



POLICY & ADVOCACY PROGRESS REPORT

An Update on Arts for LA's 2025-27 Agenda

Arts for LA is **the only cross-sector and cross-discipline arts advocacy organization** in Los Angeles County. We represent more than:

**75,000
SUPPORTERS**

**400 MEMBER
ADVOCATES**

**OVER 180 MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS**



The creative sector we serve continues to face long-standing **undercapitalization, low wages, and systemic inequities**. Recent challenges—including **funding cuts, inflation, and devastating wildfires**—have placed even greater **strain on artists and arts workers**.

★ **Our 2025–27 Policy & Advocacy Agenda**, anchored in the theme **“Roots, Recovery and Regeneration,”** responds directly to these conditions. It focuses on deepening connections, sharing knowledge from the field, and leading both grassroots and grasstops organizing for an equitable recovery.



**THIS PROGRESS REPORT
DETAILS OUR PROGRESS
SINCE RELEASING
THE AGENDA, RECOGNIZES
EMERGING VICTORIES,
AND ADDRESSES THE
SHORTFALLS AND REMAINING
WORK BEFORE US.**



The **Connect pillar** seeks to build equitable, inclusive cultures and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen organizational capacity and resilience.

Its roadmap commits Arts for LA to:

Reintroduce an **annual Advocacy Day** at Los Angeles City Hall so advocates can **network, receive advocacy tools** and **meet** directly with **elected officials**.



Coordinate collaborative networking channels for arts organizations of all budget sizes to identify **shared challenges**, explore **equitable funding strategies** and develop **mutual-aid**, space-sharing and **project-collaboration opportunities**.



Convene philanthropic partners and nonprofit arts organizations to address urgent recovery and capacity needs and **to build long-term financial and operational sustainability** across the sector.

PROGRESS

CONNECT PILLAR

ADVOCACY DAY RETURNED

Held an Arts Advocacy Day at Los Angeles City Hall, bringing together more than **100 artists** and arts workers to **meet with elected officials and receive advocacy training.**

CONNECTING TO FUNDERS

Hosted a funder forum that linked LGBTQ+ Coalition members and **nonprofit leaders to philanthropic partners.** We also created additional funder connections throughout the year, including at the **State of the Arts Summit** and through a **rapid-response** convening with the California Community Foundation **after the January wildfires.**

