

# Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Needs Assessment

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 2023

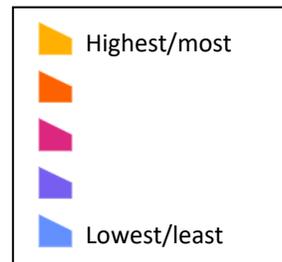
If your question is not answered below, please contact us at [research@arts.lacounty.gov](mailto:research@arts.lacounty.gov) and include “Needs Assessment Question” in the subject line.

### How do the maps work? How can I see different programs in them?

The maps are built on ArcGIS, a platform widely used for displaying and analyzing geographic data. Each program or department presented in each map is a “layer” of data. They are best viewed when expanded as large as possible on your screen. You can turn on and off different layers using the dropdown menu under the Layers List icon: 

On most maps, data are presented in five classes using natural breaks, with this color scheme:

To see exact figures for each layer on any map, click the Legend icon: 



### What time period is presented in the Arts and Culture Needs Assessment?

The Needs Assessment shows one year of investments in arts and culture by the government of Los Angeles County.

The data were collected in 2021-22, while the arts and culture sector was still recovering from financial and programmatic impacts of the pandemic. Therefore, we constructed a “representative year” using data from the most recent year(s) with the most representative data available. For example, because most grantees of the Organizational Grant Program (OGP) and Community Impact Arts Grant (CIAG) program were unable to hold in-person programming from 2020 and well into 2022, data from the 2017-19 grant years were utilized. See the table at the end of this FAQ for the exact year of each dataset.

### What are the sources for the data?

Most data were collected directly from departments of LA County government, through interviews conducted by consultant AECOM. Other data sources include the LA County budget and IRS 990 forms. Data for the equity dashboards are from the [US Census and American Community Survey](#), [LA County Equity Explorer](#), and the [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#).



### **Why do you report dollars invested on some maps but count of investments on others?**

Most County departments were unable to provide exact dollars invested in arts and culture, for several reasons. Few non-arts departments have specific line items in their budgets for the arts. In addition, programs counted by some County departments include but are not limited to arts activities, and the exact dollar amount spent on the arts portion of those programs could not be determined.

### **Why did you use zip codes to display the data?**

Zip codes are commonly used and well understood by the public. They were also the smallest geography category available across nearly all investments, making it the common denominator for the purposes of aggregating data across the entire county.

### **Can you explain more about the Equity Dashboards?**

Most dimensions of equity are reported as a percent of the total population. The percentage shown on the left represents all zip codes visible. As you zoom in and out, the percent changes to reflect the zip codes you see on your screen. Click on any zip code (in the map or in the column chart below) to see data for that exact zip code.

- In the **Older Adults** and **Youth** dashboards, the figure on the left is the average number of Older Adults or Youth in the zip codes that are visible.
- **Housing Cost Burden** represents the percent of people in the visible zip codes who spend more than 30 percent of their income for housing.
- **LA County's Living Wage** uses the [MIT Living Wage calculator](#) for a family of two working adults with one child. This family structure was selected based on the fact that the average number of people per household is three ([Census QuickFacts](#)) and that 59 percent of children in LA County live with both parents ([Population Reference Bureau's KidsData](#)).
- **Hate Crimes** is the total number of hate crimes reported in that zip code from 2003-2020. The figure on the left is the average for all zip codes visible.

### **How can I download the data?**

Download a workbook with all the Arts and Culture Needs Assessment open data at [LA County's ArcGIS Online Platform](#).

### **How can I share a map with someone, or embed it into my website?**

Click the Share icon in the upper right-hand corner of the map and follow the instructions:



### **Why did you conduct this needs assessment?**

When the LA County Board of Supervisors passed the Cultural Policy in 2020, they asked the Department of Arts and Culture to measure all County investments in the arts, across all divisions of County government, and to assess the equity of those investments. This establishes a baseline of knowledge of where LA County government's arts and culture resources were currently allocated. The Board of Supervisors can use the findings to set priorities for future investments in the arts. The Department of



Arts and Culture can use it to address equity concerns. We have made the data available to the public so that anyone can use it to understand County investments in the arts and take action on what they learn.

### Where can I find the Needs Assessment website?

[lacountyartsdata.org](http://lacountyartsdata.org)

### What was the Equity Analysis Methodology?

The equity analysis was conducted in three phases: Data Gathering, Data Mapping, and Index Creation. In Data Gathering, over 40 data points were consolidated into 12 dimensions of data: Race and Ethnicity, Age, Crime, Citizenship Status, Disability Status, Transportation, Internet Access, Housing Cost Burden, Poverty, Unemployment, Language Spoken, and Education. They were chosen as factors that most commonly impact an individual’s ability to engage/participate in arts and culture in LA County. Each datapoint was then mapped across the 300 zip codes in LA County to understand how each metric impacted a localized area of the county and how those areas compared to one another. To create the index, each datapoint and its aggregated dimension were weighted so that those equity factors could be measured against one another at a zip code level. The weights for each metric were then summed together to create the Equity Index, where a **higher number indicates a less equitable area** compared to a **lower number which indicates a more equitable area**. Finally the total count of investments data for each zip code was compared against the Equity Index to identify where gaps in arts and culture access exist across the County from an equity lens.

### How many zip codes are there in LA County?

A full list of all zip codes in LA County would include non-residential places such as PO boxes and large buildings or institutions that have been assigned their own zip codes. Zip codes do not follow county or municipal boundaries, and a few zip codes that are primarily in other counties overlap LA County slightly. For this analysis we used as the denominator 300 zip codes where residents of LA County live. This includes a small number of zip codes that are primarily in LA County but overlap slightly into other counties.

### Data source years

DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, INSTITUTION, OR PROGRAM	DATA YEAR
<b>Department of Arts &amp; Culture:</b>	
Arts Internship Program	2020-21
Arts Education	2020-21
Civic Art Collection	2021
Community Impact Arts Grant	2018-19
Free Concerts	2021
Organizational Grant Program <sup>1</sup>	2017-18 & 2018-19
Total budget & comparison to other cities	2019

<sup>1</sup> The Organizational Grant Program runs on a two-year cycle with each year made up of half the grantee pool.



DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, INSTITUTION, OR PROGRAM	DATA YEAR
<b><i>County Cultural Institutions:</i></b>	
Fairplex	2019
LA Phil (includes Hollywood Bowl)	2019
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes	2019
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)	2019
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County	2018
The Ford	2019
The Music Center (includes Grand Park & Music Center Foundation)	2019
<b><i>Other divisions of LA County government:</i></b>	
Beaches and Harbors	2000-2021
Board of Supervisors Offices	2015-2021
Child Support Services	2019-2021
Development Authority	2019
Human Resources	2017-2022
LA County Library	2015-2022
LA City/County Native American Indian Commission	2019
Office of Education	2019
Public Health	2021
Sheriff	2021-2022
Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services	2018-2019
Other County Departments	varies