

Ten Great Reasons to Support Public Art

1. **It's public!** Everyone has access to public art. It's directly in the public sphere and not confined to galleries or museums.
2. Public art **enriches physical environments**, bringing streetscapes, plazas, government buildings and schools to life.
3. Public art is a great tool for **civic engagement**, building social capital and encouraging civil discourse.



David Franklin, *Cultural House of Cards*, 2014. Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with Department of Social & Health Services. Photo courtesy of the artist



James Sanborn, *Iacto*, 2004. Iowa Art in State Buildings Program. Photo courtesy of Iowa Arts Council and University of Iowa

4. Public art installations provide professional **opportunities for artists** and cultivate an environment in which the creative class thrives.
5. It **boosts local economies**. Businesses supply materials and labor; restaurants, hotels and transportation companies benefit from a site that attracts visitors.
6. Public art is an investment in place making—measured by livability and quality of life—that also engenders **community pride**.
7. Through documentation and celebration, public art connects citizens to their neighbors and their **shared history**, making cultural heritage a tangible community asset.
8. Public art enlivens places where people work, which can improve employee **morale, productivity and respect**.
9. Public art creates **supportive learning environments**. It opens eyes—and minds! It attracts students to environments conducive to both learning and fun.
10. Public art can raise **public awareness** about important community issues, such as environmental stewardship and respect for diversity.



Cynthia Patterson and Hank Saxe, *Max's Minarets*, 1997. University of New Mexico, Taos. Photo courtesy of New Mexico Arts

Want more? See NASAA's [Percent for Art Policy Brief](#).