


# Art & Culture in a Time of Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction

This is a brief summary of a discussion with Clayton Lord, Vice President of Strategic Impact at Americans for the Arts that took place on May 6, 2020. These are critical statistics, input from city and state leadership, and recommended next steps as we move through COVID relief, recovery and ultimately redesigning a thriving and equitable future. Learn more about this event and watch the recording at [creativesantafe.org/clay-lord](https://creativesantafe.org/clay-lord)

 **1 in 10 jobs** in New Mexico are **tied to the arts and culture** industry, more than construction and manufacturing combined.

 **2/3** of all artists and creative workers are **fully unemployed** because of Covid-19.

 **75%** of them reported sharing their practice to **address a community need** during the Covid-19 crisis.

*Relief funds are important but temporary. The best thing anyone can do to support the arts is to pay artists to create their work.* – Clayton Lord, Americans for the Arts

*Thank your elected officials for the money that they allocate to the arts. Remind them how important that is, and how the arts and culture made a social impact on your life.* – Michelle Laflamme-Childs, NM Arts

*Support our work to expand the definition of how the lodgers tax can be used to support local arts and culture.*

– Pauline Kamiyama,  
SFe Arts & Culture Dept.

## NEXT STEPS:

- **Create a workers movement of contractors & gig workers to advocate for health insurance, housing access, and food.**
- **Pursue the evolution and modernization of copyright law.**
- **Examine existing policies to unlock more funds to meet the needs of culture workers and organizations.**

The 4 most critical needs for artists to sustain their work during the pandemic: Unemployment insurance, forgivable business loan, food/housing assistance, and affordable healthcare.

Source data and find out more about how Art & Culture impacts our communities:  
[americansforthearts.org/socialimpact](https://americansforthearts.org/socialimpact)

