



MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Fellow Marylanders:

It's my pleasure to introduce the Maryland State Arts Council's FY 2023 Annual Report with the exciting news that our state ranks second in the nation in *per capita* public spending on the arts! This historic investment demonstrates this administration's belief that the arts are an essential part of life in Maryland; they're part of what makes our state such a great place to live and work, and they contribute significantly to our economy.

Notable this year was the addition of \$40 million in pandemic recovery funding to MSAC's record regular budget of \$28.9 million. The MSAC team worked diligently, thoughtfully, and tirelessly to deliver funding through its regular programs as well as much needed

Arts Relief funds to Maryland's arts sector. These funds have and will help to ensure a robust job market in the arts, as well as a quality of life that bolsters the state's appeal to current Marylanders, visitors, and prospective residents.

I invite you to look through the following pages for the full story about MSAC's recent activities. From the largest arts organization to the ambitious startup to the many artists at work in the studio, every layer of our creative economy has been touched by their work.



Kevin Anderson
Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



MSAC is an agency of the State of Maryland's Department of Commerce. It provides resources to the state's arts sector through grants, professional development, and other opportunities.

Founded in 1967, MSAC's vision is to play an essential role ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

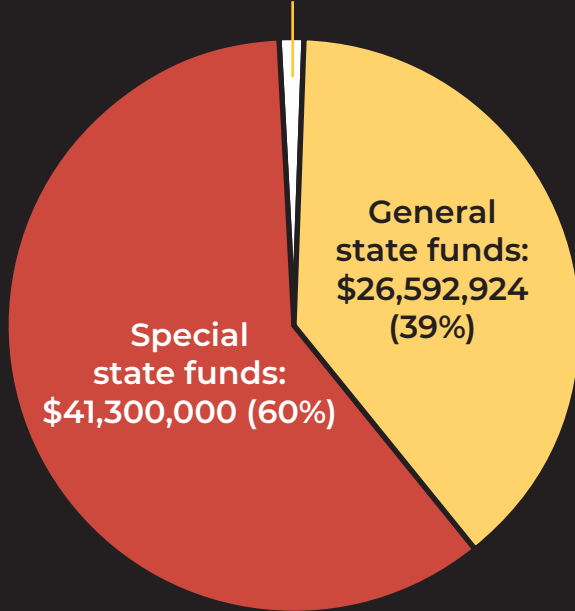
Its mission is to advance the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland.

MSAC is committed to justice in grantmaking. Centering equity, diversity, and inclusion in all decisions ensures that Marylanders have the opportunity to participate in the arts as affirming, enhancing, and necessary life experiences.

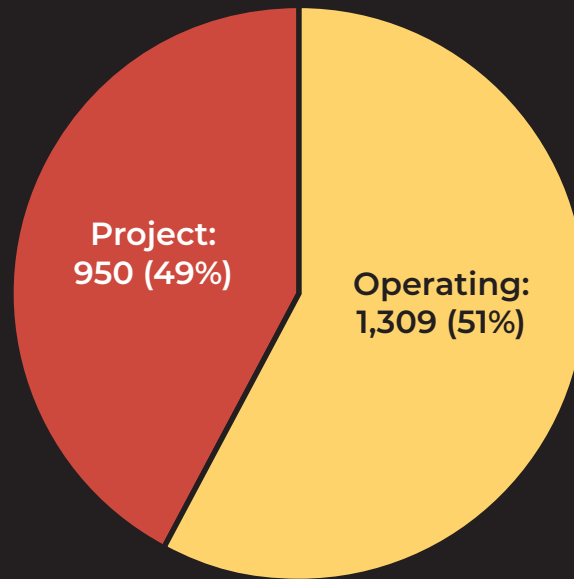
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding sources

Federal funds: \$766,290 (1%)

