10 Reasons to Support the Arts in 2020

The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts bring us joy, help us express our values, and build bridges between cultures. The arts are also a fundamental component of a healthy community—strengthening them socially, educationally, and economically—benefits that persist even in difficult social and economic times.

1. **Arts improve individual well-being.** 69% of the population believe the arts “lift me up beyond everyday experiences,” 73% feel the arts give them “pure pleasure to experience and participate in,” and 81 percent say the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world.”

2. **Arts unify communities.** 72% of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity” and 73% agree that the arts “helps me understand other cultures better”—a perspective observed across all demographic and economic categories.

3. **Arts improve academic performance.** Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status. Yet, the Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers. **91% of Americans** believe that arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.

4. **Arts strengthen the economy.** The production of all arts and cultural goods in the U.S. (e.g., nonprofit, commercial, education) added $804 billion to the economy in 2016, including a $25 billion international trade surplus—a larger share of the nation’s economy (4.3%) than transportation, tourism, and agriculture (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis). The nonprofit arts industry alone generates $166.3 billion in economic activity annually—spending by organizations and their audiences—which supports 4.6 million jobs and generates $27.5 billion in government revenue.

5. **Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses.** Attendees at nonprofit arts events spend $31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and babysitters—valuable commerce for local businesses. 34% of attendees live outside the county in which the arts event takes place; they average $47.57 in event-related spending. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.

6. **Arts spark creativity and innovation.** Creativity is among the top five applied skills sought by business leaders, per the Conference Board’s *Ready to Innovate* report—with 72% saying creativity is of high importance when hiring. Research on creativity shows that Nobel laureates in the sciences are 17 times more likely to be actively engaged in the arts than other scientists.

7. **Arts drive the creative industries.** The Creative Industries are arts businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theaters to for-profit film, architecture, and design companies. A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data counts 673,656 businesses in the U.S. involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.01% of all businesses and 2.04% of all employees. (Get a free local Creative Industry report for your community [here](#).

8. **Arts have social impact.** University of Pennsylvania researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates.

9. **Arts improve healthcare.** Nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78% deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.

10. **Arts for the health and well-being of our military.** The arts heal the mental, physical, and moral injuries of war for military servicemembers and Veterans, who rank the creative arts therapies in the top four (out of 40) interventions and treatments. Across the military continuum, the arts promote resilience during pre-deployment, deployment, and the reintegration of military servicemembers, Veterans, their families, and caregivers into communities.
What Americans Say About the Arts

Americans are highly engaged in the arts and believe more strongly than ever that the arts promote personal well-being, help us understand other cultures in our community, are essential to a well-rounded K-12 education, and that government has an important role in funding the arts.

1. “The arts provide meaning to our lives.” 69% of Americans believe the arts “lift me up beyond everyday experiences,” 73% feel the arts give them “pure pleasure to experience and participate in,” and 81% say the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world.”

2. “The arts unify our communities.” The personal benefits of the arts extend beyond the individual to the community. 72% believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity” and 73% agree that the arts “helps me understand other cultures better.”

3. “Most of us seek out arts experiences.” Nearly three-quarters of the adult population (72%) attended an arts or cultural event during the previous year, such as the theater, museum, zoo, or a musical performance.

4. “We experience the arts in unexpected places.” Americans also enjoy the arts in "non-traditional" venues, such as a symphony in the park, a performance in an airport, or exhibitions in a hospital or shopping mall (70%).

5. “There is near universal support for arts education.” 91% agree that the arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education. Over 90% say students should receive an education in the arts in elementary school, middle school, and high school 89% say the arts should also be taught outside of the classroom in the community.

6. “We support government arts funding at all levels.” Most Americans approve of arts funding by local government (60%), state government (58%), federal government (54%), and by the National Endowment for the Arts (64%).

