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Minnesota State Arts Board

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<https://www.arts.state.mn.us/>

AT A GLANCE

- The arts are a significant industry in Minnesota, generating more than \$1.6 billion in economic activity each year.
- Minnesota is home to more than 1,900 nonprofit arts organizations and 138,000 artists and creative workers.
- Together, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the state's 11 regional arts councils serve residents and communities in all 87 Minnesota counties.
- Activities supported by the Arts Board and the regional arts councils during the FY 2024-25 biennium served a combined audience of 28.2 million children and adults.

PURPOSE

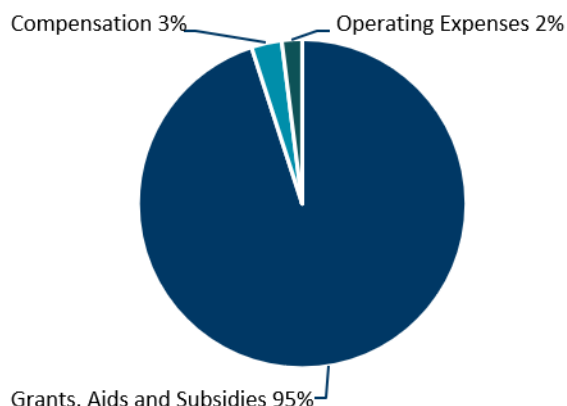
The Minnesota State Arts Board stimulates and encourages the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts. It serves as an adviser, resource, and policy maker by distributing grants and other forms of assistance for artistic activities; it also serves as the fiscal agent for legislative appropriations to eleven regional arts councils.

The essential role of the arts is to inspire, enlighten, connect, and challenge individuals. They give us new experiences and help us understand the world from others' point of view. In addition, the arts also produce tremendous secondary benefits that help Minnesota achieve many of its most important public goals.

Research shows that the arts increase academic achievement. Nontraditional learners or at-risk students often become high achievers in arts learning settings; this success becomes a bridge to learning in other areas. The arts stimulate 21st century work skills, including creativity, empathy, and collaboration which are vital characteristics of the jobs and the workforce of the future. Arts bring people together. Residents of a community better understand their new immigrant neighbors after experiencing a traditional story or dance. A struggling downtown begins to hum with new energy on the evenings the community arts center offers a concert. Towns celebrate their identity and heritage through annual arts festivals. Artists and arts participation build social capital—the social bonds and civic engagement needed in a healthy, thriving society.

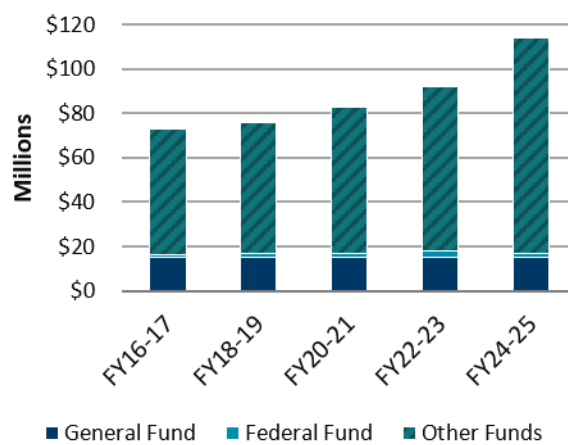
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2025 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The board receives an appropriation from the State’s general fund and from the State’s arts and cultural heritage fund (ACHF). Appropriations from the ACHF may be spent only “for arts, arts education, and arts access and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.” The board also receives an annual state partnership grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

STRATEGIES

The Arts Board provides financial support and other services to enable Minnesota and its residents and communities to reap the many benefits the arts provide. To accomplish its mission, the board is pursuing the following long-term goals and strategies:

- The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life
 - Develop strategic relationships and partnerships
- Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are
 - Enhance public understanding of the value of the arts
- People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts
 - Fully engage with nontraditional and underrepresented participants
 - Transform everyone’s life by experiencing the arts
- People trust Minnesota’s stewardship of public arts funding
 - Provide an accountable arts support system
 - Be responsible stewards of public funds
- The arts thrive in Minnesota
 - Foster visionary, skilled arts leaders and organizations statewide
 - Ensure sufficient resources to sustain the arts and artists
 - Serve as a clearinghouse of information on best practices and successful programs

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of persons who benefit from funded activities	Quantity	Arts Board and regional arts council grantees provide audience/ participant numbers for funded activities	FY 2022-2023 biennium = 24,618,934 persons	FY 2024-2025 biennium = 28,249,992 persons
Number of grant applications reviewed and grants awarded	Quantity	Arts Board data on applications and grants for its own programs and for the eleven regional arts councils	FY 2022-2023 biennium Arts Board and regions combined: 7,624 applications 5,309 grants awarded	FY 2024-2025 biennium Arts Board and regions combined: 8,313 applications 5,337 grants awarded
Percent of employers who say arts are important to success of their business	Results	Management Analysis and Development survey in 2022	70% said arts are important to the success of their business in 2019, the baseline year	79% said arts are important to the success of their business in 2026

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

The Arts Board provides funding for arts activities open widely to the public. The Board doesn't conduct scientific control group studies.

That said, the Arts Board maintains an arts dashboard

(https://www.arts.state.mn.us/impact/dashboard/MN_Arts_Dashboard_2025_June.pdf) that measures key indicators we have been tracking over time. In 2026, we commissioned two research studies to help measure the impact of Arts Board funded activities on the health and well-being of participants, and on the impact of arts activities on positive youth development. This year, we have just begun a similar commissioned research study to measure the impact Arts Board funded activities have on promoting thriving communities.

The Arts Board's authorizing statute is M.S. 129D.01-129D.05. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=129D>