

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Americans are more engaged in the arts now than ever before as a result of the remarkable growth and impact of our nation's 4,500 local arts agencies—nonprofit organizations and municipal agencies that work tirelessly to ensure that the arts and culture have a vital presence in America's communities.

The findings in this report are based on 633 survey responses that were collected from participating LAAs during May through August of 2019.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES BY THE NUMBERS:

- 95% use the arts to address **community development** issues such as social, education, or economic challenges.
- 82% of local arts agency staff **self-identify as white only**, including 91% of chief staff executives (i.e., executive director, president/CEO).
- 83% expect the **demand for their services** to increase over the next two years (including 27% that expect a “significant” increase in demand).
- 76% provide **arts education** programs and/or services to the community.
- 76% **provide financial support directly to organizations and/or artists** in any form such as grants, contracts start-up capital, loans/microloans, and/or commissions/fellowships/scholarships—63% to organizations, and 65% to individual artists.
 - 58% operate a competitive **grantmaking** program—55% award grants to organizations, and 39% award grants to individual artists.
- 70% are **private nonprofit organizations**; 30% are **government agencies**.
- 64% report that their **operating budget increased or remained the same** between FY2018 and FY2019 (54% and 10%, respectively). 36% experienced a budget decrease.
- 62% manage one or more **cultural facilities** (e.g., performance or exhibition spaces, arts centers, galleries, incubators).
- 54% manage a **public art** program; 33% of those manage a **percent-for-art** program.
- 49% work in **partnerships** with their local Chamber of Commerce.
- 49% have adopted a **diversity, equity, and inclusion** statement.
 - 40% have a diversity policy for **staff**
 - 36% have a diversity policy for **board/commission members**
 - 34% have a diversity policy for **grantmaking/funding programs**
 - 48% believe that they have the **appropriate level of diversity among staff, board, and volunteers**.
- 49% work in communities that have **integrated the arts into a community-wide planning effort** such as a city's master plan or a foundation's regional needs assessment.
- 34% report that their community has completed (or updated) a **community cultural plan** within the past five years.
- 25% of municipal LAA chief staff executives are **members of their mayor's (or county executive's) "cabinet"** of senior staff advisors.