

DEFINITION OF ARTS & CULTURE (it's a lot bigger than you think!)

The Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 methodology also takes a broad approach to defining the artistic disciplines that are included in the nonprofit arts and culture sector. **It includes more than just the visual and performing arts.** The AEP6 study relies on the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE), a definitive system for classifying the artistic category of nonprofit organizations recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c3). The system—developed by the Urban Institute’s National Center for Charitable Statistics with the guidance of leading nonprofit scholars and practitioners—is used by the IRS as well as [Independent Sector](#), [Candid](#) (formerly GuideStar and the Foundation Center), and many grantmakers, foundations, researchers, and others working with nonprofit organizations.

Below is a list of the individual NTEE Codes that are eligible for inclusion in the AEP6 study. Detailed descriptions of each NTEE Code begin on Page 6.

A ARTS, CULTURE, & HUMANITIES (GENERAL)

- A01** Alliances and Advocacy
- A02** Management and Technical Assistance
- A03** Professional Societies and Associations
- A05** Research Institutes and Public Policy Analysis
- A11** Single Organization Support
- A12** Fundraising and Fund Distribution
- A19** Miscellaneous Support (not elsewhere classified)
- A20 ARTS & CULTURE**
- A23** Cultural and Ethnic Awareness
- A24** Folk Arts and Traditional Arts
- A25** Arts Education
- A26** Arts & Humanities Councils and Arts Agencies
- A27** Community Celebrations
- A30 MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS**
- A31** Film and Video
- A32** Television
- A33** Printing and Publishing
- A34** Radio
- A40 VISUAL ARTS**
- A50 MUSEUMS**
- A51** Arts Museums
- A52** Children’s Museums
- A53** Folk Arts and Ethnic Museums
- A54** History Museums
- A56** Natural History and Natural Science Museums
- A57** Science and Technology Museums

A60 PERFORMING ARTS

- A61** Performing Arts Centers
- A62** Dance
- A63** Ballet
- A65** Theater
- A68** Music
- A69** Symphony Orchestras
- A6A** Opera
- A6B** Singing or Choral Groups
- A6C** Bands and Ensembles
- A6E** Performing Arts Schools
- A70 HUMANITIES**
- A80 HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- A82** Historical Societies and Historic Preservation
- A84** Commemorative Events
- A90 ARTS SERVICES**
- A99 MISCELLANEOUS ARTS, CULTURE, & HUMANITIES**
- B70 LIBRARIES**
- C41** Botanical Gardens and Arboreta
- C42** Garden Clubs
- D50 ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**
- N52** Fairs and Festivals
- Q21** International Cultural Exchange

DETAILED Definitions of Eligible Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations

Eligible organizations, programs, venues, and facilities are those whose primary purpose is to promote appreciation for and enjoyment and understanding of the visual, performing, folk, and media arts; the humanities (archaeology, art history, modern and classical languages, philosophy, ethics, theology, and comparative religion); history and historical events; and/or communications (film, video, publishing, journalism, radio, television).

