NASAA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of STATE ARTS AGENCIES
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Prepared Testimony to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Meng and esteemed members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this testimony in support of the restoration of the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). My name is Pam Breaux, and I am honored to serve as president and chief executive officer of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), representing and advocating for the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies.

Today, I stand before you to express our profound appreciation for your ongoing work to advance commerce across the United States.

Arts & Cultural Production Satellite Account

The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) was developed through a formal partnership between the BEA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This collaboration[1] began in 2012 when the NEA and BEA agreed to work together to quantify the economic impact of arts and cultural production in the U.S. economy.

The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) provides the most authoritative federal data on the arts economy. It measures the value of arts and cultural goods and services, employment and compensation, consumer spending, and international trade.

[1] National Endowment for the Arts. (n.d.). *Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account.* National Endowment for the Arts. https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account

Because it includes more than twenty years of time-series data and state-by-state statistics, it has become indispensable in enhancing the understanding of the impact of the country's arts economy, as well as a critical tool to enable data-driven decision-making for policymakers, public officials and advocates at every level.

The most recent data show that arts and cultural economic activity grew 6.6 percent in 2023—outpacing overall U.S. economic growth—and accounted for 4.2 percent of GDP, or $1.17 trillion. These figures demonstrate that the arts are not ancillary to the economy; they are a major economic driver.

In February 2026, the BEA announced it would cease regular production of the ACPSA. Unlike the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, which was authorized by Congress, the ACPSA lacks statutory protection and can be discontinued at the executive's discretion.

The ACPSA quantifies the full economic contribution of arts and cultural industries, including the value of goods and services produced, as well as employment and worker compensation. It also tracks consumer spending and international trade in arts and cultural products. Because the data extend back more than twenty years and are presented as a time series, researchers, policymakers and industry leaders can analyze both short-term shifts and long-term trends in arts and cultural production.

The BEA regularly publishes analytical articles based on these estimates, and the NEA supplements them with research briefs, interactive visualizations, and detailed data tables. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) collaborates with the NEA to aggregate the BEA data into state-by-state statistics, developing interactive dashboards designed to explore the creative economy within the economic context of each state.

The ACPSA most recently showed that arts and cultural economic activity, adjusted for inflation, increased 6.6 percent in 2023 after increasing 3.8 percent in 2022. By comparison, the broader economy, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP), increased 2.9 percent in 2023 after increasing 2.5 percent in 2022. Arts and cultural economic activity accounted for 4.2 percent of GDP, or $1.17 trillion, in 2023.

In 2025, federal agencies that partnered with the BEA received notification that the BEA would cease production of their satellite accounts. On February 10, 2026, the BEA officially announced that the ACPSA would no longer be regularly produced.

This seems within the executive's purview since neither the BEA, nor the production of the satellite accounts, are under the authority of legislative fiat.

For arts advocates and policy makers who use the data for decision making, the stakes are clear. Without the ACPSA, the sector loses its most credible federal economic data source. Restoring and protecting the account ensures that arts and culture remain visible, measurable, and competitive in national, state and local policy decisions.

The arts reinforce America's leadership in the global economy, too. Cultural exports represent a $36.8 billion trade surplus. On a local level, arts attendees spend an average of $38.46 above the cost of admission on other services when they attend arts events, boosting revenues for retailers, restaurants and other merchants.

NASAA and the states applaud the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bureau of Economic Analysis for their many services to the country, including their leadership in developing the beneficial Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account. NASAA and state arts agencies proudly partner with the Arts Endowment to ensure that this important data is easily accessible and useful to policymakers and arts advocates in every state and jurisdiction. Together, we accomplish what neither side can achieve alone, as we catalyze cultural production and grow the talent pool for this important American industry that creates 5.4 million jobs on American soil.

I extend our sincere appreciation to the Committee for its consideration of this matter. As we move forward, NASAA remains committed to serving as a resource to the Committee and to advancing our shared goal of strengthening commerce for the betterment of the United States. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Agencies