

ARTSFUND 

**CULTURAL PARTNERS ANNUAL REPORT
2024**

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Artsfund offers funding (incredible, we love you so much for that!) and educational opportunities that we often take advantage of. We appreciate Artsfund for doing on a larger scale what we do building bridges!
- Anonymous

OVERVIEW

Purpose

ArtsFund’s Cultural Partners are a network of 139 arts and cultural organizations based in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The purpose of the survey was to understand the current composition of and challenges experienced by Cultural Partners Network (CPN) organizations to inform programming and advocacy efforts and serve as a benchmark for future surveying and programming.

Scope and Participation

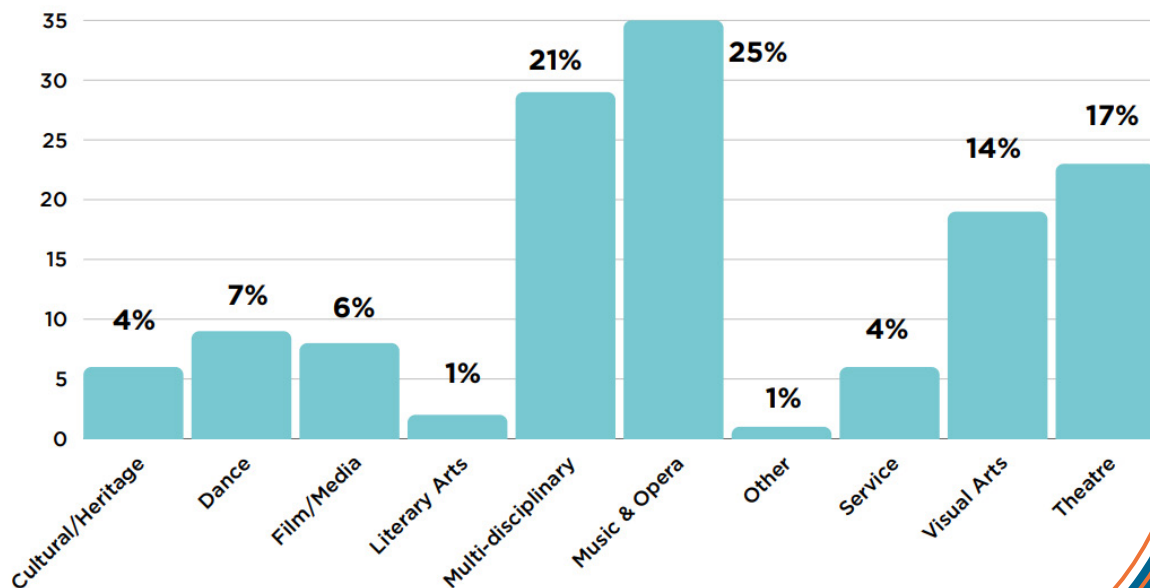
All data depicted in this report are based on survey responses and information shared in our annual grant applications and have not been independently verified. The number of responses varied per question as the majority of questions were optional.

Notes

We surveyed 139 organizations via e-newsletter and 41 organizations participated the survey. The survey was active between June 5 - July 11, 2024.

Primary Discipline

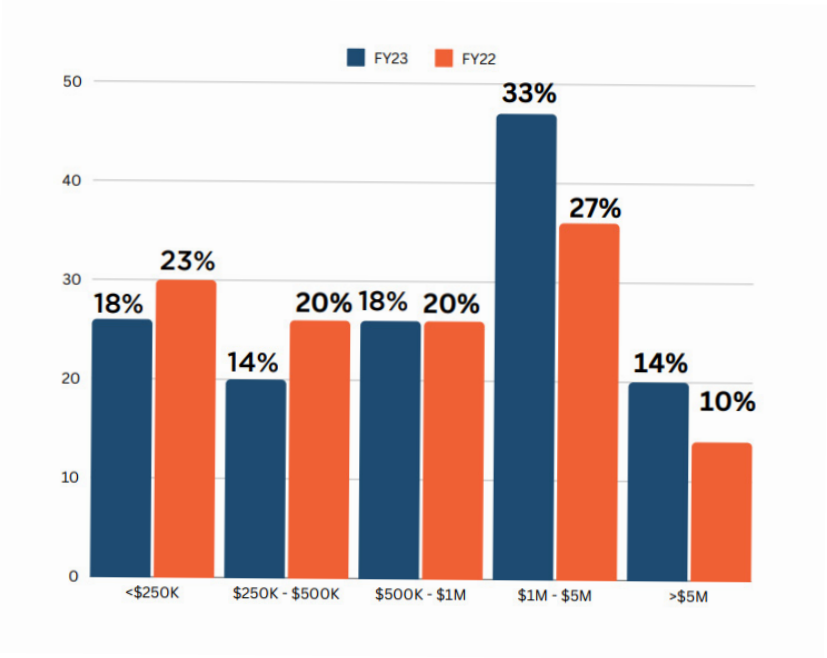
Disciplines of all organizations in the CPN as collected through survey and application data.



