

COVID-19 Impact on Artists & Creative Workers Greater Sacramento Region

The City of Sacramento carried out a survey in partnership with Americans for the Arts to assess the impact of COVID-19 on artists and creative workers in the Sacramento MSA. This region includes El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties. The survey was in the field from March 24, 2021 through April 7, 2021. 86 people responded.

Respondent Profile

- 81% practicing artists, 40% teaching artists
- 95% independent contractor/freelancer
- 26% identified as a person with a disability
- 31% identified as BIPOC
- 50% female, 44% male, 4% non-binary

COVID Impact on Ability to Work

- 86% have had to cancel events/had events cancelled on them
- 48% were unable to sell work/product
- 30% have had pay cuts
- 28% were unable to pay for office rent, studio space or supplies

COVID Financial Impact

- \$38,000 was the average total loss per artist since the pandemic began
- 58% reported having 1-2 months or less in savings in the midst of the pandemic
- 73% of artists reported applying for grants, 67% used savings, and 65% applied for unemployment in light of the pandemic
- 87% reported success with applying for grants
- 80% have said that unemployment resources have been crucial for surviving the pandemic, 77% cited affordable housing, and 79% reported affordable high speed internet
- The following items – if available now – would greatly improve the current situation: affordable and comprehensive insurance for self (67%), affordable housing (63%), affordable high speed internet (59%), rent/mortgage assistance (53%), technology/software (67%), ability to monetize creative work online (56%)

Recovery

- Conditions that would improve the ability to make a living as an artist/creative worker: The ability to make a steady/living wage through my creative work (83%); more publicly/private funded art projects that employ artists (74%); a livable monthly income provided by government (69%); affordable health insurance (56%); access to unemployment benefits as an independent worker (56%)
- Opportunities artists/creative workers would take up if available: If they got paid, 55% said they would do any creative work to assist with recovery, 48% would do work within their chosen genre, and 42% would get trained to use creative work to assist other sector outcomes