



THE CITY OF NEW YORK INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

110 WILLIAM STREET, 14TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038
(212) 442-0632 • EMAIL: press@ibo.nyc.ny.us
<http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2023

Press Contact
Rachaele Raynoff: press@ibo.nyc.ny.us
(917) 513-7488

[IBO Lens on New York City Payments to Nonprofit Cultural Organizations](#)

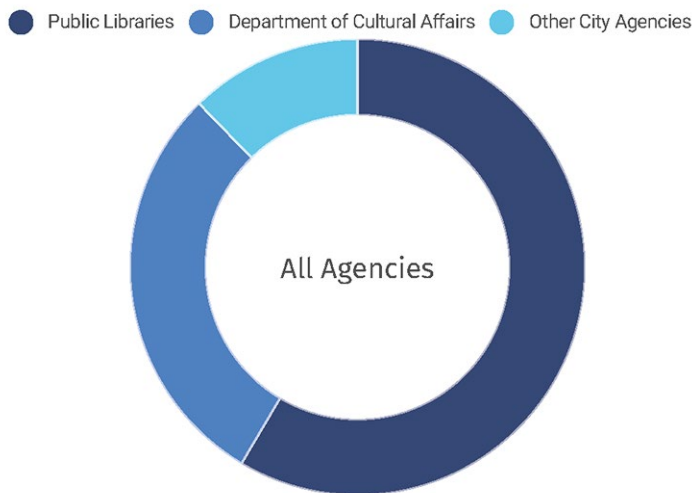
The NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO) today released an [analysis](#) of City payments to nonprofit cultural organizations that may be the first such accounting of municipal investment in the cultural sector. The report details \$727 million in payments made from the Expense Budget in Fiscal Year 2022. Of that, the lion's share went directly to city libraries or was distributed by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), but \$89 million was distributed to cultural nonprofits by other city agencies through the city's procurement process for goods and services. The IBO analysis breaks out spending by agency, by borough and by industry, or type of organization. IBO has also posted the underlying data for its analysis on the IBO website, allowing the public to take an even deeper dive.

"Illuminating how New York City supports the arts by identifying the various mechanisms, funding levels, and locations of arts nonprofits adds transparency," said **IBO Director Louisa Chafee**. "IBO is pleased to be able to answer questions like "How much does New York City spend on the arts?"

The report found that:

- The agencies with the largest payments to cultural nonprofits aside from DCLA (and excluding payments to libraries) were the Department of Education (\$27 million), the Department of Youth and Community Development (\$21 million), and the Department of Parks and Recreation (\$19 million).

City Payments to Cultural Nonprofits by City Agency



- Outside of DCLA payments and funding for city libraries, the industries receiving the greatest payments were zoos and botanical gardens (\$19 million); other grantmaking and giving services (\$12 million); and general arts, entertainment, and recreation (\$11 million).
- Based on an analysis of administrative addresses of nonprofits filed with the Internal Revenue Service, cultural nonprofits based in the following counties received the highest total payments: Manhattan (\$36 million), Brooklyn (\$24 million), and the Bronx (\$23 million). This also excludes library subsidies and payments by DCLA.

DCLA’s mission is to fund, promote, and advocate for nonprofit cultural organizations across New York City, with an annual budget that has historically exceeded the federal government’s National Endowment for the Arts. In addition, city funding flows to nonprofit cultural institutions through multiple agencies, and IBO found that the city’s Financial Management System does not directly track whether payees are cultural nonprofits. This is why IBO developed a methodology for identifying payees that should be part of this analysis. The methodology, which detected these payments amid millions of transactions, is described in detail in the Methodology section of the report.

This paper focuses on cultural nonprofits paid by a wide array of city agencies as a contracted vendor through the city’s procurement process, one of the many ways the city supports the cultural sector.

New York City Independent Budget Office

The New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) is authorized under the New York City Charter to provide nonpartisan budgetary, economic, and policy analysis for the residents of New York City and their elected officials. IBO helps to increase New Yorkers’ understanding of and participation in the budget process.