

2026 Annual Accountability Report

Arts Commission

Agency Code: H910

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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The South Carolina Arts Commission was created in 1967 "to insure that the arts… will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in the welfare and educational experiences of our citizens." The act creating the agency outlined four priorities:

1. To stimulate and encourage throughout the State the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts and public interest and participation therein;
2. To make such studies as may be deemed advisable of public and private institutions engaged within the State in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture and allied arts and crafts, and to make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the State;
3. To take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the State of South Carolina and to expand the State's cultural resources; and
4. **To do such other things as may be necessary to carry out** the provisions of this chapter *(SC Code of Laws, Section 60-15-60).*

The Arts Commission's mission is to expand access to the arts and foster creativity for all South Carolinians. The agency works to accomplish its mission by focusing resources in three areas:

- **Arts Learning**, to establish the arts as an integral part of South Carolina's educational systems and the lifelong learning process of our citizens,
- **Arts Industry,** to stimulate the development of South Carolina's arts resources and organizations and promote creative partnerships to improve the quality of lives, preserve cultural heritage, and enhance economic growth, and
- **Artist Development**, to encourage, nurture, and support the artistic growth and economic well-being of South Carolina's artists.

The Arts Commission accomplishes its goals through four main strategies:

- **Staff Assistance** – The Arts Commission's staff of experienced arts professionals consult with and assist local organizations, governments, schools, artists, and citizens. These services are delivered via direct interaction between
staff and constituents.
- **Direct Programs** – Programs, conferences, awards, and other events wholly produced and presented by the Arts Commission, usually targeted to a statewide audience.
- **Partnerships** – Building strong programmatic and financial relationships with strategically aligned organizations to maximize productivity, cost effectiveness, statewide reach, and capacity for a variety of statewide programs.
- **Grants** – Cash awards with matching and reporting requirements, designed to support and advance the state's long-range and strategic goals for the arts and delivered through an accountable and transparent application and review process.
- **Learning Continuum** – Offer opportunities for arts leaders to participate in a learning continuum ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.

The South Carolina Arts Commission (SCAC) is located at 1026 Sumter Street, Suite 200, in Columbia. As of June 30, 2026, the SCAC employed 26 full-time employees.

Arts Hub Regions

- A key component of the updated strategic plan is developing Arts Hub Regions across the state to expand the agency's capacity to deliver on identified priorities. SCAC established satellite offices in each of the six Hub regions: Upstate, Western Piedmont, Olde English, Midlands, Pee Dee/Grand Strand, and Lowcountry. The Upstate full-time employee was hired as the Coordinator for the Upstate region. Currently, there are three FTE hub coordinators, covering the Olde English, Midlands, and Upstate hub regions. SCAC has rented office space and established MOUs with partners to provide grant-supported services. The agency will hire more FTEs to serve as coordinators for the remaining Western Piedmont and Lowcountry regions. (Figure 1)

  Primary activities to be supported by Arts Hub Regions:
  - Collective networks - A group of individuals and organizations that work together to share information, ideas, and resources. A fully realized Hub system will include a collective network.
  - Shared resources - Similar to a library system, shared resources allow organizations and individuals to check out or borrow existing resources such as technology, physical space, tools/supplies, professional services, knowledge/information, and more.
  - Professional learning opportunities - Artists, educators, and nonprofit staff can increase knowledge and gain skills in their areas.
  - Programs and Activities - Arts and arts learning experiences typically hosted by SCAC grantees and partners.
  - Grants Opportunities - SCAC grants are designed to increase access to the arts by supporting the work of artists, nonprofits, schools, local governments, and other partners. SCAC's competitive grant programs ensure that awards are delivered through an accountable and transparent application and review process.

Overall Grantmaking

- The agency placed direct grants in 45 counties in FY2026, awarding $11,017,930 through 659 grants to support community arts activities, artists, and arts learning programs. Grant Activity happened in all 46 counties. (Figure 2)

- An updated Tableau dashboard of grants data was posted on the website in October 2025. The dashboard is a user-friendly illustration of statewide impact beyond the county where a grant was originally awarded. Website visitors can view all areas in the state where a particular grant had an impact. This dashboard includes a newly added grant highlights section featuring a grant from each SCAC area of focus. (Figure 2)

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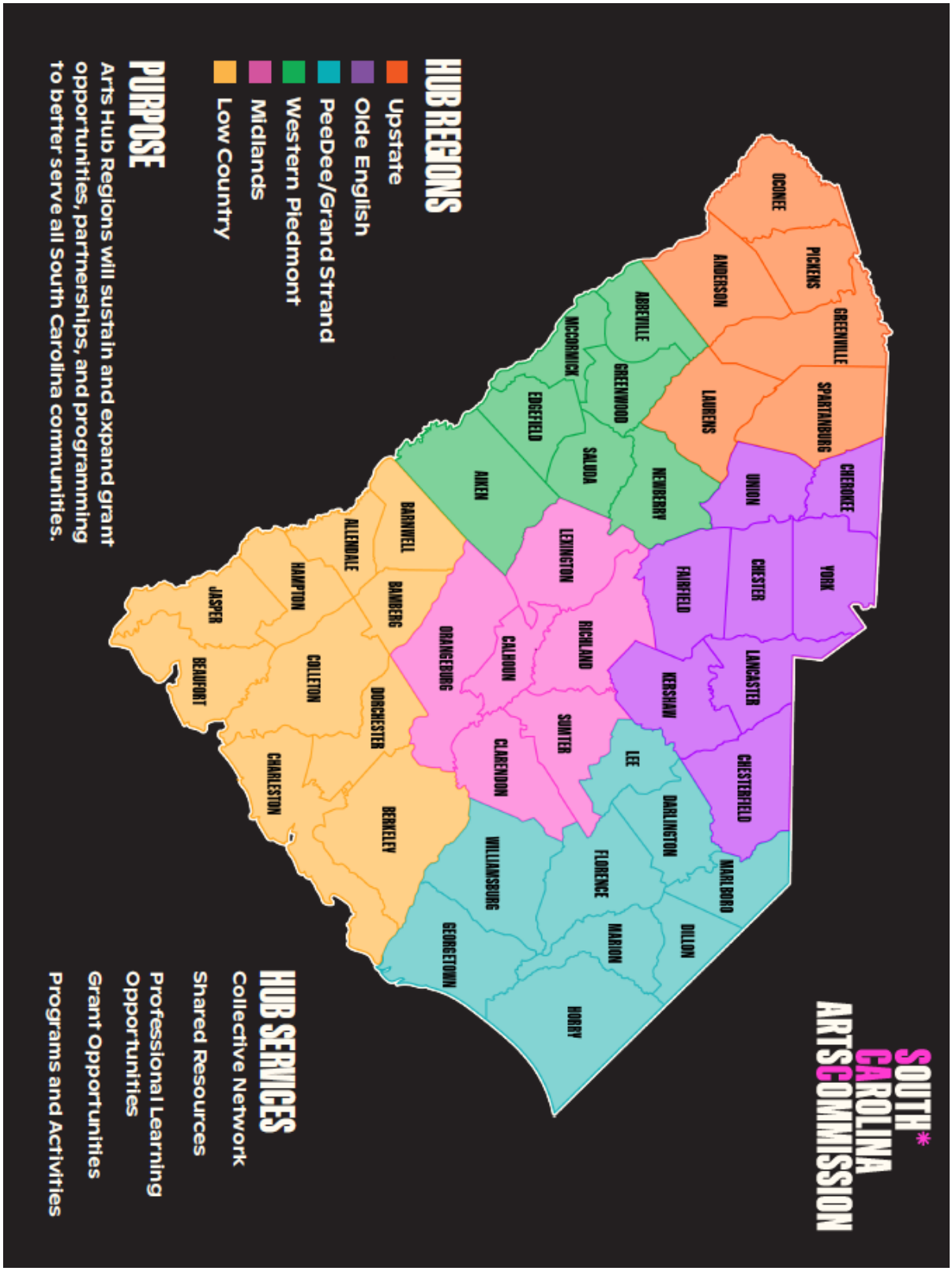


