Connecticut Office of the Arts

The arts mean business in Connecticut.

Not only does Connecticut's vibrant arts sector contribute to its nation-leading quality of life, it generates millions in economic activity and thousands of jobs across the state. And since 1965, the Connecticut Office of the Arts has been fueling that impact by connecting creative organizations with financial resources and technical services to make the highest level of artistic expression and community engagement widely available to residents and visitors alike.

Focused on outcomes

In everything it does, the Office of the Arts is focused on creating tangible, positive outcomes. Programs provide more than financial resources, they are designed to leverage private contributions to maximize impact. This measurable impact is shaped by several key activities:

- **Funding opportunities for arts, community and education organizations, individual artists and municipalities.** Through a myriad of carefully vetted, prudently managed initiatives, the Office:
  - provides general operating support to arts organizations
  - offers project grants for programs that leverage the value of the arts to address other community needs
  - funds community-based public art projects
  - funds a regional grant program, in partnership with its nine Designated Regional Service Organizations
  - provides grants that advance teaching and learning in, about and through the arts

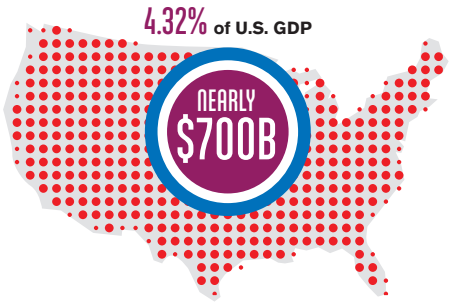
Enriching lives in all kind of ways

- **Art in state buildings.** The Office of the Arts infuses artwork into publicly accessible state buildings as part of the 1% for art allocation of the cost of construction or renovation of state buildings. And, as part of the allocation, COA maintains a collection of art work that supports, preserves and displays the work of Connecticut artists through rotating exhibitions in public locations.
- **Recognition of excellence in the arts.** COA supports exceptional talent through artists and arts administration fellowships, the state's Poet Laureate and State Troubadour, and the Governor's Arts Awards and Patron of the Arts Awards.
- **Arts in Education.** The Office of the Arts works to close the achievement gap and to prepare students for success in the 21st century through its Higher Order of Thinking (HOT) Schools program.
- **Folk & Traditional Arts.** In partnership with the Connecticut Historical Society's Cultural Heritage Arts program, COA provides support for artists to pursue, refine and reconnect with cultural traditions.
- **Features changing exhibitions.** COA promotes the work supported by its programs and services in the Gallery at Constitution Plaza in Hartford and features a range of cultural organizations in display cases at the Bradley International Airport.

Connecticut Office of the Arts

Fueling the economy

Many people don't realize how much the arts drive our nation's economy overall. In fact, the arts constitute 4.32% of the Gross Domestic Product, accounting for nearly $700 billion in total U.S. spending. That's higher than the GDP generated by our nation's construction, transportation or tourism activities.



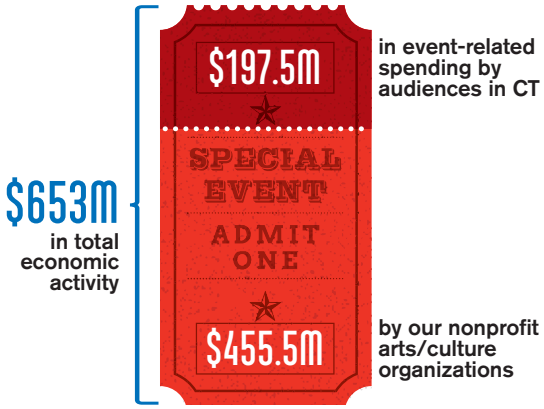
Source: *Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account* (ACPSA), National Endowment for the Arts & Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (2013)

Here in Connecticut, the arts enrich the cultural vibrancy of our communities, the educational experience for our teachers and students, the quality of life for our residents, the attractiveness of our state as a tourist destination—and the health of our economy.

Creating more jobs. There are nearly 11,000 arts-related businesses in Connecticut. And those businesses employ more than 36,000 people. In turn, those jobs provide $463 million in household income to local residents.

Source: *Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts*, Americans for the Arts (2015)

Generating more income. Connecticut's nonprofit arts sector also generates $653 million in statewide economic activity — thanks to a combination of both the spending of our nonprofit arts and cultural institutions as well as the spending of the many patrons and audiences those institutions attract.



Source: *The Arts & Economic Prosperity IV Study*, Americans for the Arts

Progress with partnerships

The Connecticut Office of the Arts works closely with partners to leverage best practices and to maximize resources that advance both the quality—and the impact—of the arts in our state.

Nationally and regionally, the Office of the Arts collaborates with a number of arts leaders, including:

- National Endowment for the Arts
- New England Foundation for the Arts
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
- Americans for the Arts
- Connecticut Arts Alliance

Across the state, the Office of the Arts works closely with other state agencies as well as the state's nine Designated Regional Service Organizations, which serve as local field offices to constituents and citizens. This statewide network plays a key role that is mutually beneficial to the State and its creative economy, and provides arts and cultural leadership at a regional level.

9 Designated Regional Service Organizations (DRSO)

- *Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County*
- *Northwest Connecticut Arts Council*
- *Cultural Alliance of Western CT*
- *Greater Hartford Arts Council*
- *Arts Council of Greater New Haven*
- *Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition*
- *Shoreline Arts Alliance*
- *Arts & Culture Collaborative, Waterbury*
- *Windham Arts*

Learn more about the impressive returns being generated by Connecticut's investment in the arts. For more information, visit **www.ct.gov/cct** or **facebook.com/CTOfficeoftheArts,** or call **(860)256-2800**.

Connecticut®
still revolutionary