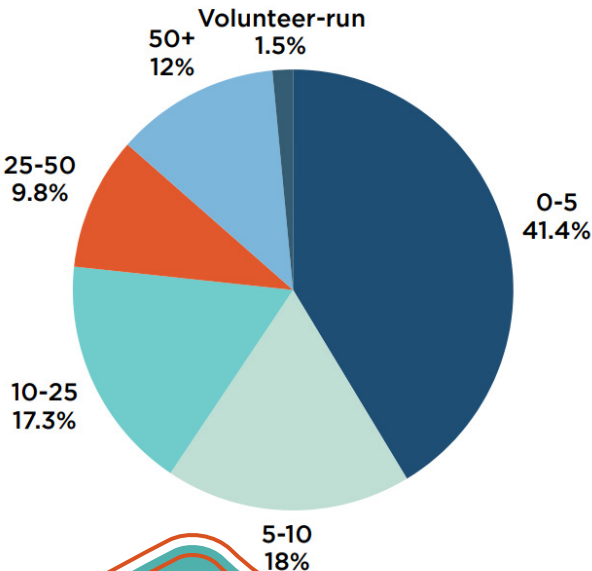
NETWORK COMPOSITION

The data on the Network Composition is sourced from grant application data. (N=139)

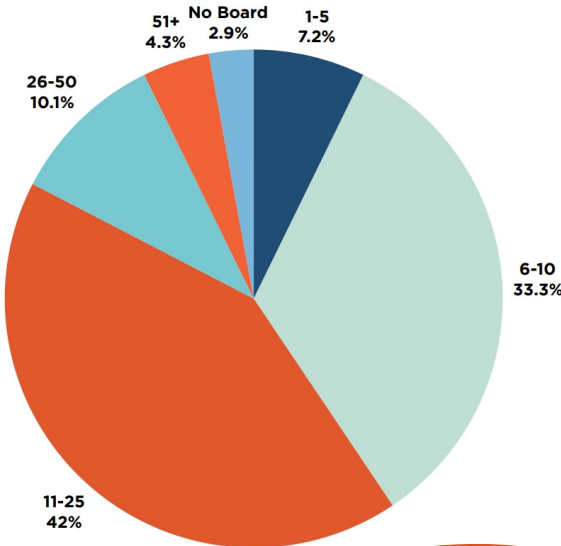
Annual Budget FY 23 VS FY22



Full Time Staff

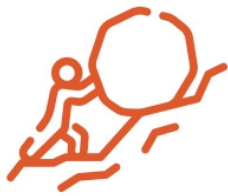


Board Membership



CHALLENGES

Respondents were asked to name the top three most significant challenges facing their organization today and in the coming year (n=32). These qualitative, open-ended responses were analyzed through an emergent coding system to identify trends and patterns. Four primary topics emerged; the following describes each topic area and its related common themes.



Organizational

31 %

Common themes: Sustainability, business model, organizational capacity, finance, and budgeting.

“Staff capacity and other cuts potentially leading to scarcity in statewide program delivery”- Velocity Dance Center



HR/Staffing

29%

Common themes: Understaffed, leadership transitions, staff retention, turnover.

“Staffing capacity with consistently-expanding programming”- Anonymous



Funding

20%

Common themes: Inflation, increased expense, operating support, inconsistent/ unpredictable funding, and capital campaigns.

*“Inflation increases to budget (too much increase over a short period of time)”
- Anonymous*



Audience

18%

Common themes: Engaging diverse audiences (including BIPOC audiences), engaging youth audiences, and growing in-person audiences.

*“Increasing diversity of audience (linked to digital transition)”
- King Classical 98.1*

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Respondents were asked to name capacity-building opportunities or resources that would be useful to their organization in the coming year (n=29). These qualitative, open-ended responses were analyzed through an emergent coding system to identify trends and patterns. Three primary topics emerged; the following describes each topic area and its related common themes.

Organizational: 28%

Common themes: Accessibility, finance/budgeting, data collection/evaluation, strategic planning, capacity, and DEI.

Other: 28 %

Common themes: Convenings, trainings, and In-person networking.

Fundraising: 20%

Common themes: Capacity building and professional development.

“Opportunities for non-senior staff to meet & network (maybe also enjoy an org’s public offering together?) to build deeper relationships and communication between arts orgs”. -Anonymous



COMMUNITIES SERVED

Part of ArtsFund's guiding strategic framework is to be in service to broader and more diverse audiences, donors, participants, and leadership that center Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); LGBTQ+ communities; people with disabilities; and youth and families. The following questions sought to understand if and how Cultural Partners center these communities. The data below is sourced from grant application data. (N=139).

Programming

- 31% creates or provides programming for BIPOC communities.
- 32% creates or provides programming for youth & families.
- 22% creates or provides programming for LGBTQIA+ communities.
- 14% creates or provides programming for disability communities.

Leadership Composition

- 37% of organization's describe composition as led by majority BIPOC staff.
- 27% of organization's describe composition as led by led majority BIPOC board.

Mission/Vision/Values

- 31% center youth & families as part of their mission/vision/values.
- 28% center BIPOC communities as part of its mission/vision/values.
- 21% center LGBTQIA+ communities as part of their mission/vision/values.
- 11% center disability communities as part of their mission/vision/values.



CPN PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

ArtsFund wanted to understand what values or benefits, if any, organizations gained from participation in the CPN (n=32). These qualitative, open-ended responses were analyzed through an emergent coding system to identify trends and patterns. Three primary topics emerged, which are described below.



Communication

38%



Connections

28%



Convenings

22%

Common themes: Access to information/ opportunities, and awareness of other orgs opportunities.

Common themes: Building of networks and relationships.

Common themes: Trainings, gatherings, events in general, convenings foster dialogue and connection.

ArtsFund wanted to understand what programs organizations interacted with most over the past year (n=27). These were qualitative and openended responses. Two primary topics emerged, which are described below.



Networking

15%

Common themes: CPN summit, listening sessions, and other CPN general events.



CPN Newsletter

26%

Common themes: Funding opportunities, resources, and ArtsFund announcements.



BARRIERS

ArtsFund wanted to understand what, if any, primary barriers impacted organizations engagement or participation with the CPN (n=26). These qualitative, open-ended responses were analyzed through an emergent coding system to identify trends and patterns. Two primary topics emerged, which are described below.

Capacity: 58%

Common themes: Workload/time-related, staff capacity impacts fostering relationships/collaborations.

Resources: 31%

Common themes: Need additional resources, need additional communications.

“Sometimes we are not available to participate during scheduled meetings because our staff is short.”-Brazil Center



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Respondents were asked to suggest capacity building resources that their organization had used/experienced to be shared out with the larger cultural community. ArtsFund has not independently vetted the following recommendations.

Consultant Services:

- [Phoenix Consulting Co](#): DEAI communications training
- [The Athena Advisors](#): A social enterprise using its knowledge, experience and connections to assist mission-driven organizations by improving their fundraising approach and ability
- [Elizabeth Ralston Consulting](#): Integrating comprehensive accessibility practices in marketing, programming, and fundraising strategies, strategically communicating inspiring stories.
- [From Here To Diversity](#): Organizational Consultant, Diversity Strategist, training, public

Groups and Coalitions:

- [Seattle Cultural Accessibility Consortium](#): Workshops and resources to improve accessibility for people of all abilities
- [BIPOC ED Coalition of Washington State](#): Diversity, equity, inclusion and advocacy, oppression and social change
- [Duwamish Alive Coalition - Improving our river and watershed](#): Collaborates with community, municipalities, non-profits, and businesses to improve environmental health in the Puget Sound region
- [West Seattle Chamber of Commerce](#): Collaborates with community, non-profits, and businesses to improve environmental health in the Puget Sound region
- [IDEA](#): Arts education and creative learning organization, economic empowerment through training and supporting regional youth and adults in entrepreneurship along with employment training in multi-media, while bettering digital literacy skills for the creative economy.
- [Sensory Access](#): Creates inclusion for those who have hidden disabilities. From sensory-friendly productions and tools for those with sensory impairments such as vision and hearing

Trainings:

