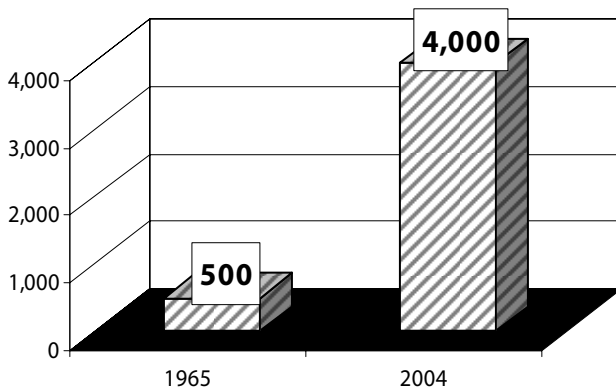




Arts Facts . . . Local Arts Agencies

Local arts agencies are a growing presence in communities across the country. They provide vital services to sustain their local arts industry, and endeavor to make the arts accessible to each member of the community.

Estimated Growth in Number of Local Arts Agencies: 1965 to 2004



Local Arts Agency Programs

Cultural Programming	92%
Grantmaking	50%
Facility Management	62%
Services to Artists and Organizations	89%
Arts Education	60%
Cultural Planning	22%

A local arts agency (LAA) is a community organization or an agency of local government that supports cultural organizations, provides services to artists and/or arts organizations, and presents arts programming to the public. Each LAA in America is unique to the community that it serves, and each changes as its community changes—no two are exactly alike. In 2007, local arts agencies administered an estimated \$858 million in local government funds for the arts.

- Partnerships:** 96 percent of LAAs maintain at least one collaboration or partnership with other public or community agencies (e.g., School Districts, Parks & Recreation, Social Services, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce). 89 percent have three or more ongoing collaborations.
- Funding Innovations:** Many LAAs have facilitated the establishment of local option taxes in their communities—designated tax revenue streams used to fund the arts: Examples include St. Louis' property tax (\$60 million per year), San Francisco's hotel tax (\$30 million per year), and Denver's sales tax (\$40 million per year).
- Cultural Planning:** LAAs typically lead community cultural planning—a community-inclusive process of assessing local cultural needs and mapping a plan of implementation. In communities with a cultural plan, local government arts funding grows at a significantly faster rate than communities without a cultural plan.
- Arts Education:** 60 Percent of LAAs implement arts education programs and activities, including providing artists in the schools, teacher training, and arts education advocacy.

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2005, 2008.