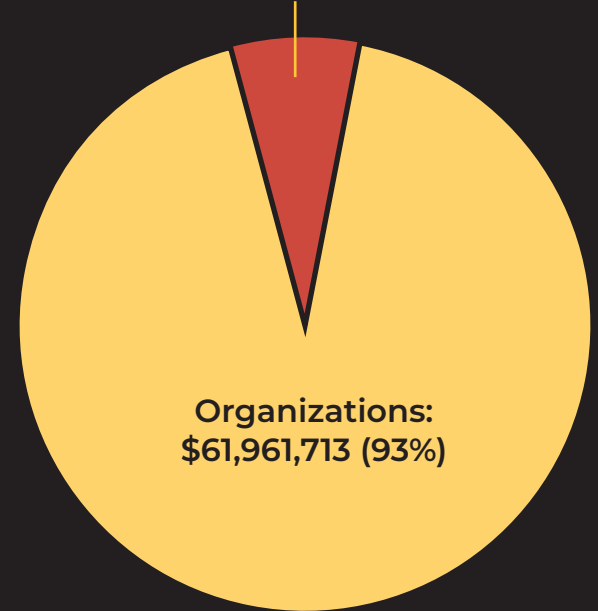


Grant types



Grantee types

Individuals: \$4,572,210 (7%)



Maryland was 2nd in the nation in per capita spending on the arts in FY 2023.

ARTS RELIEF

It has been a busy and rewarding year at MSAC. Our biggest achievement was the successful expenditure of the Arts Relief funding package, \$40 million in state supplemental budget funds provided to help support economic stability as Maryland's arts sector continues to navigate the effects of the pandemic.

I feel honored to have worked with an incredible team to develop a plan that distributed the entirety of the \$40 million dollars equitably through increases in the number and dollar amount of existing grants, as well as the creation and implementation of new grants supporting organizations and artists.

It was MSAC's privilege to steward this funding, which we hope puts our grantees on stable footing as they look toward the future.



Steven Skerritt-Davis
Executive Director

“I feel so lucky to live in a state with such robust arts support, and so much of that is because of the thoughtful and generous work your team at MSAC does! I’m always so impressed by your systems and care — you really stand out amongst funders.”

— *Kate Reed Petty,*
writer (Baltimore City)

ARTS RELIEF

\$40 million

Arts Relief General Operating Support: \$34,471,478

Grants for Organizations: \$26,621,478

County Arts Development: \$6,050,000

Arts & Entertainment District Operating Support: \$925,000

Folklife Network: \$875,000

Public Art Across Maryland: \$1,760,000

Grants for Artists: \$1,290,000

Creativity: \$1,042,503

Arts in Education: \$796,012

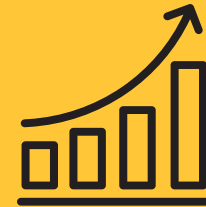
Emergency: \$300,000

Folklife Apprenticeship: \$150,000

Professional Development Opportunity: \$100,000

Special Request: \$90,007

In FY23:



282%

**increase in
operating grants**

209%

**increase in
grants to artists**

164%

**increase in grants
to organizations**

55%

**increase in
project grants**

ARTS RELIEF GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

\$34,471,478

618 grants

A large portion of this year's Arts Relief funding went toward the creation of the Arts Relief General Operating Support (ARGOS) program, a temporary offering that provided pandemic recovery funds to grantees of MSAC's existing Grants for Organizations, County Arts Development, Folklife Network, and Arts & Entertainment District General Operating Support programs.



Young hip-hop artists holding a street corner performance in Baltimore City.

“The return from the pandemic has been anything but smooth, and the ups and downs and all-over swings of the past two-plus years have been pretty challenging, to say the least. To get this level of support now is a real testament to the importance of the performing arts in Maryland. Thank you for all that you do to promote the value of arts institutions and artists.”

— *Olney Theatre Center (Montgomery)*

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

\$16,973,738

282 grants

The Grants for Organizations program strengthened and sustained Maryland's arts infrastructure by providing operating support to organizations producing or presenting arts programming for public audiences across Maryland. The increasingly popular program served 30 new grantees in FY 2023.



Young dancers with Baltimore City's *Cielo* Latin American arts and culture group.

“We at the Ward Foundation are grateful for the ongoing support of the MSAC — through funding, but also by being mindful of the available resources (personnel, time, etc.) of the nonprofits applying for funds. MSAC has been hands-down the most responsive to the needs and challenges of arts organizations during the pandemic, and we thank you for your work on our behalf!”

