



ARTS NEW ORLEANS

2025 Impact Report

Celebrating 50 Years of Art, Community & Creative Expression in New Orleans



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A thank you to everyone who make our work possible

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

As Arts New Orleans marks its 50th anniversary, we pause to reflect on what half a century of dedicated service to our city truly means, and to celebrate the artists, advocates, community members, and partners who have made this work possible. Since our founding in 1975, we have had the privilege of serving as New Orleans' official community arts agency, and that responsibility has never felt more vital than it does today.

As a local arts council, Arts New Orleans occupies a unique and essential place in the city's cultural ecosystem. We serve as a connector: between artists and opportunity, between community and creative expression, between the city's storied cultural legacy and its dynamic future. From the more than 500 permanent public artworks we have facilitated across our neighborhoods, to the many private public art commissions we have developed working with developers, to the hundreds of nonprofit arts organizations we have supported through grantmaking made possible with city and state funds since 1983, to the 500+ young people empowered through the Young Artist Movement, our work touches every corner of this city. And through LUNA Fête, we have transformed November into a celebration of all our work through this three-day community festival, a gathering place for light, wonder, and shared civic pride in downtown New Orleans.

We are operating under a 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan, a bold, community-informed roadmap developed in collaboration with our staff, board, funders, and partners. This plan reflects our collective commitment to delivering exemplary programs, strengthening our resource base, expanding team capacity, advancing the arts as a public priority, and scaling our impact through innovation. It is grounded in the belief that art is not a luxury; it is infrastructure for thriving communities.

Central to everything we do is a commitment to equity and inclusion in who we serve. New Orleans is one of the most culturally rich and diverse cities in the world, and our programs are designed to reflect that richness in full. We are intentional in ensuring that artists of all backgrounds, across race, ethnicity, neighborhood, discipline, career stage, and lived experience, have meaningful access to resources, recognition, and opportunity. From our Community Arts Grants Program to our public art commissions to the Young Artist Movement, we work to ensure that the full spectrum of our city's creative community is seen, supported, and celebrated. A thriving arts ecosystem is one where no voice is left out.

The pages that follow tell the story of our 2025 impact: the artists supported, the youth inspired, the public spaces transformed, and the communities connected. These outcomes are only possible because of you, your generosity, your partnership, and your shared belief in the transformative power of the arts.

As we look toward the next fifty years, we carry forward the energy of this milestone with gratitude and with purpose. New Orleans has always known what the rest of the world is still learning: that culture is not the backdrop to civic life; it is civic life. We are honored to steward that legacy, and we invite you to help us build what comes next.

With deep gratitude,

Joycelyn Reynolds President & CEO, Arts New Orleans
Edwin Bragg Chairman, Board of Directors, Arts New Orleans



**MAKING
ART HAPPEN
SINCE 1975**
Arts New Orleans



1.

WHO WE ARE

ARTS NEW ORLEANS

An arts council is a steward of a community's creative ecosystem. Unlike a private foundation, an arts council operates at the intersection of artists, communities, and public investment. They connect artists to opportunity, bring art into public life, and ensure that culture remains accessible, equitable, and deeply rooted in place.

As New Orleans' community arts council, **Arts New Orleans** fulfills this role through our mission and the three major pillars of our work.

OUR MISSION

We support public art and artists, creating work that inspires, connects, and enriches the community through creative expression.

OUR VISION

Cultivating Vibrant Communities Through the Impact of Arts and Culture.



OUR VALUES

At the heart of Arts New Orleans is a shared commitment to artists, community, and creative expression.

Our mission and vision define the impact we seek, while our values guide *how* we show up for those we serve.

CREATIVITY	IMPACT
We value authentic, diverse artistic expression and embrace innovation at our core.	We drive meaningful, measurable change through creative expression, that inspires, uplifts, and transforms.
FAIRNESS + ACCESS	COMMUNITY
We strive to provide accessible opportunities for artists, community members, ensuring fairness, representation, and meaningful engagement for all.	We actively build a sense of belonging by embracing diversity and cultivating connection.

THE PILLARS OF OUR WORK

- 1

Empower & Develop Artists at All Levels
We provide professional development, resources, and economic opportunities for emerging and established artists.
- 2

Create & Promote Art within the Community
We invest in the development of communities through the arts, leading the creation of new, accessible public art projects and showcasing art in ways that inspire, connect, and engage residents.
- 3

Foster Creative Expression and Opportunity for Youth
We empower youth – especially those with limited access to resources and opportunities – to explore the arts as a transformative tool for self-expression and healing.