7. “We will vote for candidates who increase arts funding.” 53% support increasing federal government spending on nonprofit arts organizations (vs. 22% against). Americans are twice as likely to vote for a candidate who increases federal arts spending from 45 cents to $1 per person than against one (37% vs. 18%).

8. “We make art in our personal time.” Half of all Americans are personally involved in art-making activities such as painting, singing in a choir, making crafts, writing poetry, or playing music (47%).

9. “Creativity boosts job success.” 55% of employed adults say their job requires them to “be creative and come up with ideas that are new and unique.” An even greater proportion (60%) say that the more creative and innovative they are at their job, the more successful they are in the workplace.

10. “Cultural institutions add value to our community.” Whether people engage with the arts or not, 90% believe cultural facilities (theaters, museums, sculpture parks, neighborhood arts centers) improve quality of life, and 86% believe cultural facilities are important to local business and the economy.

11. “We donate to the arts.” 24% of the population donated to an arts, culture, or public broadcasting organization in the previous year. Donors were typically younger and had higher incomes and education.

12. “Not everyone in my community has equal access to the arts.” Despite many benefits that the arts bring to individuals and communities, just 50% believe that “everyone in their community has equal access to the arts.”

*Americans Speak Out About the Arts* in 2018, conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs for Americans for the Arts in 2018, is based on a nationally representative sample of 3,023 adults.
Revenue Sources for Nonprofit Arts & Cultural Organizations (Estimated)

Support for the nonprofit arts is a mosaic of funding sources—a delicate 60-30-10 balance of earned revenue, private sector contributions, and government support. The chart above provides a snapshot of the revenue picture for a typical nonprofit arts and cultural organization in the U.S. Considering that there are more than 100,000 such organizations, including public sector ones, the revenue picture for individual organizations can vary widely.

1. **Earned income** represents a little over half of the total revenue pie and includes ticket sales, sponsorships, fundraising events, and investment and endowment income.

2. **Private sector** contributions (individual, foundation, and corporate giving) are the second largest portion of the revenue pie—accounting for about one-third of revenue. The largest segment is comprised of individuals.

3. **Government** funding—local, state, and federal—is the smallest of the three revenue categories, yet is a vital lever in generating private sector contributions. Note that total federal arts support is not limited to the National Endowment for the Arts. It also includes the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and even arts programming within the agencies such as the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education. Local and state governments have similarly diverse sources of arts funding.

Source: Estimate by Americans for the Arts based on analyses of federal and industry association data. 2020.

www.AmericansForTheArts.org
**Government Funding to Arts Agencies**

*Federal, State, and Local: 2000 - 2020*

[Millions of Dollars]

- **Local** government funding to their local arts agencies will be an estimated $912 million in 2020 and has been growing steadily at approximately 3% annually since the four-year decline during the Great Recession. There are an estimated 4,500 local arts agencies in the U.S. ($912 million = $2.76 per capita)

- **State** legislative arts appropriations are expected to increase significantly from $370.5 million in FY2019 to $494.2 million in FY2020 (+37%)—a new high-water mark in state arts agency funding. ($494.2 million = $15.00 per capita)

- **Federal** appropriations to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) increased to $162.25 million in 2020, up from $155 million in 2019. The 2020 level remains lower than the 2010 appropriation of $167.5 million; the highest level of NEA funding was $176 million in 1992. ($162.25 million = 49 cents per capita)

Note: These figures are limited to government funding directly to the NEA, state arts agencies, and local arts agencies. They do not represent the full breadth of government funding, such as legislative line items to cultural organizations, facilities, or arts funding by non-arts government agencies.

