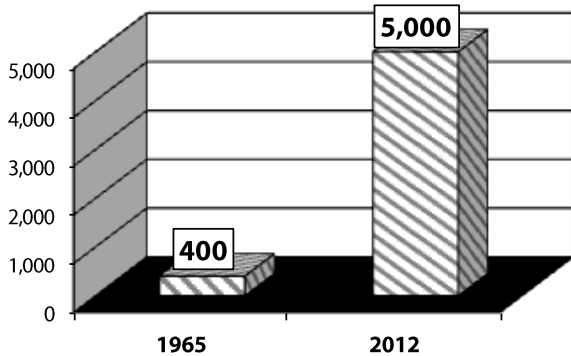




### Arts Facts . . . Local Arts Agencies

Local arts agencies work to ensure a vital presence for the arts in communities across the country. They provide services to sustain their local arts industries and endeavor to make the arts accessible to every member of their community.

**Estimated Growth in Number of Local Arts Agencies: 1965 to 2012**



### Local Arts Agency Programs

Cultural Programming	81%
Services to Artists and Organizations	79%
Arts Education	72%
Grantmaking	67%
Facility Management	54%
Cultural Planning	34%

A local arts agency (LAA) promotes, supports, and develops the arts at the local level to strengthen the daily fabric of community living. There are more than 5,000 LAAs in the U.S.: 75 percent are private nonprofit organizations, 25 percent are agencies of city or county government. LAA budgets range from all-volunteer to over \$150 million dollars. Each LAA in America is unique to the community that it serves and each changes as its community changes—no two are exactly alike. What they all share is the goal of enabling diverse forms of arts and culture to thrive, ensuring their broad accessibility to the public and building healthier communities through the arts.

Local government arts funding grew for the third consecutive year in 2014, following a 3-year decline during the Great Recession. The 60 largest U.S. cities alone will receive \$515 million from their local governments in 2014.

- Funding Innovations:** While not all local government arts dollars flow through their budgets, LAAs are instrumental in leveraging public and private sector support for artists and arts organizations. The establishment of local option taxes—designated tax revenue streams used to fund the arts—provide long-term arts funding benefits: Examples include St. Louis' property tax (\$70 million per year), San Francisco's hotel tax (\$30 million per year), and Denver's sales tax (\$45 million per year).
- Partnerships:** 96 percent of LAAs maintain at least one collaboration or partnership with public or community agencies such as a school district, Parks & Recreation Department, Social Services, Economic Development Agency, or a Chamber of Commerce. 89 percent have three or more ongoing collaborations.
- Cultural Planning:** LAAs typically lead community cultural planning efforts—a community-inclusive process of assessing local cultural needs and mapping a plan of implementation. In communities with a cultural plan, local government arts funding grows at a faster rate than in communities without a cultural plan.
- Arts Education:** 72 percent of LAAs implement arts education programs and activities, including providing artists in the schools, teacher training, and arts education advocacy.

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2014.