

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN KENTUCKY



NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT SECTORS REPRESENT

4.4% Nation's GDP **4.85M** Jobs

\$1.016 TRILLION Arts & Culture

\$945.3 B Construction

\$378.4 B Utilities

The national arts and culture sector was a **\$1.016 trillion industry** in **2021** (4.4% of the nation's GDP), representing **4.85 million jobs** (3.2% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of **\$504.2 billion**.

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) & [National Endowment for the Arts](#), 2023 (2021 data collected during the pandemic)

KENTUCKY ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT SECTORS REPRESENT

2.6% State's GDP **47,171** Jobs

\$6.1 BILLION Arts & Culture

\$12 B Transportation

\$3.6 B Agriculture & Forestry

The Kentucky arts and culture sector was a **\$6.1 billion industry** in **2021** (2.6% of the state's GDP), representing **47,171 jobs** (2.4% of Kentucky's workforce), and total compensation of **\$3 billion**.

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) & [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#), 2023 (2021 data collected during the pandemic)

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS INDUSTRY ONLY & THEIR AUDIENCES

National

\$166.3 B Economic activity annually

\$27.5 B Federal, state, and local government revenue generated

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

Source: Americans for the Arts, [Arts & Economic Prosperity 5](#), 2017 (New data coming Oct 2023)

KENTUCKY CULTURAL NONPROFIT REVENUES

Statewide

\$79.3 M Program Revenues

\$121 M Contributions & Gifts

\$212 M Total Revenues

Arts audiences spend **\$1.18 billion** annually in addition to admission cost.

Sources: Economic Modeling Specialists International, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, National Center for Charitable Statistics, 2021

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Federal Appropriation FY23 **\$207 Million**

SBA SVOG Grants FY21-22 **\$13 Billion**

Congress allocated **\$207 million** to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in **FY23**. This amounts to just **62 cents per capita**. Ideally, Congress should index \$1 per capita funding to the NEA.

Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#), 2023.

View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts [HERE](#)

FY23 PUBLIC FUNDING AWARDED TO THE KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

State Appropriation FY23 **\$1,797,100**

NEA Grant FY23 **\$851,470**

Kentucky's legislative appropriation to the state arts agency is **\$0.40 per capita**, placing it **45th** in the ranking of all 50 states.

Source: [NEA](#) and [Kentucky Arts Council](#), 2023

3/22/2023

KENTUCKY ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE BLUEGRASS STATE THE ARTS INSPIRE US



The history and heritage of the Bluegrass State are rooted in the arts. Kentucky's creative culture is essential to the state's economy, tourism, and community life and the key to a thriving future.

KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

Established in 1965, the KentuckyArts Council is the state arts agency and is responsible for developing and promoting support for the arts in Kentucky. The mission of the Kentucky Arts Council is to foster environments for the people of Kentucky to value, participate in, and benefit from the arts.

Executive Director: Chris Cathers

Chair: Dr. Everett McCorvey



[Learn more here.](#)

Kentucky Arts Spotlight

Kentucky-based writer **Ada Limón** was selected as the **24th U.S. Poet Laureate** in 2022. Experience Kentucky's rich literary heritage literary arts by also reading works by Kentucky Poet Laureate and Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow **Crystal Wilkinson**, nationally bestselling author **Silas House** and the Affrilachian Poets, a grassroots group of poets of color living in the Affrilachian region, founded by Kentuckian Frank X Walker.

KENTUCKIANS FOR THE ARTS

Kentuckians for the Arts is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization made up of arts supporters, artists, arts educators and arts organizations across the state. The vision of the organization is to advance a creative commonwealth, and the mission is to raise awareness of the value of the arts and arts education for all throughout Kentucky.

Executive Director: Philip Shepherd

Chair: Lori Meadows



[Learn more here.](#)

[Join here.](#)

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS ACROSS KENTUCKY

- The 2023 **Kentucky Visitors Guide** focuses on the great wealth of arts across the Commonwealth.
- As the Birthplace of Bluegrass Music, Kentucky is home to the **Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum** in Owensboro. Bluegrass music and its history can be experienced across the state including the birthplace of Father of Bluegrass Music and 1982 National Heritage Fellow Bill Monroe in Rosine where the **Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Festival** is held annually.
- Kentucky is home to six professional orchestras: **LexPhil** in Lexington; **Louisville Orchestra**; **Orchestra Kentucky** in Bowling Green; **Kentucky Symphony Orchestra** in northern Kentucky; and the **Owensboro Symphony** and **Paducah Symphony** in western Kentucky.
- The Kentucky **Governor's School for the Arts** provides hands-on arts opportunities for high school dancers, actors, instrumental and vocal musicians, creative writers, future architects or visual artists through summer residential programs.
- Equine art from the **Kentucky Horse Park Sculpture Walk** and exhibits at the **American Saddlebred Museum** are examples of the many horse-themed sculptures and murals celebrating Kentucky's long-standing equine industry and traditions.
- Contemporary and traditional folk art and craft are found throughout Kentucky. Home to the **National Quilt Museum**, Paducah is an **UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art**. Officially designated as the arts and crafts capital of Kentucky, Berea is home to artist studios, galleries and festivals featuring world class art and craft. The permanent collection at the **Folk Art Center** in Morehead includes over 1,400 pieces of work by self-taught artists and rotating exhibits.
- The unique **Kentucky Crafted** program of the Kentucky Arts Council builds entrepreneurship in the arts through marketing, promotional opportunities and arts business training. The program's more than 150 juried artists are showcased in an annual wholesale/retail market.
- The diverse traditional culture and heritage of the Commonwealth is documented, presented and preserved by the **Kentucky Folklife Program** and organizations including **Asia Institute-Crane House** (named a South Arts Southern Cultural Treasure in 2022), and the **Kentucky Native American Heritage Museum** promote understanding and celebration of living cultural traditions.

As of 4/11/2023



JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org

FOLLOW US:

