

A 2024

PITTSBURGHARTSCOUNCIL.ORG

CASE FOR SUPPORT

GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL



ABOUT THE ARTS COUNCIL

THE REGION'S LOCAL ARTS AGENCY

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council builds a more resourced and connected arts sector and empowers artists and arts organizations throughout Southwestern PA. By sharing resources, fostering significant relationships, advocating for arts-centric policies, and increasing public awareness of arts and culture, the Arts Council cultivates a thriving, vibrant arts community for the Greater Pittsburgh region.



The Creative Hive in January 2024 at Silver Eye Center for Photography // Photo by Patrick Fisher

HISTORY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL

■ The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council was formed in 2005 after the merger of two previous arts service organizations: Western Pennsylvania Professionals for the Arts (ProArts), which was incorporated in 1994, and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Alliance, which was incorporated in 2000. The Arts Council was created for the defined purpose of strengthening, supporting, and promoting the arts.

An Arts Council Restart the Arts event in 2021 // Archived photo



An Arts Council cultural policy event with the PA Governor's office at Manchester Craftsman Guild // Photo by Patrick Fisher



Battle of Santiago at Bottlerocket Social Hall // Photo by Patrick Fisher

REGIONAL PARTNER OF THE PA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

■ The Arts Council has served in partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts since 1997. Through this partnership, we distribute public dollars entrusted to us by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as competitive grants in Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, and Greene Counties.



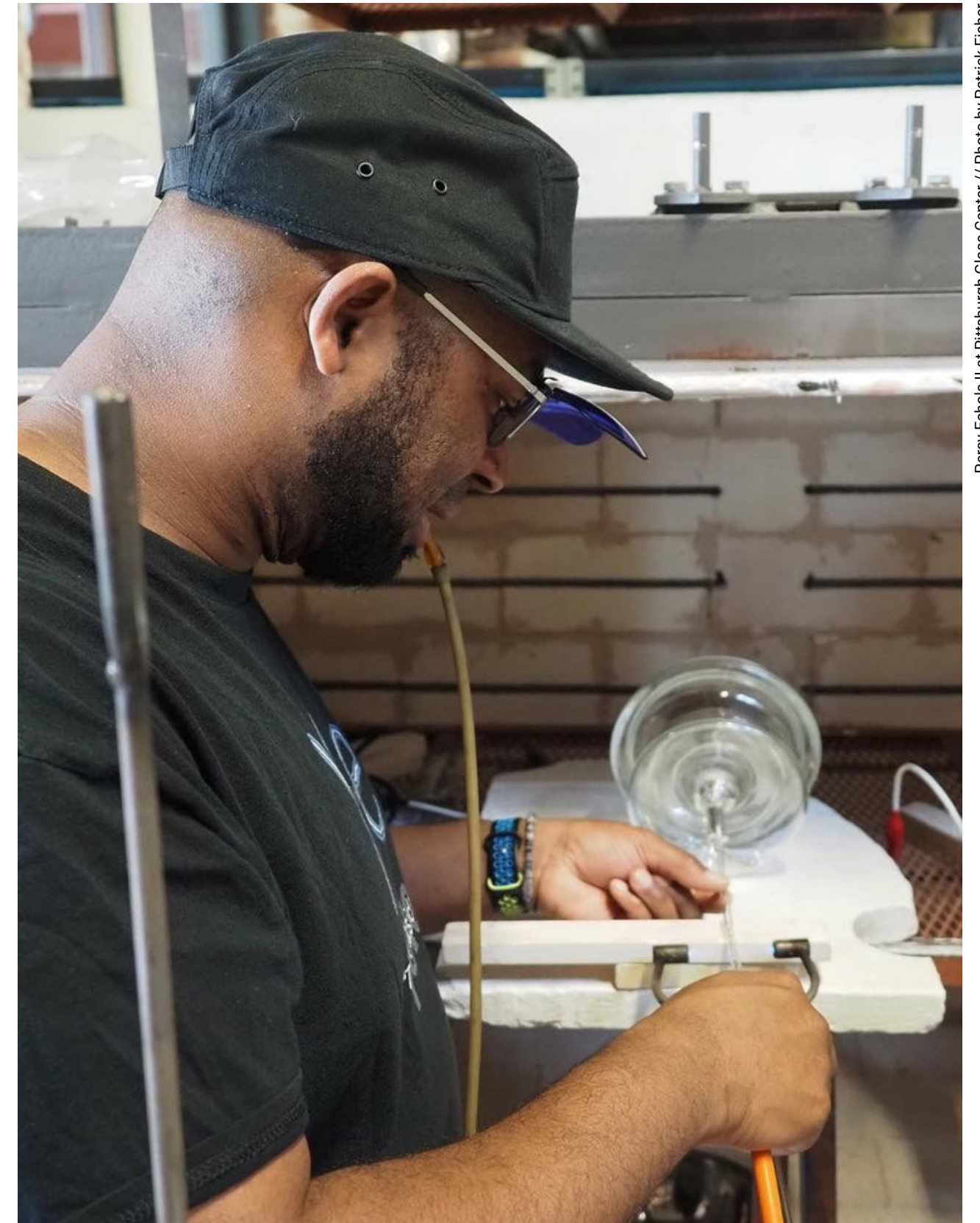
OUR PILLARS OF SERVICE

- **DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM**
- **FRAMING AND GUIDING CULTURAL INVESTMENT AND ACTION**
- **GRANTMAKING IN THE ARTS**
- **FACILITATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