2.

50 YEARS OF IMPACT



Five Decades of Art in New Orleans

164

LUNA Fête
installations created

430K+

Total LUNA Fête
attendees over the
years

454

Youth served through
Young Artist
Movement (YAM)
since 2016

\$298k+

Paid directly to
youth artists

~1,000

Artists participated
in Arts Market

\$30M+

Invested in artists and
arts organizations
through grantmaking
and public art

Founded in 1975 and designated as the official arts agency for the City of New Orleans, Arts New Orleans has spent five decades dedicated to supporting arts and culture in the city.

Across generations, we have supported artists, invested in public art, expanded access to creative opportunity, and brought art into shared civic spaces.

Our work reflects a long-standing commitment to culture as a public good.





3.

OUR 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Transforming Young Lives Through Art

Young Artist Movement (YAM) is an arts education and workforce development program that connects youth to their communities through public art and placemaking. Founded in 2016 by youth advocates, artists, and educators, YAM provides local youth with paid opportunities to design and create public artwork rooted in the culture and stories of New Orleans. Through hands-on projects, participants build artistic, leadership, entrepreneurial, and community engagement skills while contributing to neighborhood beautification and community connection.

Our successful Young Artist Movement (YAM) program is currently the only arts-based diversion program being offered through the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office. The YAM diversion program was founded in 2021 as an alternative to prosecution and incarceration that draws on the healing and restorative qualities of artistic expression.

OUR 2025 SUCCESSES

93

Total Youth Participants

110

Artists and Youth compensated for public and private commissions

\$1.5M

Paid in direct fees to artists and youth for public art in 2025

28

Youth participants in diversion programming

"I'm working on being a better person. Coming here (to YAM) helps me move closer to my goal."

— C. Bridges

"I didn't even know I could do this (create a mosaic portrait).... Being a part of YAM really showed me what I can do."

— K. Dooley

"I really like art therapy. When I have a lot on my mind, I can talk to them or just draw.... afterwards I know I feel better."

— N. Sparks



4

sculptures completed
in 2025



16

Murals completed
in 2025



\$1.5M+

in direct artist fees
through public art

42

Artists paid through
Percent for Art

110

Artists engaged
across public and
private commissions

Public Art and Private Commissions

Arts New Orleans combines public art with placemaking to strengthen the connection between people and the places they share. Through murals, sculptures, and installations, we use art to transform public spaces into sites of storytelling, gathering, reflection, and neighborhood identity. In a culturally rich and diverse city like New Orleans, this work helps ensure that the public spaces reflects the voices, histories, and experiences of the communities that shape it.

Public art also serves as civic and cultural infrastructure. Beyond beautification, these projects create economic opportunity for artists, activate shared spaces, and help residents engage with larger issues affecting their communities

PUBLIC ART HIGHLIGHTS

Key public art and placemaking partners have included Dove/Unilever, which commissioned The Crown Act Mural by Journey Allen; Four Seasons Hotel New Orleans, which partnered with YAM and lead artist Rontherin Ratliff on custom ironwork wall hangings; The Helis Foundation, which commissioned Unframed — a collection of 11 murals created by local, national, and international artists across New Orleans; and the City of New Orleans, which funded murals for Super Bowl LIX and other projects. Additional work has included private commissions for the Downtown Development District and other entities.

\$716,000

Total grantmaking amount distributed to community arts organizations in 2025

In 2025, Arts New Orleans distributed grants to numerous artists, cultural organizations, and community groups through the Community Arts Grants and the Louisiana Project Grants. Together, these grant programs invest public funding in artists and organizations to expand access to the arts and strengthen the creative economy.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS

The Community Arts Grants (CAG) Program, funded by the City of New Orleans, provides operating and project support to organizations that sustain the city's vibrant cultural life.

The program includes two grant categories:

- **New Orleans as Cultural Capital:** Provides two-year operating support to nonprofit arts organizations producing high-quality programming that advances New Orleans' cultural identity and creative economy.
- **More Joy:** Provides project grants supporting grassroots cultural traditions, including Black Masking Indians, Mardi Gras Indians, Social Aid & Pleasure Clubs, and other groups carrying forward New Orleans' parading and street culture.