Figure 1

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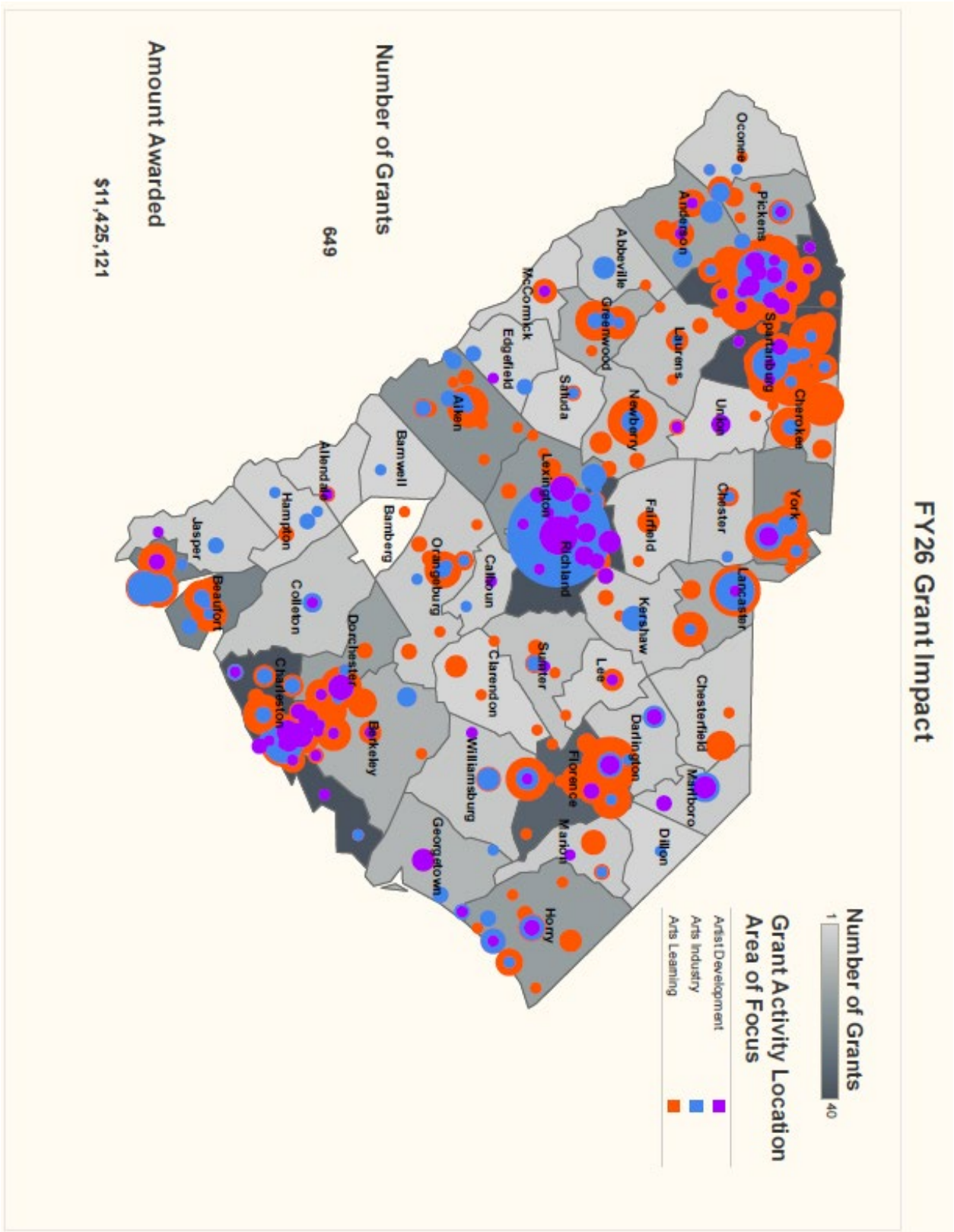


Figure 2

Overall Grantmaking, cont.

- SCAC monitors the three-year rolling average of grants to all 46 counties. Tier One counties average less than one grant over three years; Tier Two counties average less than two grants per year. By the end of FY2026, no counties remained in Tier One, reflecting the purposeful strategy to work with these counties to award grants. Five counties were in Tier 2 in FY26 – going into FY27, we are down to two counties in Tier 2. Staff initiated outreach about grant opportunities to organizations and artists in these counties, resulting in 16 grants awarded to the Tier 2 counties. Of the 16 grants awarded to Tier 2 counties, 10 were Horizon Opportunity Grants. A total of 12 Horizon Opportunity Grants were awarded. Horizon Opportunity grants include extra technical assistance and staff support to remove barriers related to applying for and managing a grant. Previously, only first-time grantees were eligible for these grants. Eligibility was expanded to allow organizations in Tier Two counties to receive Horizon funding for a second year if they had not already received funding in the current fiscal year.

- Through grantmaking, SCAC supported 3,435,222 in-person arts experiences for South Carolina residents and visitors, including artists, students, and adults. Remote and asynchronous arts experiences totaled 2,543,136. Grantees annually report the number of in-person and remote/asynchronous arts experiences for youth and for adults, plus the number of artists directly involved in each grant program or activity.

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- The agency annually surveys grantees on measures such as staff assistance, ease of access to programs and services, relevance of programs, and the usefulness of agency communications. In FY2026, the agency's overall satisfaction score was 4.78 on a 5-point scale (5 being the highest score)
- The agency expended 79.63% of its state appropriation in grants, exceeding its legislative mandate of 70%.

Accessibility

- The first year of the Barrier Free Arts SC grant was completed. Barrier Free Arts SC was created to empower arts organizations to prioritize accessibility for constituents and artists with disabilities. Barrier Free Arts SC covers a three-year cycle and includes a cohort that supports grantees in creating an accessibility plan and through professional development. The first cohort was created, and their first year of funding was up to $3,500 per grant and underwrote grantee attendance at the national LEAD (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disabilities) conference. The second and third years of funding will be up to $5,000 annually. After three years, organizations will be eligible to become Barrier-Free Designated by SCAC.

- Marking its fourth year, the MUSC Creative Arts Therapy Initiative reached 452 students across 29 schools. Supported by SCAC, the program added a new coordinator in the Upstate Hub, totaling 3 coordinators across 3 regions. Impact expanded through partnerships with the Florence Museum and MUSC Health and Wellness Institute, alongside continued support for Epworth Children's Home.

- Disability and Arts Webinars continued for a third year in partnership with Able South Carolina. Four webinars took place this year, featuring topics such as digital accessibility, assistive technology, and engaging with the disability community. A total of 229 individuals and organizational representatives attended, and all webinars were recorded and uploaded to the

agency's YouTube channel. Sixteen webinars have been uploaded since the series began in 2024, culminating in approximately 24 hours of professional development available to anyone.

- The new Governor's Award for the Arts accessibility award category launched, which was awarded to the Columbia Museum of Art for their continual commitment to inclusivity, physical and sensory accessibility, and serving as a community "town square" in downtown Columbia.

- The ongoing rolling accessibility grant provided continuous support for enhancing both programmatic and physical inclusivity within arts organizations statewide. This initiative remains a vital, low-barrier funding opportunity, enabling organizations to initiate meaningful steps toward identifying and resolving accessibility challenges.

