

Minnesota State Arts Board

Public Input about FY23 Grant Programs: General Survey Findings

The Minnesota State Arts Board (Arts Board) stimulates and encourages the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in Minnesota. The Arts Board is a Minnesota state agency, supported by taxpayer funding from the State of Minnesota's general fund and the arts and cultural heritage fund, and from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arts Board restructured a large majority of its grant programs to provide flexible creative support to arts organizations and individual artists (through the Creative Support for Organizations grant program and the Creative Support for Individuals grant program). Now, the Arts Board is considering which grant programs to offer in its next fiscal year, and wanted public input to help inform these decisions.

The Arts Board contracted with Wilder Research (Wilder) to design and implement a number of public input strategies, including a general survey, a survey for previous grantees and applicants, and 15 listening sessions with residents from Minnesota's 11 regions. This report presents findings from the general survey. Please note that we reported differences in results between all respondents and particular respondent groups (e.g., by race, geography, disability status, etc.) when there was a percentage point difference of about 10 or more.

Throughout August and early September 2021, in consultation with the Arts Board, Wilder developed a general survey intended for anyone residing in Minnesota. Wilder and the Arts Board fielded the survey from mid- to late-September, with a total of 1,332 Minnesota residents completing it. Wilder managed the web survey, conducted analyses, and wrote this report. The Arts Board managed the survey invitations, sending the initial invitation and subsequent reminder invitations to its email list. Please see the "Respondent characteristics" section in the Appendix for more information about who completed the general survey.

General survey findings

Reduction in arts participation

Nearly all survey respondents (98%) indicated that their participation in the arts has been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a large majority of respondents (76%) saying that their arts participation has been extremely reduced (Figure 1). As compared to all respondents, a larger proportion of respondents who live in high-density zip codes (50,000 people or more) reported that their arts participation has been extremely reduced due to COVID-19 (85% of high-density respondents as compared to 76% of all respondents).

1. Reduction in arts participation due to the COVID-19 pandemic (n=1,326)

Degree of reduction in arts participation	% of respondents
Extremely reduced	76%
Somewhat reduced	23%
Not at all reduced	2%

Barriers to arts participation

We asked respondents about a number of barriers to their arts participation (Figure 2). About 2 in 3 respondents (66%) said that reluctance or inability to participate in in-person events was a major barrier for them, followed by nearly half of respondents (49%) saying that travel-related barriers inhibited their ability to participate in arts and culture activities.

2. Barriers to arts participation

Barrier	Major barrier	Minor barrier	Not a barrier
Reluctance or inability to participate in in-person events (n=1,328)	66%	27%	7%
Travel-related barriers, such as not traveling to events because of COVID (n=1,322)	49%	34%	17%
The type of events I want to participate in are not being offered in my area or are not accessible to me (n=1,322)	31%	37%	32%
Lack of time or money to participate in events (n=1,320)	26%	41%	33%
Reluctance or inability to participate in virtual events (n=1,317)	15%	41%	44%
Technological barriers, such as inadequate technology, or needing to learn more about particular technologies to participate in events (n=1,316)	11%	24%	65%
Other barriers (n=1,325)	25%	4%	71%

Note: The number of responses for each item varies because answers were not required for each item.

While not having enough time or money to participate in events was indicated as a major barrier by about 1 in 4 respondents overall (26%), larger proportions of particular respondent groups indicated that this was a major barrier. In particular, more than half of Native American respondents (54%), about 2 in 5 respondents who live in Region 1 (44%) and Region 5 (41%), and more than 1 in 3 Black respondents (38%) and respondents with a disability (38%) indicated that a lack of time or money was a major barrier for them.

Further, about half of Native American respondents (56%) and Middle Eastern/ North African respondents (48%) said that the types of events they want to participate in are not offered in their area or not accessible to them (compared to 31% of all respondents). Lastly, 1 in 4 Native American respondents (25%) and 1 in 5 respondents who live in zip codes with less than 10,000 people (20%) said that technological barriers were major barrier for them (compared to 11% of all respondents).

Types of arts and culture offerings desired and needed

We asked respondents about the types of arts and culture offerings desired or needed by their communities (Figure 3). The top responses included events or programs that share or teach about people’s culture (68% of respondents said this type of offering was strongly desired or needed), events or programs for children or youth (66%), community-wide events or programs (64%), and events or programs for older adults (62%)—though it should be noted that more than half of respondents noted each type of event or program as strongly desired or needed.

