

In addition to their intrinsic impacts, the arts produce positive community outcomes across the United States. Here are five timely reasons that public support for the arts is a good deal for citizens and for government.

1. The arts enrich the American economy.

Small businesses, individual entrepreneurs and innovators are the heart and soul of the American economy. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis affirms that [creative enterprises are a significant part of that equation](#). Arts and cultural production are growing, providing jobs and tax revenue and generating goods and services in demand by the public. As America enters a new era of international relationships, it's important to note that creative products generate a trade surplus. [The United States exports more arts and cultural products and services than it imports](#), and that's positive for job growth and our nation's overall economy.

Learn More

[Fact vs. Fiction: Government Arts Funding](#)

[Why Should Government Support the Arts?](#)

2. The arts offer solutions for rural America.

Many rural communities were slow to rebound (or haven't yet recovered) from the recession. Arts based economic development strategies offer potent, sustainable advantages while preserving the heritage of rural communities. State arts agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) make substantial [investments in rural areas](#), boost the [capacity of rural communities](#) to improve their futures and help rural leaders pioneer the [next generation of rural development solutions](#).

3. The arts offer cost-effective health treatments that work.

Arts-integrated treatments [produce positive clinical outcomes](#) for our active-duty military and veteran populations. The arts help [other patient groups](#), including [older Americans](#), to recover more quickly from procedures, require shorter hospitalizations, take fewer medications, and maintain their mental, physical and social well-being.

4. The arts improve schooling.

Research proves that the arts [raise academic achievement](#) because they teach creative thinking, analytical reasoning, effective communication and collaborative work. These competencies pave the way to student success in school, in the workplace and in life.

5. The arts offer a net gain for government.

State arts agencies and the NEA operate with modest financial resources, lean staffs and as little red tape as possible. They also are highly responsive to citizens, involving the public in agency oversight, planning and funding decisions. In return, the arts yield [\\$22.3 billion](#) in revenue to federal, state, county and municipal governments. Federal arts funding [leverages \\$9](#) in matching funds for every \$1 granted.

Take Action

Here's how you can deliver this information:

[You Can Shape Policy](#)

[Three Simple Ways to Advocate for the Arts](#)