- Efforts to enhance digital accessibility included a comprehensive audit and remediation of website links, the launch of a specialized "Accessibility Resources" landing page, and the deployment of new professional toolkits. Improvements to the Hub Venues interface now allow the display of specific accessibility attributes for each site. Furthermore, the agency utilized federal funding from the NEA to acquire assistive technology, such as captioning and listening devices and braille labelers, to better serve constituents.

Arts Learning

- Partnership continued with Engaging Creative Minds (ECM) to fund their summer STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) camps. They partnered with Newberry, Clarendon, and Allendale County school districts serving 282 elementary students, the majority of whom were from families living below the poverty line, including students with special learning needs.

- Partnership continued with SC Governor's School to fund their Spark! Program. The Spark! program is a comprehensive statewide outreach initiative that uses drama and arts integration to bolster literacy and creative problem-solving among K–5 students. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, Spark! has expanded from a 2016 pilot in Williamsburg County to a significant educational presence impacting over 15,000 students across roughly 50 schools. Spark! maintained an extensive statewide footprint, with active programming documented across Clarendon, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Lee, Lexington, Marlboro, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, Williamsburg, and York counties.

- The first year of Arts Grow SC Consortium members launched this year. Arts Grow SC members work collaboratively to increase access to quality arts education, develop arts-rich learning environments, build and support infrastructure for arts learning at the district level, and research and develop new innovative practices. Membership in the Consortium is managed in partnership with the SC Arts Commission. Currently, there are 45 members in every major region of the state.

- The first year of ArtsNOW grant program launched this year. ArtsNOW is a statewide arts education partner program focused primarily on providing professional learning and development for educators. Supported by the ArtsNOW Learning Schools Advancement grant—a sustainability initiative that evolved from pandemic-era relief (ESSER) funding—its main goal is to support partner schools as they engage students, equip teachers, and grow their school communities through the arts.

- The School Arts Support Grant continues to focus on meeting student outcomes through arts-enhanced curriculum or arts integration, with teachers eligible to use the grant for creative arts therapy experiences. In FY2026, the program maintained its commitment to these goals: 55 schools across 23 counties were awarded up to $2,500.

- The Summer Arts Education Project (Summer AEP) and Term Arts Education Project (Term AEP) grants were restructured for post-ESSER sustainability. Award amounts and grant periods were adjusted, and both grants were expanded to include programs for 3K through 4K students. In FY2026, the Summer AEP supported 34 projects in 17 counties with awards of up to $15,000, while the Term AEP supported 50 projects in 17 counties with awards of up to $15,000."

- In FY2026, District Arts Support (DAS) grant program funded 12 districts. Additionally, 5 DAC grants were awarded to Clarendon, Sumter, Chesterfield, Lexington, and Laurens County school districts, supporting the continued implementation of district-wide arts education strategic plans.

- The Arts Learning Spotlight Tours were created as an intentional way for the Arts Learning team to connect with SCAC's opportunity counties, build relationships with local educators, and share information about SCAC's funding opportunities and arts learning resources. To accommodate different school schedules and professional learning needs, the Arts Learning team developed three presentation formats: a 30-minute overview, a one-hour workshop, and a two-hour workshop. Schools could select the format that best met the needs of their teachers and staff. All three formats included an introduction to the South Carolina Arts Commission and Arts Grow SC, an overview of SCAC's Arts Learning grant portfolio, information about arts learning resources available through SCAC, and an introduction to the SC Arts Directory. The longer workshops also provided additional support around grant writing best practices, including brainstorming and hands-on time for participants to begin developing a grant narrative for the School Arts Support Grant. The Arts Learning team conducted seven Spotlight Tours, reaching educators in Lee, Calhoun, Edgefield, Marlboro, Clarendon, Richland, and Berkeley Counties. Spotlight Tours were also implement with our other areas of focus (referenced in the Arts Industry section).

Creative Careers Studio

- After many years of hearing from students, parents, and guidance counselors who could not easily find information about arts careers, SCAC filled that gap with the Creative Careers Studio. In FY2026, the program achieved significant growth. The initiative expanded its statewide presence through collaboration with partners such as SCETV and ArtFields and engaging over 1,500 students at college and career fairs. Additionally, SCAC presented at the SC Palmetto Education Summit. We continued to refine the website's user interface and expand the resources available. The website had 17,000 unique visitors since July 2025, with a total of 25,000 users since the site's launch in September 2024. The career catalog and the interactive quiz receive the most engagement from site users. These efforts continue to be supported by various partnerships ensuring students have access to authentic career insights and resources.

Arts Directory

- The S.C. Arts Directory connects educators, organizations, and the public with artists, creative arts therapists, and teaching artists statewide. Members can also apply for the 'Verified Teaching Artist'

designation for classroom environments. As of June 30, 2026, the directory includes 206 total artists, following the re-certification of 40 members, the addition of 12 new members, and 5 artists achieving or retaining Verified Teaching Artist status.

- We did not continue with an in-person Teaching Artist's Forum like our previous fiscal year. Instead, we focused on building virtual and in-person professional development year-round through the Teaching Artist Symposium to replace an annual conference. The Teaching Artist Symposium is a virtual, on-demand conference of recorded sessions on SCAC's YouTube channel. We have contracted an actively working teaching artist as a consultant to lead us in this charge.

Folklife and Traditional Arts

- This year, Communal Pen held over 25 workshops, published a chapbook set, a chapbook, and one publication, held workshops that fed into a long-form narrative project, and published over 300 additional stories to our website (doubling our story quantity). Also, presented at a national conference (American Folklife in October 2025), regional (Piedmont Publishing Symposium in May 2026), and statewide (SC Federation of Museums in September 2025). Original programming was presented at the SC State Museum's Harvesting Heritage event on St. Helena Island.

- Six organizations in five counties were awarded up to $6,000 for Traditional Arts Project Grants for Organizations. The grant ensures that South Carolina's living traditions remain vibrant, visible parts of community life in the form of traditional arts practiced across the state. Grants supported activities featuring Gullah Sweetgrass baskets and traditional weaving.

Arts Industry

- Creative Conversations is a new professional learning program for arts-based nonprofit professionals. Topics included rural engagement, military communities, cultural tourism, advocacy, and health. The program saw 146 registrations, 57 live webinar attendees, and 98 cumulative YouTube views. Attendees reported 98% satisfaction, with 95% expressing intent to return.

- The second annual Arts Leadership Institute, held February 24–26, 2026, at the Madren Center in Clemson, convened 54 leaders from 51 South Carolina organizations across all six state regions. Organized with the Donnelly Foundation and South Carolina Arts Alliance, the 2.5-day conference featured eight sessions, including a keynote, workshops, and networking. Fourteen attendees received Donnelly Foundation scholarships. Participation grew 20% from FY25 to FY26, with 68% of attendees joining for the first time. Surveys indicated 93% found sessions valuable and relevant, while 98% deemed the event a good use of time. Future interest focuses on Board governance and employee management.

- Spotlight Tours was a new program that informed artists and arts organizations with information on available opportunities in artist development, arts industry, and public art/creative placemaking—to promote access to the arts and support the cultivation of creativity in South Carolina. They were presentations on SCAC grants and programs followed by Q&A. Five counties participated in the spotlight tours, Gaffney, Georgetown, Aiken, Summerville, and Clemson. There was also an Arts Learning Spotlight Tours program that was focused on schools (referenced in Arts Learning Section).

- The Festivals Program grant was awarded to 20 organizations in 9 counties. Grants of up to $7,500 supported a range of arts activities and increased opportunities for public engagement and participation in arts and culture.

