



**CREATIVEOHIO ARTS
ADVOCACY TOOLKIT**
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About CreativeOhio

HISTORY

Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) has been a champion for arts and culture in Ohio since 1976. In June 2022, the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Board of Directors approved a new name, mission, vision, and values—adopting CreativeOhio (CO)—as the organization's name. CO has led the charge as Ohio's only statewide advocacy organization to raise awareness about the public value of arts and culture and to secure millions of dollars in state funding for Ohio cultural institutions and artists.

WHAT WE DO

CreativeOhio is a member-driven, not-for-profit organization working to strengthen arts and culture in Ohio to benefit all citizens. We represent Ohio's \$55B creative economy, which employs over 300,000 statewide. CO's mission is this: We enrich our communities, citizens, and culture through constant advocacy and relentless support of Ohio creatives and the creative economy. Engaging both grassroots and grass-tops, CO works closely with elected officials to convey the value and economic impact Ohio's arts organizations, artists, and cultural institutions create for Ohioans.

Specifically, CO:

- Monitors and speaks out on public policy issues affecting Ohio's arts and arts education.
- Provides a year-round presence at the Statehouse through a professional lobbyist and a network of volunteer arts advocates.
- Provides information to Ohio citizens, members of the legislature, and state administration about issues important to the arts at the local and state levels.
- Provides information to Ohio citizens about issues important to the arts at the national level.
- Advocates for all arts disciplines, including visual arts and crafts, music, dance, theater, literature, design, film, and video.
- Provides a unified voice for citizens, artists, and arts and education organizations throughout the state and strengthens communications among local communities and all levels of government.

The Legislative Process

Like the federal government, the state government of Ohio is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. These three branches of government work independently and cooperatively to conceive, enact, administer, and interpret the laws that govern the people of Ohio.

The power to make Ohio law is vested in the legislative branch, the Ohio General Assembly. In 1802, the framers of Ohio's Constitution established that the legislature was the most important of the three branches because of its lawmaking powers. It remains the same today.

A BICAMERAL SYSTEM

The Ohio General Assembly is a bicameral, or two-house, system consisting of a 33-member Senate and a 99-member House of Representatives. All legislation must have the approval of both houses before it can become law.

Each year, members of the Ohio General Assembly consider an enormous number of issues ranging from criminal justice, public education, and state finances to roadways, the quality of the environment, and Ohio's business climate.

The Ohio General Assembly is designated officially as a "part-time" body of government; many members serve in the legislature part-time while maintaining another career. In recent years, increasing legislative demands have caused members of the Ohio General Assembly to meet nearly year-round. Due to a heavy legislative workload, there has been an increase in the number of full-time senators and representatives.

THE SENATE

Members of the Ohio Senate come from diverse backgrounds. Senators include attorneys, teachers, businesspeople, financial experts, and full-time legislators.

Members of the Ohio Senate are elected to serve 33 geographical areas called "districts." The boundaries of each district are determined according to population. Each senator represents an equal number of constituents; therefore, senators from rural areas may have geographically larger districts than senators from densely populated urban areas.

General elections for the Ohio Senate are held every two years; half of the members of the Senate are elected each time. Senators are elected to four-year terms. Each Senate district is composed of three House districts.

SENATE SESSION

The Ohio Constitution instructs the president of the Ohio Senate to call the Senate to order during the first week of January at the opening of the new General Assembly, which occurs every odd-numbered year. From that time on, the Senate meets at the direction of the Senate president until the official close of the business (sine die). When in session, the Ohio Senate usually meets three days a week. These are generally: Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and Thursday at 11 a.m..

Each session is denoted by the meeting of all senators, where roll call votes on bills or resolutions may be taken.

While the Senate is in session, only senators and senate staff members are permitted on the floor of the Senate. Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to attend Senate sessions and may view the proceedings from the visitors' gallery to the side of the Senate floor.

COMMITTEES

A bill generally reaches the Senate floor by a vote by the full Senate after receiving a series of hearings in a Senate standing committee, where legislation is carefully considered. The committee process is perhaps the most vital aspect of the legislature because committee hearings permit Ohio citizens to speak out on a particular bill through testimony.

