



ARTIST TRUST

COVID-19 Artist Impact Survey

BACKGROUND

Artist Trust conducted a survey of individual artists in Washington State to understand the early impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on their livelihoods. This was an online survey available on our website and shared with artists and partner organizations by email and social media. Data collection began on March 11, 2020, the day Washington State Governor Jay Inslee banned events of 250 or more in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, closing many cultural institutions, performance venues, and arts spaces where artists make and present their work. Collection ended on March 20, 2020. By then, social distancing mandates were instituted statewide.

The survey asked four core questions regarding the early impact of COVID-19 on artists and their work. The data in this report is the result of content analysis of individual responses.

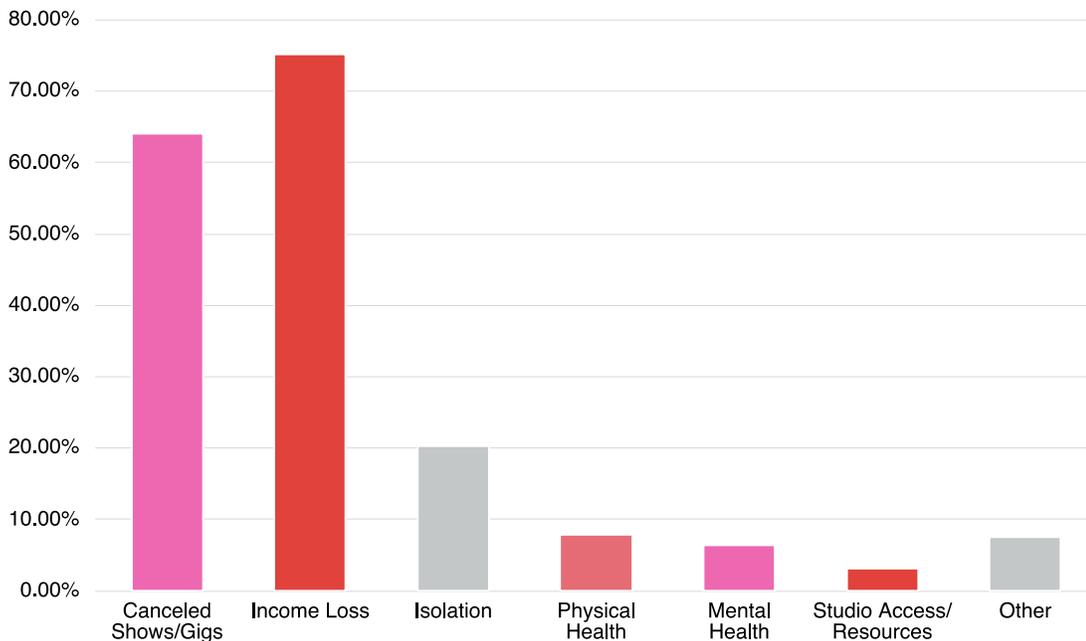
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The survey received 1,005 responses with 73% from King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. More than 7% of responses came from Eastern Washington counties. Rural counties accounted for another 7% of responses. Artists from 31 of the state's 39 counties responded.

A majority of responses were from visual and performing artists, who seemed to be the most impacted in the early stages of the pandemic due to the cancellation of events and closure of non-essential businesses. Multidisciplinary and film/media artists were the next most impacted.

ARTIST IMPACT

How has COVID-19 had an impact on your livelihood as an artist?



The most significant impacts on artists are lost income and cancellations.

"[COVID-19] took an already unstable income with being an artist and made it near impossible."