MISSION IN ACTION

ACTIONS WE LEAD

- Provide individuals and organizations with the financial and nonfinancial resources and support they need to thrive within Southwestern Pennsylvania's creative and cultural sector
- Foster and support dynamic and expansive relationships within Southwestern Pennsylvania's creative and cultural sectors
- Conduct research and publish reports on the opportunities and crises that are relevant to, or have an impact on, Southwestern Pennsylvania's creative and cultural sectors
- Raise public awareness of the programs, initiatives, and events led by Southwestern Pennsylvania's creative and cultural sector
- Participate in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels for arts-friendly public policy



Percy Echols II at Pittsburgh Glass Center // Photo by Patrick Fisher



MISSION IN ACTION

OUR VISION

FOR THE REGION

- Pittsburgh is recognized as a progressive city for arts that values and supports the artistic process
- Creative and cultural experiences are accessible throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania and reflect the broad interests and tastes of the region's diverse population
- The creative and cultural sector is a thought leader within principles and practices rooted in diversity, equity, accessibility, inclusion, and belonging
- Every resident and visitor to Southwestern Pennsylvania has access to meaningful and relevant opportunities to engage with the individuals and organizations representing the creative and cultural sector, whether socially, educationally, or economically
- Investments in creativity and culture are made through public and private channels as a strategy to attract and retain residents, community identities, and a sense of place

PILLAR OF SERVICE

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

“The Arts Council plays a crucial role in the local arts and culture sector by making the efforts to champion underrepresented artists and fostering community engagement within the arts.”

—Ashanté Josey, Visual Artist



DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

THE CREATIVE HIVE

The Creative Hive is a free monthly networking event designed to provide a friendly and casual space for artists, creatives, art educators, culture bearers, and arts administrators to establish and foster professional relationships. Since its launch in January 2024, The Creative Hive has brought together hundreds of attendees to a variety of different creative and cultural venues within Pittsburgh.



The Creative Hive at MuseumLab at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh // Photo by Patrick Fisher

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

BUSINESS AND LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ARTS

Business and Legal Services pairs individuals and organizations within the arts with business and legal experts. Professionals in Allegheny County volunteer their expertise in law, financial and strategic planning, marketing, information technology, human resources, and more. While further action steps are not guaranteed at a pro-bono rate, consultations are always free.



Otherworldly exhibit by artists Sarah Jacobs and Evan Boggess at ZYNKA Gallery // Photo by Patrick Fisher

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTISTS ADVANCING ARTISTS

Artists Advancing Artists is a quarterly round-table discussion between artists that promotes peer-to-peer learning and mentorship by facilitating conversations around resource and information sharing, approaches to overcome obstacles and challenges, and strategies to scale and sustain artistic practices and creative careers.



An Arts Council networking event // Photo by Sarah Schreck

PILLAR OF SERVICE GRANTMAKING IN THE ARTS

“The financial support I received from an Arts Council grant played a pivotal role in my artistic journey. The grant not only alleviated financial pressures but also opened doors for me to showcase my work on a national stage. The Arts Council's dedication to empowering artists through grants and opportunities is a driving force behind the vibrancy and growth of Pittsburgh's local arts scene, fostering a dynamic and inclusive cultural environment.”

—Rona Chang, Founder and CEO of Otto Finn



GRANTMAKING IN THE ARTS

PROVIDING ACCESSIBILITY FUNDING

ACCESS MICROFUND

The Arts Council's Access Microfund is a reimbursement program that provides up to \$500 to help arts and culture organizations, collaboratives and artists offer accommodations to patrons and artists with disabilities, such as American Sign Language interpretation, audio description, captioning, or materials in alternative formats.



Access Microfund grantee Pittonkatonk // Photo by Patrick Fisher

GRANTMAKING IN THE ARTS

FUNDING SUPPORT FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

CREATIVE SECTOR FLEX FUND

The Creative Sector Flex Fund is designed to address the changing needs of dynamic arts organizations with average annual revenues between \$10,000 - \$200,000. This grant program incorporates the current needs of the field by offering grantees the flexibility to use \$5,000 grants in ways that ensure the most significant impact for their organizations and communities.

