

Special Edition - Action Alert: Ann Arbor Arts Funding is on the Line | [View in browser](#)

Creative Washtenaw

arts+creative industries=impact

Ann Arbor ARPA Update - The Final Push to Fund Arts + Creative Industries!

Dear Ann Arbor Arts + Creative Industries Advocates,

You raised your voice and the City of Ann Arbor heard you. The arts + creative industries are slated to receive an allocation for funding. We appreciate that City Council has been encouraging; that's a win, but more work needs to be done!

Ann Arbor's [current American Rescue Plan Act proposal](#) creates a grant program for artists but not to art institutions, creative nonprofits or businesses. Grants would require artists to "sing for their supper" and pursue an artistic endeavor that would be displayed, played or performed in the City of Ann Arbor. As those of us in this sector know, the ecosystem of the arts + creative industries require collaboration between art institutions, non-profits or businesses and artists and performers. Economic recovery is a main use of these ARPA funds to "fight the pandemic." Eliminating organizations means recovery remains elusive for them and creatives cannot use funds to replace lost wages, pay bills, reduce debt or invest funds in new work. [Read Creative Washtenaw's response and recommendation to City Council on March 3.](#) There is still time to work with City Council and staff to make sure the arts + creative industries are prioritized.

Call to Action: Time to get personal. Let City Council know how were you and are still impacted by the pandemic. Please write and tell Ann Arbor's mayor, city council members, administrator and staff that you need these ARPA funds to assist in your recovery. Attend [City Council's March 8 meeting](#) in person or by Zoom. Speak Up! Any member of the public may reserve public commentary time at the beginning of a Council meeting. Call the city clerk's office at 734.794.6140 beginning at 8 a.m. on the day of the meeting to reserve one of 10 public speaking times. [See the City Council calendar to learn more about the meeting.](#)

In your correspondence to City Council, please cc or bcc info@creativewashtenaw.org on your emails. Need a template? [Download our letter template](#) to send to Ann Arbor City Council. Contacts include Mayor and City Council: CityCouncil@a2gov.org, Milton Dohoney, Jr., interim city manager: mdohoney@a2gov.org and city staff: RescueFunds@a2gov.org.

You may also contact us with your ideas and suggestions at info@creativewashtenaw.org

**Thank you for your advocacy and support,
Creative Washtenaw**

Creative Washtenaw. Arts + Creative Industries = Impact

Creative Washtenaw is the arts + creative industry authority in Washtenaw County. A regional agency, its mission is to advocate for and support Creative Washtenaw and ensure that the greater Ann Arbor, Michigan, region remains a great place to create, live, work, learn, play and visit.

The intrinsic and aesthetic values of the arts and creativity are determining factors of success for the members of Creative Washtenaw: Creative people from students to industry experts leading the sector locally, nationally and internationally. They are professionals and amateurs who have creative practices, own creative businesses, hold creative jobs in profit, nonprofit and government entities; and offer creative products, services and programs throughout the Washtenaw community.

Creative Washtenaw serves Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake and Ypsilanti plus the 21 townships in the county. It is committed to, forever evolving and learning about diversity, equity and inclusion.

Creative Washtenaw is supported by its members, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

For more information, please go to <https://creativewashtenaw.org/> or 734-213-2733.



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