

# ARTS FUNDING IN ONTARIO

Sustained and reliable funding is essential to the success of cultural organizations

## DID YOU KNOW?



- Cultural industries contribute **\$61.7 billion** to the Canadian economy annually.
- Ontario's arts, culture, and heritage sector directly contributes **\$27.7 billion**, representing **45%** of the total economic impact.
- The sector is an economic driver, representing **4.1%** of Ontario's GDP, as well as over **300,000 jobs**.\*

Provincial funding for the arts is administered by the **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)** through the **Ontario Arts Council (OAC)** and the **Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)**.

## FUNDING REALITIES



The 2017 provincial budget for MTCS has been reduced from **\$1.45 billion to \$1.39 billion**.\*\*

Based on a 2017 Nanos report, **8 out of 10 Ontarians** believe that the Government should invest in the arts.\*\*\*\*



The Ontario Government invests **\$4.29 per person** in public funding through the OAC, the lowest rate in Canada's six largest provinces.\*\*\*



In 2017, the MTSC committed to increase funding to OAC from **\$60 to \$80 million** by 2020-21, but this does not reflect the growing demands on institutions.

## OAG RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ontario Government must reaffirm the intrinsic value of the arts by adequately funding the MTCS, and key agencies such as the OAC and OTF. This includes developing a long-term infrastructure strategy to invest in facilities for artists, arts organizations, and cultural centers. The Provincial Government should also commit to financially support the efforts to improve arts accessibility to all people across Ontario, regardless of cultural background, ability, socio-economic status, or region.

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## ADDITIONAL READINGS

- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (2016). *Ontario's Culture Strategy: Telling our Stories, Growing our Economy*.
- Ontario Arts Council (2014). *Vital Arts and Public Value: A Blueprint for 2014-2020*.
- Jeannotte, Sharon and Alain Pineau (2016). *In Search of the Creative Economy. Analyses of the Provincial and Territorial 2015-2016 Budgets from the Perspective of Arts, Culture and Heritage*. Canadian Conference of the Arts and Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa.

## REFERENCES

- \* *Provincial and Territorial Culture Indicators, 2010 to 2014*. (2016). Statistics Canada.
- \*\* Ontario Ministry of Finance (2017). *2017 Ontario Budget: A Stronger, Healthier Ontario*.
- \*\*\* Ontario Arts Council (2017). *2017-18 Final Business Plan*.
- \*\*\*\* Nanos Research (2017). *Impressions of the Impact of the Arts on Quality of Life and Well-Being in Ontario: Ontario Arts Council Survey Findings: Executive Summary*. Prepared for the Ontario Arts Council.



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