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

$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

FY23 PUBLIC FUNDING AWARDED TO THE KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

Federal Appropriation FY23 $207 Million

SBA SVOG Grants FY21-22 $13 Billion

State Appropriation FY23 $1,797,100

NEA Grant FY23 $851,470

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.

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

View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts HERE

Source: NEA and Kentucky Arts Council, 2023
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.

Executive Director: Philip Shepherd
Chair: Lori Meadows

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
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As of 4/11/2023

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.

Experience the Arts across Kentucky

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