

TN Arts Commission 2013 Questionnaire

The Arts Environment

1. In general there is a positive and supportive environment for the arts in my community.
2. I think the environment for the arts is more positive and supportive now than it was about 3 years ago.
 - What are you observing that led to your answer in #2?
3. In my community the arts are reaching more and more people.
4. All children in my community have access to and participate in high quality arts education.
5. Recognizing, preserving, and presenting authentic local cultural and artistic traditions is important to people in my community.
6. I see the arts in my community changing due to population shifts related to aging.
7. I see the arts in my community changing due to population shifts related to growing ethnic diversity and immigration.
8. How is your organization changing its activities, if at all, as a result of changing demographics?
9. Below is a list of groups that may encounter barriers to arts participation or may have special needs. Please indicate how well you think arts and cultural organizations in your community are meeting the needs of each group below:
 - Children
 - Economically disadvantaged groups
 - Folk artists
 - Immigrant/ethnic populations
 - Incarcerated persons
 - Individuals speaking languages other than English
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - People of color
 - Seniors/older citizens
 - Veterans
 - Youth at risk
 - Are there any other groups in your community that need better access to arts and cultural opportunities?
 - What could the TAC do to support broader access to the arts for these or other underserved groups?
10. Artists and arts-engaged organizations in my community seem to have the support of local government.
11. Artists and arts-engaged organizations in my community seem to benefit from a local arts council or commission services.
12. In my community artists and arts-engaged organizations seem to have weathered the recent economic downturn pretty well.
13. Artists and arts organizations have a “seat at the table” for most major community initiatives in my community.
14. Below is a list of public benefits often associated with the arts. For each item on the list, please indicate the degree to which you see these benefits occurring in your community.
 - Attracting businesses

- Attracting tourism
 - Beautifying public spaces
 - Celebrating diversity and promoting tolerance
 - Contributing to healing in healthcare institutions
 - Delivering a better prepared workforce
 - Engaging at-risk youth in positive activities
 - Fostering community pride
 - Improving pre-K-12 education
 - Improving overall quality of life
 - Preserving and promoting local heritage/traditions
 - Promoting community cohesion
 - Promoting life-long learning
 - Providing employment/jobs
15. How have the arts positively impacted your community over the past couple years or so?
16. What is your community's best kept secret or an asset in the arts that you feel could be utilized to bring additional social, educational, cultural or economic benefits to your community?
- What is your community's best kept secret or an asset (non-arts) that you feel could be utilized to bring additional social, educational, cultural or economic benefits to your community?
17. What is the biggest challenge facing the arts in your community?
- What help or support is needed to address this challenge?
18. What is a great untapped opportunity for the arts in your community?
19. For each of the following, please indicate the degree to which each will be a challenge to you/your organization over the next few years.
- Advocacy, i.e.. communicating value of arts to public officials
 - Arts Education - pre-K-12
 - Arts Education – lifelong learning
 - Audience Development
 - Disaster preparedness
 - Financial issues, Fundraising/Financial Management
 - Governance issues/Board Development
 - Human resources, Leadership & Succession Planning
 - Legal issues
 - Marketing/Public Relations
 - Networking
 - Operations
 - Outreach to the underserved
 - Planning
 - Programs
 - Promoting local cultural heritage
 - Technology
 - Other:

20. What community partnerships would help you promote the arts to the public or reach more people?

The Tennessee Arts Commission

21. Please rate your satisfaction level with the following aspects of Tennessee Arts Commission services:

- Overall experience
- Courtesy
- Helpfulness of staff
- Knowledge/expertise of staff
- Leadership in the field
- Timeliness of communication
- Other (please explain):

22. Please rate your satisfaction with the Tennessee Arts Commission's website:

- Ease of navigation
- Overall design/ aesthetics
- Quality of information
- Relevance of information

23. Regarding the Tennessee Arts Commission's grant process, please rate your satisfaction with the following:

- Appropriateness of grant criteria
- Types of grant categories offered
- Clarity of application instructions
- Ease of compiling information & writing grant application
- Ease of submitting application
- Grant application review process
- Transparency of grant decision making
- Fairness of grant panel process
- Helpfulness of feedback from panelists
- Cost of my participation in the grant panel review process
- Timeliness of contract process
- Clarity of grant management instructions
- Ease of completion of payment request form
- Timeliness of grant payments
- Ease of completion of final grant report

24. If you have experience with other funding sources, is the grant application process of the Tennessee Arts Commission...

25. If you have experience with other funding sources, is the request for funds after receiving the grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission...

26. For each of the following, please indicate the value that these services from the TN Arts Commission have/has on you/your organization over the past couple of years.

- Arts advocacy support
- Arts education artist roster

- Brochures/ postcards from TAC
 - Conferences
 - Consultations with TAC staff
 - Grants
 - Help in engaging persons with disabilities
 - Online quarterly magazine
 - Online weekly newsletters
 - Referral to a consultant or peer advisor
 - TAC Gallery
 - Technical assistance (either by phone or email)
 - Webinars
 - Website
 - Workshops
27. For consideration for future funding priorities, which type of grant funding does your agency value most? These are general descriptions, not specific existing TAC grant categories.
- Arts project-specific
 - Grants less than \$5000 available year-round
 - Innovation initiative funding (such as creative placemaking, downtown revitalization w/arts, arts integration in schools)
 - Operational support
28. What other tools, if any, could TAC provide that would help you communicate benefits of the arts to public officials, partners, or potential partners?
29. If it weren't for a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission over the past couple years, I/my organization would not have been able to...
30. If it weren't for other help (non-grant) from the Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC) over the past couple years, I/my organization would not have been able to...
31. No matter what services/programs might change at TAC, in addition to making grants, the one thing that should always continue is...
32. The one thing the TAC could do in the next year or so to have the greatest positive impact on the arts in Tennessee is...
33. Looking ahead, what should be TAC's top 3 priorities? (Mark only your top 3 choices.)
- Advocating for the arts
 - Providing funding/grants
 - Fostering the arts in schools
 - Creating, maintaining awareness of cultural and arts programs
 - Encouraging individual artistic development
 - Preserving Tennessee's artistic heritage
 - Fostering collaboration among art groups
 - Building artist and arts organization's capacity for success
 - Providing leadership in understanding the impact of the arts in all realms of life and work
 - Fostering participation in the arts for all TN citizens, particularly the underserved

- Do you have any other suggestion for a top priority? If so, please describe.
- 34. The largest portion of the funds the Tennessee Arts Commission uses for its grants comes from the sale of TN automobile specialty license plates (tags) including those which are not “arts”-specific tags. What has been a successful strategy for promoting sales of specialty license plates that you have used or observed?
 - Do you have any ideas for strategies that TAC could use to promote the sale of specialty license plates?

About Your Organization

- 35. In which county are you/your organization located?
- 36. How long has your organization been in existence?
- 37. How long have you received funding from the TAC?
 - paid full-time staff
 - paid part-time staff
 - volunteers
- 38. Which one best describes your organization?
- 39. What is your primary role?
 - Primary Role - other:
- 40. What else, if anything, would you like to share anonymously with the Tennessee Arts Commission?