COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Local arts agencies (LAAs) build healthier communities through the arts. Fifty-seven percent use the arts to address community development issues ranging from helping underserved youth and the homeless population to investing in a community’s creative economy and its cultural districts.

Whether through cultural planning or community partnerships, LAAs identify community needs and design arts programs and services to address them. Tourism (40 percent), economic development (34 percent), underserved youth (28 percent) and cultural or racial awareness (26 percent) are some of the most common areas targeted by LAAs—either directly through their programming or by funding a grantee.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES BY THE NUMBERS

- 49 percent address community development issues through their own arts programming.
- 28 percent address key issues through grants or contracts awarded to artists or arts organizations in their community.
- Among the LAAs in the 60 largest U.S. cities, 75 percent are using the arts to address community development; 59 percent through their own programming, 63 percent by funding a grantee.