The Ohio General Assembly has 14 Senate standing committees and 18 House standing committees where bills are sent for review following their introductions. A bill is referred to the committee that deals with the subject matter contained in the legislation. For example, a bill dealing with arts funding would be sent to the Senate Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Committee sessions are called "hearings" because most of the committee's work involves listening to testimony from interested persons. Witnesses testifying before a committee may be lobbyists representing special interest groups such as schools, doctors, and the arts or private citizens. Everyone who testifies before a committee must register with the chairperson before the hearing.

Testimony may be written, with copies distributed to committee members, or it may be delivered impromptu. In either case, witnesses are advised to keep their remarks brief and to the point.

Generally, at least two hearings are held on each bill, one for proponent testimony and one for opponent testimony. After all hearings on a bill, committee members participate in a roll call vote to determine whether the bill should be sent before the entire Senate for consideration.

AMENDMENTS

At the time of the roll call vote, amendments to the bill or a substitute version of the bill may be presented to the committee for a vote. Amendments also may be offered when the bill reaches the Senate floor for a vote.

Once amendments or substitute bills have been considered and voted upon, the bill is ready for a vote to report it out of the committee:

- *Favorable report:* The bill is sent to the Senate Rules Committee, where it may be assigned a date to be considered in an entire Senate floor session.
- *Unfavorable report:* if the committee gives the bill an unfavorable report, the full Senate will not consider it.

The dates of committee hearings are posted in the Senate Clerk's office, at the rear of the Senate chamber and the hallway outside the House chamber, and are also available online at ohio.gov. Newly adopted Senate rules require at least a two-day public notice before any bill is heard in a committee for the first time.

LEADING THE SENATE

The political caucus with most Senate members determines the leaders of the Ohio Senate. The president of the Senate oversees all operations of the Ohio Senate, including presiding over Senate floor sessions in which bills and resolutions are considered, initiating roll call votes on legislation, appointing the members of all Senate committees, and setting Senate administrative policy.

The President Pro Tempore, Assistant President Pro Tempore, and Majority Whip assist the president in his duties. The minority caucus leaders are Minority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Whip, and Assistant Minority Whip.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In the Ohio General Assembly, a state representative and a state senator represent each citizen. State representatives listen to the concerns of their constituents and speak for them. They develop solutions to the needs of their districts through legislative action.

State representatives work together, balancing the best interests of each district.

House members attend many meetings of their local civic, religious, and business groups. Through those contacts and suggestions from individual citizens, state representatives gauge public opinion and develop proposals for changes in the state

law. Proposals prepared as a bill are formally considered by the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Governor before becoming law.

Each state representative is assigned to several standing committees that meet weekly while the House is in session to review each bill closely. In committee meetings, they hear testimony from individuals interested in specific legislative issues. Often members are assigned to special committees or boards that investigate items of pressing concern, or they regularly review actions of state agencies. When a committee recommends a bill for passage and the Rules and Reference Committee schedules it for consideration, the bill comes before the House for a vote. During the floor session, representatives debate the merits of the proposal. After the debate is closed, each member must cast a vote in favor of or against the bill.

State representatives also liaise between groups and individuals in their districts and state and federal agencies. This interaction empowers constituents by providing the personal assistance necessary to receive important services or benefits from state departments and commissions.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

The Ohio House of Representatives may consider as many as 2,000 proposals during one session; therefore, legislative committees are created to examine legislation more thoroughly and to allow for complete, accessible, and open public discussions. Committees are established early in a legislative session, and the Speaker of the House determines membership. The most active committees in the House of Representatives are called standing or permanent committees. The standing committees hold public hearings on bills. While the number and titles of standing committees may vary from session to session, the House usually has standing committees concerned with finance, education, the judiciary, taxation, public utilities, and agriculture.

In addition to standing committees, the Speaker frequently designates certain standing subcommittees. Subcommittees generally consist of three to seven members who hear testimony, amend or prepare substitute legislation, and report to the parent standing committee. Committee chairs also can designate non-standing or temporary subcommittees to deal with specific legislation.

The Speaker of the House also has the power to establish and appoint select committees to undertake specific legislative tasks. Generally, a select committee is dissolved after it presents its report to the full House.