LOUISIANA PROJECT GRANTS

In partnership with the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Arts New Orleans distributes state funding to artists and organizations in the region through the **Louisiana Project Grants Program**.

These grants provide funding to develop arts projects that meet local needs. The purpose of the program is to cultivate innovative arts projects that have a lasting impact within each region of our state.

Eligible recipients include:

- Nonprofit arts organizations
- Schools and universities
- Community organizations
- Local government agencies

94
total grants
provided

64
Community Arts Grants awarded

30
Louisiana Project Grants awarded

2025 Grant Recipients

Anna's Place NOLA
 Art Camp 504
 Artivism Dance Theatre
 Artivism Dance Theatre –
 Gumbo Cypher
 Artivism Dance Theatre – JJIC
 ArtSpot Productions Inc
 Better Family Life Inc.
 Black Men of Labor, Inc.
 BODYART
 Community Works
 Creole Wild West
 CubaNOLA Arts Collective
 Dancing Grounds
 Efforts of Grace, Inc.
 Ellis Marsalis Center for Music
 Escola de Samba, Casa
 Samba, Inc
 Friends of A Studio in the
 Woods
 Friends of Lafitte Greenway
 Friends of WWOZ, Inc.
 Goat in the Road Productions
 Guardians Institute
 Junebug Productions, Inc.
 KID smART
 Krewe of Red Beans
 Louisiana Philharmonic
 Orchestra
 Lyrica Baroque
 Make Music NOLA
 Mamacita Social Aid Pleasure
 Club Inc
 Mardi Gras Indian Hall of
 Fame/ Uniquely New Orleans
 Louisiana
 Marigny Opera House
 Foundation

Melange Dance Company
 Mohawk Hunters inc.
 Mondo Bizarro Productions
 Musical Arts Society of New
 Orleans
 Musicians for Music
 N'Fungola Sibò African Dance
 and Drum Company, Inc.
 N'Kafu Traditional African
 Dance Company
 New Orleans African American
 Museum
 New Orleans Arts and Cultural
 Host Committee
 New Orleans Ballet
 Association
 New Orleans Ballet, Inc DBA
 New Orleans Ballet Theatre
 New Orleans Center for
 Creative Arts Foundation
 New Orleans Chamber
 Orchestra
 New Orleans Film and Video
 Society Inc.
 New Orleans Friends of Music
 New Orleans Institute of Art
 New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian
 Council
 New Orleans Opera
 Association
 New Voices New Orleans
 NOLARTS LEARNING CENTER
 NOUS Foundation
 Ogden Museum of Southern
 Art
 One Book One New Orleans
 Original Big Seven Social Aid
 and Pleasure Club
 Original CTC Steppers

Pandora Andrea
 Gastelum/New Orleans Giant
 Puppet Festival
 People for Public Art
 Prescription Joy
 Press Street d.b.a. Antenna
 Queens of The Nation Indian
 Council
 ricRACK, Inc.
 Rivers Institute for
 Contemporary Art & Thought
 Second Line Arts Collective
 Tekrema Center for Art and
 Culture
 Tennessee Williams/New
 Orleans Literary Festival
 Tennessee Williams/New
 Orleans Literary Festival, Inc.
 The Black School
 The Black School, Inc.
 The Ella Project
 The Front
 The Historic New Orleans
 Collection
 The NOLA Project LLC
 Treme Artists Collective
 Trinity City Arts
 Troy Andrews Foundation (dba
 Trombone Shorty Foundation)
 TRUE BLERD, LLC
 Upturn Arts
 US Biennial, Inc. (dba Prospect
 New Orleans)
 Versipel New Music
 Whole Village Art Therapy
 Young Aspirations Young
 Artists Inc.
 Young Audiences of Louisiana

Connecting Artists to Community Members

Operating consistently since 2007, Arts Market New Orleans is the city's largest and longest-running juried fine arts and crafts market. For nearly 20 years, the market has provided artists with consistent opportunities to share their work, connect with audiences, and earn income.

In 2025, the Market moved to a single monthly cadence to increase sustainability and reinforce the market's desired impact.

Arts Market continues to serve as a cornerstone of the local creative economy and a trusted platform for artists at all stages of their careers.

186

Unique vendors
in 2025

100

New vendors
onboarded in 2025

~2,000

Attendees
per market

430

Total rostered
vendors

Over 40 vendors have participated in 6+ markets per year for over a decade.

