ARTS PROGRAMMING

Ninety-one percent of local arts agencies (LAAs) connect members of their communities to arts and cultural experiences—either through presenting their own programs (78 percent) and/or by investing in arts and culture organizations that present locally (50 percent).

Free concerts in the park, art exhibitions at city hall, public art on the plaza, murals in the community, and arts festivals are just some of the ways LAAs make the arts accessible. Programs in the visual arts, theater, and music are the most frequently presented, but folk and traditional arts, film presentations, and living collections (such as zoos and botanical gardens) are also supported. Twenty-four percent of LAAs produce “gap programming,” partnering with a specific under-represented segment of the community or filling an artistic discipline or cultural void that may exist due to the absence of a particular cultural organization in a community.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES BY THE NUMBERS

- Public LAAs are more likely than private LAAs to fund programming (65 percent vs. 44 percent).
- Private LAAs are more likely to present programming (83 percent vs. 67 percent).
- LAAs are more likely to present and produce public art, festivals, and art classes than fund those through grants.
- Film and video, living collections, and historical associations are more likely to be funded through grants or contracts than to be directly presented by LAAs.