— The Ward Foundation (Wicomico)

CREATIVITY

\$1,956,888

449 grants

The Creativity grant supported two kinds of arts activities: general operations for smaller organizations and projects for organizations and artists. Creativity grant funding increased substantially in FY 2023, due to an infusion of Arts Relief support.



A plein air artist at work in Queen Anne's County.

COUNTY ARTS DEVELOPMENT

\$4,750,000

24 grants

The County Arts Development program bolstered Maryland's network of county arts agencies with operating funding for the designated government offices and nonprofit organizations supporting local arts activities in each jurisdiction of the state — 23 counties plus Baltimore City. All county arts agencies provide local arts funding opportunities, programming, and other resources.



Live music at the Grantsville Days festival, sponsored in part by the Garrett County Arts Council. Photo courtesy of Taylor Lewis Photography.

GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

\$1,620,000

270 grants

Grants for Artists, MSAC's newest program, piloted last year to support working and living expenses for 270 artists making work independently of an organization or institution.

The program attracted an unprecedented level of interest and received applications from every jurisdiction in the state.



A cavaco player poses with her instrument in Prince George's County.

“Thank you so very much for this grant opportunity! It means a lot to be approved for this grant in order to acquire the sewing and quilting tools and services that will help me to continue and to improve the quality of making, sharing, and selling quilt blocks and quilts and other items to Smithsonian Enterprises and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.”

— Sylvia G. Stephens, quilter (Prince George's)

PUBLIC ART ACROSS MARYLAND



Viewers attend the unveiling of a new mural in St. Mary's County.

\$2,519,041

89 New Artworks grants

17 Conservation grants

The Public Art Across Maryland program funded the planning, creation, installation, and conservation of publicly accessible art integrated into the everyday experiences of Marylanders statewide.

In addition, the program supported progress on seven commissioned works at state-owned facilities and introduced the Public Art Roster, a directory easing artists' access to work opportunities and addressing high demand from those wishing to connect with the Public Art Across Maryland program.

ARTS IN EDUCATION

\$1,407,032

247 grants

The Arts in Education program supported the work of teaching artists in school and community settings by funding members of the Teaching Artist Roster, a vetted list of Maryland artists and organizations whose efforts deepen lifelong learning.

The Arts in Education program also administered Poetry Out Loud, a state recitation competition helping students master public speaking skills and build self-confidence. State champion Madison Harris, a freshman from Indian Creek High School in Anne Arundel County, went on to place third in the national Poetry Out Loud competition.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT

POETRY

OUT

LOUD®



Madison Harris performing at the national Poetry Out Loud competition.
Photo courtesy of James Kegley.

MARYLAND TRADITIONS

\$985,000

49 Folklife Apprenticeships

8 Folklife Network grants

6 Heritage Awards

Maryland Traditions, MSAC's traditional arts program and the oldest of its kind in the country, provided support for one-on-one traditional arts education experiences, long-term achievement in the traditional arts, and a network of eight regional folklife centers raising the profile of the many cultural communities that call Maryland home.



Juneteenth celebrations at the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center, a Heritage Award winner in Queen Anne's County.

“Having the opportunity to share an art form that I am so passionate about with an aspiring artist and help ensure it continues to be practiced and shared is an exhilarating feeling! Thank you MSAC.”

— Colleen Tiefenthal, fiber artist (Cecil)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

\$444,321

26 grants

Maryland's 29 Arts & Entertainment Districts received support from MSAC in promoting community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through the availability of tax-related incentives. This support included funding to most districts through the Arts & Entertainment District General Operating Support grant.

PRESENTING & TOURING

\$168,393

44 grants

The Presenting & Touring program fostered connections between Maryland's performing artists and performance venues through the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster, a listing that encourages connections between the two groups. The program also provided funding to presenting organizations that engage roster artists through the Maryland Touring grant.

NETWORK ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

\$79,182

8 grants

The Network Organizational Development (NOD) grant funded capacity building projects for organizations participating in three MSAC programs: Arts & Entertainment Districts, County Arts Development, and the Folklife Network.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

\$223,338

119 grants

Professional Development Opportunity (PD Opportunity) grant supported the cost of relevant training and skill-building for artists and organizations seeking to grow their impacts in the arts sector.