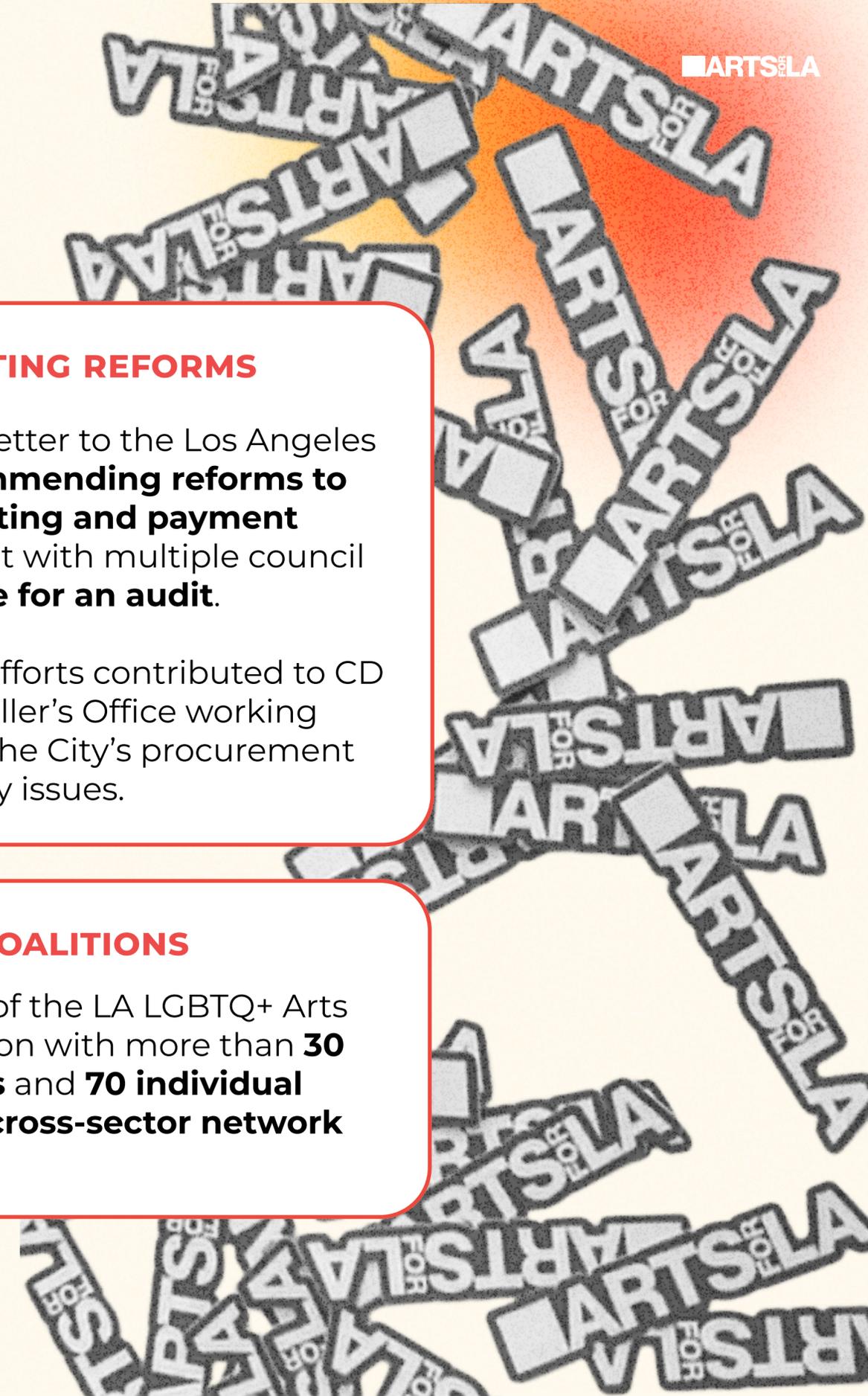
CONTRACTING REFORMS

Submitted policy letter to the Los Angeles City Council **recommending reforms to the City's contracting and payment processes** and met with multiple council offices to **advocate for an audit.**

In January, these efforts contributed to CD 2 & the City Controller's Office working together to audit the City's procurement and payment delay issues.

NEW COALITIONS

Co-led the launch of the LA LGBTQ+ Arts and Culture Coalition with more than **30 nonprofit partners** and **70 individual artists**, creating a **cross-sector network for queer artists.**



The Learn pillar **grounds our actions** in knowledge from the field and emphasizes sharing that knowledge **to build regional preparedness.**

The roadmap includes two major commitments:

- ★ **Develop an online community hub** where artists, arts workers and organizations can **interact, share mutual-aid resources** and **access educational materials** on tax deductions, digital equity and permissible nonprofit advocacy.
- ★ **Disseminate information about the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games**, connecting arts organizations, artists and arts workers to **opportunities to participate in the Cultural Olympiad.**



PROGRESS

LEARN PILLAR

LA REGION CULTURAL CONVENING

Collaborated with regional partners during the **Cultural Olympiad Convenings** to champion an equity-centered cultural legacy for the 2028 Games, **ensuring community-rooted artists and organizations are prioritized** in planning and investment.

FREELANCE WORKFORCE INSIGHTS

Collaborated with CVL Economics on a national survey of freelance creative workers to build a **stronger evidence base for policies** that improve **job quality, benefits, and economic stability** in the creative sector.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Launched a **video series** explaining advocacy and policy issues and produced **toolkits** (such as an arts-funding response toolkit) to **help artists navigate policy changes**.



PROGRESS

LEARN PILLAR

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING FORUMS

Participated in the Digital Equity LA Summit and **organized** world cafés for **freelancers**, along with webinars on **federal policy changes, immigrant rights and arts funding.**



WILDFIRE MUTUAL-AID DATA

Compiled a public mutual-aid **resource list**, conducted a survey to document wildfire **impacts on creative workers**, and used the findings to **connect affected artists** and organizations **with needed support.**



The Lead pillar focuses on **policy advocacy** and **organizing** to implement **crisis-response strategies** and **build sustainable careers** and **organizations**.

Key commitments include:

1

Advocating for sustained county investment to expand arts, media and entertainment apprenticeships, to **establish** a permanent **business-interruption fund** with **\$25,000 grants** and to elevate the **Organizational Grant Program**.

2

Expanding arts-educator pathways, including subsidized credentials and designating arts education (VAPA) as a shortage field.

3

Strengthening Prop 28 implementation by advocating for a statewide oversight and advisory committee.



Key commitments cont.

4

Advancing the Creative Jobs Collective, including extending health and safety protections and benefits for freelance arts workers, developing **an employer toolkit** that sets **living-wage** and **inclusion standards** and securing commitments to place at least **1,500 arts workers** from under-represented communities in **jobs paying** a minimum of **\$26 per hour**.

5

Developing a countywide needs-assessment map to maximize the use of libraries, museums, parks and community centers **for arts activities**.

6

Streamlining city grant applications by removing complex documentation and providing up-front payments.



PROGRESS

LEAD PILLAR

Defended local arts funding

Helped avert a **\$2.4 million cut and the elimination of 24 vacant positions** at the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs after community members highlighted the **economic importance of arts and culture**.

Restored state payroll support

Worked with partners to restore **\$11.5 million** to the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund after Governor Newsom proposed cuts; the Legislature **reinstated** the fund on July 1.

Protected free-speech rights

Supported a legal challenge that led a federal judge to vacate the **NEA's viewpoint-discriminatory grant policy**, ruling it **unconstitutional**.



PROGRESS

LEAD PILLAR

CJC Employer Toolkit

Developed the final CJC Employer Toolkit, which is a **guide** for LA County **creative sector employers**. It sets measurable **standards** for employers committing to job placements outlining sustainable and transparent **living wage** criteria, **hiring practices, organizational culture** and more.

