



On behalf of the millions of artists, designers, and the creative economy, ArtsNYS thanks the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly for their ongoing leadership and support. We respectfully urge the Legislature to robustly invest in the arts and fund NYSCA at \$200 million. This investment directly supports over 1,600 organizations and thousands of artists, who in turn fuel local business spending, drive tourism, and enhance quality of life for all New Yorkers.

We also strongly support NYSCA's Statewide Community Regrant Program, which empowers local arts councils to distribute small but transformative grants of \$5,000 or less through a local decision-making process. These grants reach deeply into communities and ensure that state arts funding reaches communities in all 62 counties. Given its proven impact and the intensive outreach it requires, we advocate for a more robust investment in this program to expand its reach and effectiveness.

The arts are more than part of New York's identity—they are a pillar of our economy, delivering a powerful return on investment. Their impact is measurable, far-reaching, and essential to the state's economic vitality.

The numbers make the case. The arts contribute \$151.1 billion annually to New York's economy, accounting for 7.6% of the Gross State Product and employing over 450,000 people. (NASAA & U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022). To zoom in on two communities:

- Western NY's nonprofit arts sector generates \$381 million annually and supports 8,220 jobs—producing \$22.5 million in state tax revenue. That's more than six times what the region receives in NYSCA funding. (AEP6, 2023)
- Long Island's arts organizations generate \$330 million and return \$12.4 million in state tax revenue—five times what the region receives from NYSCA. (AEP6, 2023)

This investment in NYSCA pays for itself many times over.

The arts also play a critical role in attracting employers to New York. When Micron chose Central New York for its \$100 billion semiconductor facility, they cited the region's vibrant arts scene as a key factor. Thriving cultural sectors make communities more competitive, attract businesses, and help build and retain a strong and committed workforce.

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Survey, 73% of organizations report that creative thinking is one of the most critical skills for the modern workforce. Investing in the arts is investing in the future of New York's workforce and economy.

In every region of the state, artist populations have been rising—even in regions where the total population is declining—bringing new energy and revitalization. Notable regions include the Mohawk Valley, where the artist population has grown by 49.7%, the Capital Region, by 41.8%, and in the North Country, by 41.3%. (CUF, 2023)

We additionally ask the Legislature to allocate resources toward the creation of a Statewide Creative Economy Plan—a strategic effort to explore innovations in arts and culture funding and assess potential new revenue streams. This plan will ensure New York remains at the forefront of creative industry growth, leveraging the arts as a powerful economic engine for generations to come.

At a time when corporate, federal, and private arts funding is retreating, New York State must lead. A strong state investment in NYSCA will fuel jobs, attract businesses, and keep all of our communities thriving. The Legislature has the power to secure New York's creative future—by funding NYSCA at \$200 million, you will ensure that the arts continue to drive economic growth, strengthen local economies, and ensure that every New Yorker has access to art.



**Sources:**

- **NASAA:** National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. *Creative Economy States Profile, New York*. 2022 sourced by data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- **AEP6:** *Arts & Economic Prosperity Study 6: Americans for the Arts*. 2023
- **CUF:** Center for an Urban Future. *Upstate's Creative Spark Report*. Updated 2023.