In 2018, after over twenty years of serving the arts and culture community, we rebranded as Arts Cleveland. We achieved over twenty years of successes (and lessons from failures) as the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture. Among them new local resources for arts and culture, stronger arts advocates, and better information about the impact and importance of arts and culture on the region. There are many ways we’ve been able to achieve this with the community. Among the most important, we’ve built stronger and wider connections with arts and culture that have fostered true collaboration.

Changing the name and style of Arts Cleveland is primarily to help us get to the point about who we are, what we do, and how you can use us more effectively. We are still the knowledgeable, passionate group of arts advocates you’ve come to know over the years. We maintain our core belief in the power of arts and culture to change lives and communities simply by doing what it does best: create, inspire, distract, or in the words of Cézar Cruz, “to comfort the disturbed, and to disturb the comfortable.”

With a fresh look and new language, we wrapped up some of the big projects we started some months back and offered a taste of some new ideas.
Advocacy

At Its Very Best  In this thirteen-minute video, interviews with youth, educators, healthcare providers and public safety experts begin to illustrate the impact of violence in Cleveland. For those affected by trauma including the trauma of poverty, the arts can create new pathways—a way out. Arts Cleveland commissioned local artist, Donald Black Jr. to create the thirteen-minute video. https://mycreativecompass.org/Research/Health-and-Safety/At-Its-Very-Best

From D.C. to Cleveland Webinar  On March 15, 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine released his first Ohio Budget Proposal. The next day, Arts Cleveland CEO Megan Van Voorhis and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Executive Director Bill Behrendt brought insight into key items on the budget including the allocation for the Ohio Arts Council. Plus, Van Voorhis shared key takeaways from the National Arts Action Summit in Washington D.C. She discussed the degrees to which delegates were committed to arts and culture, along with notes on her conversations with members of Congress. https://vimeo.com/327107887

Public Funding Training  More than 10 years out from the passage of a local tax to support arts and culture, questions loom about declining revenues. Where we go now is largely influenced by how we got here. The sector’s collective work to achieve local public funding for arts and culture was no small task. As the organization that facilitated much of the groundwork that led to the tax, Arts Cleveland shared the full scope of work that led up to a campaign, relevant insights, facts and lessons learned from the effort. This provides important context and ensures we stay grounded in shared information as we get our footing for the work ahead.
Field Support

Customer Service for People with Disabilities  Arts Cleveland led a panel discussion filled with insights, resources and experiences to help equip staff and volunteers with the tools they need to welcome visitors with disabilities. Attendees heard from artist, John G.; advocacy & disability rights coordinator of Services for Independent Living (SIL), Laura Gold; consumer empowerment specialist of SIL, Lisa Marn; Leadership Academy graduate, SIL, Megan Drops; American Sign Language instructor, Keri November; and publisher and managing editor, High Art Fridays, Ron Shelton.

Accessible Marketing  Arts Cleveland partnered with Erin Hoppe, formerly of VSA Ohio, to discuss best practices for accessible marketing. Participants took away short- and long-term solutions to help people of all abilities access content and set expectations. Hoppe covered everything from website accessibility to creating a welcoming environment for all people to which organizations can support spreading the word about accessible events.

Play It Forward Cleveland!
Arts Cleveland was a coordinating partner with The City of Cleveland, Cleveland City Council, The Cleveland Orchestra, Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The first musical instrument donation drive brought in over 300 instruments. The effort had already raised $1660 for instrument repairs by June 30, 2019.

Cultural Planning Made Simple: Lessons from the Cleveland Playbook  Arts Cleveland staff discussed our new resource to the field for members of Americans for the Arts through ArtsU. The discussion covered parts of chapters 1-3 of Elevating the Influence of Arts and Culture (see page 7).
Direct Service

We were proud to serve the following groups and individuals by providing research analysis, education, counsel, project coordination, and facilitation.

ACTING OUT Cleveland
Art House, Inc.
ArtPlace and University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine
Arts and Culture Action Committee
ArtsNow
Arts Radio Network
Baldwin Wallace University
Bascom Little Fund
Beck Center for the Arts
Blair Whidden
Brinden Harvey
Brite Winter
Center for Arts-Inspired Learning
City of Cleveland Division of Recreation
Cleveland Arts Education Consortium
Cleveland Arts Prize
Cleveland City Council
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
Cleveland Drafts
Cleveland Indians
Cleveland Institute of Music
Cleveland Leadership Center
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Cleveland Public Library
Councilman Kevin Conwell
Crain’s Cleveland Business
Creative Startups
DANCECleveland
Dancing Wheels Company & School
Eleanor Gerson High School
Elizabeth Cooke
Eugene Sopher
Georgiana Lascu
Graffiti Heart
GroundWorks DanceTheatre
Gwendolyn Garth
ideastream
Improbable Players
Inlet Dance Theatre
Jae Andres
Jason Weiner
Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center
Justo Karell
Kent State University: MOOS Program
Lisa Kurzner
Little Lumpy’s Center for Educational Initiatives
Make Music Cleveland
Mary Helen Petrus
Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition
MetroHealth Arts In Medicine
Mike Levy
MOCA Cleveland
National Organization for Arts in Health
Neighborhood Leadership Institute
News 5: A Better Land
NoteWorthy Federal Credit Union
Oberlin Center for the Arts
Ohio Citizens for the Arts
OhioDance
Services for Independent Living
Sixth City Sounds
SPACES
The Cleveland Orchestra
The Foundry Project
Twelve Literary Arts
University Circle, Inc.
Veronica Thornton
VIBE Collective
Voice of America
Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
VSA Ohio
Whitney Goller
Zygote Press
5th Annual Public Officials Recognition Breakfast
Public officials from across the region celebrate the power of arts and culture in the community once a year. Arts Cleveland hosted the 5th annual Public Officials Recognition Breakfast. Lively discussions, pride in our region’s cultural assets and warm recognition of arts and culture partnerships characterize this unique moment. Arts and culture leaders at every level were in attendance to connect and build relationships with government officials.