Sources: Americans for the Arts, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, U.S Census Bureau 2020. Updated February 2020
*Estimated
### NEA Appropriations History
#### Fiscal Years 1966 to 2020

**Fiscal Year** | **Total Funds**
---|---
1966 | $2,898,308
1967 | $8,475,692
1968 | $7,774,291
1969 | $8,456,875
1970 | $9,055,000
1971 | $16,420,000
1972 | $31,480,000
1973 | $40,857,000
1974 | $64,025,000
1975 | $80,142,000
1976 | $87,455,000
1977 | $99,872,000
1978 | $123,850,000
1979 | $149,585,000
1980 | $154,610,000
1981 | $158,795,000
1982 | $143,456,000
1983 | $143,875,000
1984 | $163,660,000
1985 | $162,223,000
1986 | $158,822,040
1987 | $165,281,000
1988 | $167,731,000
1989 | $169,090,000
1990 | $171,255,000
1991 | $174,080,000
1992 | $176,000,000
1993 | $174,459,382
1994 | $175,954,680
1995 | $162,311,000
1996 | $99,470,000
1997 | $99,494,000
1998 | $174,459,382
1999 | $97,968,000
2000 | $97,627,600
2001 | $104,769,000
2002 | $115,220,000
2003 | $115,731,000
2004 | $120,971,000
2005 | $121,263,000
2006 | $124,406,353
2007 | $124,561,844
2008 | $144,706,800
2009 | $146,021,000
2010 | $146,021,000
2011 | $146,020,000
2012 | $146,020,992
2013 | $154,690,000
2014 | $167,500,000
2015 | $162,250,000
2016 | $147,949,000
2017 | $150,000,000
2018 | $152,800,000
2019 | $155,000,000
2020 | $162,250,000

**Arts Facts... National Endowment for the Arts**
The NEA supports the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America—a profound responsibility yet funded by Congress at a rate of just 49 cents per capita.
The NEA budget has long failed to keep pace with inflation and its share of federal non-defense discretionary spending. When adjusted for inflation, the NEA’s 1992 budget is more than twice the 2020 budget.

If the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) had simply maintained its 1984 percentage of non-defense discretionary spending (11 cents per $100 of spending), the 2020 NEA budget would be $693.2 million instead of $162.25 million.

If the NEA’s 1992 budget had simply remained constant and was only adjusted for inflation, it would have been $321 million in 2019, instead of $155 million, a $166 million difference.

Source: NEA; Congressional Budget Office. Analysis by Americans for the Arts, 2020.
In 2018, private sector giving to the arts, culture, and humanities—by individuals, foundations, and corporations—was $19.49 billion, up a fractional 0.3% from a revised $19.43 billion in 2017. When adjusted for inflation, however, this represents a decrease (-2.1%).

The percentage of all charitable giving to the arts in 2018 held steady at 4.6%. 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.

Private contributions to all charities were up 0.7% (-1.7% when adjusted for inflation) reaching $424.74 billion in 2018. Total giving by foundations grew 7.3% to its highest amount ever ($75.86 billion) and corporate giving increased 5.4% to $20.1 billion. Giving by individuals, however, decreased for the first time in five years (-3.4% with inflation) to $292.09 billion—and dropped below 70% of all giving (to 68%) for the first time since 1954.

Arts Facts... Creative Industries are an Economic Engine

In 2017, there were 673,656 businesses in the U.S. involved in the creation or distribution of the arts that employed 3.48 million people. This represents 4% of all businesses and 2% of all employees in the U.S.

Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts provides a research-based approach to understanding the size and economic importance of the arts in the U.S. The creative industries are comprised of arts businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theaters to for-profit film, architecture, and design companies. Nationally, 673,656 businesses are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts; they employ 3.48 million people. This represents 4.01% of all U.S. businesses and 2.01% of all U.S. employees—demonstrating statistically that the arts are a formidable business presence and broadly distributed across our communities. The source for these data is Dun & Bradstreet, the most comprehensive and trusted source for business information in the United States. These data are current as of April 2017.

Minnesota Congressional District 4
U.S. Representative Betty McCollum

MN-4 is home to 1,912 arts-related businesses that employ 9,069 people. The creative industries account for 5.1% of the total number of businesses located in MN-4 and 1.9% of the people they employ.

