



# WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN CONNECTICUT



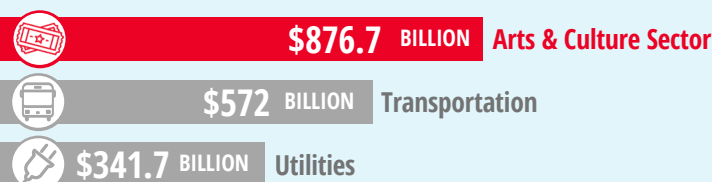
## NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

### ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.2% OF NATION'S GDP & 4.6 MILLION JOBS

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector was a **\$876.7 billion industry** in 2020, representing **4.2%** of the nation's GDP, **4.6 million jobs**, and total compensation of **\$446 billion**.

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts, 2022](#) (2020 data collected during the pandemic)



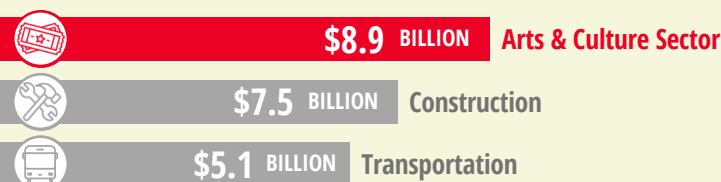
**BONUS:** In 2020, the arts & culture sector ranked 3rd among comparison sectors.

## CONNECTICUT ARTS FACTS

### CT ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.2% OF STATE'S GDP & 49,159 JOBS

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed **\$8.9 billion** to Connecticut's economy in 2020, representing **3.2%** of the state's GDP, **49,159 jobs**, and total compensation of **\$5 billion**.

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 2022](#) (2020 data collected during the pandemic)



**BONUS:** Arts & culture value added in CT ranked 2nd among the comparison sectors in 2020.

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

Between 2019 and 2020, the U.S. **arts economy** shrank at **nearly twice the rate** of the economy as a whole. Arts and cultural production fell by **6.4%** when adjusted for inflation, compared with a **3.4%** decline overall.

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022](#) (Data collected during the pandemic)

See Americans for the Arts regularly updated [COVID-19 Impact on the Arts Research Update](#).

**\$53.6B** GDP LOST & **600,000** JOBS LOST

A sample of **624** arts and culture organizations showed a combined loss of operating income of **\$82.1 million**—a drop of approximately 20%—between 2019 and 2021.

Source: [Connecticut Arts Alliance, 2022](#)

**\$80M** GSP LOST & **7,706** JOBS LOST

## 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](#) (Prior to COVID-19 pandemic)

**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** How much is the federal government investing in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)?

**A** Congress allocated **\$180 million** to the NEA in **FY22**. This amounts to just **54 cents** per capita. Ideally, Congress should index \$1 per capita funding to the NEA. For COVID economic relief, Congress also allocated **\$75 million** in CARES Act and **\$135 million** in ARPA funding for distribution by the NEA. Additionally, Congress allocated **\$16 billion** to the SBA for shuttered arts venues plus billions more for PPP and EIDL.

Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2022](#).

**Q** How much did Connecticut receive in public funding for the arts and culture?

**A** In **FY22**, the state allocated **\$1,498,298** to the Connecticut Office of the Arts. The Connecticut Office of the Arts also received **\$846,000** in federal NEA funds, **\$792,900** through ARPA, **\$446,200** through the CARES Act, and a state appropriated **\$15,000,000** for COVID relief. All of this funding has benefitted **400** arts organizations and **150** individual artists in CT. Another **19** nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling **\$1,325,000**.

Source: [Connecticut Office of the Arts & NEA, 2022](#)

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

**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**



Department of Economic and  
Community Development  
Office Of The Arts

**Learn more [here](#).**

#### ART IN CONNECTICUT

- Replace CT office of Tourism blurb with: You will find Connecticut arts and culture experiences through the CT Office of Tourism [here](#).
- Explore Connecticut's rich artistic heritage [here](#).

#### CONNECTICUT ART ORGANIZATIONS

Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA)

**[www.ctartsalliance.org](http://www.ctartsalliance.org)**

CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP)

**[www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram](http://www.chs.org/connecticut-cultural-heritage-artsprogram)**

Connecticut Art Education (CAEA)

**[www.ctarteducation.net](http://www.ctarteducation.net)**

Connecticut Arts Administrators Association, Inc. (CAAA)

**[www.ctaaa.net](http://www.ctaaa.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!

- 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.
- 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.

**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](mailto:ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org)

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

**CALL US:** 202.371.2830

**FOLLOW US:** Arts Action Fund | @ArtsActionFund | @ArtsActionFund



To download this factsheet, "Why the Arts Matter in Connecticut," with corresponding resource links visit [www.ArtsActionFund/StateFactsheets](http://www.ArtsActionFund/StateFactsheets)

3/3/2022