- [National Conference \(tcg.org\)](#): Nationwide gatherings of the not-for-profit professional theatre community
- [Grantmakers in the Arts](#): Capitalization workshops, grant writing webinars
- [Americans for the Arts](#): Offering Programs and Initiatives to help you in your work as an arts leader
- [Access / VSA](#): Access to the arts for people with disabilities through professional learning via webinars, training, and online courses, essential research, resources, lesson plans, and technical assistance and conferences
- [Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Workshops & Conference](#): The Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) program advances the full inclusion of people with disabilities in arts and culture

Other:

- [monday.com](#): Project management platform (free for nonprofits)

2024 CULTURAL PARTNERS NETWORK

Cultural Partners are a network of ArtsFund-affiliated arts and cultural organizations in the Central Puget Sound region. Through trainings, events, and communications, the network deepens ties between organizations, provides capacity building resources, and generates exposure to new audiences and donors.

For more information, visit <https://www.artsfund.org/cultural-partners/>

5th Avenue Theatre	LANGSTON	Seattle Rep
ACT Theatre	Lakewood Playhouse	Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra
AIM Seattle	Latino Theatre Projects	Seattle Shakespeare Company
American Asian Performing Arts Theatre	Meany Center for the Performing Arts	Seattle Symphony
Artist Trust	Mini Mart Art Park	Seattle Theatre Group
Arts Corps	Mirror Stage	Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra
ArtsWest	MOHAI - Museum of History and Industry	SEEDArts
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	MoPoP - Museum of Pop Culture	ShoreLake Arts
Auburn Symphony Orchestra	Museum of Glass	Shunpike
Bellevue Arts Museum	Music Center of the Northwest	SIFF
Brazil Center	Music Works Northwest	SIS Productions
Burke Museum	National Nordic Museum	Snohomish County Music Project
C895/KNHC Public Radio Association	NFFTY	Sound Theatre Company
Center on Contemporary Art	Northwest African American Museum	Spectrum Dance Theater
Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas	Northwest Boychoir & Vocalpoint!	Symphony Tacoma
Centro Cultural Mexicano	Northwest Film Forum	Tacoma Art Museum
Chamber Music Guild	Northwest Folklife	Tacoma Arts Live
Chinese Music and Arts Association	Northwest Puppet Center	Tacoma Musical Playhouse
Classical KING FM 98.1	Northwest Sinfonietta	Tacoma Opera
Coyote Central	Northwest Tap Connection	Tacoma Youth Symphony Association
Deaf Spotlight	Northwest Youth Music Association	Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center (TUPAC)
DNDA - Delridge Neighborhood Development Association	On the Boards	Taproot Theatre Company
Densho	Orquesta	Tasveer
Diverse Harmony	Northwest Pacific MusicWorks	Ted Brown Music Outreach
Early Music Seattle	Pacific Northwest Ballet	TeenTix
Earshot Jaz Society	Path with Art	The Esoterics
Edmonds Center for the Arts	Photographic Center Northwest	The Rhapsody Project
Edmonds Driftwood Players	Pottery Northwest	The Feast
El Centro de la Raza	Pratidhwani	Theatre33
Emerald City Music	Pratt Fine Arts	Three Dollar Bill Cinema
Federal Way Symphony	Puget Sound Revels	Totem Star
Freehold Theatre Lab/Studio	Red Eagle Soaring	Town Hall Seattle
Friends of KEXP	Schack Art Center	Unexpected Productions
Frye Art Museum	Seattle Art Museum	Urban Artworks
Gage Academy of Art	Seattle Arts & Lectures	Vashon Center for the Arts
Grand Cinema	Seattle Asian American Film Festival	Velocity Dance Center
Henry Art Gallery	Seattle Center Festál	Vera Project
Hilltop Artists	Seattle Chamber Music Society	Village Theatre
Hugo House	Seattle Children's Theatre	Wa Na Wari
Intiman Theatre	Seattle Chinese Chorus	Washington Ensemble Theatre (WET)
Jack Straw Productions	Seattle Choral Company	Whim W' Him
Japan Arts Connection Lab	Seattle Girls Choir	Wing Luke Museum
Jet City Improv	Seattle JazzED	yəhaw Indigenous Creatives Collective
Key to Change	Seattle Latino Film Festival	Youth in Focus
Khambatta Dance Company	Seattle Men's Chorus/Seattle Women's Chorus	
Kirkland Arts Center	Seattle Opera	
Kirkland Performance Center	Seattle Pro Musica	
	Seattle Public Theater	