Ohio Congressional District 14
U.S. Representative David Joyce

OH-14 is home to 1,517 arts-related businesses that employ 6,713 people. The creative industries account for 3.6% of the total number of businesses located in OH-14 and 1.5% of the people they employ.

How many arts businesses in your community?

A two-page Creative Industry report is available for every state, Congressional District, state legislative districts, and county in the U.S.—more than 11,000 in all—as well as a full suite of user tools!


www.AmericansForTheArts.org
Arts Facts . . . Arts are an Export Industry
Arts and cultural goods and services had an international trade surplus of $25 billion in 2016. The arts consistently outperform the overall U.S. Balance of Trade.

Arts and Cultural Production Imports and Exports 1998-2016
[Billions of Dollars]

- The United States has exported more arts and cultural goods and services than it imported since 2006, including during the Great Recession. In 2016, the arts netted a $25-billion-dollar international trade surplus.

- The arts have outperformed the overall U.S. Balance of Trade, increasing its surplus tenfold from 2006 to 2016, while the U.S. goods and services trade has registered a deficit every year over the same period.

- Within the arts industries, some manufacturing-based commodities such as musical instruments and jewelry and silverware do register trade deficits. Following are selected Arts and Culture industries and their trade balances in 2014:
  - Movies and TV shows: +$10.8 billion
  - Design services: +$8 billion
  - Sound recording: +$1.2 billion
  - Independent artists, writers, and performers: +$0.8 billion
  - Jewelry and Silverware: -$6.6 billion

Corporate Support to the Arts Rebounds in 2018
According to the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) and the Conference Board, the “share” of corporate philanthropy directed to the arts by large corporations increased from 5.6% in 2017 to 6.0% in 2018.

Business Leaders Support the Arts for its Benefits to Quality of Life and the Economy
Business leaders responding to the 2018 Business Contributions to the Arts Survey indicated that they support the arts because of its impact on the community (79%) and the economy (63%). The other business objectives with the highest response rate were:

- Stimulate creative thinking and problem solving (53%).
- Reach underserved communities (50%).
- Offers networking opportunities and the potential to develop new business and build market share (45%).

The Importance of the Arts in Building the 21st Century Workforce
The Conference Board’s research report, Ready to Innovate, touts the importance of arts education in building the 21st century workforce. Innovation is the key to the nation’s economic prosperity and global competitiveness. Arts participation—in school or in the workplace—strengthens our “creativity muscles,” which builds our creativity—the fuel that drives innovation. The report, aimed at business leaders, concludes, “The arts—music, creative writing, drawing, dance—provide skills sought by employers of the third millennium.”


www.AmericansForTheArts.org
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that there were 2.5 million artists in the U.S. workforce in 2019—representing 1.5% of all workers ages 16 and older.

In 2019, the unemployment rate for artists was 3.7%, down from 2.7% in 2018 (down from 9.2% in 2010, and 6.6% in 2014). The unemployment rate for artists remains higher than “Professionals” (2.1%), a category of workers that includes artists and other occupations that generally require college training. The 2019 unemployment rate for the total workforce was 3.3%.

This analysis of the artist labor force is comprised of just 11 occupational categories: architects; art directors; fine artists, and animators; designers; actors; producers, and directors; dancers and choreographers; musicians; announcers; writers and authors; photographers; and other artists and entertainers. While these categories only capture a portion of all artists in the workforce, this methodology has been used by the federal government for over 50 years, which makes it a valuable artist employment trend.

As this is an analysis solely of artist employment, it should be noted that many arts-related jobs are not included in these data, such as arts administrators, curators, technical staff, and fundraisers.

