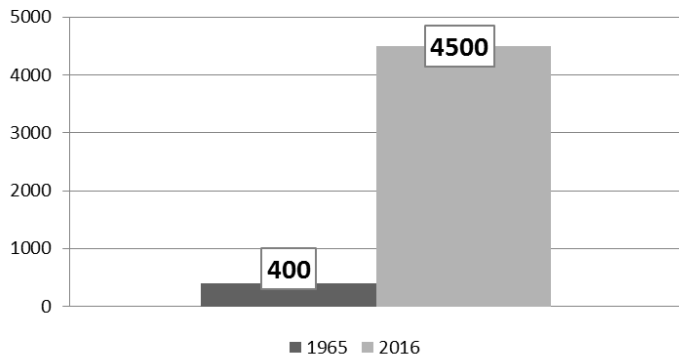




Arts Facts . . . Local Arts Agencies

Local arts agencies work to ensure a vital presence for the arts in communities across the country. They provide programs, services and grants 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 2016



Local Arts Agency Programs

Cultural Programming	78%
Services to Artists and Organizations	90%
Arts Education	89%
Grantmaking	53%
Facility Management	59%
Cultural Planning	28%

A local arts agency (LAA) promotes, supports, and advances the arts at the local level and seeks to integrate the arts into the daily fabric of community living. There are 4,500 LAAs in the U.S.: 71 percent are private nonprofit organizations, 29 percent are government agencies. LAA budgets range from all-volunteer to \$156 million. Each LAA in America is unique to the community that it serves and each adapts 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 to their LAAs grew for the 5th consecutive year in 2016 to \$795.1 million, up from \$738.1 in 2015 (+8 percent), increases that followed a four-year decline resulting from the Great Recession. This local estimate is conservative as it includes only the 1,127 respondents from the 2015 Local Arts Agency Census. Total budgets of these 1,127 LAAs are approximately \$795 million in 2016.

- 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), Denver’s sales tax (\$45 million per year), and Cuyahoga County’s cigarette tax (15 million).
- Partnerships:** 92 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. 76 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, both LAA budgets and local government arts funding grow at a faster rate than in communities without a cultural plan. LAAs also contribute to local strategic plans on issues such as tourism, economic development, and urban planning. They are instrumental in guiding public art efforts.
- Arts Education:** 89 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, 2016.