

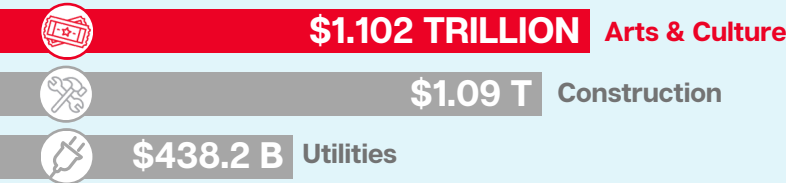
WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN RHODE ISLAND



NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

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

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



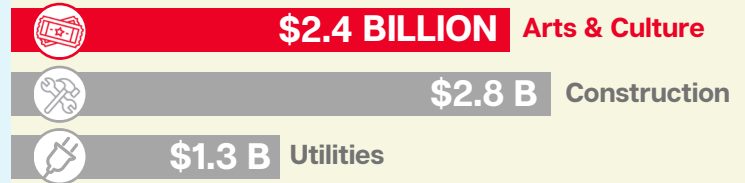
The national arts and culture sector was a **\$1.102 trillion industry** in 2022 (4.31% of the nation's GDP), representing **5.2 million jobs** (3.28% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of **\$540.9 billion**.

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

RHODE ISLAND ARTS FACTS

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

3.25% State's GDP **18,481** Jobs



The Rhode Island arts and culture sector was a **\$2.4 billion industry** in 2022 (3.25% of the state's GDP), representing **18,481 jobs** (3.61% of Rhode Island workforce), and total compensation of **\$1.3 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.

Source: Americans for the Arts (2023). [Arts & Economic Prosperity 6](#).

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

Providence, RI

\$207.5 M Economic activity annually

2,774 Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$36.3 million** in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

Source: Americans for the Arts (2023). [Arts & Economic Prosperity 6](#). 2022 data collected for Providence, RI.

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 RHODE ISLAND ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY24 **\$2,292,758**

NEA State Grant FY24 **\$934,100**

Direct NEA Grants FY23 **\$1,294,100**

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

RHODE ISLAND ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE OCEAN STATE, THE ARTS BUILD THE FUTURE



"The arts enhance the quality of life for Rhode Islanders and serve as an important economic driver within our state. I'm pleased these funds will be used help to support jobs in the arts, bolster education and ensure the Ocean State remains an exciting place to live, work, and visit." – former Congressman Jim Langevin.

THE RHODE ISLAND STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (RISCA)

Established in 1967, RISCA is charged by the state legislature to stimulate public interest and participation in the arts and to serve as the liaison to the state arts community. Honoring its state mandate, RISCA expands the state's cultural resources and the public's participation in them; assesses the needs of the arts statewide and makes recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; provides opportunities in arts education; and protects freedom of artistic expression.

VISION: We envision a Rhode Island where arts and culture are valued as an essential part of life and for their contribution to a thriving state.

Executive Director: Lynne McCormack

Chair: Kate Blacklock



[Learn more here.](#)

Rhode Island Arts Organizations

Cape Verdean Museum, Pawtucket

Chorus of Westerly, Westerly

Mixed Magic Theatre, Pawtucket

Newport Contemporary Ballet, Newport

Riverzedge Arts, Woonsocket

Tetro ECAS Theater, Providence

The Gamm Theatre, Warwick

Tomaquag Museum, Exeter

List of arts and culture organizations in Rhode Island:

[Grant Recipients FY2023 Rhode Island State Council on the Arts](#)

The Arts Are Everywhere

- **Creative workforce development:** Rhode Island has a robust creative workforce of many artists, particularly designers and visual artists. This is because of our state's lengthy manufacturing history that includes textiles, jewelry, silversmithing, costume jewelry, glass blowing, welding, and weaving. The City of Pawtucket is home to the Old Slater Mill, which is considered the birthplace of the U.S. Industrial Revolution. The Old Slater Mill is a live historic site preserving and communicating the weaving and textile tradition.
- **Strong history of industrial arts:** Organizations such as the Steel Yard, DownCity Design, DesignXRI, and the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) continue our legacy as an arts and design center.
- **Historic buildings with meaningful significance:** Beautiful and historically relevant buildings dot Rhode Island. Some standouts are the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) in Providence, Arctic Playhouse in West Warwick, Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket, and United Theater in Westerly. They function as cultural and economic anchors that have played a role in revitalizing their downtowns.
- **Renovations and upgrades to these spaces** have been supported by the state's Cultural Facilities Program.
- **Festivals:** Rhode Island is chock full of cultural festivals, which mainly occur during the summer months. Among the most notable are PVDfest, the Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals, R.I. Cape Verde Festival, R.I. Bolivian Festival, Dominican Festival, Diwali, R.I. Portuguese Festival, and the African Summer Bash.
- **Health and Wellness through art:** Rhode Island is leading the country in exploring the nexus arts, and health and healthcare. Our state has a nationally lauded partnership between the R.I. Department of Health and us.
- **We are home to world class academic institutions** including the RISD, Brown University, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, Providence College and Johnson and Wales University.
- **Governor McKee's plans and priorities** include education, workforce development, health and wellness – all which arts and culture play a major role. RISCA recently launched the Build the Future Grant program, supported by ARPA funds, to support and grow the already robust creative workforce development programs and our nonprofit organizations and schools.
- **Despite being the smallest state in the nation,** Rhode Island has impressive diversity. The geography lends itself to rural agricultural areas, dense metropolitan cities and scenic coastal communities where art making is proudly practiced.
- **Some 39 different languages** are spoken in Providence alone where robust Dominican, Bolivian, Hmong, Laotian, Nigerian, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Liberian communities, among many others, thrive and are integral to the vibrancy of Providence and Rhode Island.
- **Indigenous Arts and Culture:** Rhode Island is on the ancestral homeland of the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Pokanoket and Nipmuc peoples. The Tomaquag Museum, Exeter, is a critical institution, preserving and amplifying the history and culture of the Narragansett Nation.

3/22/2023



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