In 2021, private sector giving to arts, culture, and humanities—by individuals, foundations, and corporations—increased 27.5% to $23.50 billion. This is a new high-water mark for total giving to the arts. Even when adjusted for inflation, this represents a remarkable 21.8% increase.

As a percentage of all charitable giving, the arts grew to 4.8% in 2021—rebounding from just 4.0% in 2020. Maintaining a strong and steady share of overall philanthropy demonstrates relevance of the arts sector. Even small fluctuations in the share of total philanthropy have significant financial implications. The arts have historically been procyclical, meaning contributions grow faster than average in good economic times, but shrink more than average in tough times.

Private contributions to all charities were up 4.0% in 2021 (-0.7% when adjusted for inflation), reaching $484.85 billion. Total giving by corporations soared +23.8% ($21.08 billion), foundations increased 3.4% ($90.88 billion), and individual giving maintained an upward trajectory with a 4.9% increase ($326.87 billion).