

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN WEST VIRGINIA



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

\$457.4 B Mining

\$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.

WEST VIRGINIA ARTS FACTS

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

1.51% State's GDP **15,725** Jobs

\$1.5 B Arts & Culture

\$16.8 B Mining

\$0.4 B Agriculture & Forestry

The West Virginia arts and culture sector was a **\$1.5 billion industry** in **2022** (1.51% of the state's GDP), representing **15,725 jobs** (2.22% of West Virginia's workforce), and total compensation of **\$957.96 million**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (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

Local Snapshot: Mercer County, WV

\$3.2 M Economic activity annually

44 Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$315,673** in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

Source: Americans for the Arts (2023). Arts & Economic Prosperity 6. 2022 data collected for Mercer County, WV.

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 WEST VIRGINIA ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY24	\$997,446
NEA State Grant FY24	\$921,900
NEA Direct Grants FY23	\$1,109,400
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation FY24	\$120,000

to support the STEAM Power WV program

WV State Legislature FY24 **\$625,267**

excess lottery funds to support the Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources matching grant program

Source: NEA, SBA, NASAA, and State Arts Agency of WV, 2024

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

WEST VIRGINIA ARTS FACTS

MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE TO CREATE A DIVERSE CULTURE THROUGH THE ARTS

"Arts play a crucial role in preserving our abundant cultural heritage and celebrating the diversity within our West Virginia communities. The importance of the arts is undeniable and should not be overlooked, because it's pivotal in shaping our identity. As Governor, I took pride in establishing the Department of Arts, Culture, and History, and dedicating historic levels of funding to the arts. I'm proud of the department's ongoing work to nurture a strong sense of identity, pride, and resilience within our communities, which contributes incredibly to our state's well-being and recognition as the best place to live, work, and raise a family." -- **Governor Jim Justice**

THE STATE ARTS AGENCY OF THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

The mission of the State Arts Office of the WV Department of Arts Culture and History is to support the creative economy through grants and services, build future audiences through arts education, and ensure every West Virginian has access to quality, impactful arts in their community.

Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Arts, Culture and History: Randall Reid-Smith

Director of the Arts: Jenna Green

WV Commission on the Arts Chair: Zach Abraham



Learn more at wvculture.org

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

- Mountain Stage is West Virginia's ambassador to the world. www.mountainstage.org
- West Virginia Tourism Office provides a 3-day itinerary for an arts and culture tour of the state at wvtourism.com/things-to-do/arts-culture-history/
- Tamarack Marketplace showcases and sells works of art from more than 2,800 West Virginia juried artists and artisans tamarackwv.com
- West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority is "Telling West Virginia's Story" every day, focusing on education, arts and culture. wvpublic.org
- West Virginia Music Educators Association strengthens and advances the cause of music education in the Mountain State. wvmea.org
- The State Arts Office offers grant funding to West Virginia's artists and arts organizations. wvculture.org/agencies/arts
- The West Virginia State Museum focuses on every aspect of the state's history, culture, art, paleontology, archaeology and geology. wvculture.org/agencies/museum

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE

- Celebrate the folk and traditional arts in West Virginia by starting in **Charleston** where you can enjoy music, quilts, crafts, and expert storytellers at the **Vandalia Gathering** or catch a show hosted by the **Friends of Old Time Music and Dance (FOOTMAD)**. Head down to **Clifftop** to the **Appalachian String Band Music Festival** and experience WV's folk music heritage with festival attendees from all 50 states and 20 countries. Learn from master musicians and artists at one of **Augusta Heritage Center's** summer camps in **Elkins**.
- Find master glass blowers continuing the state's 200-year history of glass artistry at **Oglebay Institute** in Wheeling and at **Dakota Glassworks** in Wardensville. Shop for handmade glass pieces at the **Pocahontas County Artisans Co-op** in Marlinton. Visit **Tamarack Marketplace** in Beckley and take a class from resident glass expert John DesMeules.
- Learn traditional and modern techniques in pottery, painting and pastels at the **Morgan Arts Council** in Berkeley Springs, or purchase a work by one of over 30 local artists showcased at the **Ice House Co-op Gallery**. Take a class in pottery, painting, drawing, or photography at the **Walter Gropius-designed Huntington Museum of Art**, home of the state's largest collection of artwork.
- Experience the state's growing collection of public art by visiting the vibrant **public murals** in **Princeton**, participate in one of **Charleston's** seven unique **public art walking tours**, see the **variety of public work** centered around **Trader's Alley** in **Buckhannon**, or have your photo taken at all eight of **Parkersburg's selfie station murals**.
- Visit **Fayetteville** and see local artists at the **Love Hope Center for the Arts** or catch a performance at the **Historic Fayette Theater**. You'll find all this right

next to **New River Gorge National Park** - the nation's newest national park and home of the **iconic bridge** and the state's largest one-day festival, **Bridge Day**.

- See more contemporary forms of art by taking in a performance of the **WV Professional Dance Company** in **Beckley** or one of several new plays at the **Contemporary American Theater Festival** in **Shepherdstown**. Walk down gallery-lined **Front Street** in **Thomas** to see the newest work from local visual artists and hear live music at the **Purple Fiddle**. Visit historic **Lewisburg** to see an original production by the **Greenbrier Valley Theatre** or head to the **Culture Center's Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater** to attend a recording of **Mountain Stage**; a live performance radio show produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting and heard across the country.

4/2024



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