- Operating support grants provide a stable base for S.C. arts providers who contribute to the $14.1 billion generated annually by the creative economy. Both categories of operating support grants continued to attract additional applicants. For General Operating Support (GOS), 144 grants were awarded in 28 counties; for Operating for Small Organizations (OSS), 53 grants were awarded in 20 counties.

Artist Development

- The Artist Entrepreneur Incubator (AEI) is a virtual program that teaches artists practical skills to level up their businesses. In FY2026, AEI engaged 142 attendees, with several artists attending multiple sessions. AEI had 137 individual registrants across 23 counties.

- Emerging Artist grants of up to $1,800 were awarded to 13 artists in six counties. In addition to the grant, artists benefit from mentorship and professional support. The grant is intended to deepen artistic practice and foster artistic excellence, encourage career growth and sustainability, and provide professional development and collaboration opportunities. Emerging artists are defined as being at an early stage in their artistic career development (active from one to five years) with no basis in age.

Communications and Recognition

- The annual Governor's Awards for the Arts recognized four individuals and two organizations for outstanding achievements and contributions to the arts in S.C. The awards ceremony aired May 17 on the agency's YouTube channel. This was our first year with the divided Arts Education category (one for individuals and one for institutions) and the Accessibility category.

- Communications staff posted 180 articles on the Hub, the agency's news website, issued 16 news releases, and posted 980 arts events on Arts Daily, the online arts events calendar. On Instagram, all metrics improved over FY25, with interactions more than doubling. On Facebook, interactions and visits increased over last year. Followers increased slightly. YouTube results were up across the board, with views increasing by 400%. SCAC also posts content on LinkedIn and Twitter, but those platforms do not provide detailed metrics.

Looking forward – FY2027 priorities

- Launch the Hub Lending Library to provide art-related supplies to constituents across the state.
- Hiring additional Hub Coordinators to work in multiple Arts Hub Regions, including the Midlands and Olde English.
- Launch the Arts Grow SC New Member Application process
- Host the Barrier-Free Arts SC Spring Convening to provide space for networking and connections among the various BFASC Cohorts
- Award Grants in the Public Art grant category for community-based public art.
- Creative Career Studio participates in college and career fairs in each Hub Region
- Develop the new grant category, Pathways, and create guidelines and packet.

- Convene the third SC Arts Leadership Institute.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

Identify the most negative impact on the public as a result of the agency's failure in accomplishing its goals and objectives.

Negative impact #1: The educational, economic, and social benefits of the arts are only accessible to those who can afford them and largely inaccessible to rural and high-poverty citizens.

Negative impact #2: With fewer arts opportunities for children, citizens, families, and visitors, South Carolina is less competitive for tourists, new residents, and businesses.

Negative impact #3: South Carolina's rich heritage of traditional cultural and artistic practices is lost and forgotten.

Negative Impact #4: South Carolina's children do not have access to high-quality education that includes a comprehensive, sequential education in the arts.

To avoid or mitigate the negative impact, the state will need to:

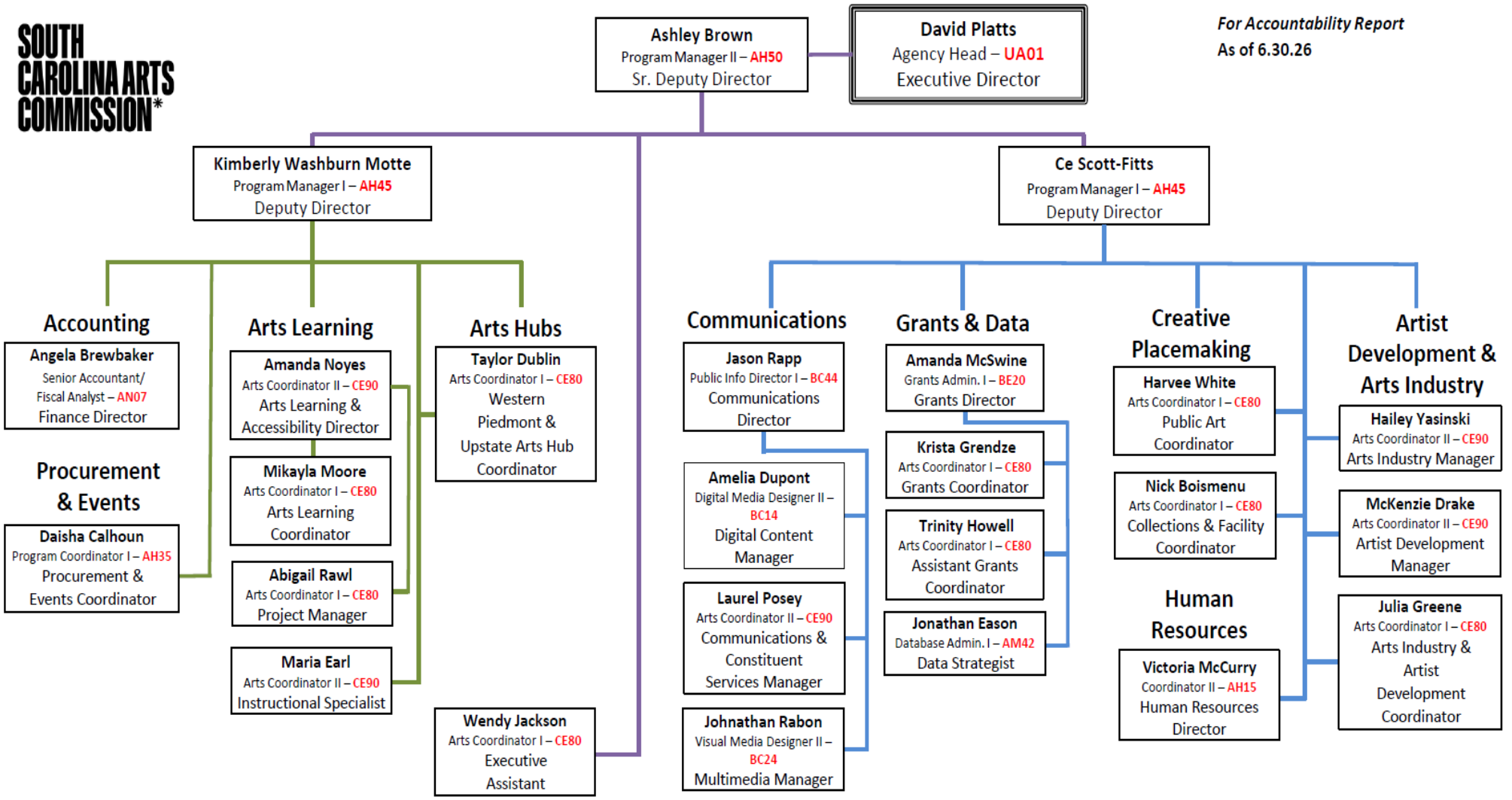
• Maintain and increase the capacity of the S.C. Arts Commission to accomplish its goals – the only agency or organization in South Carolina focused on these issues statewide

• Maximize funding and other resources offered by local, state, regional, and national partner organizations

• Include the arts explicitly in the development of economic, educational, quality-of-life, and governmental strategies.

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AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



- Authorized FTEs (39.5)
- Filled FTEs as of 6/30/26 (26)
- Vacant FTEs (13.5)

2026

Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Primary Contact

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Amanda	McSwine	Grants Director	amcswine@arts.sc.gov	(803)734-8803

Agency Mission	**Adopted in:**	**2025**

The mission of the South Carolina Arts Commission is to expand access to the arts and foster creativity for all South Carolina.