The Arts Council administers this grant on behalf of the PA Council on the Arts for Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, and Washington counties.



Confluence Ballet at Kelly Strayhorn Theater // Photo by Patrick Fisher

GRANTMAKING IN THE ARTS

FUNDING SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

The Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator grant program provides creative entrepreneurs with small business consulting and \$2,000 in critical financial resources to grow businesses and revenue. Fifty-one percent of the available funds have been reserved for Black, Indigenous, or persons of color, or individuals residing in communities identified by the Small Business Administration's low-income communities map. The Arts Council administers this grant on behalf of the PA Council on the Arts for Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, and Washington counties.



Mikael Owunna, multimedia artist and Executive Director of Rainbow Serpent, in front of his mural outside The Andy Warhol Museum // Photo by Patrick Fisher

PILLAR OF SERVICE

FACILITATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

"A very important part of being an artist is inclusion with the greater arts community. The Arts Council's events have given me the chance to meet and work with many other artists. It has engaged me as a member of a community that supports and uplifts each other."

—Visual Artist Dan O'Donnell



FACILITATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND RESOURCE SHARING

The Arts Council serves as a switchboard operator through relationship building and resource sharing. Some of the ways we do this include:

1. Weekly event roundups, amplifying the work of Southwestern Pennsylvania-based artists and arts organizations
2. Monthly lists of regional arts-related jobs and opportunities
3. Individual staff consultations with arts practitioners and leaders of arts organizations
4. Leveraging our professional networks to shepherd new relationships, partnerships, and collaborations
5. Recommending members of our sector for panels, workshops, and media spotlights

Teaching artists Max Gonzales and Shane Pilster at Rivers of Steel // Photo by Patrick Fisher



PILLAR OF SERVICE

FRAMING AND GUIDING CULTURAL INVESTMENT AND ACTION

"The arts have an immeasurable impact on society, serving as a foundation for expression, innovation, learning, connection, and a thriving economy. The Arts Council recognizes this importance and actively works to document and thoughtfully communicate these impacts to ensure our effective leaders support the valuable labor of artists and cultural workers in our region."

—Joseph Hall, Executive Director of Kelly Strayhorn Theater



Photo by Whitney Browne

FRAMING AND GUIDING CULTURAL INVESTMENT AND ACTION

RESEARCH AND REPORTING

The Arts Council gathers and disseminates data on the most crucial issues affecting the sector today. Through development of responsive and community-engaged research projects and partnerships with national arts research powerhouses like SMU DataArts and Americans for the Arts, Arts Council research regularly reports on the state of the sector in four key areas:

1. Periodic measures of the health of the sector
2. Studies of the economic, cultural, and social impacts of the sector
3. Research on special topics raised through community feedback
4. Inquiries conducted in collaboration with local partners or national collaborators



FRAMING AND GUIDING CULTURAL INVESTMENT AND ACTION

An Arts Council cultural policy event with the PA Governor's office at Manchester Craftsman Guild // Photo by Patrick Fisher



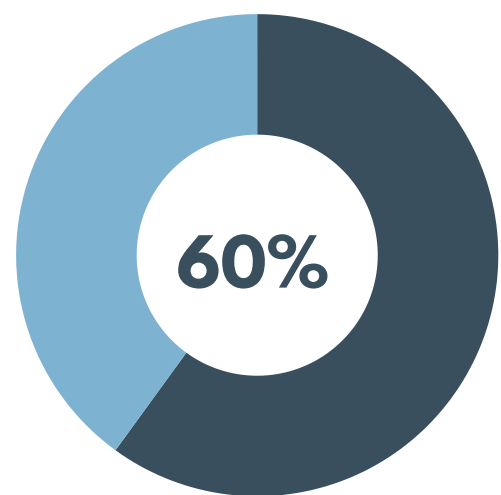
ACTION-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Through strategic relationship-building, presence at key arts advocacy meetings and events, information sharing, and issue-oriented political action campaigns, the Arts Council drives education and action toward the following four advocacy priorities:

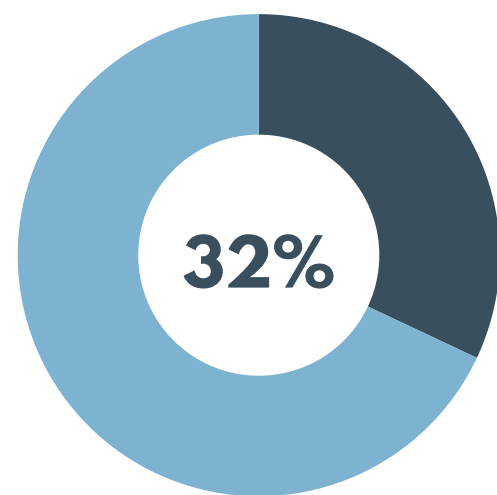
1. The visibility, reach, and sustainability of the region's arts sector
2. Championing artists and creative workers as architects of the region's social and cultural capital
3. Expanding equitable access to the arts
4. Increase local and state arts funding

