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.

OAAG 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


- 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


