National Arts Statistics and Evidence-based Reporting Center (NASERC)

MEASURING THE ARTS
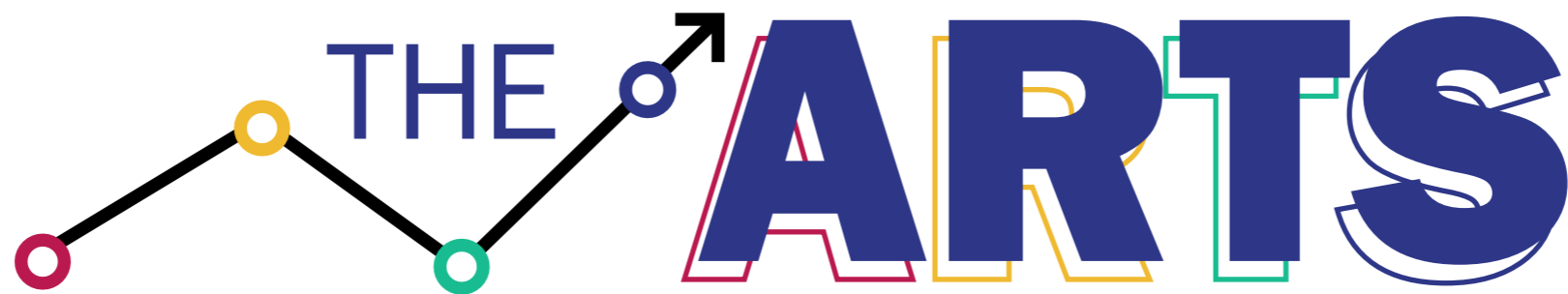
Measuring the Arts: National Arts Statistics and Evidence-based Reporting Center

The National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Office of Research & Analysis created the National Arts Statistics and Evidence-based Reporting Center (NASERC) in 2022 with the goal of providing the public with continuously-updated statistics on the health and vitality of the arts in the United States.

As part of this ongoing work, NASERC has created the Arts Indicators Project to track key measures across four domains: artists and other cultural workers, arts participation, arts and cultural assets, and arts and education. Indicators within these domains summarize important developments and trends in the arts by using the latest statistics, which are updated as new data become available.

NASERC Arts Indicators Framework

The four indicator domains that compose the NASERC Arts Indicators Framework were developed through a literature review, one-on-one interviews, and dataset mapping—all in consultation with a diverse group of field experts. The framework currently consists of just under 20 indicators, each aligned with one of four domains.

Over time, the framework will be expanded to incorporate other domains and indicators. It also will identify cross-cutting themes for special focus, such as engagement of underserved populations, and how the arts intersect with other fields or sectors.

About the Domains

Domain A

Artists and Other Cultural Workers
Indicators in this domain provide a comprehensive description of artists and individuals whose employment involves supporting artists or the arts industry (known as *other cultural workers*).

Domain B

Arts Participants
This domain describes participants in the arts, including the types of activities they pursue and their time use and spending habits.
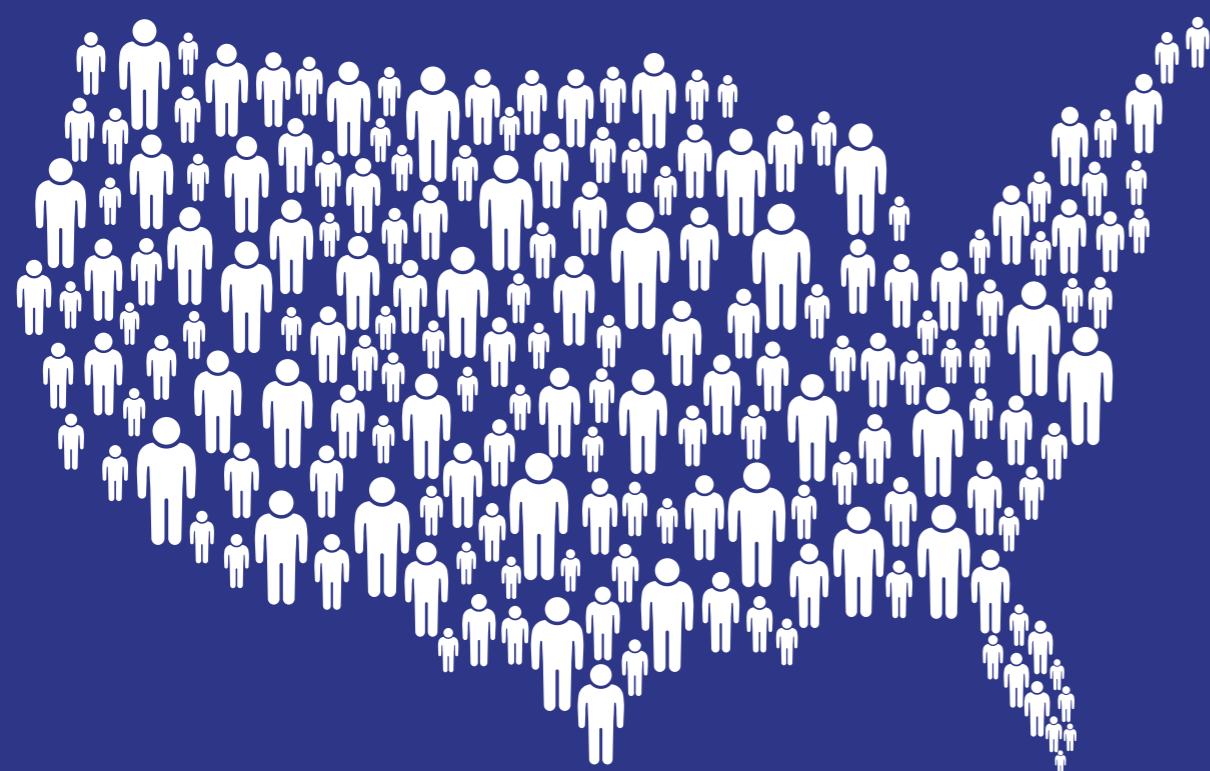
Domain C

Arts and Cultural Assets
This domain describes the economic impact of the arts in the United States as well as the types of arts funding, arts infrastructure, and the places where arts happen across communities.

Domain D

Arts and Education
This domain describes the extent to which students at elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education levels learn to create and appreciate art. It also describes arts teachers.

Data Sources

The NASERC Arts Indicators Project examined datasets from federal statistical agencies and nongovernmental organizations to create a data asset map. In all, 43 datasets were identified in the data asset map as potential data sources for arts indicators. The arts indicators are based on nationally representative data.

Learn more

- Explore each arts domain and its indicators.
- Read the technical report for more information about the development process and dataset selection.
- Stay engaged—new indicators and updated statistics will be released as data become available!