Prop 28 accountability

Mobilized **thousands** of advocates and sent **joint letters** to state leaders **demanding audit** of misuse of LAUSD **Prop 28 funds**. Recently a local judge ruled that they will **advance the community suit**.



POLICY & ADVOCACY PROGRESS REPORT **SHORTFALLS**

CAC: SRN Program Elimination

Despite unified advocacy from service organizations statewide, the **California Arts Council declined to reinstate the State and Regional Network (SRN)** program for FY 26–27, removing a dedicated funding stream that supports statewide capacity-building, training, and arts worker infrastructure.

CJC

Creative sector employers in both the non-profit and for profit sector are experiencing **ongoing challenges related to funding and the economy on the local and federal level.**

The federal crackdown on DEI has also posed challenges on how nonprofit and for-profit employers center DEI in hiring and programs.

POLICY & ADVOCACY PROGRESS REPORT **SHORTFALLS** CONT.

AB 470: Digital Equity Coalition

Despite coordinated advocacy with the Digital Equity LA Coalition, AB 470 ultimately passed, **weakening local authority to address digital discrimination.**

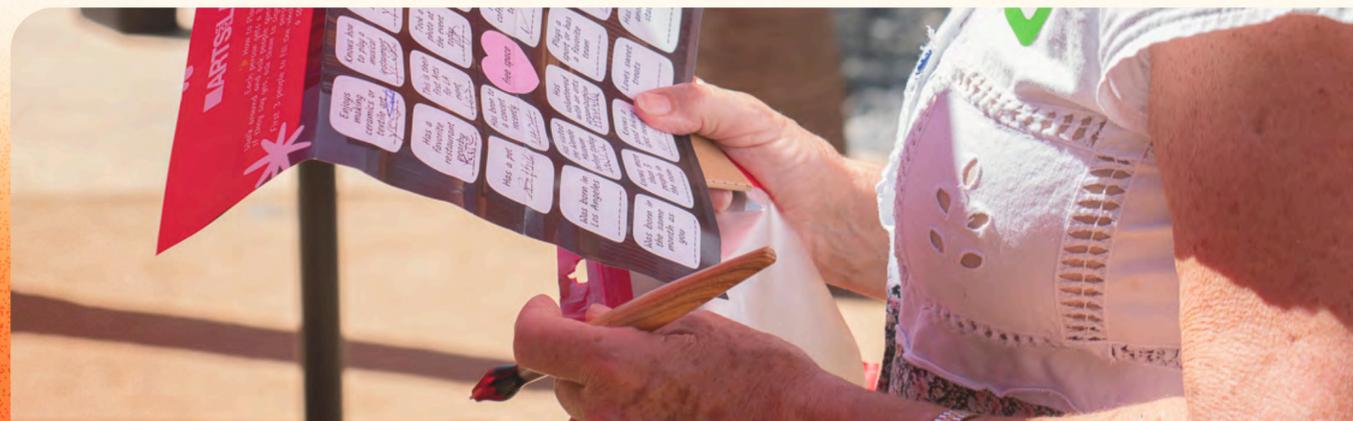
Arts for LA submitted written public comment opposing the bill and mobilized community phone-banking urging Assembly Members to vote No, but **our coalition's position did not prevail.**



LA County Budget: OGP & BIF

Despite strong advocacy, **the Organizational Grant Program (OGP) saw a 11% cut** when compared to the prior year.

The Business Interruption Fund (BIF) was not included in the final FY 25–26 County budget, leaving **no dedicated support for small businesses** that serve the Entertainment Industry.



POLICY & ADVOCACY 2026

OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECT

Space & Resources

- * **Launch** a public **inventory of city/county-owned spaces** (with transparent rental rates)
- * **Streamline access** to funding tools (**grants, loans, bridge support**)
- * **Coordinate** elected-official **briefings** that **frame arts** as an economic **necessity**

LEARN

Arts Education & Information

- * **Strengthen Prop 28 implementation** support (staffing, credential pathways, accountability)
- * Build the data & research to **track outcomes** and **identify gaps**
- * **Expand** capacity-building **resources** (tax basics, digital equity, advocacy)

LEAD

Creative Jobs & Advocacy

- * Broaden “creative jobs” beyond entertainment and **elevate local creative economies**
- * Host workforce convenings + a **job fair** (local hiring, internships, apprenticeships)
- * **Support** training & certification **pathways** for **career transitions**



THANK YOU

for your **ongoing advocacy** and **contributions** to the arts and culture ecosystem of Los Angeles.



Want to **learn more** about how we intend to fulfill the promise of our 2025-27 Policy and Advocacy Agenda? Visit our website at [ArtsforLA](https://www.artsforla.org)

Please **sign up for our newsletter** to get regular updates on our **progress**, regional **wins**, and **opportunities** to participate in advocacy actions.

You can also **sign up for a free advocate account**. We **inform**, **engage**, and **mobilize** people to advocate for access to the arts across all communities through our action alerts.