COVID-19

ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY

WHO WE SPOKE TO:
Responses were collected between October 1 and November 13, 2020. Participating organizations covered the 5-county Greater Philadelphia region, representing every artistic discipline.

266 ARTS & CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS
WITH BUDGETS RANGING FROM $2,000 TO $55 MILLION

THE MOST STAGGERING DATA WE RECEIVED WAS THE SCOPE OF REVENUE LOSS ACROSS THE SECTOR.

$214.4 MILLION TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE LOSS FROM MARCH 2020 - MARCH 2021

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34% REVENUE LOSS ACROSS THE SECTOR

From March - September 2020 surveyed organizations lost a combined $130.7 million in revenue. When asked about their projected revenue losses for the next six months, organizations estimated a combined revenue loss of $83.7 million from October 2020 - March 2021. This represents a 34% loss of revenue for the sector.

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS NEED — AND WHEN:

90% SAID THAT GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT WAS THEIR TOP NEED. BEYOND FUNDING, DEI SUPPORT WAS THE MOST-REQUESTED.

66% SAID THEIR MOST URGENT FINANCIAL NEED WAS BETWEEN JAN 2021 AND JUN 2021.

THEIR OTHER NEEDS INCLUDED:

TECHNOLOGY 25%
STAFFING 35%
PROJECT SUPPORT 35%
FUNDRAISING 44%
Arts and culture organizations are adapting to the limitations on in-person gatherings in incredibly innovative ways. However, many voiced concerns about staff capacity, digital infrastructure and screen fatigue.

But they can’t do it alone.

Learn more about our survey findings and recommendations at: philaculture.org/covidsurvey

Organizations of all types and sizes have shifted their programs to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Cultural organizations are rising to the challenge of this crisis and believe they can emerge stronger on the other side by creating:

Food Pantries
Hybrid Theater Experiences
Mobile Markets

Aside from furloughs and layoffs, 73% reduced the amount of work they do with independent contractors — further reducing employment opportunities for arts and culture professionals in the region.

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The effect of the pandemic on arts & culture workers and organizations:

1277 jobs lost
41% of organizations have fully virtual programming

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