

8 INDICATORS OF A THRIVING ARTS ECOSYSTEM

1 Thriving Artistic Community

Abundance of artists

A strong ecosystem supports a wide range of artists across various disciplines, including visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, and more.

Representation

The ecosystem reflects the demographics of the community in terms of artists, audiences, staff and leadership.

Opportunities for artistic development

Artists have access to resources like training programs, mentorship, residencies, and funding to nurture their talent and advance their careers.

Platforms for showcasing work

Ample venues and spaces exist for artists to exhibit, perform, and share their work with the public.

5 Education & Learning

Arts education

Children and youth have access to quality arts education in schools and communities.

Lifelong learning

Opportunities for adults to engage in arts learning and creative expression are available.

Knowledge sharing

Artists and organizations share their knowledge and expertise with each other and the community.

Pathways for the next generation of workforce

In arts and culture sector and creative industries.

2 Robust Art & Culture Organizations

Variety of organizations

The ecosystem includes a mix of established institutions and community-based organizations, all contributing to the ecosystem and representing varied artistic disciplines.

Effective leadership & management

Organizations are well-run, financially stable, and focused on their mission.

Collaboration & partnerships

Organizations work together and with other sectors (education, business, health and, tourism) to maximize their impact and reach.

6 Supportive Environment

Public funding

Government at all levels (local, regional, national) recognizes the value of arts and culture and provides financial support.

Private philanthropy

Foundations, corporations, and individuals contribute generously to arts organizations and initiatives.

Policies and regulations

Policies support the arts and culture sector, such as tax incentives for donations, protection of cultural heritage, and support for arts education.

3 Engaged & Growing Audiences

Accessibility

Arts and culture are accessible to everyone, regardless of background, income, or ability.

Growing audiences

People of all ages, ethnicities, and interests participating.

Active engagement

Audiences are not just passive consumers but actively participate in arts experiences through workshops, discussions, and community projects.

7 Strong Infrastructure

Physical spaces

Adequate and well-maintained venues, galleries, studios, and rehearsal spaces are available.

Digital infrastructure

Artists and organizations have access to technology and digital platforms to create, promote, and share their work.

Transportation & accessibility

Arts and culture venues are easily accessible by public transportation and are designed for people for all abilities.

4 Innovation and Creativity

Support for new work

The ecosystem encourages experimentation.

Interdisciplinary collaboration

Artists from different disciplines collaborate and push boundaries.

Adaptability

The ecosystem is responsive to change and embraces new technologies and approaches.

8 Economic Impact & Social Impact

Creative economy

The arts and culture sector contributes to the local economy through job creation, tourism, and revenue generation.

Placemaking

Arts and culture are used to enhance public spaces and create vibrant communities.

Cultural tourism

Arts and culture attract visitors and contribute to the vibrancy of the community.

Social cohesion

Arts and culture bring people together, fostering a sense of belonging and community pride.

Business partnerships

Businesses recognize the value of arts and culture and support the sector through sponsorships and partnerships.

Civic participation

Arts and culture are used to engage citizens in dialogue and decision-making about their communities.