SPECIAL REQUEST

\$324,271

7 grants

The Special Request program helped organizations seeking to fund pilot projects, build capacity, and become more responsive to constituent requests.

EMERGENCY

\$590,000

295 grants

Emergency grants supported artists experiencing income losses as a result of the pandemic and other unforeseen circumstances.



Students at work during a clayworks class in Anne Arundel County.

“Thank you for your guidance during the application process for the Special Request grant! We are very grateful for this much-needed support, and we could not have successfully made ourselves understood by the review committee without your help.”

— *Mayur Dance (Montgomery)*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MSAC maintains a regular schedule of free virtual and live professional development offerings, including topic-specific workshops, grant application strategy sessions, informal meet-and-greets, and in-person conversations between staff and arts leaders in every region of the state.

Offerings in FY 2023



Virtual sessions: 70



Live sessions: 9



People served: 3,029



A one-on-one meeting at MSAC's Regional Office Hours event in Baltimore County.

“I want to express my gratitude to you all and to everyone involved for the outstanding workshop series for administrators! I found it to be a valuable and well-planned program, and I deeply appreciate all the hard work, expertise and wisdom that went into it.”

— Cochran Studio, Public Art Across Maryland constituent (Frederick)

EXHIBITIONS

Two exhibitions provided curated virtual and live artistic experiences to the public last year. The first marked the closure of a five-part virtual exhibition series that began in 2021, and the second brought viewers together in person to celebrate the work of MSAC's Arts Directory.

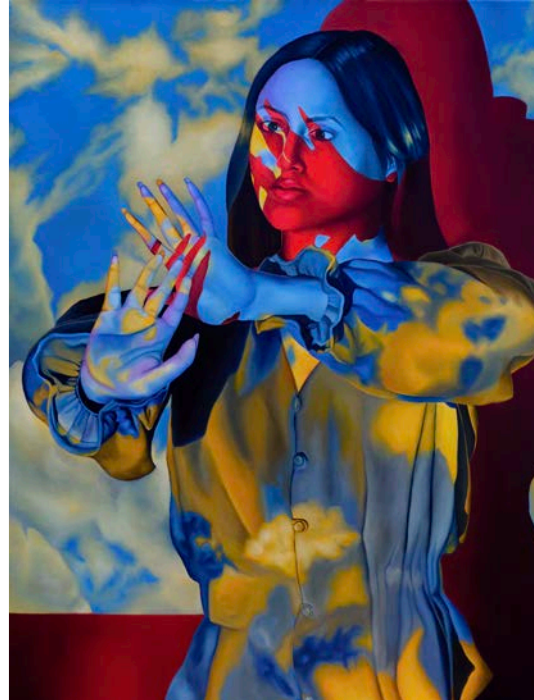
Regional Virtual Exhibition Series #5: Western Maryland

Oct. 21–Dec. 16

The final installment of MSAC's virtual showcase of multidisciplinary artists from each region of the state highlighted visual artists drawing inspiration from the mountain landscapes of Western Maryland.

Arts Directory Triennial Juried Exhibition May 18–June 24

In celebration of the talented and diverse array of artists across the state, and the ever growing scope of the Maryland Arts Directory, MSAC presented this survey of Maryland visual, literary, and performing artists in collaboration with Baltimore City's Maryland Art Place (MAP). All featured artists were drawn from the Arts Directory, MSAC's free online platform that showcases the work of Maryland artists and is maintained by MAP.



Artists whose work was part of the Arts Directory Juried Triennial, from top: "I've looked at clouds from both sides now" by Lillian Jacobson (Baltimore County), "Time Travelers Alright" by MAD Dance (Washington), and literary artist Catrice Greer (Baltimore City), author of the poem "Here is the Place."

FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

Allegany

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,179
ARGOS: \$528,070
County Arts Development: \$183,343
Creativity: \$85,053
Emergency: \$8,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$36,000
Grants for Organizations: \$44,833
NOD: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
PD Opportunity: \$3,911
Public Art Across Maryland: \$120,000

Total: \$1,143,388

Anne Arundel

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$89,661
ARGOS: \$2,319,025
County Arts Development: \$223,608
Creativity: \$83,406
Emergency: \$52,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$15,000
Grants for Artists: \$84,000
Grants for Organizations: \$990,337
NOD: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$12,160
PD Opportunity: \$9,115
Public Art Across Maryland: \$116,621
Special Request: \$48,546

Total: \$4,070,568

Baltimore City

A&E District Operating Support: \$68,357
Arts in Education: \$243,897
ARGOS: \$11,874,828
County Arts Development: \$222,542
Creativity: \$642,244
Emergency: \$190,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$55,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$450,000
Grants for Organizations: \$8,046,112
Heritage Award: \$20,000
NOD: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$20,509
PD Opportunity: \$77,668
Public Art Across Maryland: \$887,216
Special Request: \$75,725

Total: \$22,969,098

Baltimore County

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$96,502
ARGOS: \$1,362,044
County Arts Development: \$243,562
Creativity: \$186,112
Emergency: \$70,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$20,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$138,000
Grants for Organizations: \$458,086
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$15,150
PD Opportunity: \$23,110
Public Art Across Maryland: \$87,855

Total: \$2,812,511

Calvert

Arts in Education: \$9,347
ARGOS: \$350,794
County Arts Development: \$185,362
Creativity: \$2,500
Emergency: \$2,000
Grants for Artists: \$12,000
Grants for Organizations: \$108,709
Presenting and Touring: \$1,724
PD Opportunity: \$1,345
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000

Total: \$683,781

Caroline

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$32,116
ARGOS: \$150,911
County Arts Development: \$180,697
Creativity: \$4,000
NOD: \$9,450
PD Opportunity: \$2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$60,000

Total: \$456,263

Carroll

Arts in Education: \$7,229
ARGOS: \$489,328
County Arts Development: \$191,521
Creativity: \$12,500
Emergency: \$6,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Organizations: \$41,686
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
PD Opportunity: \$2,650
Public Art Across Maryland: \$101,019

Total: \$946,933

Cecil

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$4,049
ARGOS: \$185,597
County Arts Development: \$186,130
Emergency: \$2,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000
Grants for Artists: \$6,000
Grants for Organizations: \$14,806

Total: \$420,671

Charles

Arts in Education: \$7,499
ARGOS: \$40,341
County Arts Development: \$191,123
Creativity: \$16,000
Emergency: \$2,000
Grants for Artists: \$18,000
Grants for Organizations: \$16,265
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000

Total: \$301,227

Dorchester

ARGOS: \$220,119
County Arts Development: \$180,628
Creativity: \$3,950
Emergency: \$4,000
Grants for Artists: \$24,000
NOD: \$10,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$9,615

Total: \$452,312

Frederick

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$72,608
ARGOS: \$860,557
County Arts Development: \$199,685
Creativity: \$70,406
Emergency: \$16,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$15,000
Grants for Artists: \$78,000
Grants for Organizations: \$279,509
Presenting and Touring: \$10,225
PD Opportunity: \$2,449
Public Art Across Maryland: \$180,000

Total: \$1,801,527

Garrett

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,179
Arts in Education: \$10,338
ARGOS: \$280,453
County Arts Development: \$180,336
Creativity: \$6,700
Emergency: \$2,000
Grants for Organizations: \$13,421
Presenting and Touring: \$10,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$16,127

Total: \$553,553

Harford

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,179
Arts in Education: \$18,347
ARGOS: \$471,192
County Arts Development: \$198,386
Creativity: \$27,500
Emergency: \$14,000
Grants for Artists: \$24,000
Grants for Organizations: \$118,610
Presenting and Touring: \$9,000
PD Opportunity: \$5,293
Public Art Across Maryland: \$60,000

Total: \$980,506

Howard

Arts in Education: \$62,553
ARGOS: \$909,634
County Arts Development: \$203,899
Creativity: \$111,996
Emergency: \$16,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000
Grants for Artists: \$30,000
Grants for Organizations: \$252,993
PD Opportunity: \$9,800

