

# THE STATE OF THE ARTS IN MARYLAND: COVID'S IMPACT & MSAC'S RESPONSE

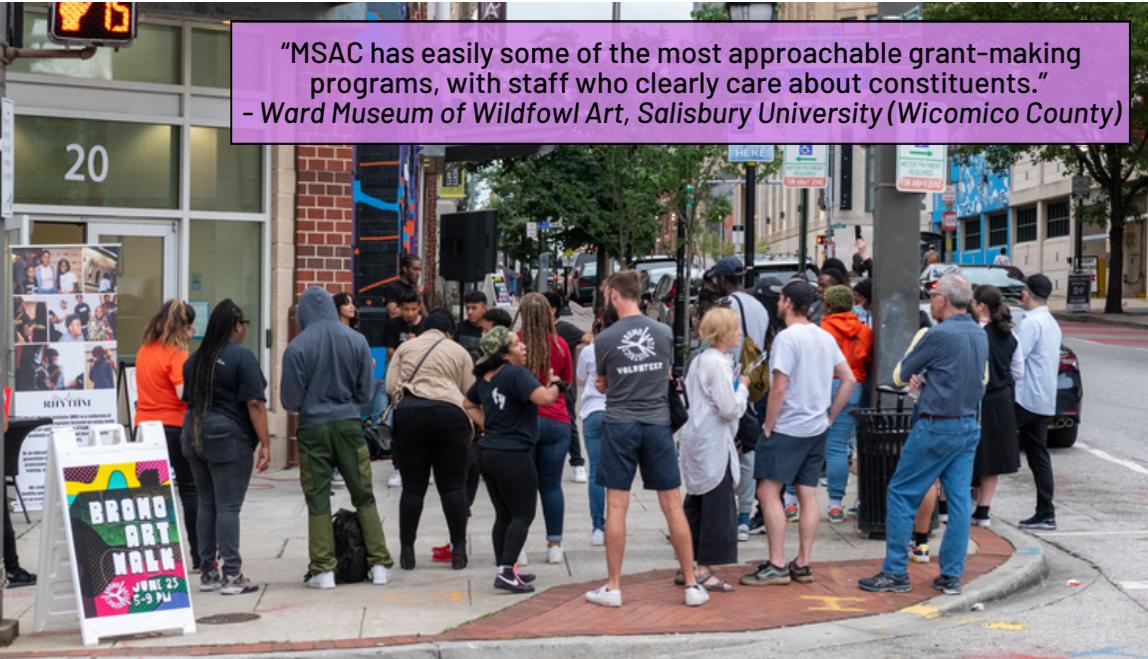


**FEBRUARY 2023**

# MARYLAND'S ARTS SECTOR

The arts celebrate our state's diversity, connect our shared humanity, and transform individuals and communities. MSAC's investments ensure access to the arts for all Marylanders.

Pre-pandemic, MSAC's 300+ grantee organizations created around \$1.2 billion in total economic activity, supporting 14,600 jobs and generating close to \$50 million in state and local taxes on average.\*



*"MSAC has easily some of the most approachable grant-making programs, with staff who clearly care about constituents."  
- Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University (Wicomico County)*

In total, the creative sector accounted for over \$11.7 billion or 2.7% of Maryland's economy and contributed almost 80,000 jobs.\*\*

# COVID EFFECTS

COVID took an outsized toll on the arts. Performance venues shuttered. Galleries, businesses, and community spaces closed. Independent artists lost most of their income generating work.