House and Senate members may meet to hear testimony simultaneously, thereby expediting the bill's progress. This is known as a joint select committee.

Conference committees are created to resolve the differences between versions of a bill passed by both chambers. Conference committees contain three members from each

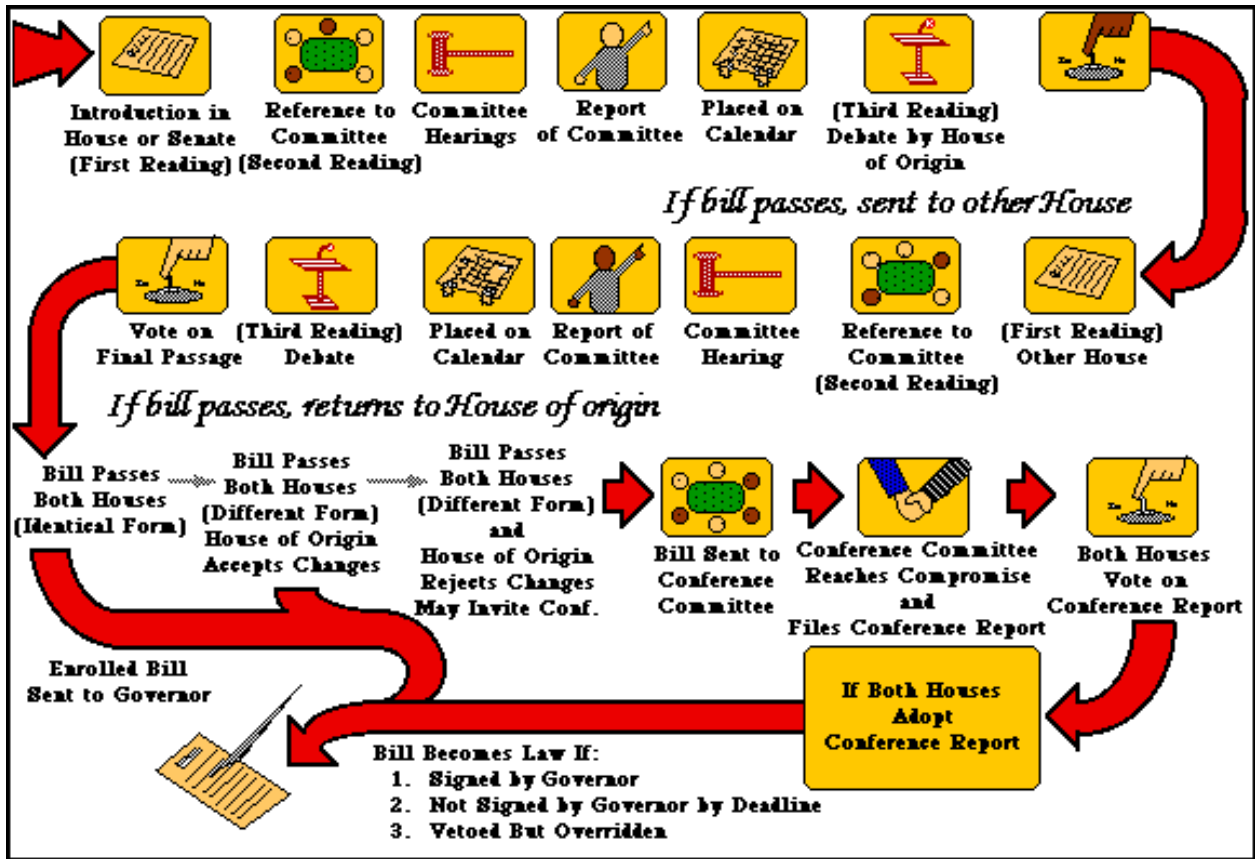
chamber and have the power to propose changes in legislation to reach a compromise.

THE LEADERSHIP

One of the most critical legislative figures is the Speaker of the House. The Speaker is elected to this position by the entire House membership on the first day of the session. The Speaker appoints the members and chairpersons of all committees, directs the legislative procedures, oversees the administration of the body, and presides over daily sessions.