Total: \$1,606,875

Kent

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
ARGOS: \$393,181
County Arts Development: \$179,611
Creativity: \$4,000
Emergency: \$2,000
Grants for Artists: \$12,000
Grants for Organizations: \$86,771
Presenting and Touring: \$12,000
PD Opportunity: \$2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000

Total: \$718,653

Montgomery

A&E District Operating Support: \$51,268
Arts in Education: \$459,803
ARGOS: \$8,542,234
County Arts Development: \$259,395
Creativity: \$363,072
Emergency: \$62,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$70,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$258,000
Grants for Organizations: \$4,248,045
Heritage Award: \$10,000
NOD: \$9,732
Presenting and Touring: \$33,400
PD Opportunity: \$59,817
Public Art Across Maryland: \$328,576
Special Request: \$137,514

Total: \$14,977,856

Prince George's

Arts in Education: \$208,855
ARGOS: \$2,212,618
County Arts Development: \$251,728
Creativity: \$206,756
Emergency: \$118,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$45,000
Grants for Artists: \$312,000
Grants for Organizations: \$1,202,372
Heritage Award: \$10,000
NOD: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$25,000
PD Opportunity: \$21,237
Public Art Across Maryland: \$160,000
Special Request: \$100,000

Total: \$4,883,566

Queen Anne's

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
ARGOS: \$188,050
County Arts Development: \$182,039
Creativity: \$34,600
Emergency: \$2,000
Grants for Organizations: \$3,775
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000

Total: \$447,553

Somerset

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
ARGOS: \$152,076
County Arts Development: \$180,020

Total: \$349,185

St. Mary's

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$10,696
ARGOS: \$346,772
County Arts Development: \$186,944
Creativity: \$45,756
Emergency: \$4,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$30,000
Grants for Organizations: \$33,921
Public Art Across Maryland: \$120,000

Total: \$885,178

Talbot

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$10,344
ARGOS: \$1,011,661
County Arts Development: \$181,024
Creativity: \$30,495
Emergency: \$2,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$12,000
Grants for Organizations: \$452,975
NOD: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$9,450
PD Opportunity: \$2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$29,975

Total: \$1,854,014

Washington

Arts in Education: \$10,007
ARGOS: \$836,130
County Arts Development: \$190,062
Creativity: \$30,341
Emergency: \$6,000
Grants for Artists: \$42,000
Grants for Organizations: \$373,231
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
PD Opportunity: \$2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$50,000

Total: \$1,544,771

Wicomico

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,089
Arts in Education: \$53,183
ARGOS: \$519,494
County Arts Development: \$186,136
Creativity: \$16,000
Emergency: \$6,000
Folklife Network: \$85,000
Grants for Artists: \$30,000
Grants for Organizations: \$144,940
PD Opportunity: \$944
Public Art Across Maryland: \$54,000

Total: \$1,112,786

Worcester

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,179
ARGOS: \$226,369
County Arts Development: \$182,219
Emergency: \$2,000
Grants for Artists: \$24,000
Grants for Organizations: \$42,340
Presenting and Touring: \$2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$48,037

Total: \$561,144

Figures reflect grants awarded in FY23 only.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

Income

General funds: \$26,592,924

Special funds: \$41,300,000

Federal funds: \$766,290

Total income: \$68,659,214

Expenditures

Grants For Organizations: \$15,974,891

County Arts Development: \$4,750,000

Creativity: \$957,385

Public Art Across Maryland: \$730,547

Folklife Network: \$680,000

Arts in Education: \$611,021

A&E District Operating Support: \$444,321

Grants for Artists: \$330,000

Emergency: \$290,000

Special Request: \$234,264

Presenting and Touring: \$180,368

Maryland Traditions: \$155,000

Professional Development Opportunity: \$127,338

Network Organizational Development: \$89,182

Arts Relief: \$40,000,000

General administration: \$3,104,897

Total expenditures: \$68,659,214*

**Amounts listed on this page reflect FY 2023 actual expenditures.
Amounts on previous pages reflect FY 2023 grants awarded.*

COUNCIL AND STAFF

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Cathy Teixeira
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Sidewalk artists at work in the Downtown Frederick Arts & Entertainment District.

Front cover: Quilters place their hands on a Baltimore album quilt, an applique tradition that won a FY23 Heritage Award.



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