Arts & Culture Philanthropy

Arts and cultural institutions can help build stronger societies and create deeper understandings of humanity and the world. However, many arts organizations are chronically underfunded, and the arts and culture ecosystem has often excluded voices from marginalized communities.

HOW TO GET STARTED

For additional information or help getting started, email info@rockpa.org.

WHO WORKS IN THE ARTS & CULTURE SPACE?

Arts & cultural institutions
Arts educators
Public media
Art collectors
Technology companies & entrepreneurs
Public arts funders
Corporations, foundations & individual donors

PHILANTHROPY TRENDS

Philanthropists have long supported arts and cultural programs and institutions. However, a lack of public funding highlights the need for arts philanthropy. In the United States, for example, the National Endowment for the Arts received a mere 0.003% of the federal budget in FY 2020. In 2018, arts giving from the 1,000 largest foundations totaled $3 billion, a 4% increase from the previous year.

Of that amount, the top recipients were:

- Performing arts: 29%
- Museums: 24%
- Multidisciplinary arts: 19%
- Humanities: 11%
- Visual arts: 9%

The biggest donors have an outsized influence on the sector; the top 25 funders represented 42% of foundation arts dollars.

HOW FUNDERS ARE ENGAGING WITH ARTS AND CULTURE

Equity & representation in the arts
Overall, diversity in the workforce is increasing, but there is still progress to be made.

Capacity-building for arts organizations
The Mosaic Network and Fund strengthens the capacity of African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American arts groups.

Arts programming that centers local communities
Tippet Rise Art Center uses art, music, architecture, and nature, to contribute to community development in rural Montana.

Investment in creative projects in low-income communities
Upstart Co-Lab connects impact investors in the United States with opportunities to boost the creative economy.

Arts addressing social issues
The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund supports organizations that use the arts to address health issues in New York communities.

Storytelling for social justice
The Art for Justice Fund invests in artists and works to end mass incarceration in the United States.

Capacity-building for arts organizations
The First Peoples Fund supports Native artists and culture bearers and capacity building for Native organizations.

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HOW TO GET STARTED

Engage with member organizations and peer-learning networks focused on the intersection of arts and philanthropy.

Get to know arts organizations of interest and learn about their unique needs.

Connect with community foundations to learn about new organizations, meet other arts donors, and engage with local arts programming.

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