

# WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN WASHINGTON



## 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.

## WASHINGTON ARTS FACTS

### THE WASHINGTON ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 7.8% OF STATE'S GDP

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes **\$35.6 billion** to Washington's economy, representing 7.8% of the state's GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

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

**\$35.6 BILLION** Arts & Culture Sector

**\$18.8 BILLION** Construction

**\$2.4 BILLION** Education Services

**BONUS:** In 2015, WA arts and culture jobs grew by 5.0% while the national average was 2.1%!

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 Washington, **17,642 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **69,844 people**.

- In King County, **8,108 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **34,536 people**.
- In Pierce County, **1,408 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **4,317 people**.
- In Spokane County, **1,046 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **6,172 people**.

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

**17,642** & **69,844** 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, Washington'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 Tacoma, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated **\$74.6 million** in economic activity. Audiences of 2.7 million people added another **\$62.6 million** in related spending for a total of **\$137.2 million** for the city in 2015, and this generated **\$14.0 million** in local and state government revenues and **3,656 FTE jobs**.

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

ART IS A **\$35.6 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 Washington—how much does state government budget to the Washington State Arts Commission each year?

**A** The state allocated **\$1,166,000** to the Washington State Arts Commission. In FY 2017, the Washington State Arts Commission also received **\$820,400** in federal NEA funds, which the Commission re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 32 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling **\$2,585,400**.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2017.

Read: *ArtsFund* report, 2014.

GDP

JOBS

ECONOMICS

FUNDING

“Every child has the right to a well-rounded education, which includes the arts. ArtsWA works to strengthen K-12 arts education as part of, and fundamental to, basic education.”

—ArtsWA



## WASHINGTON ARTS FACTS

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

Washington Creative Forces Summit II – Healing in Community will be aimed at arts organizations and individuals interested in working with and improving knowledge of our target military population grappling with Post Traumatic Stress or Traumatic Brain Injury.

#### THE WASHINGTON STATE ARTS

**COMMISSION**— Established in 1961, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) is a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.

> Learn more [here](#).



#### MEET SOME WASHINGTON ARTS ADVOCATES

- **Manual Cawaling** is Executive Director of Cultural Access Washington. > [More](#)
- **Shannon Halbertstadt** is Executive Director of Artist Trust. > [More](#)
- **Karen Hanan** is the Executive Director of ArtsWA. > [More](#)
- **Christopher Shainin** is President of Washington State Arts Alliance. > [More](#)

#### ART IN WASHINGTON

- Best Things Washington can direct you to the best venues of live theater and dance performances [here](#).
- Artist Trust offers a calendar of arts events in Washington [here](#).
- ExperienceWA offers a list of arts and cultural activities in Washington [here](#).

#### WASHINGTON ART ORGANIZATIONS

Washington State Arts Alliance  
[washingtonstateartsalliance.org](http://washingtonstateartsalliance.org)

Washington Museums Association  
[washingtonmuseumassociation.org](http://washingtonmuseumassociation.org)

Washington Art Education Association  
[waeaboard.net](http://waeaboard.net)

### THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Start in the coolest coastal town in the state, **Port Townsend**, and experience Centrum, featuring jazz, literary arts, and the Port Townsend Film Festival.
- Hit **Bellingham's** picturesque Fairhaven District and enjoy the Arts & Music Festival and the best selection of microbrews in the state.
- Head South to **Seattle** to enjoy world-class theatre, music, visual arts, literary arts and

dance, presented by Seattle Theatre Group, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northwest Folklife, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Symphony, Seattle Arts & Lectures, and a year of cultural festivals at Seattle Center.

- Nearby **Bellevue** presents innovative Arts & Design at the Bellevue Arts Museum, and experience the Bellevue Arts Fair.

- In Eastern Washington, **Spokane** hosts a citywide Arts Month in October, and is the home of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.
- Head Southwest to the **Maryhill** Museum of Art, overlooking the beautiful **Columbia River Gorge**.

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

## WASHINGTON 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 Washington,” with corresponding resource links visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/WA](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/WA).