

*These bullets were informed by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) April 2017 paper “Why Government Should Support the Arts?”*

### **Selected Resources for Articulating Arts and Culture’s Importance**

- **Americans for the Arts** is a national arts advocacy agency organization providing easy to use data and resources, including the results of numerous public opinion surveys.  
*americansforthearts.org/advocate*
- **AFTA’s Arts and Economic Prosperity Calculator** is based on AFTA’s Arts and Economic Prosperity Study 5 (details below) and allows organization to calculate their economic impact in their communities. *americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/use/arts-economic-prosperity-5-calculator*
- **Animating Democracy** is a program of Americans for the Arts that brings national visibility to arts for change work, builds knowledge about quality practice, and creates useful resources helping individuals and organizations to articulate the public value of cultural work and its contributions to civic engagement and social change.  
*animatingdemocracy.org*
- **City of Providence’s Arts and Economic Prosperity Study 5 Results.** The most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education.  
*artculturetourism.com/arts-economic-prosperity-5-study*
- **Education Commission of the States** is a trusted resource for comprehensive knowledge and resources on hundreds of education policy issues, including arts in education.  
*ecs.org*
- **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies** is the national arts service organization serving state arts agencies. They also provide handouts and data useful for advocacy and education.  
*nasaa-arts.org/advocacy*
- **The Rhode Island Arts and Health Network’s** 2018 evidence mapping process found over 400 serious medical research studies that demonstrate the efficacy/effectiveness of arts interventions delivered across priority populations and settings. The largest number of studies align with high cost, high burden and complex diagnoses including cancer, behavioral health, and aging populations.  
*health.ri.gov/healthcare/about/artsandhealth*

## The Importance of Arts and Culture: The Big Picture

- **The arts and culture sector creates jobs.** A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism, and expands a state’s work force and tax base. The value of arts and cultural production in America in 2015 was \$763.6 billion, amounting to 4.2% of gross domestic product. The arts contribute more to the national economy than do the construction, transportation, warehousing, and agriculture (including forestry, fishing and hunting) industries. In Rhode Island in 2015, arts and culture comprised 3.3% of the economy, \$1.8 billion of economic activity, and 17,902 directly-related jobs (*U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis*). Public funding of arts and culture is an investment with high yields that starts at the top. Each \$1 in federal arts funds leverages another \$9 from other public and private sources, resulting in \$500 million in matching support (*National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Why Government Should Support the Arts?, 2017*). The State of Rhode Island currently invests \$2.8 million dollars in direct grants and services through RISCA.
- **Arts and culture strengthen education.** Arts and culture in education cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing students’ academic achievement in multiple subject areas. They provide critical-thinking, communications, and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century work force. For Florida high school seniors, a 2012 study found the more arts classes students took, the higher the student achievement was in GPA, state test, and SAT and graduation rate (*Florida Music Director, 2012*).
- **Arts and culture function as civic catalysts.** Arts and cultural activity create a welcoming sense of place and a desirable quality of life. They also support a strong democracy, engaging citizens in civic discourse, providing forums for important issues and encouraging collective problem solving. Through their Social Impact of the Arts Project, University of Pennsylvania Researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of arts and cultural activity in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, and lower poverty rates.
- **Arts and culture foster health and wellness.** Arts and culture aide in recovery processes and contribute to well-being. Arts therapy is a medically and economically effective tool for treating aging adults, children, and people suffering from trauma, including military personnel and combat veterans. Arts in medicine contributes to improved healthcare outcomes, better patient and staff satisfaction, and lower healthcare costs (*Grantmakers in the Arts, 2017*).
- **Arts and cultural activities preserve culture and heritage.** They pass along the unique character and traditions of community, town, city, or state to future generations. Based on a nationwide opinion survey conducted by Americans for the Arts in 2018, 72 percent of respondents believed “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity” and 73 percent agreed that the arts “help me understand other cultures better.”