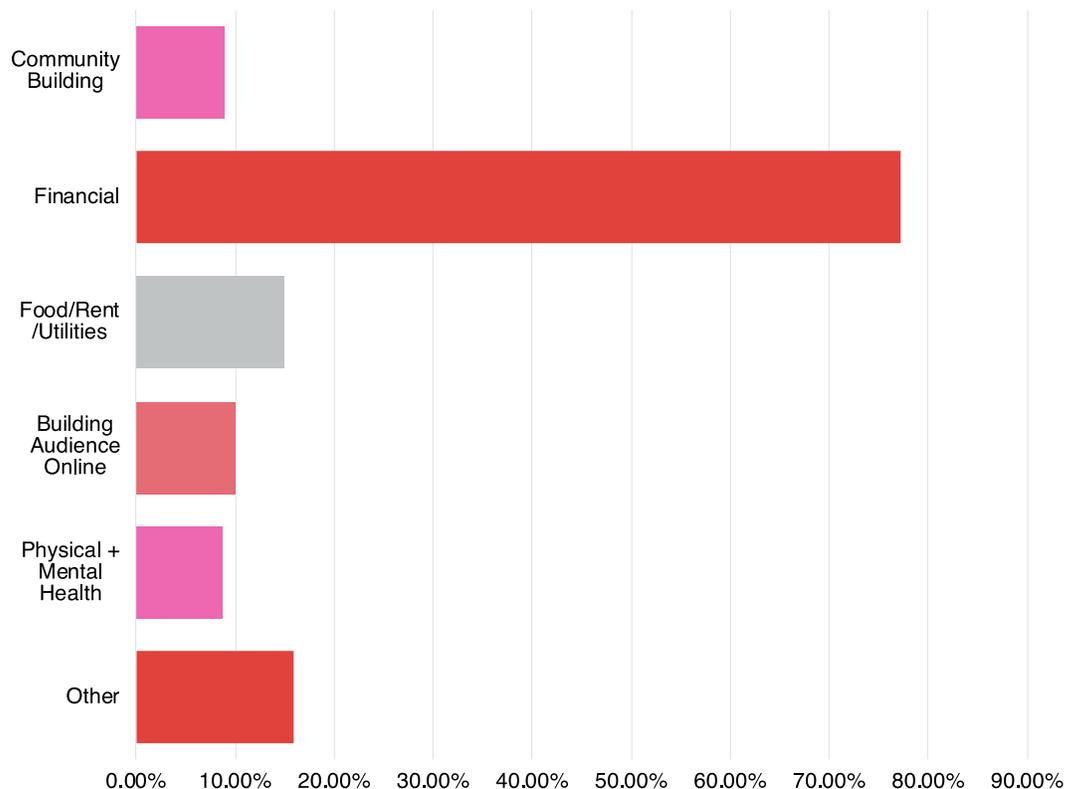
"I am in the high-risk category. I have not been able to focus and make art, I'm very nervous."

What kind of support do you need right now?

Many artists don't have a safety net and 77% needed immediate financial support.

"My main needs are just being able to cover my rent, phone, and car payment. I fear losing these things that help keep me and my children stable and are the tools I need for my business."

"As a self-employed artist, I don't get any sick days or vacation days I could use to tide me over like salaried people get."