Economic Impact of the Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Economic Activity</th>
<th>$166.3 Billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct spending by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations</td>
<td>$63.8 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct spending by cultural audiences</td>
<td>$102.5 Billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Full-Time Equivalent Jobs Supported       | 4.6 Million    |

| Total Household Income Generated               | $96.1 Billion |

| Total Government Revenue Generated             | $27.5 Billion |
| Federal income tax revenue                     | $12.9 Billion |
| State government revenue                       | $7.7 Billion  |
| Local government revenue                       | $6.9 Billion  |

- Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations are valued members of the business community. They employ people locally, purchase goods and services locally, are members of their Chambers of Commerce, and promote their regions.
- In 2015, these organizations—performing and visual arts organizations, festivals, public art programs, municipally owned museums and arts centers, and more—pumped an estimated $63.8 billion into the nation’s economy. This economic activity leveraged an additional $102.5 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences. The $166.3 billion in total economic activity supported 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs and generated $27.5 billion in total government revenue.
- When patrons attend an arts event, they may pay for parking, eat dinner at a restaurant, shop in local retail stores, and have dessert on the way home. Based on the 212,691 audience surveys conducted for this study, the typical attendee spends $31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission. 34% of attendees came from outside the county in which the arts event took place. They spent twice as much as their local counterparts ($47.57 vs. $23.44).
- *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* demonstrates that the arts are an industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is a cornerstone of tourism. Business and elected leaders need not feel that a choice must be made between arts funding and economic prosperity. This study proves that they can choose both. Nationally as well as locally, the arts mean business!

Visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEPS](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEPS) for more information about the *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* study.
Arts Facts... Spending by Arts Audiences
The arts leverage significant amounts of event-related spending by their audiences. Attendees to nonprofit arts events average $31.47 per person, per event (beyond the cost of admission).

Arts Audiences Spend an Average of $31.47 Per Person, Per Event
(Not including admission costs)

Average Per Person Per Event
Audience Expenditures: $31.47

- $0.29 Other
- $4.48 Overnight Lodging
- $0.38 Child Care
- $3.09 Local Ground Transportation
- $4.49 Gifts / Souvenirs
- $16.82 Meals / Snacks / Refreshments
- $1.92 Clothing / Accessories

Local vs. Nonlocal Arts Audience Spending
Local Audience Spending // $23.44
Nonlocal Audience Spending // $47.57

The average audience expenditure does not include cost of admission.

- When patrons attend an arts event, they may pay for parking, eat dinner at a restaurant, shop in local retail stores, and have dessert on the way home. Based on the 212,691 audience surveys conducted in the AEP5 study, the typical attendee spends $31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission.

- 34% of attendees came from outside the county in which the arts event took place. They spent twice as much as their local counterparts ($47.57 vs. $23.44). When asked WHY they traveled from out of town to attend that arts event, 69% reported that the primary reason for their trip was, “Specifically to attend this arts event.” This demonstrates the power of the arts to attract out-of-town visitors.

- Communities that attract cultural tourists stand to harness these significant economic rewards. When governments invest in the arts, they are supporting local jobs, generating tax revenues, and fueling a creativity-based economy. Visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5 for more information on the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study.

Arts Facts . . . Arts & Culture = 4.3 Percent of GDP
According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, arts and culture contributed $804 billion to the nation’s economy in 2016. This represents 4.3 percent of the GDP—a larger share of the economy than transportation, agriculture, and construction.

The entire U.S. arts and culture sector (i.e., nonprofit, commercial, education) was an $804 billion industry in 2016. This represents 4.3% of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—a larger share of the economy than transportation, agriculture, or construction—according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

- The arts and cultural sector supported 5 million jobs in 2016, up from 4.9 million in 2015.
- Arts and culture had a $25 billion international trade surplus in 2016.
- Arts and culture represents an important share of state economies, for example: California (7.0%), Utah (4.2%), Minnesota (3.6%), Vermont (3.2%), Wisconsin (3.1%). Find your state here.
- That the BEA measures arts and cultural production in the U.S. highlights the important role of the arts in building a healthy economy and ensuring our global competitiveness.

