

# WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN MISSISSIPPI





## 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.

## MISSISSIPPI ARTS FACTS

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

**1.84%** State's GDP      **27,038** Jobs

 **\$2.6 BILLION** Arts & Culture

 **\$4.6 B** Construction

 **\$3 B** Agriculture & Forestry

The Mississippi arts and culture sector was a **\$2.6 billion industry** in **2022** (**1.84%** of the state's GDP), representing **27,038 jobs** (**2.21%** of Mississippi's workforce), and total compensation of **\$1.5 billion**.

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 & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

Lafayette County, MS

**\$9.6 M** Economic activity annually

**167** Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$1.38 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 Lafayette County, MS.

## 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.

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

## PUBLIC FUNDING RECEIVED FOR MISSISSIPPI ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY24      **\$10,495,803**

NEA Grant FY24      **\$1,054,500**

South Arts FY22-23      **\$7,500**

Source: [NEA](#), [NASAA](#), and [Mississippi Arts Commission](#), 2024

# MISSISSIPPI ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE MAGNOLIA STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US



**Mississippi Whole Schools** (MWS) in Mississippi uses the arts a vehicle to promote high-quality instruction. MAC works with teachers to develop strategies that incorporate arts across the curriculum to serve 12,956 students, 1,706 teachers and administrators, and 27 schools.

## THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION

was established in 1968 by the Mississippi Legislature. MAC provides financial and technical assistance for arts programming to arts organizations and educational institutions throughout Mississippi.

Executive Director, **David Lewis**  
Chair, **Marie Sanderson**



[Learn more here.](#)

## Mississippi Center for Cultural Production

(Utica)

**New Stage Theatre** (Jackson)

**Theatre Oxford** (Oxford)

**Griot Arts Inc.** (Clarksdale)

**Link Centre** (Tupelo)

**Magnolia Independent Film Festival** (Starkville)

**Central Mississippi Blues Society** (Jackson)

**Juneteenth Festival (Columbus)**

**The Gloster Arts Project** (Natchez)

**ArtPlace Mississippi** (Greenwood)

**North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic**

(Waterford)

**Meridian Council for the Arts** (Meridian)

**Greenville Arts Council** (Greenville)

**Starkville Area Arts Council** (Starkville)

**Ocean Springs Art Association** (Ocean Springs)

**The Threefoot Festival** (Meridian)

**The Neshoba County Fair** (Philadelphia)

## MISSISSIPPI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

The mission of the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education is to increase equity in and access to the arts for all Mississippi students.

Executive Director, **Dr. Heather Rose LaCoste**



Mississippi Alliance  
for Arts Education

[Learn more here.](#)

[Join here.](#)

## THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE

- Mississippi is a land of legendary artists and the birthplace of American music. The arts are present from the rolling hills of the north to the white sand beaches of the south. You can discover new experiences in a historic theater, a small Juke Joint, or a new 21st-century museum. You don't need to go very far to experience a genuine taste of the rich culture thanks to the festivals and performing arts venues.
- When people think of the arts and Mississippi, many often think of the Delta. In the **Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area** (MDNHA), the story of the blues is told at the **Delta Blues Museum** (Clarksdale). In this region, music is part of daily life and annual gatherings like the **Sunflower River Blues & Gospel Festival** (Clarksdale) or the **Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival** (Greenville).
- But Mississippi's arts and cultural richness are sprinkled throughout the state through institutions that amplify the impact of Mississippi artists nationally and internationally. These include the **Mississippi Museum of Art** (Jackson), the **GRAMMY Museum**

**Mississippi** (Cleveland), the only museum of its kind outside of Los Angeles, and the **Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience** (The MAX, Meridian). Additionally, the **USA International Ballet Competition** is held in Mississippi (Jackson).

- Speaking of influential artists, you can find out more about some of them by visiting museums that are devoted to their work, such as the **B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center** (Indianola), William Faulkner's Home **Rowan Oak** (Oxford), **The Elvis Presley Birthplace Museum** (Tupelo), **The Walter Anderson Museum** (Ocean Springs), **Eudora Welty House & Garden** (Jackson) and the **The Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art** (Biloxi).
- If you want fine craftsmanship, Mississippi has plenty to offer at the **Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi** Chimneyville Arts Festival (Ridgeland) or the annual **Mississippi Makers Fest** at the **Two Mississippi Museums** (Jackson). An artist installation honoring Civil Rights Movement activists that emits light, music, and words is part of the Museum, which is

a powerful interpreter of the past of the state.

- Festivals in Mississippi showcase both celebrated and emerging artists. The **Mississippi Book Festival** (Jackson) and **Tennessee Williams Tribute** (Columbus) both place a strong emphasis on writers. Musicians flourish at the **Music by Women Festival** (Columbus), **FestivalSouth** (Hattiesburg), and America's longest-running music festival, the **Jimmie Rogers Festival** (Meridian). The **Choctaw Indian Fair** (Philadelphia) and **Mississippi Cultural Crossroads** (Port Gibson) both celebrate traditional cultures. Other can't-miss arts-based festivals include **Peter Anderson Arts & Crafts Festival** (Ocean Springs) as well as **Double Decker** (Oxford) and the **Cotton District Arts Festival** (Starkville).

3/22/2023



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