The arts mean business in DuPage.

Arts DuPage
A DuPage Foundation Initiative

A 2026 economic impact study of DuPage County's creative economy shows the arts are one of the county's real engines of jobs, spending, and tax revenue.

$8 billion

in total economic output every year, generated by artists, venues, museums, studios, schools, and the businesses that support them.

$5 billion
earned directly by creative businesses and workers

$2 billion
through their local suppliers

$1.1 billion
as workers spend their wages

38,208
jobs supported

7.9% of all employment in DuPage County. More direct jobs than wholesale trade.

$4.7B
in value added

The sector's own contribution to the county economy (GVA).

$902M
in tax revenue

Every year, across federal, state, county, and local government.

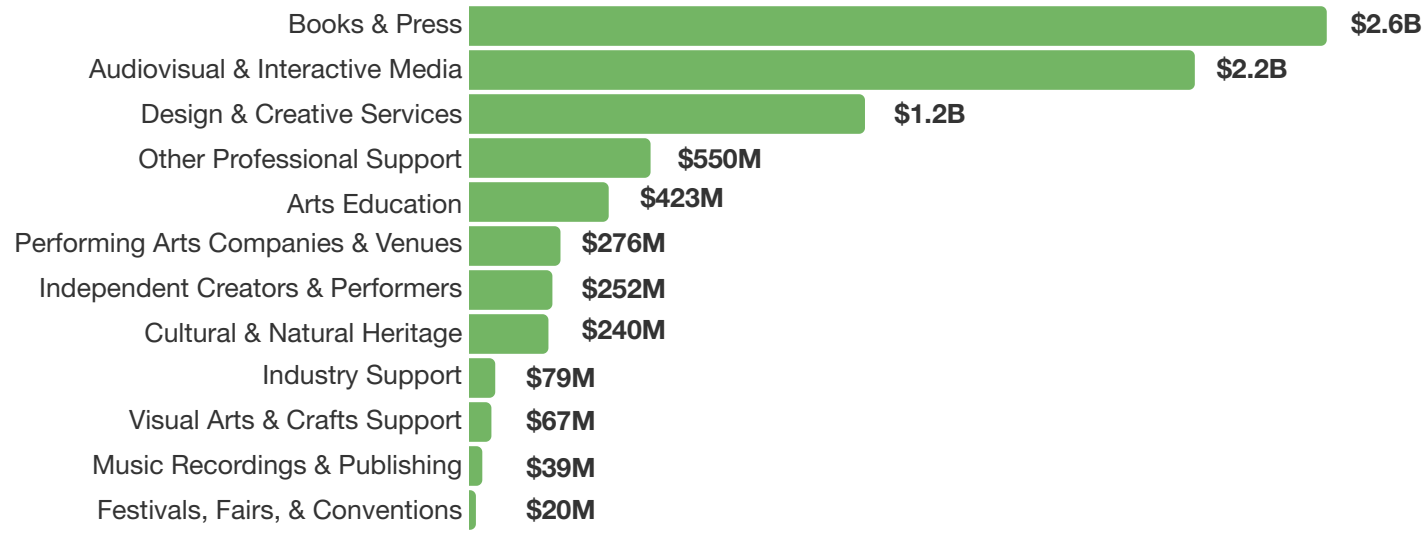
$1 + 61¢

For every **$1** the DuPage creative economy produces, another **61 cents** of economic activity is generated elsewhere in the county.

Arts DuPage, a DuPage Foundation Initiative | 3000 Woodcreek Dr., Ste. 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515 | 630.665.5556 | dupagefoundation.org | artsdupage.org

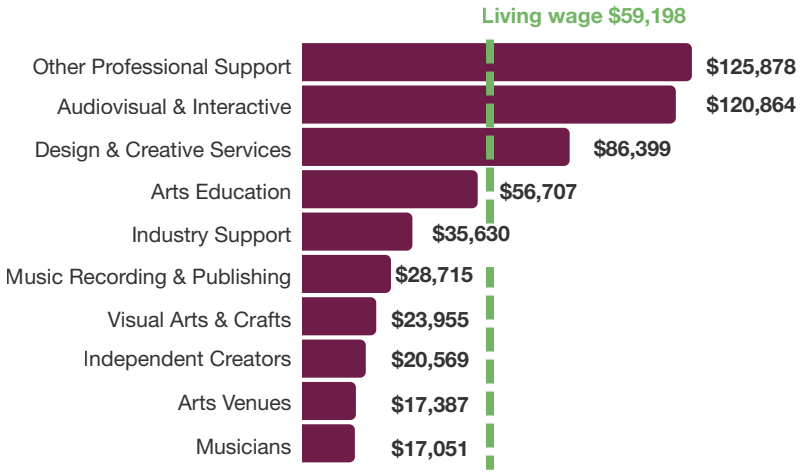
Where the $8 billion comes from

Total output by creative sector, including direct, supply chain, and household spending effects.



The people behind it

The creative economy's average wage is $79,507, but that figure is lifted by corporate and tech-facing roles. More artists, performers, and venue works earn well below the county's living wage.



Tax Revenue

Annual tax revenue generated by the creative economy.

$902 million

Federal	$590.4M
Illinois	$182.7M
DuPage *(municipal and county)*	$129.1M

Nonprofits punch above their weight. Creative nonprofits produce $757.4 million in output and employ 4,195 people. Every five jobs they create sustain two more elsewhere in the county.

The arts are critical to DuPage's future.

Invest in the arts, partner with arts organizations, and be a consmer of the arts.
Read the executive summary and find arts events across DuPage.

artsdupage.org

Commissioned by *Arts DuPage* and DuPage Foundation. Funded by the *Collins Family Fund* of DuPage Foundation. Findings by Sound Diplomacy.