ARTS COUNCIL KOREA

한국문화예술위원회

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The audio material was produced using the AI voice of Cho-rong Kim, MBC announcer of KT AI Voice Studio.

Together with you, We create the world.

AR

This brochure was created using augmented reality (AR) content.
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A fascinating augmented reality (AR) world will unfold.

We are Arts Council Korea

Arts Council Korea is the first public institution for culture and arts established in the Republic of Korea in 1973. It was initially launched as the Korean Culture and Arts Foundation and restructured later as Arts Council Korea, a consensus-based organization comprised mainly of active artists, in 2005.

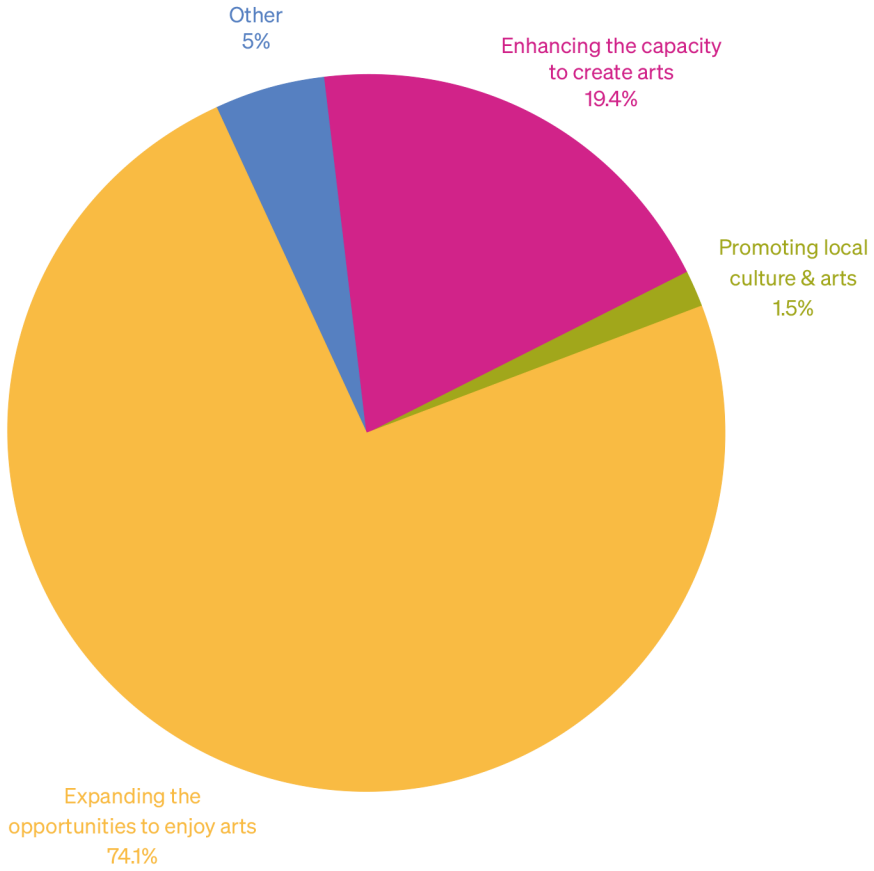
We have been making efforts to promote various fields of arts such as literature, visual arts, performing arts, traditional arts, interdisciplinary arts, etc.

Over the past 50 years (1973–2023), we have operated a wide array of programs with total funding of 4 trillion 323.2 billion won, ranging from support for art creation by artists in each genre to support for the enjoyment of *culture and arts* of the public and a sponsorship system for *culture and arts*.

Building upon our 50 years of experience and know-how, we will continue to stand by and support everyone who loves and enjoys *culture and arts*, ensuring that they can experience a wide range of *culture and arts* in their daily lives.

Grants

We are carrying out various culture and arts support projects using the Korea Culture & Arts Promotion Fund, raised in accordance with the “Culture and Arts Promotion Act” legislated in 1972.
The major grants earmarked for the Korea Culture & Arts Promotion Fund for 2024 is a total of 425.6 billion won, and the details are as follows:



2024 Grants
We provide 79.7% (339 billion won) of the total project fund of 425.6 billion won in the form of grants, and the chart has been produced based on the grants.

Our Path

We have illuminated the world with our belief in the value of culture and arts.