Percentage of Foreign Visitors Participating in Arts & Culture While Visiting the U.S. 2006-2016

U.S. cultural destinations help grow the U.S. economy by attracting foreign visitor spending. In 2016, 28% of overseas visitors went to an art gallery or museum, while 16% attended a concert, play, or musical during their visit, per the International Trade Commission in the Department of Commerce. Arts destinations help grow the economy by attracting foreign visitor spending—effectively making the arts an export industry.

Cultural travelers to the United States out-stay, out-travel, and out-spend other types of international tourists. In 2016, the overseas cultural tourist’s median length of stay was 11 nights (for business travelers the median was 7). 88% of cultural heritage travelers went shopping and 38% visited more than one state (compared to 79% and 26% of business travelers respectively).

More than two-thirds (68%) of American adult travelers say they included a cultural, arts, heritage, or historic activity or event while on a trip of 50 miles or more, one-way, in 2012. This equates to 116 million cultural travelers. Of this group, 28% (32.5 million travelers) added extra time to their trip because of a cultural, arts, heritage, or historic activity or event. Of those who extended their trip, 40% did so by one or more nights.

The United States has exported more arts and cultural goods and services than it imported since 2006, including during the Great Recession. In 2014, the arts netted a $26.4 billion dollar trade surplus. The arts have outperformed the overall U.S. Balance of Trade—increasing its surplus tenfold from 2006 to 2014—while U.S. goods and services trade as a whole has registered a deficit every year over the same period.


www.AmericansForTheArts.org
In a 2007 national survey about arts programs in healthcare institutions, 45% of the 1,807 responding organizations reported having arts programs. Healthcare institutions present arts programming for many reasons, but chief among them are that they aid in the mental and emotional recovery of patients (80%) as well as their physical recovery (41%).

Arts programs in healthcare institutions serve multiple audiences: 80% are designed to serve patients directly, 58% include the patient’s family, and 42% serve staff as a means to deal with the stress of working in the healthcare environment. The most prevalent type of arts programming was the permanent display of visual art, followed by performances in public spaces and bedside activities.

Arts programs are largely funded by the hospital itself from its general operating fund. Programs engage many diverse art forms and are often conducted in partnership with local performing and visual arts organizations, or their local arts agency. These programs serve diverse populations—Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, and White populations were represented in nearly equal proportions, ranging from 18-19%.

In addition to humanizing the hospital environment, there is a growing body of research that demonstrates the economic benefits of arts in healthcare programs, including shorter hospital stays, less depression, less medication, and fewer doctor visits.

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2008. Survey conducted by The Joint Commission, Americans for the Arts, and Society for the Arts in Healthcare.
Uneven Arts Education Opportunities Nationwide

- This report provides selected national data on the status of arts education in public elementary and secondary schools.

- This report represents virtually no change from results a decade ago, the last time the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducted a similar survey.

- Schools with a higher concentration of students in poverty were less likely to offer arts education. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has called this gap "an equity issue and a civil rights issue."

- While the report shows that music and visual arts are widely available in schools, elementary school music instruction is not provided at all for roughly 1.3 million students (6 percent).

In the late 1990s, UCLA education researcher, James Catterall, analyzed data from the National Educational Longitudinal Survey, a study of 25,000 secondary school students, over four years. He found significant connections between high involvements in arts learning and general academic success.

In 2009, Catterall analyzed ten additional years of data for the exact same cohort of students, now aged 26. The results strongly connect arts learning with continued success in academics and in life.

- The study found significant advantages for “arts engaged low-socioeconomic status [low-SES] students” in college-going and types of employment, as well as strong advantages in志愿服务 and voting.
- Employment for the arts students included better jobs with higher pay, more responsibility, more promotion opportunity, and more employee satisfaction.
- Dr. Catterall concludes that the benefits to arts-engaged disadvantaged students are measurable and unparalleled. He states: “In the annals of education research, it is hard to find average performance or outcome statistics reported for low-SES students that exceed such measures for the entire population.”


www.AmericansfortheArts.org
Access to arts education for Black and Hispanic students is significantly lower than for their White peers, and has been steadily declining for three decades.