"Arts New Orleans Art Markets made it feasible for me to sustain my newly-formed small business during the pandemic. I've developed wonderful and long-lasting client relationships as a result of Arts New Orleans event exposure."

— **Adriane Butler, Lasalle & Jackson**

"Arts Market New Orleans has helped sustain my work by providing visibility and access to collectors while keeping me connected to the local community. It's a place where people know where to find me, especially at the City Park markets, and that consistency has made it possible for me to keep creating and sharing my art."

— **Katherine Paredes, Artist**





New Orleans Hosts the Super Bowl!

When Super Bowl LIX came to New Orleans in February 2025, Arts New Orleans made sure art and artists were visibly present for all who attended or came to celebrate in New Orleans.



Working with partner organizations, we executed art projects that showcased New Orleans' vibrant culture to the world.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





4.

CELEBRATING LUNA FÊTE



CELEBRATING LUNA FÊTE

LUNA Fête is a free, large-scale public festival that showcases light and tech-based art from hundreds of local and global artists. Since its launch in 2014, LUNA Fête has become a signature New Orleans tradition, transforming downtown through projection mapping, light installations, and interactive artworks that invite residents and visitors into shared civic space. **In 2024, Arts New Orleans celebrated one of its most successful years of LUNA Fête to date:**

40,000

Attendees

53

Local artists
at the festival

14

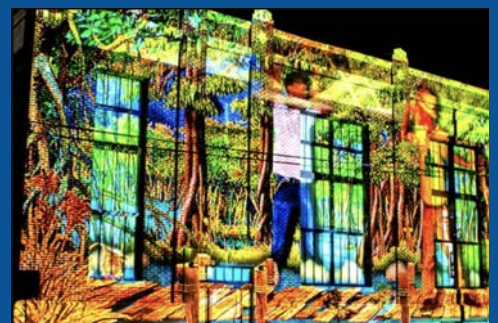
Installations
showcased

65

Musicians
& DJs

LUNA FÊTE RETURNS IN 2026

Arts New Orleans is pleased and excited to announce that LUNA Fête will return in November 2026 with renewed energy and expanded vision.





5.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our 2025 donors!

Investing in public art and artists is one of the most impactful ways to support the city of New Orleans. You make our incredible work possible!

Thank you, we couldn't have reached our 50-year milestone without supporters like you.

Adam Farrington	Catherine and Jason Kuuskraa	Dr. Cox and Ms. Milek	Isabelle Vea
Adam Hall	Catherine DeYoung	E & E Essentials	Jacqueline D. Cockerham
Adriane Butler	Charity Poskitt	Edward Levy	Jane Martin
Afta Thirty	Charles Gudaitis	Edwin Bragg	Janie Dick
Aisha Hamra-Pinto	Charles Matheny III	Elder Gwin	Jennie Cannon West
Al Champagne	Cheryl Brown	Elizabeth Owen	Jessica Nalwimba
Alfred McCoy	Cheryl Jarrell	Emilie Rhys	Jessica Strahan
Americans for the Arts,	Chester Allen	Entergy	Jo Ann Minor
National Arts Relief Fund	Chevron	Entrepreneurs'	Joel Gordon
Amy Ferguson	Chris Bergeron	Organization, Louisiana	John P. Daniel
Andre Juneau	Chrissy Campo Horne	Chapter	John Staughton
Andrew Pollack	Christie Kahil	Erica Swanson	Jolene Combs-Tyrolf
Andrew Rodgers	Ciolino Onstott	Eslie Taylor	Jones Walker LLP
Andrew Strahan	City of New Orleans,	Francisco Magallan	Joseph Walton
Anna Bernard	Juvenile Justice	Fred Rodriguez	Joshua Lee Studio
Apple	Intervention Center	Fred Weber	Journey Allen
Judge Arthur Hunter Jr.	City of New Orleans,	Gallo Charitable Giving	Joycelyn L. Reynolds
Arts for Healing and Justice	Office of Criminal Justice	Fund	Jules Noel
Network	Coordination	Gary Villavicencio	Julie Brown
Ash Marquardt	Claudia Winstead	Gary Ward	Julie Frances Graff
Avery Ridenour	COHN GNOF NOLA	Gerald Makaveli Seals	Kailyn Chuter
Avione Pichon	ARTS Fund	Geraldine Brezca	Karen Eustis
Baker Donelson	Colin Tossell	Gina Monette	Karen Konnerth
Baptist Community	Corporate Realty	Ginger Kelly	Kate Beck
Ministries	Courtney Egan	GPOA Foundation	Katherine Paredes
Barbara Newton	Courtney Moles	Greg Bresnitz	Katie Schmidt
Becky Angle	Darlene Langendonk	Greg Levy	Keirsten Kelly
Beth and Austin Lavin	David Rex Joyner	Hannah Bridges	Keri Wilkinson
Betsy G.	Deborah Shavlik	Hayley Roussel	Kevin Wilkins
Blake Brodhead	Dee Speed	Heather Englehart	Kina Joshua
Bonnie Miller	Denise Collins	Henri Boulet	Krista DeJoseph
Brenda Eames	Dennis Guidry	Henry Nuss and Shay	Lafitte Greenway
Brent Walden	Derek Patterson	Zeller	Partnership
Brittany Ball	Dingtea Downtown NOLA	Herreast Harrison	Lauren Boudreaux
Bryon Cornelison	Domain Cos.	Holly Boynes	Lauren Ross-Autin
Camille Hill-Prewitt	Domonique Smith	Holly Williams	Leiana Funck
Candice Lathrop	Donna Guidry	Hon. Nannette Brown	Lillie Varie Barrios
Carol T.		Ione Hulliger	Linda Geldenhuys