Agency Vision	**Adopted in:**	**2020**

We envision a South Carolina where the arts are valued and all people benefit from a variety of creative experiences

Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

None

Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2026

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
Grant Activity in all 46 counties	July	June	Maintain or increase the number of arts experiences supported by grant making.	
Tableau Dashboard Updated with Grant Highlights, highlighting each area of focus.	September	September	Publish annual grants data as a public Tableau dashboard on agency website to document impact of public funding statewide.	
Arts Hub Offices established for each Hub Region	July	June	Open first Arts Hub Region office.	
Hired an FTE for Hub District Coordinator	July	June	Hire the first Hub Coordinator to work in an Arts Hub Region outside the Midlands.	
Through Creative Careers Studio: over 1,500 students directly engaged around the state at eleven college and career fairs at SC schools and other career fairs.	July	June	Implement Creative Careers Studio at college and career fairs.	
First Barrier-Free cohort finished their first year of the three year program and were provided with accessibility tools and training	June	July	Activate Year One of first Barrier-Free Arts SC co-hort to provide accessibility training, tools, and funding to participants.	

Seventeen Spotlight Tours happened across the state in each hub region	August	October	Convene four Spotlight Tours (in-person presentations) in Arts Hub Regions.	
Public Art Grant Category was developed for FY27, including grant guidelines, and published on the website.	June	July	Develop infrastructure for a Public Art grant category for community-based public art, pending funding.	
Operating Support was reworked to better streamline the Grant process and the guidelines were revised	June	March	Revise guidelines for General Operating Support and Operating Support for Small Organizations.	

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).	Yes
Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)	
Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).	Yes
Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?	No
Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:	
Has the agency promulgated any regulations?	No

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?	Yes
(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)	

FY2026

Strategic Plan Results

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Goal 1 South Carolina citizens and visitors benefit from diverse arts experiences in communities throughout the state.

Goal 2 Artists have opportunities to build sustainable careers in South Carolina.

Goal 3 Students receive a comprehensive education in and through the arts that aligns with the knowledge, skills, and characteristics outlined in the Profile of the SC Graduate.

Goal 4 Arts organizations and other arts providers have the necessary resources to deliver diverse arts experiences throughout South Carolina.

Goal 5 There is recognition of the essential value of public funding for the arts in South Carolina.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1	**Activate Arts Hub Region locations to expand access to the arts.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
1.1.1	Open first Arts Hub Region office.	0%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Lease agreement and/or Hub services MOU is signed.	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.1.2	Hire the first Hub Coordinator to work in an Arts Hub Region outside the Midlands.	0%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Hiring process	Human Resources director's reports	Human Resources director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.1.3	Convene four Spotlight Tours (in-person presentations) in Arts Hub Regions.	0.00	4.00	17.00	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of workshops successfully completed	Program staff reports	Deputy Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.2	**Award grants and provide services that impact all 46 counties.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
1.2.1	Work intentionally to ensure all counties are served through grants or services.	46.00	46.00	45.00	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of counties that receive grants or services.	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	Although we did not directly award a grant to all 46 counties, all 46 counties were impacted by grant activities
1.2.2	Maintain or increase the number of arts experiences supported by grant making.	3,833,935	3,833,935	3,435,222	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences for youth and for adults, plus, number of artists directly involved in each grant program/activity. These three subtotals (Adults, Youth and Artists) equal total arts experiences. An "in-person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.3	**Ensure that accessibility best practices are embedded in grants, programs, and physical spaces.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.3.1	Activate Year One of first Barrier-Free Arts SC co-hort to provide accessibility training, tools, and funding to participants.	0%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Year One grantee cohort convenes.	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	
2.1	**Develop and maintain a robust grant portfolio for individual artists.**										**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.1.1	Maintain or increase the total number of artist opportunities supported through grant making.	73,964	73,964	53,167	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences, which includes the number of artists directly involved in each grant program/activity. An "in- person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Maintain opportunities for artists to create and sell their work and sustain a career.	South Carolinians who practice various arts forms to produce income and provide arts experiences.	30000.010000.000	
2.1.2	Develop infrastructure for a Public Art grant category for community-based public art, pending funding.	0%	50%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Program staff reports	Program Coordinator's files	Maintain opportunities for artists to create and sell their work and sustain a career.	South Carolinians who practice various arts forms to produce income and provide arts experiences and the communities where public art is located.	30000.010000.000	
3.1	**Develop and maintain a robust grant portfolio for arts learning.**										**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
3.1.1	Maintain or increase the number of K-12 students served by Arts Learning grants.	205,842	205,842	266,811	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences, which includes the number of K-12 students directly involved in each grant program/activity. An "in-person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Increased opportunities for students to benefit from an education in the arts.	South Carolina K-12 students in public, private, and charter schools.	30000.010000.000	
3.1.2	Maintain or increase the number of youth arts experiences supported by grantmaking.	1,017,403	1,017,403	956,179	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences, which includes the number of youth directly involved in each grant program/activity. An "in- person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Increased opportunities for youth to benefit from experiencing the arts.	S.C. youth who experience the arts.	30000.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.3	Maintain or increase the number of students served by the Engaging Creative Minds Advancement grant.	423	423	282	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Registration totals	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Increased opportunities for students to benefit from an education in the arts.	South Carolina K-12 students in public, private, and charter schools.	30000.010000.000	SCAC previously funded five summer camp sites through the ECM Schools Advancement Grant and partnership funding. For FY26, schools were unable or unwilling to meet the required match, so SCAC shifted funding through its partnership grant to support three summer STEAM camps in priority areas. This reduction in sites, resulted in fewer students served.
3.2	**Cultivate programs and partnerships that advance learning in and through the arts statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.**										**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
3.2.1	Implement Creative Careers Studio at college and career fairs.	0%	50%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Increased opportunities for students to learn about careers in the arts.	South Carolina high school students in public, private, and charter schools.	30000.010000.000	
3.3	**Offer opportunities for educators, administrators, and teaching artists to participate in a learning continuum ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.**										**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
3.3.1	Maintain or increase the number of K-12 teachers served through professional development.	2,238	2,238	5,009	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Registration totals	ABC Institute final reports	Foundant grants management database	Increased skills of S.C. K-12 teachers.	South Carolina K-12 teachers.	30000.010000.000	This year ABC Institute shifted focus from in-person professional development to virtual (V-Fairs) attendance, 4,537, to provide greater access.
4.1	**Develop and maintain a robust grants portfolio to support arts organizations and arts providers.**										**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
4.1.1	Revise guidelines for General Operating Support and Operating Support for Small Organizations.	0%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Updated guidelines are posted.	Website	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	
4.1.2	Develop infrastructure for a Cultural District grant category that supports execution of SC Cultural District strategic plans.	25%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Program staff reports	Program Coordinator's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. Cultural Districts and residents and visitors to these communities.	30000.010000.000	
4.2	**Cultivate programs and partnerships that support arts providers and arts leaders statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.**										**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
4.2.1	Identify Arts Plus priorities (could include creative aging, military/veterans, health and healing, workforce development) and determine which grants, direct programs, and partnerships will support the work.	0%	50%	50%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	Arts Plus priorities were identified, and some Arts Plus topics were highlighted in Creative Conversation Segments; however, after further consideration, the agency decided to support these initiatives through already established grant processes such as Accessibility and Partnership grants.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
4.3	**Offer opportunities for arts leaders to participate in a learning continuum ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.**									**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
4.3.1	Convene the second SC Arts Leadership Institute.	100%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Registration opens	Website	Program Director's files	Increased opportunities for arts leaders to build capacity.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	
5.1	**Develop and communicate unified messages about the role the arts play in quality of life, education, workforce development, and economic vitality.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
5.1.1	Maintain or increase the number of grants awarded statewide.	676	676	649	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total grants awarded through all grant programs	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
5.1.2	Maintain or increase the number of dollars awarded statewide.	$12,544,219	$12,544,219	$11,425,121	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total dollars awarded through all grants	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
5.1.3	Maintain or increase the total number of grant dollars leveraged through local matching.	$279,419,183	$279,419,183	$295,745,926	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report actual total cash expenses related to grant activities	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data)	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
5.2	**Equip and encourage stakeholders to communicate the value of public funding for the arts.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
5.2.1	Publish annual grants data as a public Tableau dashboard on agency website to document impact of public funding statewide.	100%	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Increase stakeholders' abilities to advocate for public funding for the arts.	Arts and culture sector and individuals engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy.	30000.010000.000	

Strategic Plan Development

FY2027

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Goal 1 South Carolina citizens and visitors benefit from diverse arts experiences in communities throughout the state.