Findings by UCLA researcher James Catterall indicate that low socio-economic-status students who are engaged in arts learning have increases in high school academic performance, college-going rates, college grades, and holding jobs with a future.

Despite these findings, the decline of arts education is most drastic in underserved populations, where students who could benefit the most from arts education are getting it the least.

Source: NEA Office of Research & Analysis, NORC at the University of Chicago (Rabkin & Hedberg, 2011).
High School Dropout Rate: Low Income Students with High Levels of Arts Involvement are More Likely to Graduate

- Longitudinal data of 25,000 students demonstrate that involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, more community service, and lower dropout rates (see chart above). These cognitive and developmental benefits are reaped by students regardless of their socioeconomic status.

- The report, *Critical Links*, contains 62 academic research studies that, taken together, demonstrate that arts education helps close the achievement gap, improves academic skills essential for reading and language development, and advances students' motivation to learn.

- Research conducted between 1987 and 1998 on young people working in the arts for at least three hours on three days of each week throughout at least one full year, demonstrated the following:
  - 4 times more likely to have been recognized for academic achievement.
  - Being elected to class office within their schools more than 3 times as often.
  - 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair.
  - 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance.
  - 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem.

Sources: NEA Office of Research & Analysis (Catterall 2012); Arts Education Partnership (Deasy, 2002); Americans for the Arts (Heath 1998).

www.AmericansfortheArts.org
A 4-year evaluation on a USDE-funded program that trains teachers to integrate standards-based performing arts and math curriculums demonstrated improved academic performance by their students.

1. For English as Second Language students, the report states, “Teachers commented that the use of music, movement, and dramatizing concepts was beneficial for all students, but in particular students who were shy, who had never been to school, or who were speaking another language.”

2. Students in the classrooms taught by participating teachers performed better on the Early Math Diagnostic Assessment compared to those on the control group. According to the American Institutes for Research: "Wolf Trap professional development program had a statistically significant positive impact on students’ mathematics achievement in both the first and the second year of implementation."

3. Teachers who participated in the professional development program were able to apply the strategies independently in their classrooms

Early Childhood Arts Education Improves Vocabulary, Communication, and Memory in Young Children

- An 18-month study of German elementary school students found that 40 minutes of instrumental music education each week resulted in improved abilities in Verbal Learning, Verbal Delayed Recall, and Verbal Recognition in experimental and control groups.

- After only four weeks of daily training in rhythm, pitch, melody, voice, and basic musical concepts, 90 percent of Canadian four- to six-year olds demonstrated “a rapid transfer of cognitive benefits” in vocabulary and verbal communication, enhancing their ability to understand words and explain their meaning.

- With regular training in the motor and listening skills needed to play an instrument, young students benefit from improved attention and memory. A Harvard study shows particularly significant improvements in students with dyslexia.

Sources: Dana Consortium Report on Arts & Cognition, 2008; US National Library of Medicine at NIH; Psychological Science Journal; American Institute of Physics

www.AmericansForTheArts.org
The YouthARTS Development Project demonstrated the efficacy of arts programs for at-risk youth in three cities (Atlanta, Portland, and San Antonio). The project was a partnership between Americans for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Justice, and National Endowment for the Arts. Youth involved in the arts programs demonstrated more pro-social behavior and the following findings in this controlled research study:

**Skills**
- Increased ability to express anger appropriately, to communicate effectively with adults and peers, and to work cooperatively with others.
- Increased ability to work on tasks from start to finish, which is vital for both academic and vocational success.

**Attitudes and Behavior**
- Decreased frequency of delinquent behavior than their non-participating peers.
- More likely to show improvement in their attitudes toward school, self-esteem, and self-efficacy than are non-participating youth.

**Court Involvement**
- Fewer new court referrals during the program period compared with non-participating youth.
- New offenses committed during the program period tended to be less severe than those committed prior to the program.