



WHY ARTS FUNDING MATTERS (SAN DIEGO)

This is not a major expense

- The City of San Diego budget is roughly **\$6.3 billion**
- Arts funding is about **\$13 million**

That's approximately:
0.2% of the total budget

Less than one quarter of one percent.

What this really means

Eliminating arts funding does not meaningfully solve a budget problem.

But it **does** meaningfully change what kind of city we are.

WHAT THE ARTS ACTUALLY DO

The arts are not an extra.

They:

- bring people together across communities
- support local restaurants, venues, and small businesses
- drive tourism and visitor spending
- create jobs and economic activity
- make San Diego a place people choose to visit—and to live

THIS IS A HIGH-RETURN INVESTMENT

A small public investment:

- activates private spending
- supports local economies
- strengthens community life

PUT IN PERSPECTIVE

- The entire arts budget is a **tiny fraction** of city spending
- Yet it contributes to the **economic and cultural life of the city** in visible ways

NATIONAL CONTEXT

- Federal arts funding in the U.S. is **less than \$1 per person per year**

This is not a system of excess spending.

THE REAL QUESTION

This isn't about whether the arts are "nice to have."

It's about this:

Is San Diego the kind of city that invests—even modestly—in its cultural life?

BOTTOM LINE

Cutting arts funding doesn't fix the budget.

It changes the city.



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