Goal 2 Artists have opportunities to build sustainable careers in South Carolina.

Goal 3 Students receive a comprehensive education in and through the arts that aligns with the knowledge, skills, and characteristics outlined in the Profile of the SC Graduate.

Goal 4 Arts organizations and other arts providers have the necessary resources to deliver diverse arts experiences throughout South Carolina

Goal 5 There is recognition of the essential value of public funding for the arts in South Carolina.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1	**Activate Arts Hub Region locations to expand access to the arts.**									**State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
1.1.1	Launch the Hub Lending Library to provide art-related supplies to constituents across the state.	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Lease agreement and/or Hub services MOU is signed.	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.1.2	Hire two more Hub Coordinators	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Hiring process	Human Resources director's reports	Human Resources director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.2	**Award grants and provide services that impact all 46 counties.**									**State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**			
1.2.1	Work intentionally to ensure all counties are served through grants or services.	46	46	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of counties that receive grants or services.	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.2.2	Maintain or increase the number of arts experiences supported by grant making.	3,435,222	3,435,222	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences for youth and for adults, plus, number of artists directly involved in each grant program/activity. These three subtotals (Adults, Youth and Artists) equal total arts experiences. An "in-person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
1.3	**Ensure that accessibility best practices are embedded in grants, programs, and physical spaces.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**		
1.3.1	Host the Barrier-Free Arts SC Spring Convening to provide space for networking and connections among the various BFASC Cohorts	0	1	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Barrier-Free Arts SC Spring Convening	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	
2.1	**Develop and maintain a robust grant portfolio for individual artists.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**		

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.1.1	Maintain or increase the total number of artist opportunities supported through grant making.	53,167	53,167	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences, which includes the number of artists directly involved in each grant program/activity. An "in- person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Maintain opportunities for artists to create and sell their work and sustain a career.	South Carolinians who practice various arts forms to produce income and provide arts experiences.	30000.010000.000	
2.1.2	Award Grants in the Public Art grant category for community-based public art.	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Maintain opportunities for artists to create and sell their work and sustain a career.	South Carolinians who practice various arts forms to produce income and provide arts experiences and the communities where public art is located.	30000.010000.000	
3.1	**Develop and maintain a robust grant portfolio for arts learning.**									**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
3.1.1	Maintain or increase the number of K-12 students served by Arts Learning grants.	266,811	266,811	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences, which includes the number of K-12 students directly involved in each grant program/activity. An "in-person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts.	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Increased opportunities for students to benefit from an education in the arts.	South Carolina K-12 students in public, private, and charter schools.	30000.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.2	Maintain or increase the number of youth arts experiences supported by grantmaking.	956,179	956,179	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report number of in-person arts experiences, which includes the number of youth directly involved in each grant program/activity. An "in- person arts experience" may count the same individual more than once; i.e. a theatre patron who attends three performances counts as three "experiences." The calculation method is set by the National Endowment for the Arts	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data).	Foundant grants management database	Increased opportunities for youth to benefit from experiencing the arts.	S.C. youth who experience the arts.	30000.010000.000	
3.1.3	Launch the Arts Grow SC New Member Application process	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	AGSC Member Application live and available	AGSC Member Application live and available	Live on website	Increased network for arts learning institutions.	South Carolina Arts learning students and institutions	30000.010000.000	
3.2	**Cultivate programs and partnerships that advance learning in and through the arts statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.**									**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
3.2.1	Creative Career Studio participates in college and career fairs in each Hub Region	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Program staff reports	Program Director's files	Increased opportunities for students to learn about careers in the arts.	South Carolina high school students in public, private, and charter schools.	30000.010000.000	
3.2.2	Publish the State of the Creative State and 5-year action plan for Arts Education in South Carolina via the Arts in Education Task Force	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Published report available on Arts Grow Website	Live on website	Increased opportunities for students to learn about careers in the arts.	South Carolina Arts learning students and institutions	30000.010000.000	
3.3	**Offer opportunities for educators, administrators, and teaching artists to participate in a learning continuum ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.**									**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
3.3.1	Maintain or increase the number of K-12 teachers served through professional development from partner institutions, Engaging Creative Minds, ABC Institution, Arts Now, and the Governor's School of the Arts and Humanities	2,238	2,238	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Registration totals	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Increased skills of S.C. K-12 teachers.	South Carolina K-12 teachers.	30000.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
4.1	**Develop and maintain a robust grants portfolio to support arts organizations and arts providers.**									**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
4.1.1	Develop the new grant category, Pathways, and create guidelines and packet	0%	50%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Updated guidelines are posted.	Website	Program Director's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	
4.1.2	Host three professional development sessions with designated Cultural Districts.	0%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress.	Program staff reports	Program Coordinator's files	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. Cultural Districts and residents and visitors to these communities.	30000.010000.000	
4.3	**Offer opportunities for arts leaders to participate in a learning continuum ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.**									**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
4.3.1	Convene the third SC Arts Leadership Institute.	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Registration opens	Website	Program Director's files	Increased opportunities for arts leaders to build capacity.	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy, plus the communities they serve.	30000.010000.000	
5.1	**Develop and communicate unified messages about the role the arts play in quality of life, education, workforce development, and economic vitality.**									**State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development**			
5.1.1	Maintain or increase the number of grants awarded statewide.	649	649	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total grants awarded through all grant programs	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
5.1.2	Maintain or increase the number of dollars awarded statewide.	11,425,121	11,425,121	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total dollars awarded through all grants	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
5.1.3	Maintain or increase the total number of grant dollars leveraged through local matching.	295,745,926	295,745,926	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Grantees report actual total cash expenses related to grant activities	Final reports submitted by grantees at the end of each grant period (lags by 1 year, this is FY25 data)	Foundant grants management database	Improved quality of life and increased economic vitality attributed to the arts.	S.C. citizens and visitors who experience the arts in every county.	30000.010000.000	
5.2	**Equip and encourage stakeholders to communicate the value of public funding for the arts.**									**State Objective:**	**Public Infrastructure and Economic Development**		
5.2.1	Publish annual grants data as a public Tableau dashboard on agency website to document impact of public funding statewide.	100%	100%	Percent complete	Complete	State Fiscal Year	Monitor progress	End-of-year grant reports	Foundant grants management database	Increase stakeholders' abilities to advocate for public funding for the arts.	Arts and culture sector and individuals engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to the S.C. economy.	30000.010000.000	