HOW THE ARTS COUNCIL IS FUNDED

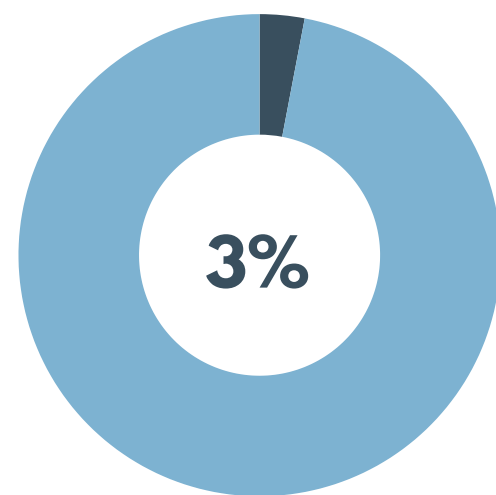
The Arts Council is funded through a mix of government grants, non-government grants, membership dues, corporate sponsorships, donations, and investments. We are currently looking to diversity our revenue streams through increasing corporate sponsorships and individual giving.



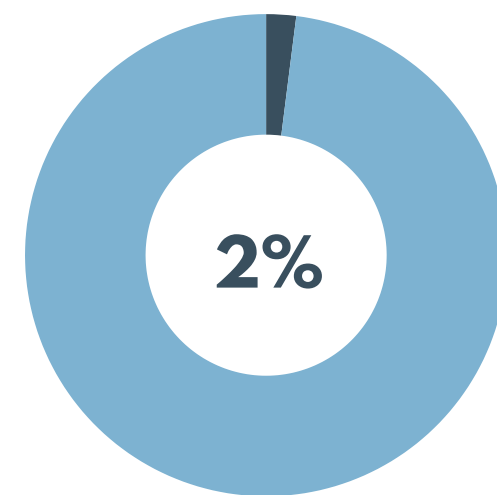
NON-GOVERNMENT GRANTS



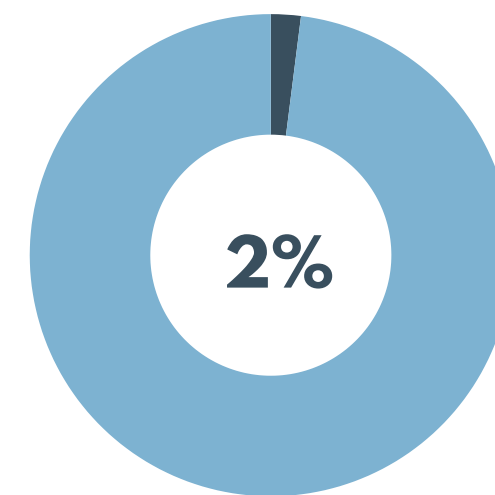
GOVERNMENT GRANTS*



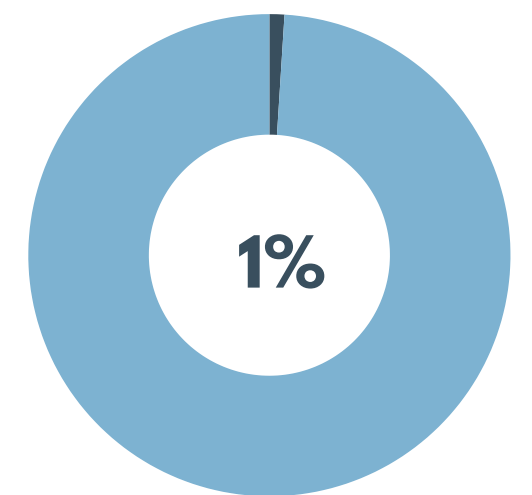
MEMBERSHIP DUES



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP



INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS



INVESTMENTS

*63% of government grants pass through the Arts Council as a regranter of public dollars.



Little Amal outside the Pittsburgh Public Theater // Photo by Patrick Fisher

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

- Friend** > \$1 - \$249
- Advocate** > \$250 - \$499
- Nurturer** > \$500 - \$999
- Benefactor** > \$1,000 - \$2,499
- Champion** > \$2,500 - \$9,999
- Bronze Patron** > \$10,000 - \$24,999
- Silver Patron** > \$25,000 - \$49,999
- Gold Patron** > \$50,000 +

CONTACT US

**YOUR SUPPORT DIRECTLY HELPS OUR WORK IN
BUILDING A STRONGER ARTS AND CULTURE ECONOMY**

If you'd like to discuss sponsorship and giving opportunities, including learning more about how your support will be acknowledged, please contact:



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GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL

Arts loud and clear

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