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Linda Snider-Ward
Lindsay Glatz
Lorraine LeBlanc
Louis Costa
Louis Frederick
Louisiana Division of the Arts
Louisiana First Horizon Foundation
Louisiana Lottery Corporation
Lucinda Gaddis
Luke Koefler
Lynn Jenkins
Maddie Ritter
Maggie Gustafson
Mara Gold
Marek Dlouhy
Mark Rosenbohm
Martine Barallon-Wicks
Matt Beshears
Maureen and Daniel Sintich
Maximiliano Correa
Merchant House
Michael Boyle
Michael Guidry
Michelle Legler
Mike Bonin
Mitchell Landry
MK Wegmann
Molly Greenberg
Monica Campbell
Morris Bart LLC
Ms. Amanda Mantle
Winstead
Ms. Shu
Myron Campbell
Nancy Aronson

Nancy Eaves
Natasha Rascoe
Nathalia Toledo
National Endowment for the Arts
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New Orleans & Company
New Orleans Art Association
New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation
New Orleans Recreation and Culture Fund
New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund
Nicholas Conner
Nicole Ockmond
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Nora Ellertsen
Nurhan Gokturk and
Bridget Cameron
Nyka Scott
Ochsner Children's Hospital
Paola Corrada
Peg Martinez
Pepe M.
Peter Seltzer
Princess Camerian
PSTAR
Rachael DePauw
Rae Lam
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Ralph and Susan Brennan
Raven Silas-Willis
Rebecca Bordelon
Roderick Dwyer

Romy Relle
RosaMary Foundation
Rose Gunarslan
Russell Fresh
Ruth Owens
Ryan Galloway
Sandi Stewart
Sarah Gooding
Scott Arvin
Scott Fisher
Scott Jennings
Shapiro Family Foundation
Sharon Woods Green
Shaun Aleman
Sophie and Harry Vorhoff
Stacey Milliken
Stephanie and Kevin Hackett
Steve Seneca
Studio Etter
Susan Rodrigue
Teri Walker
Therese Wegmann
Tiffany E. Asraf
Tiffany Hall
Tiffany Soles
Tim and Karen Mackie
Foundation Fund
Tone Lowe
Tonitralaschondra Lee
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
Urban South Brewery
Wess Foreman
William Frischhertz
WyShonda M.
Zack Smith

*In Memory of Anastasia
Marie Apostolos:
Beverly Ball
Evelyn Poitevent
LaVonne Johnson
Lorrie French
Michele Garval
The Bulldog*

*In Memory of Gayle
Camet:
Lauren Keating*

*In Memory of Lola Tate
Mixon Bates and Larnell
Bates, Sr.:
Lynette Bates*

*In Honor of Valerie
Caresar:
Cathy Webber Johnson*

Thank You.

Arts New Orleans
artsneworleans.org

Founded 1975 · New Orleans' Community Arts Council · 50 Years of Impact

