

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN MAINE



NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

4.31% Nation's GDP **5.2 M** Jobs

\$1.102 TRILLION Arts & Culture

\$1.09 T Construction

\$270.8 B Agriculture & Forestry

The national arts and culture sector was a **\$1.102 trillion industry** in **2022** (4.31% of the nation's GDP), representing **5.2 million jobs** (3.28% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of **\$540.9 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts (2024). Data collected for 2022.

MAINE ARTS FACTS

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

2.6% State's GDP **18,749** Jobs

\$2.2 BILLION Arts & Culture

\$2.9 B Construction

\$1.3 B Agriculture & Forestry

The Maine arts and culture sector was a **\$2.2 billion industry** in **2022** (2.6% of the state's GDP), representing **18,749 jobs** (2.9% of Maine's workforce), and total compensation of **\$1.2 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts (2024). Data collected for 2022.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

National

\$151.7 B Economic activity annually

2.6 M Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$29.1 billion** in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

88.5% of audiences agreed with the statement "This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community"

87% of audiences agreed with the statement "My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations"

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2023. Arts & Economic Prosperity 6.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

Regional Snapshot: City of Portland

\$86 M Economic activity annually

1,872 Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$82.4 million** in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

90.1% of audiences agreed with the statement "This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community"

86.6% of audiences agreed with the statement "My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations"

Source: Americans for the Arts (2023). Arts & Economic Prosperity 6. 2022 data collected for City of Portland.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Federal Appropriation FY24 **\$207 Million**

Congress allocated **\$207 million** to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in **FY24**. 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, 2024.

PUBLIC FUNDING RECEIVED FOR MAINE ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY24 **\$1,108,640**

NEA State Grant FY24 **\$968,940**

NEA Direct Grants FY23 **\$1,464,800**

Source: NEA, SBA, NASAA, 2024

MAINE ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

FROM BICENTENNIAL DISAPPOINTMENT TO INNOVATION



For the past 18 months, the Maine Arts Commission has been engaged in a process of creating a new strategic plan that will guide our work through 2028. The plan has been delayed allowing us to listen to focus groups across the state and engage both the staff and commission members in a robust conversation about the key role the Maine Arts Commission can plan in the state.

THE MAINE ARTS COMMISSION

fosters and encourages public interest and participation in the cultural heritage and artistic expression in our state. We pursue our mission through partnerships and collaborations, initiatives, advocacy, and grants for organizations, individual artists, communities, and schools throughout Maine.

Executive Director: David Greenham

Chair: David Hopkins



[Learn more here.](#)

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

- The arts are everywhere in Maine. Whether you'd like to stroll around the grounds of **Winslow Homer's Studio**, take a **studio class** in an idyllic oceanside setting, or explore the arts, crafts, music and dance of 15,000 years of **Wabanaki history**, Maine arts can be found in every corner of our state.
- Explore **Maine Crafts** and buy Maine Made products through the Maine Crafts Association.
- Visit **Artist Studios** with the help of the Union of Maine Visual Artists.
- Visit Museums with the help of the **Maine Art Museum** Trail.
- Find wonderful events, fairs and festivals with **Maine Invites You**.
- Visit **Creative Portland** as the go-to resource for all things in the arts.

Union of Maine Visual Artists www.theumva.org

Maine Alliance of Arts Educators www.maineartsed.org

Maine Humanities Council www.mainehumanities.org

THE CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF MAINE

During the early days of Covid, 16 long-time leaders from cultural institutions around the state began weekly conversations on ways to unite, support each other, strengthen the sector's position, and impact funding, health, and safety policies. From those conversations, The Cultural Alliance of Maine was born. Our Alliance seeks to bring together and create a strong, unified voice at the local, state and national levels for Maine's widely geographically and culturally diverse creative sector, including but not limited to libraries, historical societies, arts organizations, creative industries, and artists and other cultural workers.

[Learn more here.](#)

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- Let's start at **Fort Kent**, at the very top of Maine (where US 1 begins). Stop by the Acadian Archives at UMaine at Fort Kent and listen to recordings of traditional folk songs.
- Down the road, you'll pass the **Musée Culturel Du Mont-Carmel** which features French classic architecture and an extensive collection of Acadian and Québécois artifacts.
- In Houlton, visit the **Historical and Art Museum** to see the collection of paintings and other artworks created by German POWs during the final years of World War II.
- Catch a performance from the world-class **Bangor Symphony Orchestra**.
- If you want to head "downeast" you'll find terrific art on the Canadian border at Eastport's **Tides Institute & Museum of Art**.

- In the busy village of Bar Harbor, take in the history and culture of Maine's Native people, the Wabanaki at the **Abbe Museum**.
- Southwest of Acadia National Park, Deer Isle is home to the world-renowned **Haystack Mountain School of Crafts**, an artist residency program founded in 1950.
- Heading due south from Bangor, follow the Penobscot Bay to **Rockland**, one of the liveliest arts communities in the state. The city also overflows with museums, galleries and studios.
- Brunswick is home to the **Bowdoin Museum of Art** and the **Maine State Music Theater**.
- United in creative endeavor are Maine's contemporary centers for artists, craftspeople, and performers. Among them are **Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture**, **Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts in Edgecomb**, **Celebration**

Barn in Paris, and **Center for Furniture Craftsmanship** in Rockport.

- **Lewiston's Bates Dance Festival** is a world class institution. The city is home to many diverse arts offerings, including cultural arts classes led by the **Somali Bantu Community Association**.
- No time to venture all the way north? Southern Maine is a treasure trove of arts. **Portland's Indigo Arts Alliance** cultivates the artistic development of people of African descent.
- Further south you'll find the **Ogunquit Playhouse** featuring the very latest in musical theater. **Stone Mountain Arts Center** in **Brownfield** presents well known musicians in the most intimate performance setting you can imagine. And right on the border in **Kittery**, **The Dance Hall** practically dares you not to jump up and jive.

As of 4/2023



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