2026 Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
0100.000000.000	Administration	Executive leadership and direction of the agency	$ 67,500.00	$ -	$ 67,500.00	$ 135,000.00	$ 67,500.00	$ -	$ 67,500.00	$ 135,000.00
3000.010000.000	Statewide Arts Services	Direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support in arts education, community arts development, and artist development	$ 10,158,529.62	$ 1,824,905.70	$ 869,783.77	$ 12,853,219.09	$ 11,300,000.00	$ 1,070,000.00	$ 800,000.00	$ 13,170,000.00
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	Fringe benefits for agency employees	$ 511,770.66	$ 61,477.05	$ 181,885.28	$ 755,132.99	$ 600,000.00	$ 57,998.00	$ 210,504.00	$ 868,502.00
9805.090000X000	Statewide Education, Arts, & Cultural Grants	Direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support in arts education.	$ 271,993.00	$ -	$-	$ 271,993.00	$ 500,000.00	$ -	$-	$ 500,000.00
9817.170000X000	Grant Funds for Arts Organizations/Emergency Relief	Grant funds passed to arts organizations for emergency relief	$ 262,413.00	$ -	$-	$ 262,413.00	$ 350,000.00	$ -	$-	$ 350,000.00
9800.030000X000	Office Maintenance and Repairs	Funding to assist with renovations and upfitting of acquired office space.	$ 25,479.88	$-	$-	$ 25,479.88	$ 50,000.00	$ -	$-	$ 50,000.00
9821.320000X000	Cultural Arts and Theater Center Grants	Direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support for arts organizations.	$-	$ -	$-	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$-	$ 100,000.00

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
9816.270000X000	Creative Placemaking Pilot in Rural Communities	Direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support for arts organizations.	$ 48,868.00	$ -	$-	$ 48,868.00	$ 150,000.00	$ -	$-	$ 150,000.00
9821.390000X000	Newberry Arts Commission	Earmark passed through agency's budget to fund another organization - no purpose for agency	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
9825.380000X000	Implementation of SCAC Hubs	Direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support in arts education.	$ 62,360.45	$ -	$-	$ 62,360.45	$ 300,000.00	$ -	$-	$ 300,000.00
			$-	$-	$-	$-	$ 350,000.00	$-	$-	$ 350,000.00

2026

Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
11-35-710 (10)	State	Statute	Exempts the South Carolina Arts Commission from purchasing one-of-a-kind artworks through the Consolidated Procurement Code; and establishes the Arts Commission to review requests by other agencies to purchase similar items.	Requires a service	Review requests by other agencies to purchase similar items.	No Change
1-3-230	State	Statute	Provides for the South Carolina Arts Commission to recommend poet laureate candidates to the Governor	Requires a service	Recommend qualified candidates for the state's poet laureate.	No Change
2-66-10	State	Statute	Creates the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award, establishes criteria, establishes an awards advisory committee, and authorizes the S.C. Arts Commission to expend up to $2000 in state funds annually to support the award and raise other funds to support the program as necessary.	Requires a service	Recognize lifetime achievement in the state for traditional folk arts; foster awareness and appreciation of the state's traditional cultures and their methods of creative expression.	No Change
59-29-220	State	Statute	Instructs the S.C. Department of Education, in conjunction with the S.C. Arts Commission, to develop arts education curricula in the visual arts, music, dance, and drama.	Requires a service	in conjunction with S.C. Dept. of Education, develop arts education curricula in the visual arts, music, dance, and drama.	No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
59-29-220 (3)	State	Statute	Establishes the South Carolina Arts Commission as the approving agency for professional artists to assist arts teachers and specialists in planning and implementing arts education curricula.	Requires a service	approve professional artists to assist arts teachers and specialists in planning and implementing arts education curricula.	No Change
60-15-10	State	Statute	Declares the policy of the state to insure that the arts will grow and play a significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens, and that all activities undertaken by the State in carrying out this policy shall be directed toward encouraging and assisting rather than limiting the freedom of artistic expression.	Requires a service	insure that the role of the arts in our communities will grow and play an ever more significant part; encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression.	No Change
60-15-20	State	Statute	Creates the South Carolina Arts Commission, describes appointments and qualifications of its members.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
60-15-30	State	Statute	Establishes terms and term limits of commission members, authorizes commission to hire executive director, and addresses commission vacancies.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
60-15-40	State	Statute	Addresses compensation for executive director and commission members.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
60-15-50	State	Statute	Authorizes commission to hire or remove employees as needed.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
60-15-60	State	Statute	Describes the duties of the commission	Requires a service	1) encourage the study and presentation of, and the public's interest and participation in, the fine and performing arts; 2) study public and private institutions engaged within the State in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture and allied arts and crafts, and make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts; 3) take steps to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the state and expand the state's cultural resources; and 4) do such other things as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.	No Change
60-15-70	State	Statute	Grants powers to the commission	Requires a service	to hold public or private hearings; enter into contracts; accept gifts, contributions and bequests; to purchase and own property; and to enter into agreements as necessary to accomplish the agency's purpose.	No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
60-15-75	State	Statute	Directs the agency to develop a program for designating statewide cultural districts; defines the purpose and characteristics of cultural districts; establishes the South Carolina Arts Commission as the designating authority for official cultural districts;	Requires a service	provide leadership and assistance in the development of cultural districts; develop a cultural district application, evaluation, and recertification process; pursue partnerships with other agencies to maximize the benefits of the program.	No Change
60-15-80	State	Statute	Directs the agency to make annual reports to the Governor and General Assembly.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
60-15-90	State	Statute	Establishes the South Carolina Arts Commission as the official agency to receive and disburse Federal funds to programs related to the arts.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
6-4-35 (3) (g)	State	Statute	Establishes one member of the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee on the recommendation of the South Carolina Arts Commission.	Board, commission, or committee on which someone from our agency must/may serve		No Change
Budget proviso 28.1	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Sets conditions for South Carolina Arts Commission employing professional artists as independent contractors or unclassified employees.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
Budget proviso 28.2	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Allows South Carolina Arts Commission to hold unexpended income from sponsored events, gifts, contributions or bequests in a special revolving account to be used for supporting the programs designated by the benefactor.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Budget proviso 28.3	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Allows South Carolina Arts Commission to apply a 15% indirect cost rate for any federal grants for which it competes.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Budget proviso 28.4	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Directs the South Carolina Arts Commission to expend no less than 70% of state appropriation on strategic grant making.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Budget proviso 28.5	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Directs the South Carolina Arts Commission to report by December 1 of the current year to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee the funds distributed to subdivisions.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

2026 Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2026	Summary of changes to services
Recommend poet laureate candidates to the Governor	Governor of South Carolina	Gov. Henry McMaster	South Carolina poets; S.C. citizens and visitors who experience poet laureate's work	Artist Development	Provides direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support to assist artists and creative sector entrepreneurs in building sustainable careers in the arts	The Governor's Office would have reduced resources to provide poet laureate services for South Carolina citizens and visitors.	No Change	
Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards - recognize lifetime achievement in the traditional folk arts; foster awareness and appreciation of South Carolina's traditional cultures and their methods of creative expression; encourage the preservation, promotion and presentation of traditional arts forms.	Communities that benefit from the work of individuals and organizations nominated for the awards.	South Carolina citizens and visitors	Annual award recipients	Communications	Produces agency communications to promote opportunities for citizens, students and artists and publicize results of agency's programs and grants.	South Carolina citizens and visitors would not be aware of leaders who have developed the state's traditional arts and culture and the resulting impact and history of those efforts. Traditional arts passed down through communities would be at risk of disappearing.	No Change	
Insure that the role of the arts in our communities will grow and play an ever more significant part, and encourage and assist in freedom of artistic expression by: 1) encouraging the study and presentation of, and the public's interest and participation in, the fine and performing arts; 2) studying public and private institutions engaged within the State in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture and allied arts and crafts, and make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts; 3) taking steps to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the state and expand the state's cultural resources; and 4) doing such other things as may be necessary to provide services.	South Carolina citizens and visitors who benefit from the state's investment of public dollars used to develop arts and culture in communities statewide.	South Carolina citizens and visitors	South Carolina artists	Arts Industry	Direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support in arts education, community arts development, and artist development	Communities would have fewer resources needed to develop arts and culture; economic vitality attributed to the arts would decrease.	No Change	
Provide grants, programs, and other support for public and private institutions engaged in artistic and cultural activities	Arts and culture sector engaged in producing and providing arts experiences and contributing to S.C. economy.	Arts providers	South Carolina citizens and visitors who experience art	Arts Industry	Provides direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support to strengthen local arts and cultural opportunities and accessibility	Arts providers would have fewer resources to produce art experiences for South Carolina citizens and visitors.	No Change	