1972	Culture and Arts Promotion Act legislated (Law No. 2337)
1973	Korean Culture and Arts Foundation opened
1974	Misulhoegwan (now ARKO Arts Center) established in Gwanhun-dong
1979	Art Archives (now ARKO Arts Archive) opened
1981	Arts and Culture Center (now ARKO Arts Theater) opened
2005	Korean Culture and Arts Foundation dissolved; Arts Council Korea incorporated
2006	Joined as an IFACCA National Member (International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies)
2010	Artist House opened
2012	ARTISTREE Campaign (Culture and Arts Donation Campaign) launched
2014	Korea Performing Arts Center, Korean National Archives of Arts, and ARKO consolidated into a single entity
2014	Venice Biennale Exhibition of Korean Pavilion *Five Senses on the Korean Peninsula* won the Golden Lion
2019	“ARKO Vision 2030” proclaimed
2023	8th ARKO council formed and Achievement of A Grade in Public Agency Performance Evaluation for three consecutive years

A R

Our Vision



We are partners in building the joy of creation together at the forefront of the arts.



Based on the belief that culture and arts have the power to change the world, we will strive to create a sustainable creative environment where artists can freely express and realize their dreams and talents. Furthermore, we will do our utmost to share the value of *culture and arts*, allowing all Koreans to enjoy the pleasure of *culture and arts*.

A R

Our Efforts for Artists, for the People, and for Culture and Arts

Connecting You with Culture and Arts through Big and Small Movements.

Our Efforts

Our efforts to build a sustainable creative environment

We support creative activities in various ways according to the characteristics of each genre, ranging from arts—such as literature, visual arts, performing arts, and interdisciplinary arts—to new forms of convergence arts resulting from the advancement of science and technology.

We operate various direct and indirect programs to support both the present and future of Korea's arts. We provide support for youth artists who are the future of Korea's arts not only to cultivate their talents but also to help them venture into the industry of culture and arts. We are concurrently committed to providing a solid foundation, as a partner, for established and veteran artists, who represent the present of Korea's arts, so that they can continue their creative artworks. To achieve this, we strive to create a sustainable creative environment through a variety of programs tailored to the needs of the art scene, ranging from support for creative activities to the provision of spaces, including institutional facilities, performance venues, and writing rooms, and to support for education, employment, and international exchange opportunities.

In 2024, we revamped the Grant Assessment System based on the voices of the art scene enabling artists to engage in creative activities more freely through a variety of programs we deploy. We have simplified the complex program structure and expanded multi-year support programs to strengthen the independence of artists through stable and long-term support. We have also redesigned the assessment system for the projects that support grant recipients through public grant projects to enhance fairness.

We aim to build a big-data system for culture and arts support by utilizing the online platform called the National Culture and Arts Support System, designed to submit, receive, and evaluate applications for our public grant projects. Since 2009, we have been operating this system in collaboration with 18 regional cultural foundations, recording around 4,000 to 5,000 visitors per day and having approximately 200,000 members, making it the largest culture and arts project platform in Korea. Through the vast amount of data accumulated across all *cultural and art* genres over the years, we will contribute to the further growth of the industry in Korea. We are committed to establishing a robust support system to build a sustainable creative environment for arts, and will listen attentively to all voices of the art scene by actively utilizing big data for culture and arts support.

Application for Public Grant Projects And Applicant Assessment

Applications for “Public Grant Projects” can only be submitted online through the National Culture and Arts Support System (www.ncas.or.kr), and information regarding institutional projects can be found on the website of the Arts Council Korea (www.arko.or.kr). In addition to institutional support projects, you can also find information on support projects from cultural and art institutions nationwide on Artnuri (artnuri.or.kr).

The Assessment Committee, composed of experts from each Art scene, examines each project according to its criteria.

The process involves reviewing and discussing applications based on the criteria of each public grant project. The results are announced based on the decisions made during the committee’s plenary meeting.

To ensure the fair operation of the system, the Ombudsman for Grant Assessment is implemented to handle objections to selection results. Experts from various fields, such as law, public administration, business management, and media, investigate and deliberate on the selection process and results to protect the rights of artists.

National Culture and Arts Support System

Arts Council Korea

Artnuri

Our efforts to bring joy to everyone through culture and arts

What is the Culture Nuri Card?
It is a card issued to recipients of basic living support and the lower-income bracket to support culture, arts, domestic travel, and sports activities. Each individual is provided with a card with an annual limit, which can be used for various cultural, artistic, travel, and sports activities, including performances, movies, exhibitions, domestic travel, and the four major sports events (soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball).



