

ACTION NEEDED

- Increase overall state funding for the arts to \$50 million.
- Prioritize Michigan’s cultural anchors through concentrated, strategic investment.
- Develop a new strategy for awarding state arts grants.

Increase overall state funding for the arts to \$50 million.

- Nearly half of public university students leave Michigan within one year of graduation.
- Young professionals decide where to live based on quality of place, more than available jobs.
- Arts and culture amenities are a key component of quality of place.
- Last year, Michigan awarded just \$2.1 million to arts nonprofits through MCACA—a near all-time low.

Michigan must increase its financial commitment to arts and culture, or we will continue to lose young professionals to cities that offer better quality of place.

Prioritize Michigan’s cultural anchors through concentrated, strategic investment.

- Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing will drive Michigan’s economic reinvention.
- Urban centers need thriving arts and cultural anchors to maintain their quality of place.

The state must concentrate investment in arts and cultural anchors in cities that will drive Michigan’s economic recovery, or these cities will continue to decline.

Develop a new strategy for awarding state arts grants.

- Cultural anchors reach larger and more diverse audiences than smaller arts organizations.
- Anchor institutions have far greater operational and maintenance costs than their smaller counterparts.
- Anchors have the infrastructures needed for success, making them high impact, low-risk investments.

By directing 60% of arts funding to key metro anchors, the state can maximize its ROI and reduce the risk of investing in organizations less likely to succeed.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Michigan’s reinvention entirely depends on our ability to attract and retain young, highly skilled talent in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing. When deciding where to live, young people look for quality of place—something largely determined by the presence of arts and culture.

Cultural amenities provided by anchor institutions are key to developing vibrant urban centers where young knowledge workers desire. **Increased, concentrated, and strategically distributed state arts funding is absolutely vital to attracting the young professionals who will ignite Michigan’s transformation.**