Between FY2019 and FY2021, MSAC-supported organizations saw attendance decline almost 50% in total and shift from mostly in-person to mostly virtual.\*



Relative to Maryland's overall economy, arts and culture declined more rapidly, with the total market value of goods and services declining 7.67% between 2019 and 2020.\*\*

The employment effects of MSAC's grantees declined 46% as many organizations were forced to lay off artists and workers.\*

"Our organization was close to having to suspend all arts activities until further notice when we were awarded funds from (MSAC)... (The) funding has truly helped us get back on track."  
- Authentic Community Theatre (Washington County)

\*MSAC economic impact reports available at [msac.org/resources/publications](https://msac.org/resources/publications)

\*\*US Bureau of Economic Analysis available at [nasaa-arts.org/nasaa\\_research/creative-economy-state-profiles](https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles)

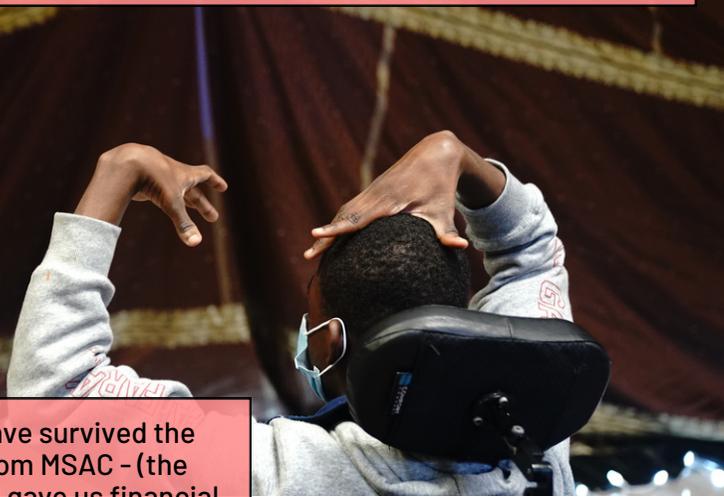
# MSAC RESPONSE

MSAC was one of the first state offices to develop a response, making \$1 million in emergency funding available to artists and arts organizations and holding virtual spaces for artists and arts sector leaders to meet, share ideas, and find community.

In total during FY2020 and FY2021, MSAC distributed 1,645 Emergency Grants totaling over \$12 million to arts organizations and independent artists to mitigate losses sustained due to the pandemic.



"The emergency funds... helped to sustain me as an artist.... The State of Maryland stepped up and took care of its artists, like me. For that, I am forever grateful."  
- Alfred Tyrone DeMartino, writer (Allegany County)



"Handel Choir could NEVER have survived the pandemic without support from MSAC - (the support) kept our staff paid and gave us financial resources to pivot."

- Handel Choir of Baltimore (Baltimore City)

# FY2023 ARTS RELIEF

MSAC is investing an additional \$40 million that will help the sector rebound from COVID losses, keep the arts accessible to all Marylanders, and retain a high quality of life in our state.

## Plan:

- \$35 million in additional general operating support to organizations
- \$3 million in additional arts project support
- \$2 million in additional support directly to artists

## Goals:

- distributing funds equitably across Maryland's arts sector
- providing economic stability as artists and arts organizations continue to navigate the effects of the pandemic

"I can tell you that without MSAC support after the 2020 shutdown, and beyond, CREATE would not be here today and thriving."

- CREATE Arts Center (Montgomery County)

Overall, MSAC anticipates making an unprecedented 2,500 grants to artists and arts organizations totaling \$65 million.





\*Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland studies are conducted by the Maryland Department of Commerce, Office of Research utilizing data collected by MSAC. These studies do not include the economic impact of non-profit arts organizations in Maryland that do not receive funding from MSAC, for-profit arts organizations, and the activities of individual visual, performing, and literary artists.

\*\*Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts Office of Research & Analysis and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and is part of BEA's satellite accounts series that complements the bureau's core economic accounts with detailed data on key industries. ACPSA data includes all arts and cultural industries, both core and supporting, associated with the creation, production and dissemination of arts and cultural commodities. See the link inside for more information about the industries included.

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Learn more about MSAC's impact on our social media! Find us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: **@mdartscouncil**

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

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## Photo Credits

**Cover:** Gaithersburg residents and visitors attending Evenings in Olde Towne concert series

**Page 1:** Bromo Arts District Art Walk

**Page 2:** Station North Art Walk at the Ynot Lot

**Page 3:** Magical Experiences Arts Company's William S. Baer School residency from the play "Ederlezi"

**Page 4:** Artist at work at the Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore in Denton