

## THE STATE OF THE ARTS

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A discussion of the challenges, obstacles and opportunities facing the arts community today

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WASHINGTON STATE  
ARTS COMMISSION

*We envision a Washington where arts and culture are thriving and celebrated throughout the state.*

Information, grants, training and services including Project Support Grants, Art in Public Places, Arts in Education, Folk Arts, Creative Vitality Index. [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov)

artist | TRUST

Supporting Washington state artists working in all creative disciplines.  
Funding + training + resources. [www.artisttrust.org](http://www.artisttrust.org)

ArtsEd  
washington

Advancing arts education in Washington through professional development and advocacy. <http://artsedwashington.org>



National nonprofit organization for arts advocacy, information, research, networking.  
[www.artsusa.org](http://www.artsusa.org)

National Assembly of  
State Arts Agencies

National service organization to strengthen state arts agencies.  
Research, advocacy tools, publications.  
[www.nasaa-arts.org](http://www.nasaa-arts.org)



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the official arts organization of the US government and the largest annual funder of the arts in the country.  
Grants, program initiatives, research, partnerships.  
[www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

## THE IMPACT OF THE ARTS: WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

**The arts help communities to prosper.** The arts are part of a well-diversified 21st-century economy. Nonprofit arts organizations and other creative enterprises make significant contributions to state and local economies, generating employment and tax revenues and providing goods and services in high demand by the public. In 2008, there were more than 100,000 creative sector jobs in Washington State. (Sources: National Governors Association at [www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0901ARTSANDECONOMY.PDF](http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0901ARTSANDECONOMY.PDF); Americans for the Arts at [www.artsusa.org/pdf/get\\_involved/advocacy/research/2009/economicimpact09.pdf](http://www.artsusa.org/pdf/get_involved/advocacy/research/2009/economicimpact09.pdf); Washington State Arts Commission at [www.arts.wa.gov/resources/documents/Creative-Vitality-Index-2010-Update.pdf](http://www.arts.wa.gov/resources/documents/Creative-Vitality-Index-2010-Update.pdf))

**The arts attract tourism revenue.** Approximately 118 million cultural travelers include arts and heritage in their trips each year. Compared with other travelers, cultural tourists stay longer and spend 36% more money at their destinations. (Sources: [www.culturalheritagetourism.org/documents/CHTStudyOct2009.pdf](http://www.culturalheritagetourism.org/documents/CHTStudyOct2009.pdf) and [www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Creative-Economic-Development/Cultural-Visitor-Profile.php](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Creative-Economic-Development/Cultural-Visitor-Profile.php))

“People don't come to America for our airports, people don't come to America for our hotels... they come for our culture, real and imagined.”

Garrison Keillor

**The arts are a sound rural development strategy.** The arts help to address some of the unique challenges faced by rural communities, including geographic isolation, infrastructure limitations and population flight. The arts can help to diversify rural economies by creating sustainable small businesses, improving quality of life for residents, and attracting visitors and investment. (Source: National Governors Association at [www.nga.org/Files/pdf/RURALARTS.pdf](http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/RURALARTS.pdf))

### CIVIC BENEFITS

**The arts contribute to community vitality.** A growing body of research points to the arts as an engine for civic renewal. Citizen engagement in the arts creates a strong shared identity and instills pride in a state's cultural heritage. (Sources: The Community Arts Network at [www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archive/mec/exactchange4.pdf](http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archive/mec/exactchange4.pdf); Social Impact of the Arts Project /The Reinvestment Fund at [www.trfund.com/resource/downloads/creativity/Economy.pdf](http://www.trfund.com/resource/downloads/creativity/Economy.pdf); The Urban Institute at [www.urban.org/communities/arts.cfm](http://www.urban.org/communities/arts.cfm))

**The arts bring public spaces to life.** Artworks and arts activities make public spaces livable, attractive and distinctive, engaging residents in the creation of welcoming and sustainable places to live, work, play and raise families. (Sources: The Community Arts Network at [www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archive/mec/exactchange4.pdf](http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archive/mec/exactchange4.pdf); Social Impact of the Arts Project / The Reinvestment Fund at [www.trfund.com/resource/downloads/creativity/Economy.pdf](http://www.trfund.com/resource/downloads/creativity/Economy.pdf))

