



# Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Chloe Crowther, Executive  
Director  
Creative Washtenaw

Wednesday, November 5th 2025

# About Creative Washtenaw:



- Washtenaw County's regional arts agency
- Mission: Advocate for and provide support services to artists, creative workers, organizations, businesses, educational, and government entities

## Organization History

- Founded in 2002 as The Arts Alliance following a countywide arts summit
- Became an independent nonprofit in 2008; rebranded to Creative Washtenaw in 2021
- Committed to serving as the connecting resource for Washtenaw County's creative ecosystem



# Arts + Creative Industries

Include organizations, businesses, agencies and individuals

## Nonprofit Businesses

- Mission based, society driven
- Money is not the only measure of success
- Profit is reinvested in the organization (but nonprofit does NOT mean no profit allowed)

## For Profit Businesses

- Can, and often do, have a social mission
- Is formed to create profit, not improve society
- Profit is returned to owners or shareholders

## Individuals

- Those using creative skills in private practices, jobs, businesses, and community involvement
- Professionals or amateurs
- Self-employed, gig workers, and employees

## Government

- Agencies: programs and services reflecting values and needs of citizens
- Includes arts, cultural, science, heritage, etc. commissions and agencies
- Percent for art programs

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# Arts + Creative Industries

## 2024 National Top 40 Most Arts-Vibrant Communities - SMU DataArts

### Ranked #10 of Medium Sized Communities –

Only two Michigan communities made the top 40 list



Ranking	Top 10 Medium Communities	Region	Population	Cost of Living Index
1	<a href="#">Santa Fe, NM</a>	West	155,664	95
2	<a href="#">Ithaca, NY</a>	Northeast	104,777	133
3	<a href="#">San Rafael, CA</a>	West	256,018	166
4	<a href="#">Pittsfield, MA</a>	Northeast	127,859	117
5	<a href="#">Kalamazoo-Portage, MI</a>	Midwest	261,173	91
6	<a href="#">Boulder, CO</a>	West	327,468	110
7	<a href="#">Missoula, MT</a>	West	121,041	99
8	<a href="#">Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ</a>	Northeast	745,553	106
9	<a href="#">Syracuse, NY</a>	Northeast	653,633	101
10	<a href="#">Ann Arbor, MI</a>	Midwest	366,376	99

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# Past Programs and Projects



# Current Programs and Projects

## Cultural Leaders Forum

- Monthly meetings for thought partnership among fellow leaders of arts and culture organizations

## Creative Washtenaw Happy Hour

- Monthly networking opportunities for our membership to connect and share news about upcoming events or projects

THE **pARTy!**

(April 15th, 2026!)

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# Our Membership

Current members: 130

Ranging from large, established arts organizations to individual artists



## New Website Features for Members: Launched October



# What's Next?

## Collaboration

Seeking collaborative input from all stakeholders

## Reliability

Establishing CW as a steady, dependable resource and advocate for creatives

## Connection

Bridging the gap between artists and opportunities, and between arts and audiences

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# Creative Washtenaw and the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Ways we can support the Commission's work:

## **Artist Connection and Outreach**

Maintain a database of local artists, distribute calls for artists through our membership network

## **Promotion and Engagement**

Feature public art projects to drive community awareness and highlight completed works

## **Resource Development**

Offer professional development opportunities for artists interested in public art commissions, share best practices, and facilitate connections

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# Thank you!

for more information contact

Chloe Crowther  
Executive Director  
Creative Washtenaw  
[chloe.crowther@creativewashtenaw.org](mailto:chloe.crowther@creativewashtenaw.org)  
419.340.3363 (c)  
[www.creativewashtenaw.org](http://www.creativewashtenaw.org)

1100 N. Main St. #A  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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