We have been running various programs, from the program called Love Ticket issued in 1991 to the current Culture Nuri Card (integrated cultural pass) to provide more people with opportunities to enjoy culture and arts. The Culture Nuri Card, implemented in 2015 to alleviate cultural disparities caused by income gaps, has provided cultural, artistic, domestic travel, and sports activity opportunities worth 970 billion won to 16.17 million people. Starting from 2024, we will introduce the Youth Culture and Art Pass program for young people, aiming to integrate culture and arts into the daily lives of all Koreans. We also plan to implement the Exciting Art Trip program, where cultural and arts organizations directly reach out to people who have relatively limited access to culture and arts. We expect that these initiatives will expand opportunities for more people to enjoy culture and arts.

Efforts have also been made for the physically challenged to enhance their accessibility to facilities such as theaters and art museums. Theaters have taken many initiatives, such as facility and equipment rental, audio description of performances, subtitles, sign language interpretation, and touch tours. These efforts are being shared to encourage more theaters to practice barrier-free accessibility, and workshops are also being held for this purpose. In art museums, barrier-free international roundtable discussions are being organized to continuously raise the topic of “accessibility” in the art industry and explore ways to overcome barriers.

Our efforts for the enhancement of cultural and artistic values.

We continue to analyze and conduct research on the cultural and artistic ecosystem every year to ensure that the value of culture and arts that we uphold can be empathized with by as many people as possible. Since 1976, we have been publishing the Culture & Arts Yearbook, which provides statistics and information on activities in the entire cultural and artistic field of the time without skipping a year. Through the Culture & Arts Yearbook and other research, we have studied the current issues in the cultural and artistic fields and archived them in the ARKO Arts Archives for Arts. As a result, over the past 50 years, Arts Council Korea has built its data, which is being utilized as valuable academic material in the overall Korean cultural and artistic field.

Based on a wide range of research materials and data, we are conducting a nationwide participatory "fund-raising campaign" for *culture and arts* to inform their value to the entire nation. We are making multifaceted efforts not only to create a sense of empathy through direct participation in art fund-raising activities but also to stimulate social interest in the arts.

To showcase the excellence of Korean culture and arts on the global stage, we operate the Korean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale and run collaboration programs with various countries such as Italy, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Finland, Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands, Mongolia, and more. We also establish joint funds with related overseas organizations to promote the development of the international arts.

Supports

Empower the artists! Culture and arts that brighten up the world await you.

Campaign

Sponsoring the ARTISTREE: Please plant ARTISTREE seeds and deliver a good influence on culture and art as a whole

— The "ARTISTREE Campaign" is a national participation campaign aimed at expanding support for culture and arts by nurturing "one art tree" per participant and promoting a culture of donation & sponsorship for arts. The patronage cycle is divided into "regular" and "one-time" donations, starting at 3,000 won. With warm interest in and support for the ARTISTREE Campaign, the value of culture and arts can be widely shared, and we can all find happiness through culture and arts.

— To express gratitude to benefactor companies and organizations, we hold an annual award ceremony called the "Culture and Arts Patrons' Night," which encourages and thanks patrons who continue to support culture and arts.

Donation & Sponsorship

— We have been promoting the culture and arts donation & sponsorship program since 1973, under the "Culture and Arts Promotion Act." With over 50 years of experience and operational know-how, we transparently manage donations & sponsorships and provide various tax benefits to donors.

— We operate various donation & sponsorship programs, including conditional donation programs, regular donation (named CMS) support programs, crowdfunding matching support programs, and programs that foster collaboration between business entities and the arts.

Certification Program

— Under the "Act on the Revitalization of Support for Culture and Arts," we select and evaluate exemplary companies and organizations that perform patronage activities and certify them with endorsement by the Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism as outstanding patronage institutions and intermediaries.

We are driving change in the field of culture and arts through our activities.

As a leading domestic institution that supports *culture and arts*, we proactively lead various policies to enable the sector to respond swiftly to external environments. In response to the globally significant “environmental issues” and to actively participate in environmental protection, we have established a network for ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) management involving 29 cultural and arts institutions nationwide and have implemented the “ESG Initiative.” Furthermore, to address another pressing issue, the advancement of science and technology, we have initiated the support program for artistic activities in the online media field, the first of its kind in the country, and have established a regional cooperative operating system, expanding the program nationwide. Going forward, we will continue to drive multifaceted changes to ensure that the culture and arts sectors can respond promptly to ever-changing external environments.

