

Ohio Citizens for the Arts Unveils Statewide Survey Results on Effects and Impact of COVID-19 On Arts and Creative Sector

For Immediate Release, March 2020:

Ohio Citizens for the Arts in collaboration with Arts Cleveland released initial findings from two online surveys regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Ohio's arts and creative sector. Launched on March 16, 2020, the surveys remain open for completion and further assessment of impact. While it is too soon to know the full impact of the crisis, the preliminary results of this survey thus far reveal devastating economic implications for the livelihoods of individual artists and the operations of arts organizations that serve the community and employ individual artists. The situation is bleak, and action is required to provide relief for those who slip through the cracks. The results of these surveys are informing our advocacy efforts on behalf of the Ohio arts community both at the Statehouse and with our federal delegation.

Most of the individual artist respondents work in the 'gig economy,' and are self-employed.

- Nearly 71% of respondents work in the visual arts and music.
- 81% of respondents are not employed by K-12 or higher education.
- A little more than 50% of respondents teach private lessons.

As a result of the COVID-19 response efforts, individual artists are losing main sources of income and their livelihoods.

- 4,006 gigs were considered lost by 486 survey respondents.
 - Over half of those were lost by musicians.
 - Gigs include performances, exhibitions, commissions, residencies, teaching opportunities, etc.
- 32.64% said there was no possibility of rescheduling gigs.
- Approximately 62% of respondents reported losing revenues between \$1,000 and \$7,500. The largest number of respondents (121/473) reported losing between \$2,500 and \$4,999 in revenue associated with lost gigs.
- When asked whether artists had other sources of revenue, a little over half (55.86%) replied they did have other sources of revenue, while a little under half (44.13%) reported no other sources of revenue.

Most individual artists are not eligible for unemployment within the current structure.

- An overwhelming number of artists reported that they were not eligible for unemployment (71.90%), while a significantly smaller percentage (20.87%) thought they might be eligible for unemployment, and an even smaller percentage (7.23%) indicated eligibility for unemployment.



A majority of arts organizations have postponed, cancelled, or modified events.

- Respondents to the survey reported having to take a number of actions in response to public health guidelines, including:
 - Postpone an event, hope to reschedule (84.4% of respondents)
 - Cancel an event, cannot reschedule (78.1% of respondents)
 - Modify an event (46.1% of respondents)
 - Other (20.8% of respondents)
- A little over half (51.6%) of all respondents reported having 10 or more events impacted, with qualitative data indicating much more than that.

The majority of arts organizations report that the economic impact will be severe, leading to likely reductions in staff.

- Approximately 50% of all respondents anticipate a decrease in non-admissions income, including sponsorships, contributions, rental, and gift shop revenue streams.
- Nearly 78% of respondents reported that they believed the impact on their organizations' financials would be either very or extremely severe.
- Approximately 51% of respondents reported that they were "very" or "extremely likely" to make temporary or permanent reductions in staff.

"This data combined with the stories we are hearing from artists and cultural institutions across the state are devastating," said Angela Meleca, Executive Director of Ohio Citizens for the Arts. "The economic damage to arts organizations, artists, and livelihoods is immediate and we have serious concerns about many of these organizations still being here when we come out of this crisis. We need to ensure that the arts community is safeguarded just like the other nonprofits and small businesses that are integral to society in a manner that ensures they can continue to contribute to our economy, education systems, and quality of life well into the future."

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