Other House leadership positions include, for the majority caucus, the Speaker Pro Tempore, Majority Floor Leader, the Assistant Majority Floor Leader, the Majority Whip, and the Assistant Majority Whip. Positions for the minority caucus include the Minority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Whip, and Assistant Minority Whip.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



IN THE SENATE

All formally proposed changes or additions to Ohio law are called bills. From the development of an idea for legislation until it is enacted as a new law, a Senate bill follows a formal consideration process explained, in detail, below.

BILL INTRODUCTION

Once drafted into legal form, the bill is filed with the Senate Clerk, who assigns it an identification number. The bill is introduced when its title is read on the Senate floor as a regular order of business.

REFERENCE OF BILLS

Following a bill's introduction, it is assigned to a Senate standing committee for formal review on the leadership motion.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

A Senate standing committee holds public hearings on a bill to examine all sides of the issue before voting if a bill should leave a committee. A bill may be reported from the committee as introduced, amended, postponed for later consideration, or defeated by the committee.

RULES COMMITTEE

Bills reported out of a standing committee favorably are sent to the Rules Committee, which schedules when a bill is to appear before the entire Senate for a vote.

THE SENATE VOTE

When a bill comes to the Senate floor for a vote, the bill's merits are debated, and amendments to the bill may be offered. Finally, it is voted on by the entire membership of the Senate, answering a roll call.

CONSIDERATION BY HOUSE

All bills need the approval of both houses of the General Assembly to become law. Following its passage in the Senate, a Senate bill undergoes the same consideration process in the House of Representatives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Service Commission prepares the first draft of the proposal in proper legal form. The bill is then filed with the Clerk, who assigns it an identification number to be used throughout the legislative session.

RULES AND REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The bill's title is read on the House floor as a regular order of business. After this formal introduction, called "first consideration," the bill is sent to the Reference Committee. This committee decides whether a bill should be sent to a standing committee for further consideration. The Reference Committee reports its recommendations for committee assignment to the full House. The report of the Reference Committee constitutes the "second consideration" of a bill.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The real work of the House is performed in the standing committees. Here, public members convey their views to legislators by testifying either for or against the proposal. Complex bills are re-referred to subcommittees for in-depth study. After all testimony has been considered, the committee may report the bill without changes, amend it and then report it, prepare a substitute bill, or indefinitely postpone committee action.

RULES AND REFERENCE COMMITTEE

After a bill has been reported favorably by a standing committee, the Rules Committee determines which bills shall be considered for passage by the entire House and on what date. This committee is composed of the senior members of each caucus and is the most powerful committee in the House.

FLOOR ACTION

A bill receives a “third consideration” when the full House considers its passage. The bill’s sponsor explains the content and purpose of the bill to the House membership. Members then debate the merits of the measure and may offer amendments. It may be passed or defeated, or action may be postponed until later. A constitutional majority of 50 votes is required to pass most legislation in the Ohio House of Representatives. Emergency measures require a two-thirds majority, while constitutional amendments demand a three-fifths majority for passage.

CONSIDERATION BY SENATE

Although bills may be introduced in either the House or the Senate, they must be approved by both chambers to become law. Once passed by the House, a bill goes to the Senate, which follows the same general hearing procedures. The Senate may pass the bill as is or amend it and send it back to the House for approval. If the House agrees with the Senate changes, the bill goes to the Governor for signature. If the House does not agree with the changes, a conference committee of three members from each chamber is appointed to resolve differences.

ACTION BY GOVERNOR

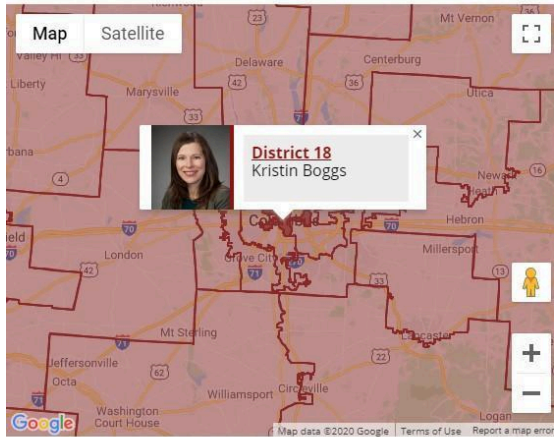
The Ohio Constitution requires the Governor to consider each bill passed by the General Assembly. If the Governor approves the bill, it is signed and usually becomes effective after 90 days. Emergency and appropriation bills become effective immediately. If the Governor vetoes the legislation, it is sent back to the General Assembly with an explanation. However, if three-fifths of the members of each chamber vote to override the veto, the measure becomes law. If the Governor takes no action within ten days the bill becomes law.