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2026	Summary of changes to services
Provide grants, programs and other support for K-12 schools and districts, including private, charter and home schools; approve professional artists to assist arts teachers and specialists in planning and implementing arts education curricula; work in partnership with the S.C. Dept. of Education to develop arts curricula in the visual arts, music, dance and drama.	Students in K-12 schools, including private, charter and home schools.	South Carolina students	South Carolina educators; Teaching Artists	Arts Learning	Provides direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support to provide students with opportunities for a comprehensive education in the arts	Educators and teaching artists would have fewer resources to produce arts education experiences for South Carolina students.	No Change	
Provide grants, programs, and other support for artists and creative sector entrepreneurs in building sustainable careers in the arts.	South Carolinians who practice various art forms to produce income and provide arts experiences.	South Carolina artists	South Carolina citizens and visitors who experience art	Artist Development	Provides direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support to assist artists and creative sector entrepreneurs in building sustainable careers in the arts	Artists would have fewer resources to develop careers and produce art experiences for South Carolina citizens and visitors.	No Change	
Provide leadership and assistance in the development of cultural districts; develop a cultural district application, evaluation, and recertification process; pursue partnerships with other agencies to maximize the benefits of the program.	Communities where economic activity surrounding the arts is at the forefront of building or revitalization efforts.	South Carolina cities and towns	South Carolina citizens and visitors who experience art	Arts Industry	Produces agency communications to promote opportunities for citizens, students and artists and publicize results of agency's programs and grants.	Communities would lose a state designation that signifies and promotes their commitment to economic development through the arts.	No Change	
Governor's Awards for the Arts - Foster awareness and appreciation of South Carolina's arts and culture and the arts organizations, patrons, artists, members of the business community, and government entities who maximize their roles as innovators, supporters, and advocates of the arts.	Communities who benefit from the work of individuals and organizations nominated for the awards.	South Carolina citizens and visitors	Annual award recipients	Communications	Produces agency communications to promote opportunities for citizens, students and artists and publicize results of agency's programs and grants.	South Carolina citizens and visitors would not be aware of leaders who have developed the state's arts and culture and the resulting impact and history of those efforts.	No Change	
State Art Collection - To create a collection of historic importance and cultural vitality for the people of South Carolina that will serve as a tool to help promote the state and its cultural resources on the state, regional, national and international levels; to make available to citizens throughout South Carolina, the best work of the state's contemporary artists; to encourage and support the creative visual artists of South Carolina;	South Carolina citizens and visitors who experience the works in the State Art Collection in a variety of locations around the state.	South Carolina citizens and visitors	South Carolina artists	Artist Development	Provides direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support to assist artists and creative sector entrepreneurs in building sustainable careers in the arts	South Carolina citizens and visitors would have reduced access to original works of art created by S.C. artists.	No Change	

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2026	Summary of changes to services
Review requests by other agencies to purchase works of art.	State agencies that wish to purchase original art for display in offices or other state-owned locations	S.C. state agencies	S.C. artists; S.C. citizens who visit state agencies	Artist Development	Provides direct programming, services, technical assistance and grant support to assist artists and creative sector entrepreneurs in building sustainable careers in the arts	State agencies would have to purchase art through a bidding process and potentially be restricted from buying original, high quality art works.	No Change	

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Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Non-Governmental Organization	Arts education and other education organizations, including Palmetto State Arts Education, Engaging Creative Minds, ArtsNOW	Program partners provide funding, technical assistance, planning and guidance for development and implementation of strategic programs	No Change
K-12 Education Institute	Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Institute	Participating schools and districts receive grant support to implement local arts education planning and programs, provide data and assessments and participate in research	Amend
Non-Governmental Organization	Arts service organizations and discipline-based organizations, including the S.C. Arts Alliance, Hub City Press, Able SC, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and others	Program partners provide funding, technical assistance, in-kind services, planning and guidance for development and implementation of strategic programs	No Change
Higher Education Institute	Colleges and universities, including University of South Carolina, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Winthrop University	Program partners provide funding, technical assistance, in-kind services, planning and guidance for development and implementation of strategic programs	No Change
Federal Government	Federal agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts	Grantors provide funds and/or technical assistance to support SCAC programs that align with their own strategic goals and missions	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	Grantees	Non-profit organizations provide artistic, cultural and educational opportunities for residents and visitors in local communities	No Change

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Local Government	Grantees	Municipal and county government entities provide artistic, cultural and educational opportunities for residents and visitors in local communities	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	National, regional and in-state grantors, including SC Arts Foundation, SC Humanities, Coastal Community Foundation of SC, Donnelly Foundation	Grantors provide funds to support SCAC programs that align with their own strategic goals and missions	No Change
State Government	State agencies, including S.C. Department of Administration, S.C. Dept. of Education, State Library, SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities	Program partners provide funding, technical assistance, planning and guidance for development and implementation of strategic programs	No Change

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Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H910 - ARTS COMMISSION

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September-25	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online		No Change	
EIA Annual Report	§ 5-1-2	Narrative and budget of previous year's expenditures. Submitted to the Education Oversight Committee.	September-25	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Ashley Brown, Interim Executive Director, cabrown@arts.sc.gov, (803)734-8630	Add	
Final Descriptive Report; Final Financial Report	U.S. Code § 954	Data on activities supported by Federal funds through the agency's partnership agreement with the National Endowment for the Arts.	October-25	Annually	Entity within federal government	Available on another website	data submitted to NEA is used in reports found here: https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/grant_making_and_funding/	No Change	
Final Grant Report		Narrative information and data documenting activities supported by a grant from the Susan and John Bennett Memorial Arts Fund and the Expansion Arts Fund from the Coastal Community Foundation	September-25	Annually	Other	Electronic copy available upon request	Amanda McSwine, Grants Director, amcswine@arts.sc.gov, (803) 734-8802	Amend	
Final Grant Report		Narrative information and data documenting activities supported by a grant from the Donnelly Foundation	September-25	Annually	Other	Electronic copy available upon request	Amanda McSwine, Grants Director, amcswine@arts.sc.gov, (803) 734-8803	Amend	
Financial Audit	§ 11-7-20	Review of income and expenditures and accounting procedures	October of 2025	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	Http://osa.sc.gov/reports/	No Change	

AGENCY NAME:	Arts Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H910	SECTION:	28

2026
Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
  - Reorganization and Compliance
  - FY2026 Strategic Plan Results
  - FY2027 Strategic Plan Development
  - Legal
  - Services
  - Partnerships
  - Report or Review
  - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency's budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR *(SIGN AND DATE)*:	**SIGNATURE ON FILE**	**Signature Received:** 09/14/2026
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Ashley Brown	

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR *(SIGN AND DATE)*:	**SIGNATURE ON FILE**	**Signature Received:** 09/14/2026
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Flavia B. Harton	