductor of a major U.S. orchestra—conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.
- **Finger Lakes.** Grab your camera and head to the George Eastman Museum, the world’s oldest museum dedicated to photography. In September, head to the Rochester Fringe Festival, a showcase of 500+ events, many free, for nearly 80,000 fans.
- **Central New York.** Visit the first museum to dedicate itself to the collection of American arts. The Everson Museum of Art is home to almost 11,000 works, which you can discover within an architectural wonder designed by I.M. Pei.

- **Southern Tier.** Try your hand at glassmaking at the Corning Museum of Glass, an international tourist destination which draws more than 500,000 annually to New York’s Southern Tier.
- **Mohawk Valley.** Hear opera stars at the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown on picturesque Lake Otsego – and while you’re there, slow down with a taste of 19th century rural life at the nearby Farmers Museum.
- **North Country.** Jump right into the history of the American Revolution at Fort Ticonderoga, and admire your mountain surroundings at the Adirondack Experience.
- **Capital Region.** Listen to the Grammy-winning Albany Symphony Orchestra or stop by the Saratoga Performing Arts Center for their annual jazz festival.

- **Hudson Valley.** Take in 500 acres of modern and contemporary large-sculpture al fresco at Storm King Art Center in New Windsor, then catch a classic at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.
- **Long Island.** Get a jump on Oscar season at the Hamptons International Film Festival, then head to the Herzog & de Meuron-designed Parrish Art Museum to view modern and contemporary American art.
- **New York City.** Broadway lights are brighter than ever, with Second Stage’s new Helen Hayes Theatre, a home for new American plays and diverse voices. Venture out of Manhattan for innovative fare at BAM or to Queens’ Museum of the Moving Image.

**To View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts in New York, Click Here.**

## NEW YORK ARTS NEED YOU!

### JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: [ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org](mailto:ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org)

VISIT US: [ArtsActionFund.org/join](http://ArtsActionFund.org/join)

CALL US: 202.371.2830 x2067

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To download this fact sheet, “Why the Arts Matter in New York,” with corresponding resource links visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/NY](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/NY).