



COVID-19 Impact on Cuyahoga County Arts & Culture Nonprofits & Creative Workers

COVID-19 is devastating local nonprofit arts organizations and its creative workers, negatively impacting the economy and quality of life for all County residents.

In the first several months of the pandemic (March 12 through June 30, 2020), **65 of Cuyahoga County-based arts nonprofits report:**

Job Loss

Laying off, furloughing or cancelling the contracts of **2,533 people**, resulting in a loss of compensation totaling **\$8,126,840**.

Revenue Loss

\$41,725,615 in lost earned and contributed revenue (ticket sales, admissions, donations, etc.).

Decreased Services for Residents

Cancelling or indefinitely delaying **6,248 events or activities**, ranging from music lessons to in-school arts education to large-scale festivals.

Innovation and Change. On a positive note, local arts nonprofits are doing their best to adapt and change to serve residents during the pandemic. In the last four months they have offered **2,187 new events or services**, most of which were virtual events for residents.

Looking Forward. Local arts and culture organizations want clear and direct public health advice to guide their work. Many are concerned about when and how to re-open in a safe manner when recovery appears 4-5 years away (*see page 2 – McKinsey & Co*). With PPP Loans coming due, many organizations anticipate more lay-offs and furloughs.

Source: CAC general operating support mid-year report submitted July 31, 2020

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture Responds to COVID-19

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture funds 65 nonprofits of varying sizes and disciplines through its General Operating Support (GOS) grant program. These arts organizations range annual budgets of \$50,000 to \$50 million.

CAC's GOS program provides the largest, most flexible and consistent local funding (\$10.2M in 2020) to arts nonprofits in our region.

To assist arts organizations at the start of the pandemic, CAC **accelerated payment of \$5.1M** to these 65 organizations, helping some of them retain staff and temporarily improve cash flow as most groups waited on PPP loans.

We continue to offer technical assistance and have **committed to steady operating support funding in 2021.**

COVID-19’s Impact on the National Creative Economy

“Arts, culture, and creativity are one of three key sectors, along with science and technology as well as business and management, that drive regional economies....The fine and performing arts industries will be hit hardest, suffering estimated losses of almost 1.4M jobs and \$4.25B in sales,” representing a **loss of 50% of all jobs and more than 25% of all lost sales.**

[Lost art: Measuring COVID-19’s devastating impact on America’s creative economy](#)

Richard Florida, The Brookings Institution (August 11, 2020)

McKinsey & Company anticipates that it will **take the arts sector until 2025 to recover** to pre-COVID-level of contribution to national GDP.

[COVID-19 recovery in hardest-hit sectors could take more than 5 years](#)

McKinsey & Company (July 29, 2020)

In a muted recovery, it could take more than five years for the most affected sectors to get back to 2019-level contributions to GDP.

Estimated time to recover to pre-COVID-19 sector GDP¹