**The arts foster civic participation and a strong democracy.** The arts enhance our ability to illustrate viewpoints, to dramatize issues, to inspire action and to see things through the eyes of others—all necessary components of a thriving democracy. Americans who engage in the arts are more likely to engage in other aspects of community life, such as voting and volunteering. The arts also enhance civic dialogue, capturing the American experience and giving voice to our joys and aspirations and the conscience of our communities. (Sources: National Endowment for the Arts at <http://arts.gov/pub/CivicEngagement.pdf>, Americans for the Arts at [www.americansforthearts.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading\\_room/Animating\\_Democracy\\_Study.pdf](http://www.americansforthearts.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading_room/Animating_Democracy_Study.pdf))

## EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE BENEFITS

### **Students engaged in the arts perform better academically.**

Numerous longitudinal research studies have documented that students who receive arts education exhibit improvements in their performance in other subjects, including reading and math achievement, and on standardized test scores. (Sources: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies / Arts Education Partnership at [www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Arts-Education/critical-evidence.pdf](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Arts-Education/critical-evidence.pdf); The College Board at [www.artsusa.org/pdf/get\\_involved/advocacy/research/2009/sat\\_artse\\_d09.pdf](http://www.artsusa.org/pdf/get_involved/advocacy/research/2009/sat_artse_d09.pdf); University of California at Los Angeles at <http://gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/files/catterall/catterall.involvement.pdf>)

“If we are going to be on the cutting edge of a global economy, we need well rounded citizens who use their imagination to solve our world’s problems. Arts are one way to insure that America remains an Imagine Nation.”

National Association of Secondary School Principals

### **The arts help kids to succeed in school and life.**

Students who receive arts education have stronger social skills, improved motivation to learn and more esteem for themselves and their peers. Arts education helps to create a positive school environment in which learning and human development can occur. There is growing recognition that the arts spur innovation, provide teachers with more effective classroom strategies, engage students in learning, and create a climate of high performance in schools. Washington State requires that all students graduate with one credit in the arts, yet 63% of principals are dissatisfied with the quantity of arts education in their schools. (Sources: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies at [www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Arts-Education/Research\\*Based-Communication-Toolkit.php](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Arts-Education/Research*Based-Communication-Toolkit.php); University of California at Los Angeles at <http://gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/files/catterall/catterall.involvement.pdf>; Arts Education Partnership at [www.aep-arts.org/publications/info.htm?publication\\_id=19](http://www.aep-arts.org/publications/info.htm?publication_id=19); President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities at [http://www.pcah.gov/sites/default/files/photos/PCAH\\_Reinvesting\\_4web.pdf](http://www.pcah.gov/sites/default/files/photos/PCAH_Reinvesting_4web.pdf); Washington State Arts Commission at [www.arts.wa.gov/education/aeri.shtml](http://www.arts.wa.gov/education/aeri.shtml)).

**Arts education provides skills critical to 21st-century success.** In a global economy that is driven by knowledge and ideas, arts education is a necessity. The best paying jobs require workers with creativity and higher order thinking and communication skills, and companies are increasingly looking for these qualities in the workers they recruit. While studying the arts, students hone their perceptual, analytic and interpretive skills while developing creative thinking, communications and problem-solving abilities. Eighty-five percent of business leaders say they can’t find enough job applicants with creativity and innovation skills. Arts education, K-12 and beyond, is part of the solution to this challenge. (Sources: Education Commission of the States at [gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/files/catterall/catterall.involvement.pdf](http://gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/files/catterall/catterall.involvement.pdf); National Governors Association at [www.nga.org/Files/pdf/050102ARTSED.pdf](http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/050102ARTSED.pdf); National Assembly of State Arts Agencies at [www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Arts-Education/rbc-toolkit-section1.pdf](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Arts-Education/rbc-toolkit-section1.pdf); Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills at [www.p21.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=119](http://www.p21.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=119); The Conference Board at [www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/information\\_services/research/policy\\_roundtable/ReadytoInnovateFull.pdf](http://www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/information_services/research/policy_roundtable/ReadytoInnovateFull.pdf))

**The arts keep kids in school.** Dropout rates are causing serious academic and economic concerns for many communities. Numerous studies have found that arts education programs can help to reduce dropout rates, increasing the retention and engagement rates of students and raising educational attainment levels. (Sources: Center for Arts Education at [www.cae-nyc.org/sites/default/files/docs/CAE\\_Arts\\_and\\_Graduation\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cae-nyc.org/sites/default/files/docs/CAE_Arts_and_Graduation_Report.pdf); National Assembly of State Arts Agencies / Arts Education Partnership at [www.cae-nyc.org/sites/default/files/docs/CAE\\_Arts\\_and\\_Graduation\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cae-nyc.org/sites/default/files/docs/CAE_Arts_and_Graduation_Report.pdf))