



WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN OREGON



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.

OREGON ARTS FACTS

THE OREGON ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.3% OF STATE'S GDP

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes **\$7.2 billion** to Oregon's economy, representing 3.3% of the state's GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

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

\$7.2 BILLION Arts & Culture Sector

\$4.3 BILLION Agriculture & Forestry

\$1.7 BILLION Education Services

BONUS: In 2015, OR arts and culture jobs generated \$4.1 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 Oregon, **11,606 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **46,927 people**.

- In Clackamas County, **1,224 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **4,026 people**.
- In Multnomah County, **3,711 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **18,843 people**.
- In Washington County, **1,527 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **6,076 people**.

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

11,606 & **46,927** 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, nonprofit arts organizations in the state generated **\$687 million in economic activity** annually that supported **22,299 jobs** and generated **\$53 million** in state and local government revenue.

- In **Greater Portland Area**, nonprofit arts groups generated **\$364.1 million** in economic activity. Audiences of 9.9 million people added another **\$323.0 million** in related spending for a total of **\$687.0 million** for the city in 2015, and this generated **\$43.3 million** in local and state government revenues.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, OR and **Greater Portland Area** reports, 2017.

ART IS A \$687 MILLION 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 Oregon—how much does state government budget to the Oregon Arts Commission each year?

A In the 2017-19 biennium the state allocated **\$3,686,183** (\$1,843,091 annually) to the Oregon Arts Commission. In FY 2017, the Commission also received **\$716,600** in federal NEA funds, which it re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 35 nonprofit arts organization received direct grants from the NEA totaling **\$1,493,600**.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2017.

Read: "Nonprofit arts organizations bring \$1.2 million to Northeast Oregon," Max Denning, *The Observer*, 2018.

GDP

JOBS

ECONOMICS

FUNDING

“Oregon art reflects the breadth and beauty of our landscape as well as the diversity and innovation creativity of our citizens.”

—Christopher Acebo, Chair, Oregon Arts Commission



OREGON ARTS FACTS

IN OREGON THE ARTS UNITE US

Every year, engaged Oregonians make an estimated 250,000 donations to local arts and culture organizations!

THE OREGON ARTS COMMISSION—

Established in 1967, the Oregon Arts Commission works to enhance the quality of life for all Oregonians through the arts by stimulating creativity, leadership, and economic vitality. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities.

> Learn more [here](#).



MEET SOME OREGON ARTS ADVOCATES

- **Brian Rogers** is the Executive Director of the Oregon Arts Commission. > [More](#)
- **Sue Hildick** is the new Executive Director of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition. > [More](#)
- **Chuck Sams** is the Communication Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and he serves as the Chair of the Oregon Cultural Trust. > [More](#)
- **Christopher Acebo** is the Associate Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Chair of the Oregon Arts Commission. > [More](#)
- **Elizabeth Woody** is the Executive Director of the Museum at Warm Springs and the past Oregon State Poet Laureate. > [More](#)

ART IN OREGON

- Oregon Artswatch offers a comprehensive overview of cultural activities in the state [here](#).
- Oregon's NPR-affiliate presents a weekly program and podcast highlighting Oregon artists and art [here](#).
- Regional Arts & Cultural Council of Portland's event calendar can guide you to wonderful performances, music, and art exhibits [here](#).

OREGON ART ORGANIZATIONS

- Cultural Advocacy Coalition (CAC)
[oregonculture.org](#)
- Oregon Museums Association
[oregonmuseums.org](#)
- Oregon Art Education Association
[oregonarted.org](#)

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Oregon's must-experience arts event is the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in **Ashland**, where visitors enjoy world class plays amid stunning scenery and fine Northwest cuisine.
- Pickathon, the “biggest little music festival in the Northwest,” is a truly unique multi-day outdoor music experience at the beautiful Pendarvis Farm in **Happy Valley** (just outside of Portland).
- No surprise that Wordstock, the largest literary festival in the Pacific Northwest, takes place in

- Portland**, home to the world-renowned Powell's Books.
- The Sisters Folk Festival is an annual three-day roots music festival held in **Sisters, Oregon**, near Bend the weekend after Labor Day.
- Literary lore meets music and epic storytelling during the FisherPoets Gathering in **historic Astoria**. It's a grand gathering of writers, poets, musicians and artists.

- Pianist Hunter Noack transports his piano on a flatbed truck for “In A Landscape: Classical Music in the Wild,” presented in some of the state's most awe-inspiring and remote destinations.
- Every summer dozens of writers gather near Eastern Oregon's beautiful **Wallowa Lake** for workshops, panel discussions, open mic readings, and breakout sessions as part of Summer Fishtrap.

To View the **Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts**, [Click Here](#).

OREGON ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

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CALL US: 202.371.2830 x2067

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To download this fact sheet, “Why the Arts Matter in Oregon,” with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/OR.