How to Find a Legislator

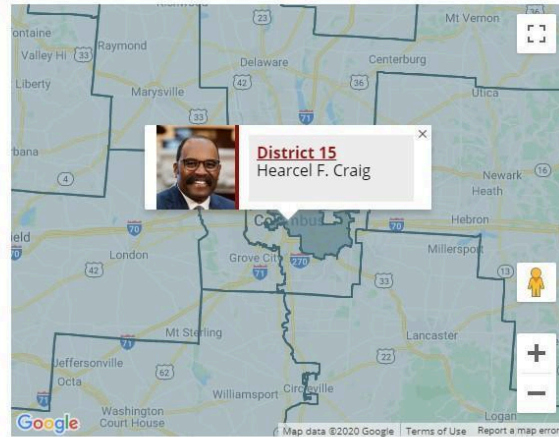
The following link will allow you to determine your State Representative and State Senator with a simple address search. Clicking on the member will then bring you to a page with additional details, including contact information and a member biography.

legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/district-maps

House District Map



Senate District Map



Search By Address

How to Share Our Message

Communicate, educate, and advocate through the following methods. Remember that you can reach out to any state legislator, not just the members in your district.

- *Write* the legislator a letter or send an email. This can be a simple and effective method of communication while offering a personal touch. Remember that legislators see you as a voter – they want to hear from their constituents and will take the time to read these.
- *Call* the legislator. Call the CO office if you need their personal number. Each elected official has staff members working to answer the phone. You may not be able to speak with the legislator immediately, but you can schedule a call with their staff for a later date.
- *Meet* with the legislator. State representatives and senators are in meetings with interest groups, constituents, and industry leaders all the time. Offer to sit down and discuss your issue with them in their Columbus office or, even better, at the local coffee shop in town.

When communicating with any elected official, please take note of the following Dos & Don'ts:

DO	DON'T
DO be polite and professional	DON'T insult the legislator
DO be specific... ask for the vote	DON'T confuse the legislator
DO be short and to the point	DON'T write a novel... keep it short
DO remind the legislator that you are paying attention to his/her votes	DON'T use a form letter or postcard

Amplify Your Influence

Inventory and activate your assets—use the tools already at your disposal.

- Reach out to your board members and donors. These folks tend to be influential and well-connected in their communities. They may already have a personal relationship with the elected official you want to speak with. They may have donated to that legislator's campaign or attended a fundraising event.
- Reach out to your constituents and consumers. They vote, many of them, and, most importantly, they recognize your organization's value to the community. Ask them to contact your legislator and advocate on your behalf.

What if my Senator or Representative Already Supports the Arts?

What should you do if your senator or representative says they already support the arts? You should still schedule an appointment with the elected official or the appropriate staff member. The following suggestions are what you should ask them to do next for the arts:

- **Thank legislators for their support. Never take their support for granted.**
- Ask your legislators to recruit other policymakers to support the arts proactively.
- Provide your legislators with personal anecdotes and stories of arts activities in their city or district to use in speeches.
- Ask your legislators to prepare floor statements on arts issues and funding.
- Give your legislators public value statements about the arts for speeches or floor statements.
- Provide your legislators with data to show the economic impact of the arts in their communities. You can obtain this information from CreativeOhio and Americans for the Arts.
- Provide your legislators with data for arts education outreach by arts organizations in local communities.
- Let your legislators know about innovative partnerships at the local and state levels and give examples.
- Encourage your legislators to take leadership roles in the arts.
- Provide opportunities for legislators to experience the arts in their legislative districts.
- Thank your legislators again for their support.

