

National Quotes

The Conference Board

"The AEP6 report underscores what businesses across the nation have witnessed – that investments in arts and culture not only enhance the quality of life, but also stimulate economic development. By supporting the arts, companies attract and retain talent and create an environment where creativity, businesses, and communities thrive."

- Paul Washington, Executive Director, ESG Center, The Conference Board

Independent sector

"Arts and cultural organizations play an essential role in their local communities, and they hold an equally important place within the broader nonprofit community. Americans for the Arts has done it again, with compelling new data about the power of arts and culture to create jobs, generate tax revenue, and build vibrant communities. This report is a call-to-action for policymakers and a powerful tool for nonprofit advocates across the sector."

- Dr. Akilah Watkins, President and CEO, Independent Sector

DPE-AFL-CIO

"The AEP6 report findings confirm again the economic value of arts and culture. Arts and culture continue to put millions of people to work in big cities and small towns across the United States, including many members of DPE's affiliate unions. The AEP6 report also finds that arts and cultural productions are economic drivers for local economies by spurring consumer spending at restaurants, hotels, and other local businesses. Simply put, investment in arts and culture continues to deliver a positive economic return for American communities."

- Jennifer Dorning, AFL-CIO President, Department for Professional Employees

Destinations International

"As the world's largest and most reliable resource for destination organizations, arts and culture organizations make up the beautiful tapestry of what makes destinations come alive. Advocacy, especially at the local level, and data from the AEP6 research partners empower destination to not just showcase their beauty but to measure the impact of creativity, fostering a vibrant, sustainable future for all to explore and cherish."

- Sophia Hyder Hock, Chief Diversity Officer Destinations International



ADC

"The African Diaspora Consortium works to positively impact outcomes of Black populations across the African Diaspora. Arts and culture can be used as a vehicle to enhance understanding and connectedness as historical and cultural uplift. The economic impact and social impact of BIPOC and ALAANA representing organizations and their audiences will support our strategy. From our perspective, the arts and culture organizations across the nation of the African Diaspora; each artwork and series is a journey through thought; a way used to connect the dots of the past to the present so that we can collectively decide where to take our future, and the future looks bright!"

- *Katrina Andry, ADC Global Visual Artistic Director, African Diaspora Consortium (ADC).*

Actor's Equity

"Whenever we share data with policymakers about how the live arts generate economic activity, eyes are opened. As we wrestle with historic underfunding of the arts in the United States, this study shows how tremendously powerful the live arts are in generating economic activity by activating other community businesses. This study is a must-read for policymakers and economic development staff from coast to coast."

- *Al Vincent, Jr., Executive Director, Actors' Equity Association*

National Association of Counties (NACO)

"AEP6 reminds us that vibrant arts and cultural assets exist in every corner of the country. The data paints a vivid picture of how the arts enhance our community prosperity and our residents' quality of life. By supporting and investing in the arts, counties play an important role in strengthening our communities today and for generations to come. We appreciate our partnership with Americans for the Arts, especially as we continue to demonstrate the value of our artistic and cultural endeavors."

- *Hon. Mary Jo McGuire, President, National Association of Counties; Commissioner, Ramsey County, MN.*

US Conference of Mayors (USCM)"Mayors understand the connection between the arts industry and city revenues. Arts activity creates thousands of direct and indirect jobs and generates billions in government and business revenues. The arts also make our cities destinations for tourists, help attract and retain businesses, and play an important role in the economic revitalization of cities and the vibrancy of our neighborhoods."

- *Mayor Hillary Schieve (Reno); President, The United States Conference of Mayors*



Arts & Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APD)

"City planners know the tremendous power of art and creativity in the built environment. For the planning profession, artists and culture bearers are key allies in our work: they help us shape resilient, livable, and equitable places. This is why the Arts & Planning Division of the American Planning Association advances a network across the fields of planning and the arts. And this is why we value the AEP6 and its data-driven, place-based approach. We know it will have a strong impact for our members and our shared work."

- *Annis Sengupta, Chair, The Arts & Planning Division of the American Planning Association*

National Independent Venue Association (NIVA)

"The economic and cultural impact of live performance on our nation and in communities across the country has been taken for granted for far too long. Independent venues and the entire live entertainment ecosystem are working at the federal, state, and local levels to elevate the critical role we play in community innovation, inclusion, and development. AEP6 will provide unparalleled data and compelling perspectives that will help our sector better tell our story and ensure that arts and culture organizations have a seat at the table to determine the future of their communities."

- *Stephen Parker, Executive Director of the National Independent Venue Association*

Race Forward

"Race Forward values the vital role of the arts and culture in achieving a just, multiracial democracy, in which people of color thrive with power and purpose. Throughout American history, from the Harlem Renaissance to the Chicano Mural Movement to publications like *Gidra*, artists and culture bearers of color have used their craft to shape powerful narratives that assert the full humanity of communities of color; challenge racist ideologies in neighborhoods, on campuses and in workplaces; and push us to realize an equitable future. In addition to the aesthetic and economic boosts that artists and culture bearers of color undoubtedly bring to local and national economies, we must also honor, cherish, and invest in the bold sociopolitical voice for racial and economic justice for all that they offer to us through their artistic and cultural expression."

- *Glenn Harris, President of Race Forward*

Black Legislative Leaders Network (BLLN)

"It is crucial for Black state legislators to champion the arts because fostering economic growth in our communities is intricately tied to robust support and funding for artistic endeavors. The decline in arts support has disproportionately affected regions that need it most. By advocating for the arts, Black state legislators can help cultivate a more imaginative and innovative workforce, ultimately bolstering our economy and advocating for the cultural richness of Black communities."

- *Rep. Karen D. Camper, TN House Minority Leader & Founder of Black Legislative Leaders Network*



AEP6 Equity Task Force Member

"As a social and cultural entrepreneur, I have witnessed the importance of informing our BIPOC and foreign-born communities about our impact and contributions to the economy. Having access to this comprehensive and thorough study will allow grassroots and established organizations to quantify and see the financial benefits of growing and diversifying audiences, as well as acknowledging their contributions towards building and sustaining our cultural movements. I look forward to continuing to support the advocacy efforts and demonstrating with data how arts and cultures create attractive places to live, work, and become creative, fulfilled, and productive citizen artists. AEP6 will be a valuable tool in sharing that message."

- Angie Durell, Founder and CEO, INTEMPO and AEP6 Equity Task Force member

RIAA

"Music and the arts are the foundation of vibrant communities and help us connect, understand, and inspire one another. All while driving economic growth, creating rewarding jobs and careers, and powering our culture forward. Americans for the Arts' latest Arts and Economic Prosperity report does a vital service documenting the facts on the ground of the U.S. creative and nonprofit economy and offers valuable lessons and opportunities for communities seeking to boost their own arts footprint and activities."

- Mitch Glazier, Chairman and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America