Arts and Culture Caucus: a new way for public officials to connect
Coordinated by Arts Cleveland, the Arts and Culture Caucus is a multi-jurisdictional group of elected and appointed officials in Northeast Ohio who share an interest in supporting and creating arts and cultural policy. The Arts and Culture Caucus will serve as a vehicle to connect with like-minded public officials, examine existing policies, access sample models of legislation and work to craft and advance policies that further support and embed arts and culture into the fabric of our region.

Creative Compass
This website is a tool for artists to share information, find artist opportunities and build connections with each other and with the broader community.

Creative Compass is a destination; a one-stop-shop of information for creative professionals. However, information isn’t static. So every two weeks, we send opportunities directly to inboxes throughout the region to the people who want them. As new opportunities consistently pop-up, new artists are looking for information. Here are some the most clicked links by category:

**CALLS FOR ARTISTS**
159 | 5.2 CLICKS PER LINK

**GRANTS**
12 | 4.7 CLICKS PER LINK

**JOBS**
197 | 3.8 CLICKS PER LINK
2019 Calendar  12 months, 12 messages; each month of this desk calendar exhibits a different bit of information about the impact and state of arts and culture. The data or message is combined with a photo exemplifying arts and culture’s contributions to the Cleveland area. 300 calendars were distributed throughout the region to public officials and decision makers both within and outside of arts and culture.

Elevating the Influence of Arts and Culture  “Those who don’t understand history are doomed to repeat it.” This is the story of how the Cuyahoga County arts and culture sector went from fiscal emergency to securing one of the highest levels of public funding for arts and culture in the country to becoming recognized as a national leader in creative placemaking. Described as a Cleveland Playbook, the publication examines the role and lessons around catalysts, advocates, advisers, policy strategy, data and convening arts and culture.

Inside the Margins: A Cleveland Literature Industry Study  This study found that in 2016, the literature industry includes 4,588 direct-effect employees and $261.8 million in labor income. The total economic impact, including its direct-, indirect- (supply chain) and induced-effect (jobs created by spending) was 8678 jobs and $1.6 billion in output.

Data Brief: Dance in Cleveland  At least 396 jobs are attributed to the economic impact of dance in Cleveland in addition to: $28.4 Million total output. Arts Cleveland released this data brief in June 2019, coinciding with DANCE|USA’s annual conference, which Cleveland hosted, and for which Arts Cleveland served as fiscal sponsor in partnership with a committee of dance companies throughout the region who brought in the conference.
Web Engagement

ArtsCleveland.org/CultureForward.org

[Web Traffic]
- 75.9k PAGEVIEWS
- 33.3k UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS
- Email 5.25k SUBSCRIBERS

Social Media  Sharing news about arts and culture including leadership changes, funding and networking opportunities, national grants and awards.

FOLLOWERS
- Facebook 2,880
- Twitter 3,606
- LinkedIn 500
- Pinterest 59
- Instagram 392

PLAYS
- 3,184

Financials

Financial Position

TOTAL ASSETS $1,459,919

- NET ASSETS
  $1,399,946

- TOTAL LIABILITIES
  $59,973

Activities

SUPPORT & REVENUE $422,032

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EXPENSES $760,936

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Arts Cleveland

Arts Cleveland is a data-driven nonprofit dedicated to advancing arts and culture in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County as its advocate, ambassador and ally. Arts Cleveland offers insights and solutions that support creative vitality. Over the course of its 21-year history, the organization’s work has yielded new and innovative policies in support of arts and culture and driven change in the way the community interfaces with arts and culture.

Learn more about where the organization is headed next at ArtsCleveland.org

Arts Cleveland  | 1900 Superior Ave, Suite 130 Cleveland OH 44114
216 575 0331
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Kevin Moore, managing director, Cleveland Play House
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Sean Watterson, owner, Happy Dog

Staff

Megan Van Voorhis, president and CEO
Abigail Del Rio, business manager
Kristen Levy, development manager
Meg Matko, community relations manager
Kristin Puch, senior researcher
LeAundra Richardson, associate of programs and marketing
Valerie Schumacher, director of programs and services

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