

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Chloe Crowther, Executive
Director
Creative Washtenaw

Wednesday, November 5th 2025



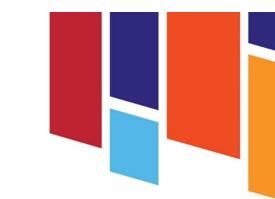
About Creative Washtenaw:

- 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)

Individuals

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

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

Government

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

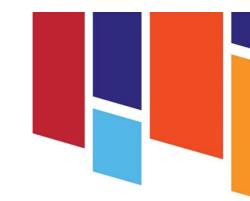


Arts + Creative Industries

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

Creative Washtenaw arts+creative industries=impact

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



Creative Washtenaw

Our Membership

Current members: 130

Ranging from large, established arts organizations to individual artists



New Website Features for Members: Launched October

Opportunities Board

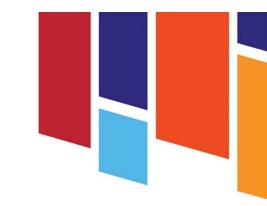
Community Calendar

Membership Directory



Creative Washtenaw

What's Next?



Collaboration

Seeking collaborative input from all stakeholders

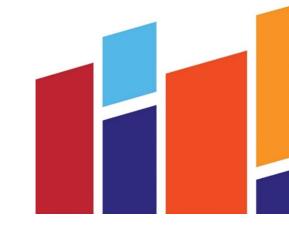
Reliability

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

Connection

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





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





Thank you!

for more information contact

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