Tips for Meeting Your Legislator

0. Each office schedules appointments differently, but usually, they are arranged by the district scheduler (for visits in the district) and staff in the Columbus office (for visits in Columbus.) The state of Ohio's general number is **614-466-2000**. Once you've decided to arrange a meeting, call as soon as possible. Be prepared to tell the scheduler the date and time you would like to meet with your legislator and the general topics you wish to discuss. Reconfirm your appointment the week before it is scheduled to occur.
1. If others are joining you for the meeting, be sure to provide the scheduler with a list of names and with which organizations they are affiliated. It is also essential to meet with the other group members before the meeting to discuss what you want to achieve and how you plan to do it. Appoint one member of the group to be the spokesperson. Then give a specific role to each other individual attending the meeting.
2. Assume that the time allotted by the legislator's office is "real-time" — don't assume that you can extend the meeting time once the meeting begins. However, it often turns out that if an appointment is going well, you may receive more time with the legislator than expected.
3. Be on time. An unwritten law of advocacy is that it's okay for the legislator or staff to be late but unacceptable for the advocate to be late.
4. Be sure to listen and take notes. Explore the legislator's or their staff's views by asking questions and giving them a chance to respond. Discuss your legislator's voting record on the issue.
5. When the legislator asks questions, provide direct answers whenever possible. If you don't know the answer, say you'll get back to them.
6. Do not be surprised if you meet with the legislative staff, even if you have an appointment directly with the legislator. Most likely, there is a legitimate reason for the legislator's absence. Remember that staff are also essential in the process; they are responsible for gauging constituents' views on issues and communicating them to the legislator. Ask the staff if they need any additional information or assistance from you.
7. Don't be discouraged if your legislator declines to take a solid position or make a firm commitment during your meeting. Using your judgment, try to get a feeling for the legislator's reservations, how you can address them, and what realistic avenues you can pursue to gain support or modify their opposition.
8. Send a thank-you letter to the legislator or staff, restating the main points of the meeting. Remember to provide any information you promised to send during the meeting. Also, offer yourself as a resource. Remember to include your name, telephone number, mailing address, and email in your thank-you letter.

Talking Points

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS

We know how impactful the creative economy was to our state before this healthcare crisis, and we need to preserve and position it to play this role again. A few facts pre-COVID-19:

9. Creatives are a fundamentally entrepreneurial sector of the economy in Ohio, supporting over 300,000 jobs and generating \$55 billion in economic activity.
10. Though 70% of the creative industries' impact is in Ohio's six metropolitan areas (Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron, and Youngstown), the economic impact is not just in urban areas. Additional Ohio municipalities make up nearly thirty percent of the creative economy, with more than \$12 billion in annual activity.
11. In addition to the tangible economic impact we can measure, a vibrant arts sector elevates Ohio as a hub of creativity, attracting both employees and firms; draws tourists from all over the globe; and helps tackle significant social challenges such as substance abuse and addiction, veterans' health, educate the young, and aid the elderly.

(Source: [Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation 2018 Creative Economy Study](#) in conjunction with the Center for Regional Development and Bowling Green State University. Americans for the Arts)

10 Reasons to Support the Arts

The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us — fostering creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts bring joy, help us express our values, and build bridges between cultures. The arts are also a fundamental component of a healthy community — strengthening them socially, educationally, and economically — benefits that persist even in difficult social and economic times.