3. Types of arts and culture offerings desired or needed by respondent communities

Type of offering	Strongly desired or needed	Somewhat desired or needed	Not desired or needed
Events or programs that share or teach about people’s culture (n=1,272)	68%	28%	4%
Events or programs for children or youth (n=1,158)	66%	30%	4%
Community-wide events or programs that everyone in a community has the opportunity to experience, such as festivals, pow wows, or fairs (n=1,252)	64%	32%	4%
Events or programs for older adults (n=1,172)	62%	34%	4%
Events or programs that teach art skills (n=1,267)	60%	36%	4%
Events or programs for people in institutions, such as hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, assisted care facilities, homeless shelters, or correctional facilities (n=1,056)	56%	40%	5%
Events or programs that provide opportunities for people to experience nationally or internationally renowned artists (n=1,276)	55%	38%	7%
Events or programs that showcase art forms that are traditional to people living in Minnesota (n=1,230)	53%	42%	5%
Other types of events or programs (n=1,332)	20%	3%	77%

Note: The number of responses for each item varies because answers were not required for each item.

Events or programs that share or teach about people’s culture were further prioritized by Black respondents (84% said that this type of offering was strongly desired or needed), Asian respondents (83%), Native American respondents (82%), and Latina/o/x respondents (76%) (as compared to 68% of respondents overall). The survey showed similarly higher results among particular racial and ethnic groups for community-wide events or programs—78% of Middle Eastern/North African respondents said that this type of offering was strongly desired or needed, followed by 74% of Asian respondents, 73% of Native American respondents, and 73% of Black respondents (as compared to 64% of respondents overall).

Further, while events or programs that showcase art that is traditional to people living in Minnesota were indicated as strongly needed or desired by about half of all respondents (53%), larger proportions of a number of racial and ethnic groups prioritized this type of event or program. In particular, 76% of Asian respondents, 69% of Native American respondents, and 62% of Black respondents said that traditional art events or programs were strongly needed or desired by their communities. Similarly, 3 in 4 Black respondents (75%) and about 2 in 3 Asian respondents (66%) said that events or programs that showcase nationally or internationally renowned artists were strongly desired or needed by their communities (as compared to 55% of respondents overall).

Summary and next steps

The results of the general survey suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic still affects people’s ability to participate in the arts, with about 3 in 4 respondents saying that their arts participation has been extremely reduced by the pandemic. Further, the top barrier to arts participation reported by respondents was reluctance or inability to participate in in-person arts and culture offerings.

In terms of the type of arts and culture offerings the Arts Board might potentially support, events or programs that share or teach about people’s culture and community-wide events or programs were clearly prioritized by all respondents, though it should be noted that each type of offering listed in the survey received relatively similar levels of prioritization from respondents.

As the Arts Board determines which grant programs to offer in the future, the differences in responses between all respondents and particular respondent groups should be carefully considered. In particular, as compared to all respondents, larger proportions of BIPOC respondents and respondents who live in greater Minnesota indicated that they didn’t have enough money or time to participate in arts and culture offerings, that the type of arts and culture offerings that they want to participate in are not accessible to them, and that technological issues pose a major barrier for them in regards to arts and culture participation. Similarly, larger proportions of BIPOC respondents said that programs or events that showcase art forms that are traditional to people living in Minnesota and opportunities to experience nationally or internationally renowned artists are strongly desired or needed by their communities.

Appendix

A. Respondent characteristics

A1. Respondent region of residence (n=1,303)

Region	% of respondents
Region 1	2%
Region 2	3%
Region 3	8%
Region 4	5%
Region 5	3%
Regions 6&8	3%
Region 7W	3%
Region 7E	1%
Region 9	4%
Region 10	9%
Region 11	59%

A2. Respondent racial and ethnic identity (n=1,314)

Race or ethnicity	% of respondents
African American; African; Black; or of African descent or the African diaspora	5%
American Indian; Native American; Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian; or Indigenous to North America	4%
Asian American; Asian; Asian/Pacific Islander (API); or of API descent or the API diaspora	4%
Latino; Latina; Latinx; Hispanic; or Indigenous to Central or South America	4%
Middle Eastern/North African (MENA); or of MENA descent or the MENA diaspora	2%
European American; Caucasian; White; or of European descent	78%
Prefer not to answer	8%

Note: Percentages may add to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one response option.

A3. Respondent disability or chronic health condition status (n=1,191)

Has disability or chronic health condition	% of respondents
Yes	19%
No	71%
Not sure	3%
Prefer not to answer	7%

A4. Respondent age (n=1,289)

Age range	% of respondents
18-24	2%
25-34	8%
35-44	19%
45-54	21%
55-64	23%
65-74	22%
75-84	5%
85 or older	1%

A5. Respondent gender (n=1,312)

Gender	% of respondents
Man	26%
Woman	66%
Transgender	1%
Nonbinary	3%
Another gender identity	1%
Prefer not to answer	5%

Note: Percentages may add to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one response option.

A6. Respondent sexual orientation (n=848)

Sexual orientation	% of respondents
Heterosexual or straight	74%
Gay or lesbian	7%
Bisexual	7%
Another sexual orientation	4%
Prefer not to answer	10%

Note: Percentages may add to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one response option.

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For more information

This report presents findings from the *Minnesota State Arts Board: Public input about FY23 grant programs* study.

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