

# FY2024/2025

# North Carolina Arts Council year at a glance



## JULY 2024–JUNE 2025

Founded in 1967 with the vision of “arts for all,” the North Carolina Arts Council is an agency of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. A 24-member citizen board, appointed by the Governor, advises the Secretary of the Department on policies, programs, and research that supports arts development across North Carolina, serving all 100 counties.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

In February of 2025, the Arts Council launched a bold [2025–2029 Strategic Plan](#), focusing on strengthening the arts statewide and rebuilding western North Carolina’s creative sector after Hurricane Helene. The plan emerged from months of listening sessions, surveys, and in-depth conversations with constituents. This community-first approach gave the Arts Council a road map to serve the people of North Carolina through support for organizations, artists, and arts education. The five primary goals of the plan include:

- 1 BOLSTER** the state’s arts sector
- 2 CHAMPION** the arts as vital to learning and student success
- 3 PROMOTE** the arts through partnerships and marketing
- 4 GROW** agency’s internal capacity
- 5 SUPPORT** the rebuilding the arts sector in western North Carolina

## SUSTAINING SUPPORT FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Emerging from the pandemic, the Arts Council adopted a new approach to investing in the capacity of arts organizations in the state. A new grant category called Sustaining Support replaced the long-standing State Arts Resources grants, providing much-needed flexible funding to an expanded group of eligible arts organizations. Organizations receiving operating support jumped from 50 to 140 in the first round. On a 3-year cycle, Sustaining Support balances the needs of arts organizations to have predictability in funding while still allowing new organizations the opportunity to apply.

## HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF

Leaders from the Arts Council, the North Carolina Arts Foundation, and ArtsNC moved quickly to address the impact of Hurricane Helene’s destruction, launching the N.C. Arts Disaster Relief Fund within three days of the storm. Those funds, along with emergency support from the National Endowment for the Arts, provided relief grants to hundreds of artists and arts organizations in the weeks following Helene. The North Carolina Arts Council worked side by side with local arts councils in the 26-county disaster region to understand the needs of the field and distribute funding. The leadership of local arts professionals cannot be overstated.

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# Agency Snapshot



## INCOME SOURCES

Category	Amount
State appropriations	\$12,626,093
Federal funds	\$1,479,400
Other sources	\$989,210
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>\$15,094,703</b>

## ARTS LEARNING

# of A+ Schools in the network in FY2024/2025	69 in N.C. 9 out of state
# of new A+ Schools since 2010	43 in N.C. 10 out of state

## IMPACT OF GRANTS INVESTMENT

Our grants for FY2024/2025 include:

- Artist Support Grant for Lead Partners
- Arts in Education Artist Residency Grants
- cARTwheels Program Grants
- Grassroots Arts Program Grants
- Hurricane Helene Relief Grants
- LEAD Scholarship Grant
- Military and Veterans Healing Arts Grants
- Project Support Grants
- Statewide Service Organizations
- Sustaining Support for Arts Organizations
- Technical Assistance Grants
- Traditional Arts Program for Students (TAPS)
- North Carolina Heritage Awards

## DIRECT GRANTS

# of grants awarded	464
\$ of grants awarded	\$12.7M

# adults engaged*	5,117,688
# artists engaged*	89,919
# youths engaged*	1,547,117

# of adults, artists, and youths engaged through programming supported by direct grants.

## INDIRECT SUBGRANTS

Partner grantees that receive Grassroots Arts Program or Artist Support Grant awards redistribute funds through subgrants to support local artists and organizations.

# of subgrants awarded	980
\$ of subgrants awarded	\$2.3M