A R

Our Facilities

we contribute to the development of culture and arts with various facilities



Our Spaces

Artist House

National Historic Site No. 278, opened in 2010

Artist House is a place that preserves historical and symbolic significance, serving as an avenue of cultural and artistic communication between artists and artists, and between artists and citizens. It is an open space for artists to freely dream of the arts and fulfill their talents.

— Hand-drip coffee is sold at the Artist House Lounge, and all profits are used as cultural and art sponsorship funds.
— Through the “ARKO Lounge Club,” which operates on a membership basis, it provides exchange programs with active artists.



ARKO Arts Theater Daehakro Arts Theater

opened in 1981; opened in 2009

The Theater allows you to vividly experience the present of performing arts at the landmark of Daehakro, the mecca of performing arts. The Theater develops and supports various performing arts works, creating and conveying artistic values.

— ARKO Arts Theater is designed by renowned Korean architect Swoo-geun Kim and it has been a specialized theater for performing arts since its opening in 1981, bringing together over 100,000 performing artists and audiences each year. Through self-produced performances and high-quality venue-rented art performances, the Theater presents new values and perspectives on performing arts.
— Daehakro Arts Theater has been the focal point of revitalizing cultural energy in Daehakro since 2009, planning and promoting a wide range of performing arts projects. It serves as a platform for discovering and supporting the next generation of artists, aiming to foster pure performing arts.
— It is committed to the production of “barrier-free,” accessible performances, lowering the threshold of performing arts to ensure that everyone can enjoy performing culture up close.



ARKO Art Center; Insa Art Space

opened in 1974; opened in 2000

The ARKO Art Center in Marronnier Park, Daehakro, is a red-brick building designed by renowned Korean architect Swoo-Geun Kim (1931–1986), just like ARKO Arts Theater. Since its opening in 1974, it has served as a cradle for the rediscovery of our art history, supporting emerging artists and further nurturing established artists. The “Insa Art Space (IAS),” opened in 2000 and located in Wonseo-dong, serves as a space for various networking activities through creative and research support programs.

They host themed exhibitions that reflect the changing issues of society and art; curated invitation exhibitions that spotlight prominent artists; domestic and international collaborative exhibitions; as well as public programs and audience engagement programs that foster diverse artistic interactions. All exhibitions and programs at ARKO Art Center and IAS are free for everyone to enjoy.



ARKO HRD Center

opened in 1992

As a facility established to foster creative cultural and artistic professionals, the ARKO Human Resource Development Center is equipped with educational and performance practice spaces, studios for stage production, and accommodation facilities, unlike regular performance theaters. The Center not only operates various educational programs but also offers venue rental services.

— By providing education in various fields such as performance video production, stage technology, and immersive content, the Center supports the enhancement of the skills and capabilities of professionals in these areas.
— It also runs the “ARKO Stage Art Academy,” an education program to enhance the competency of professionals in five fields: stage lighting, sound, machinery, stage management, and stage video.





ARKO Arts Archive

opened in 1979

It is the first, oldest, and most comprehensive specialized archive of art materials in Korea. It records the arts and takes the lead in preserving and disseminating the value of the arts as cultural heritage.

— We have been collecting and preserving high-value art records that allow us to examine the flow of Korean modern and contemporary art history, where life itself was art.
— We produce basic research materials, such as oral art-history testimony recording and performing arts filming, and provide quality services utilizing our archived materials.
Korea Digital Archives for the Arts (DA-Arts): www.daarts.or.kr





Korea Digital Archives for the Arts (DA-Arts)

The Venice Biennale Korean Pavilion

opened in 1995

The Korean Pavilion was established at the Venice Biennale, one of the world's top three international art biennales, founded in 1895.

— As soon as video artist Nam-june Paik, representing the German Pavilion, won the Golden Lion Award in 1993, he requested the construction of the Korean Pavilion. Following the award, he made efforts to persuade the Minister of Culture at the time, the Korean Culture & Arts Foundation (now Arts Council Korea), and officials from the Venice Biennale to open the Korean Pavilion. As a result, the Korean Pavilion was constructed as the last national pavilion at the Venice Biennale, and no new national pavilions have been built since then. The Korean Pavilion, designed by Korean architect Seok-cheol Kim and Italian architect Franco Mancuso, became a space where representative Korean visual artists and architects, including Bul Lee, Soo-cheon Jeon, Yun-chul Kim, Min-seok Cho, and Heung-soon Lim, introduced Korean visual arts to the international stage.



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Expanding Your Universe with Culture and Arts

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