



In 2022 and 2023, the State of Connecticut provided much-needed operational support to over 700 nonprofit cultural organizations.

Restoration of the CT Cultural Fund would continue to catalyze growth by expanding cultural opportunities for Connecticut's residents and communities.

MUSEUMS SURVEYED SAY THIS FUNDING WILL ALLOW GROWTH IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“Every dollar invested in the arts often yields multiple dollars in return, creating a favorable economic ripple effect that supports communities and small businesses across Connecticut. Studies also show that students engaged in arts programs perform better academically, exhibit higher levels of creativity, and develop essential problem-solving skills ... ensuring our future workforce is equipped with the well-rounded skills they need to excel in a rapidly changing world.”

OPERATING CAPACITY

“Our staff time could be spent exploring new ways to involve the public, instead of scrambling to find funds to stay alive.”

LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

“The Cultural Fund was directly responsible for allowing us to bring in \$150,000 of federal funding through the NEA.”

EDUCATION IMPACT:

PROGRAM EXPANSION

“CTH general operating support helps the museum build a more resilient business model and engage a growing audience in inclusive, interactive learning experiences.”

SOCIAL IMPACT:

INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY

“Restored funding would make it possible to add teaching artists to reach typically overlooked audiences, including young families, non-English speakers, immigrants, refugees, people from low-income backgrounds, and BIPOC communities.”

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

“Now more than ever, schools are asking our organization for new and more varied programming for students, particularly to support wellness and mental health. We need this flexibility to be responsive and creative enough to meet student needs through our work.”

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

“The CT Cultural Fund provides the flexible support needed to serve more K-12 students across the state. We’d be able to expand our services to regions we don’t currently serve and offer arts learning initiatives that support critical Social and Emotional Learning and Culturally Responsive Teaching programs for students.”



Q:

As a consequence of the loss of future funding from the Connecticut Cultural Fund, what changes do you anticipate at your organization? (Choose all that apply.)

Economic Impact

PERCENT OF ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING THIS CHANGE:

Reductions in staff, projected losses:

- 1,645 Jobs, including:
 - 75 full-time employees
 - 270 part-time employees
 - 1,300 contracted interpreters, educators, performers, etc.

43%

“We will need to trim our budget for performing arts performances, likely hiring fewer musicians per performance.”

Reductions in attendance

Median projected decline: 20%

31%

“The Museum will not be able to make investments in things like marketing, which draw visitors to our museum in the in the first place.”

Reductions in open hours

Median projected decrease in hours: 25%

10%

“Without this funding, we will reduce open hours, reduce staffing, and more.”



A THIRD OF RESPONDENTS SHARED OTHER CONSEQUENCES AS WELL, INCLUDING:

ECONOMIC IMPACT

“Our outreach will be reduced, which affects ticket sales. There had definitely been an economic impact to CT businesses as we increased the number of shows and attendance: Increased dining in local restaurants before/after the shows, printed programs, and increased consumption of materials for set building.”

REDUCED MARKETING, THUS REDUCING AUDIENCE AND EARNED INCOME

“Reduced ability to publicize our performing and visual arts events, resulting in reduced attendance.”

HARDER TO BUILD CAPACITY

“It will be difficult for us to continue paying for the monthly bill for our upgrade in internet speed, to finish purchasing new computers, and pay for our IT service.”

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

“We anticipate delays in property maintenance initiatives due to reduction in funding.”





Q:

As a consequence of the loss of future funding from the Connecticut Cultural Fund, what changes do you anticipate at your organization? (Choose all that apply.)

Education Impact

PERCENT OF ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING THIS CHANGE:

Reductions in programming

Including fewer exhibitions, performances, and programs

73%

“Will likely need to reduce the number of performances ... and total attendance would be affected accordingly.”

Reductions in PreK-12 school programming/attendance

Median projected decline: 35%

24%

“The loss of funding will significantly impact the museum's ability to offer school and family programming to underserved communities in Bridgeport and surrounding areas.”



A THIRD OF RESPONDENTS SHARED OTHER CONSEQUENCES AS WELL, INCLUDING:

FEWER FREE PROGRAMS OR SCHOLARSHIPS

“As a result of the loss of this funding, we will likely not be able to offer as many free programs to the general public. These programs are usually community-minded and educational. This will most greatly affect our low-income and senior community.”





Q:

As a consequence of the loss of future funding from the Connecticut Cultural Fund, what changes do you anticipate at your organization? (Choose all that apply.)

Social Impact

PERCENT OF ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING THIS CHANGE:

Decreased ability to serve audiences virtually

Median projected decrease: 30%

22%

“Reduced ability to create new virtual content.”

Increased likelihood of closure/cessation of operations

Some organizations may not survive this funding cut

15%

“Difficult to continue to run... We shall endeavor to stay open in 2024, but I expect the following two years may prove as much as we can manage.”



A THIRD OF RESPONDENTS SHARED OTHER CONSEQUENCES AS WELL, INCLUDING:

DELAYS IN ADDING ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

(translations, ASL interpreters, replacing aging wheelchairs, etc.)

“The museum will not be able to add other languages to our virtual tours and not be able to add more early learning e-books for bilingual students and others who are learning English as a second language.”

FEWER RESOURCES FOR PLANNING AND GROWTH

“We will not be able to make as good of progress on accomplishing the objectives of our Strategic Plan. With the grant funding in place, we were able to make some major steps forward.”