1. Arts improve individual well-being. Sixty-nine percent of the U.S. population believes the arts “lift me beyond everyday experiences,” 73 percent feel the arts give them “pure pleasure to experience and participate in,” and 81 percent say the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world.”
2. Arts unify communities. Seventy-two percent of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity,” and 73 percent agree that the arts “helps me understand other cultures better” — a perspective observed across all demographic and economic categories.
3. Arts improve academic performance. Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, college-going rates, and lower drop-out rates. These educational benefits are reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status. Yet, the Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers. Ninety-one percent of Americans believe arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.
4. Arts strengthen the economy. The production of all arts and cultural goods in the U.S. (e.g., nonprofit, commercial, education) added \$804 billion to the economy in 2016, including a \$25 billion international trade surplus—a larger share of the nation’s economy (4.3 percent) than transportation, tourism, and agriculture (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis). The nonprofit arts industry generates \$166.3 billion in economic activity annually—spending by organizations and their audiences—which supports 4.6 million jobs and generates \$27.5 billion in government revenue.
5. Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses. Attendees at nonprofit arts events spend \$31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and babysitters — valuable commerce for local businesses. Thirty-four percent of attendees live outside the county where the arts event takes place; they average \$47.57 in event-related spending. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek authentic cultural experiences.
6. Arts spark creativity and innovation. Creativity is among the top five applied skills sought by business leaders, per the Conference Board’s Ready to Innovate report, with 72 percent saying creativity is essential when hiring. Research on creativity shows that Nobel Laureates in the sciences are 17 times more likely to be actively engaged in the arts than other scientists.

7. Arts drive the creative industries. The creative industries are arts businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theaters to for-profit film, architecture, and design companies. A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data counts 673,656 businesses in the U.S. involved in the creation or distribution of the arts — 4.01 percent of all trades and 2.04 percent of all employees.
8. Arts have a social impact. University of Pennsylvania researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates.
9. Arts improve healthcare. Nearly one-half of the nation's healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and staff. Seventy-eight percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients — shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.
10. Arts for the health and well-being of our military. The arts heal the mental, physical, and moral injuries of war for military servicemembers and Veterans, who rank the creative arts therapies in the top four (out of 40) interventions and treatments. Across the military continuum, the arts promote resilience during pre-deployment, deployment, and the reintegration of military servicemembers, Veterans, their families, and caregivers into communities.

Legislative Glossary

Apportionment:	Distribution of legislative seats according to district boundary lines.
Appropriations:	Authorized expenditures.
Bicameral:	A bicameral legislature is composed of two legislative houses. The two houses in the Ohio General Assembly are the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate.
Bill:	A formally proposed change or addition to Ohio law.
Caucus:	A division of Senate and House members determined by political party (i.e., Republican caucus). Caucus can also refer to a meeting of the minority or majority party members.
Constituents:	Residents in the district represented by a senator or representative.
District:	The geographical area a legislator represents.
Electorate:	The group or body of voters.
Endorse:	Approve a candidate.

General Fund:	State money collected through taxes to pay most of a state's expenses.
Lame Ducks:	Elected officials who have been defeated for re-election or are not eligible for re-election and are finishing their term.
Lobbying:	Trying to influence those who make or carry out public policy.
Majority:	A number larger than half the total. In legislative terms, used to designate the party which has more than 50% of the total and therefore controls operations.
Majority Leader:	The member of a legislative house elected by members to lead the majority party. In Ohio, the leader of the Senate is the President of the Senate. In the House, it is the Speaker of the House.
Majority Party:	The political party having the most members in one house.
Minority Party:	The political party having the fewest members in one
house. Partisan:	Influenced by political party considerations.
Primary Elections:	Preliminary elections to choose party candidates to run for office in the general election.
Public Policy:	Course of action designed by a government to manage its affairs.
Quorum:	The minimum number of legislators must be present before a legislative body can act.
Ratify:	To approve or confirm.
Reapportionment:	Redistribution of legislative seats according to a new rule or formula or because of population changes. This generally happens every ten years after the Federal Census.
Recesses:	Periods during which a legislative body is not in session.
Resolution:	A formal expression of the legislature's wishes, which does not require the Governor's approval.
Roll Call Vote:	An official vote on a bill or resolution where each legislator is called upon to vote, and the vote is recorded.
Seniority:	Length of service.

Sine Die: Marks the end of an Ohio General Assembly and means no further meetings of the Senate and House are scheduled. The Latin phrase is translated as “without day.”

Speaker of the House: A leader is chosen by members of the House of Representatives, from the majority party, usually by the majority party, at the beginning of a session to preside over the meetings of the House.

Standing Committees: Permanent committees of the legislature.

State Budget: The financial plan of the state.

State Expenditures: Money spent by a state government.

Veto: To refuse to approve laws exercised by the chief executive, e.g., the Governor.