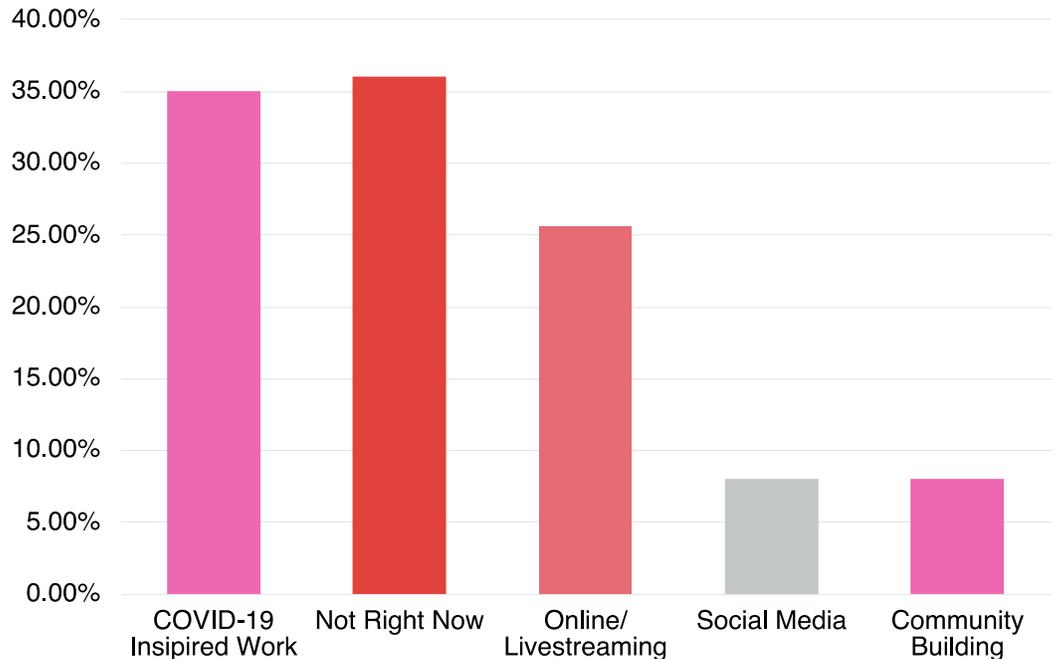
ARTIST RESPONSE

Are you or other artists in your community responding to the outbreak through your art? If so, how?

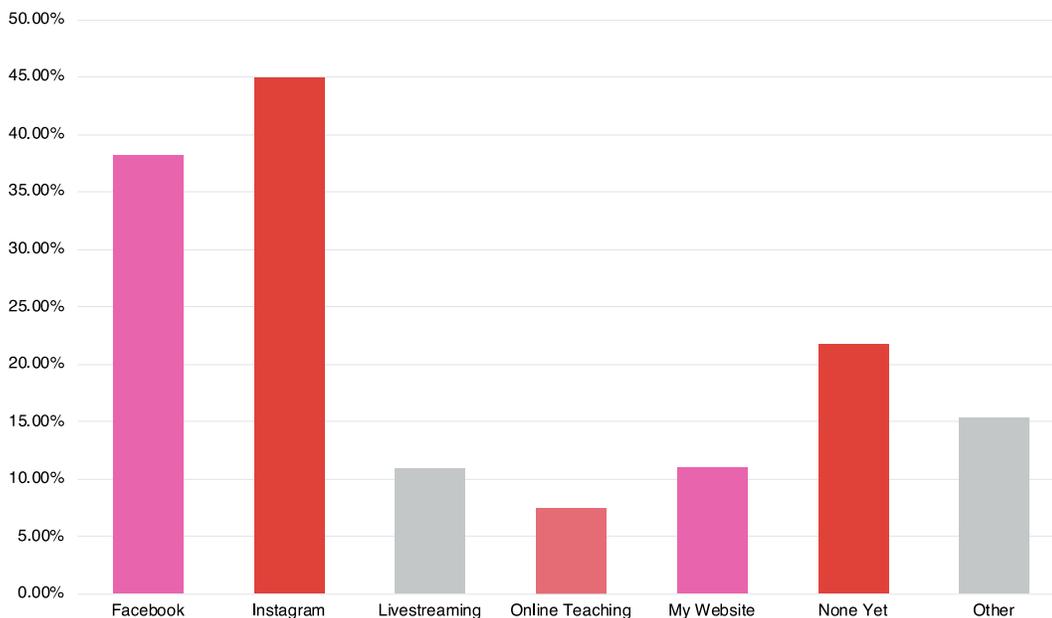
In the beginning of the pandemic, some artists were inspired to create new work and others couldn't make work at all.

"Almost everyone I know is responding with art. It's how we are going to survive this."

"This crisis is new and right now I am scrambling dealing with real life."



In what creative ways are you sharing your work despite social distancing?



Due to social distancing mandates, artists are turning to social media and livestreaming to build audience for their work.

A few artists that inspire us are:

NATASHA MARIN
 JULIA WALD
 JOHANNA
 STOBROCK
 NHATT NICHOLS

"[D]espite the stress many people are creating during this down time and sharing work online. It's heartening to see people pushing through."