# Why the Arts Matter in Arkansas

## National Arts Facts

**For-Profit & Non-Profit Arts & Culture Sectors Represent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>GDP</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nation's GDP</td>
<td>4.31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### $1.102 Trillion

- Arts & Culture
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Mining

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.


## Arkansas Arts Facts

**For-Profit & Non-Profit Arts & Culture Sectors Represent**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State's GDP</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>33,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3.5 Billion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### $980 M

- Mining

The Arkansas arts and culture sector was a $3.5 billion industry in 2022 (2.1% of the state's GDP), representing 33,243 jobs (2.5% of Arkansas' workforce), and total compensation of $1.9 billion.


## Economic Impact of Non-Profit Arts Industry & 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.

- 88.5% of audiences agreed with the statement “This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community”
- 87% of audiences agreed with the statement “My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations”


## Economic Impact of Non-Profit Arts Industry Only & Their Audiences

### Statewide

- $306.4 M Economic activity annually
- 4,800 Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated $49.4 million in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

- 91.6% of audiences agreed with the statement “This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community”
- 85.6% of audiences agreed with the statement “My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations”


## 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 Arkansas Arts & Culture Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>FY24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>$1,425,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEA State Grant</td>
<td>$821,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 NEA Direct Grants</td>
<td>$1,063,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NEA & NASAA, 2024
Crystal Bridges is the world’s premier art museum dedicated to American art. Attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, the extraordinary artworks, collected by Walmart heiress Alice Walton, is housed in an architectural wonder designed by Moshe Safdie.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

- Arkansas the Natural State lists small arts towns with marvelous arts and craft work [here](https://councilforartseducation.org/Arkansas).
- Find out about craft fairs in northwest Arkansas [here](https://councilforartseducation.org/Arkansas).
- For the lowdown on arts festivals and county fairs, go to [festivals4fun.org](https://festivals4fun.org).

For a list of arts centers and nonprofit associations go to [CouncilforArtsEducation.org/Arkansas](https://councilforartseducation.org/Arkansas).

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra
[arkansassymphony.org](http://arkansassymphony.org)

ARKANSANS FOR THE ARTS’ purpose is to serve the people of Arkansas as an independent statewide organization providing leadership focused on the promotion and advancement of the creative economy, on transforming policy in arts education, and uniting the state into one voice with a call to action by policy makers to increase investment in the arts.

Executive Director: Hana Mariah Hatta
Chair: Jean Lacefield

Learn more [here](https://arkansasforthearts.org/).
Join [here](https://arkansasforthearts.org/).

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE

- In **Little Rock**, the Arkansas Art Center offers art classes, art exhibitions, children’s theater, lectures, and tours. An extensive permanent collection features 20th-century and contemporary drawings.

- Arts events in **Rogers** range from Broadway-style productions at Arkansas Public Theatre to traveling exhibitions at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Also take in exhibitions at Ed Cooley Gallery and shows by the local Trike Theatre, featuring talented local youths. In **Bentonville**, you will find the **Museum of Native American History**. Here you can see works of art divided between the five eras of Native American History.

- **Hot Springs Music Festival** takes place every summer in the Ouachita Mountains of West Central Arkansas. The festival brings together 20 concerts and 250 open rehearsals over a two-week period. Hot Springs National Park is an artistic haven, with over 30 fine art galleries, hundreds of resident artists and home to a celebrated annual documentary film festival.

- If you’re in **Eureka Springs** in mid-June, you can catch the Eureka Springs Blues Weekend.

- In **Fort Smith**, catch a festival that’s been called “The Best Little Bluesfest in America.”

- **El Dorado’s** Murphy Arts District hosts its annual three day **Musicfest** in October.

- In **Fayetteville**, visit the **Walton Art Center**, which hosts many touring companies of Broadway shows. The Fayetteville Underground in the Historic Downtown Square has a new gallery and adjoining studio spaces.

- **The King Biscuit Blues Festival** attracts hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world to the banks of the Mississippi River in **Helena**.