

2018 PROFILE OF LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES—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 from coast to coast.

The findings are based on 537 survey responses that were collected from participating LAAs during May through August of 2018.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES BY THE NUMBERS:

- 97 percent use the arts to address **community development** issues such as social, education, or economic challenges.
- 82 percent of local arts agency staff self-identify as white only, including 91 percent of chief staff executives (i.e., executive director, president/CEO).
- 81 percent expect the **demand for their services** to increase over the next two years (including 27 percent that expect a significant increase in demand).
- 78 percent of LAA staff identify as female—up from 72 percent in 2013.
- 77 percent provide **arts education** programs and/or services to the community.
- 70 percent are **private nonprofit organizations**; 30 percent are **government agencies**.
 - 21 percent of municipal LAA chief staff executives participate as a member of the mayor's (or county executive's) "cabinet" of senior staff advisors.
- 67 percent report that their **operating budget increased or remained the same** from FY2017 to FY2018 (58 percent and 9 percent, respectively); 33 percent experienced a decrease in their operating budget.
- 63 percent manage one or more **cultural facilities** (e.g., performance or exhibition spaces, arts centers, galleries, incubators).
- 59 percent operate a competitive **grantmaking** program—55 percent award grants to organizations, and 53 percent award grants to individual artists.
- 53 percent work in **partnerships** with their local Chamber of Commerce.
- 51 percent manage a **public art** program; 39 percent of those manage a **percent-for-art** program.
- 50 percent have adopted a **diversity, equity, and inclusion** statement.
 - 38% have a diversity policy for the board
 - 47% have a diversity policy for staff
 - 36% have a diversity policy for grantmaking
 - 45 percent believe that they have the appropriate level of diversity among staff, board, and volunteers.
- 47 percent 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 percent report that their community has completed (or updated) a community **cultural plan** within the past five years.