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A01	Alliances & Advocacy	<p>Organizations and programs whose activities focus on influencing public policy within the arts, culture, and humanities major group area. Includes a variety of activities from public education and influencing public opinion to lobbying national and state legislatures.</p> <p>Use this code for arts alliances that primarily focus on advocacy programs (use A26 Arts and Humanities Councils and Agencies for arts alliances that do not primarily focus on advocacy programs).</p> <p>Key words: arts alliances; arts coalitions; lobbying; public awareness</p>
A02	Management and Technical Assistance	<p>Organizations and programs that provide consultation, training, and other forms of management assistance services to nonprofit groups within the arts, culture, and humanities major group area.</p> <p>Key words: professional continuing education</p>
A03	Professional Societies and Associations	<p>Learned societies, professional councils, and other organizations and programs that bring together individuals or organizations with a common professional or vocational interest within the arts, culture, and humanities major group area.</p> <p>Includes: accreditation boards and associations of journalists.</p>
A05	Research Institutes and Public Policy Analysis	<p>Organizations and programs whose primary purpose is to conduct research and/or public policy analysis within the arts, culture, and humanities major group area.</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A11	Single Organization Support	<p>Organizations and programs existing as a support and fund-raising entity for a single institution within the arts, culture & humanities major group. This code should be used for all forms of support as long as financial support is included.</p> <p>“Friends of” groups are traditionally classified here.</p>
A12	Fundraising and Fund Distribution	<p>Organizations and programs that raise and distribute funds for multiple organizations within the arts, culture, and humanities major group area.</p>
A19	Miscellaneous Support (not elsewhere classified)	<p>Organizations and programs that provide all forms of support except for financial assistance or fundraising for other organizations within the arts, culture, and humanities major group area.</p>
A20	Arts & Culture	<p>Organizations and programs that promote, produce, or provide access to a variety of arts experiences encompassing the visual, media, or performing arts.</p> <p>Includes: multi-disciplinary arts and cultural centers as well as venues that display or sell local artists' work and that offer workshops, studios, and/or classes that deal with a wide variety of art forms.</p> <p>Key words: arts centers; arts guilds; cultural centers; multipurpose arts; multipurpose cultural organizations</p>
A23	Cultural and Ethnic Awareness	<p>Organizations and programs that promote artistic expression within a particular ethnic community; work for the preservation and promotion of the traditions, values, and lifestyles of different cultural groups; organize activities and events which promote cultural exchange locally or nationally; and encourage understanding and respect for different cultural heritages among the youthful members of the group as well as the mainstream population. Also note that the arts must be a substantial part of organization’s budget, mission, and goals.</p> <p>Key words: cultural awareness; cultural heritage; cultural centers; cultural fairs; ethnic awareness; ethnic fairs; heritage; national day celebrations</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A24	Folk Arts and Traditional Arts	<p>Organizations and programs engaged in promoting, producing, or performing art forms in informally learned and transmitted contexts characteristic of ethnic, religious, linguistic, occupational, and/or regional groups.</p> <p>Defining folk art is tricky and difficult. What some want to label as folk art, others want to call "craft" or "ethnic" or "products from primitive, untrained people". Folk art is art made by people who have had little or no formal schooling in art. Folk artists usually make works of art with traditional techniques and content, in styles handed down through many generations, and often of a particular region. Traditional crafts, music, dance, and stories passed down through families, communities or within tribal, ethnic, or occupational groups are among the many forms of folk art.</p> <p>Key words: folk art; folk culture; folk dance; folk dancing; folk life; folk singing; folk songs; native art; old songs; traditional arts; traditional music</p>
A25	Arts Education	<p>Organizations and programs that provide informal arts educational programming and/or instruction but do not grant diplomas or degrees; or which offer services regarding the arts to educational institutions or to public entities involved in education. The school must be a nonprofit entity.</p> <p>For colleges and universities, use the guideline <i>"include where the art happens, but exclude where the teaching happens."</i> For example, we exclude the entire music department at a college or university. But we INCLUDE university music groups that perform for the general public. Those groups should be coded using the appropriate NTEE code based on their artistic discipline. Similarly, college and university galleries should be included, and coded as a gallery.</p> <p>Includes: elementary/middle/high schools, colleges/universities, camps, and associations that provide instruction and other arts programming to children and adults.</p> <p>Excludes: formal, degree-granting schools of the arts.</p> <p>Key words: art classes (non-degree); art instruction (non-degree); art schools (non-degree); arts education or art education (non-degree); arts workshops; informal arts education; informal arts instruction; schools of art (non-degree)</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A26	Arts and Humanities Councils and Agencies	<p>Organizations and programs that foster, nurture, and sustain artistic excellence and create a climate in which the arts and humanities may flourish in a community.</p> <p>Key words: arts agencies; arts alliances; arts and humanities councils; arts councils; councils on the arts; humanities councils; cultural alliances, departments of cultural affairs</p>
A27	Community Celebrations	<p>Organizations and programs that are engaged in the promotion, production, or performance of community and public celebratory events.</p> <p>Includes: arts and street fairs; First Night events; and multidiscipline arts festivals.</p> <p>Key words: arts fairs; arts festivals; celebratory events; community celebrations; First Nights</p>
A30	Media and Communications	<p>Organizations and programs that are involved in publishing, productions, or programming utilizing any of a variety of media or in educational programs related to the media.</p> <p>Excludes: religious media/communications.</p> <p>Key words: broadcasting; communications; electronic media; media; public servers; website development; website hosting; website development; website hosting</p>
A31	Film and Video	<p>Organizations or programs that produce films, videos, and holographic images for a variety of educational, documentary, and cultural purposes, and/or promote public appreciation of film and video. Also included are organizations that encourage new, foreign, and independent filmmakers through the organization and presentation of film expositions, or which show old or difficult to obtain films in noncommercial facilities.</p> <p>Excludes: religious film or video.</p> <p>Key words: documentary film production; film; film appreciation; film expositions; film festivals; film preservation; film production; foreign films; holographic images; holography; independent filmmakers; video; video appreciation; video production</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A32	Television	<p>Organizations or programs engaged in television productions and broadcasts. Includes producers of public television, cable television, community access television, broadcasting in schools, and interactive television.</p> <p>Includes: producers of public television; cable television; community access television; broadcasting in schools; and interactive television.</p> <p>Excludes: religious television.</p> <p>Key words: cable television; cable TV; closed-circuit television; community access television; community television; educational television; interactive television; public television; school television; television production</p>
A33	Printing and Publishing	<p>Organizations or programs that publish a variety of materials on diverse topics.</p> <p>Includes: university presses.</p> <p>Excludes: religious printing or publishing; and organizations or programs whose primary function is the retail sale of or those that publish a newsletter, magazine, journal, directory, or a house organ as one of many activities.</p> <p>Key words: book publishing; journalism; literary journals and presses; magazine publishing; newspaper publishing; publications; publishing; university presses</p>
A34	Radio	<p>Organizations or programs engaged in radio productions and broadcast, including public radio stations and radio stations that offer programming that is designed for community residents who are blind or visually impaired (radio reading services).</p> <p>Excludes: religious radio.</p> <p>Key words: National Public Radio; NPR; public radio broadcasting; radio reading services</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A40	Visual Arts	<p>Organizations or programs whose activities promote or provide access to a variety of visual arts. Included are organizations that focus on an art form in a specific medium such as stained glass or textiles. USE for art galleries in which visual artists can exhibit and sell their work. Do not confuse "art galleries" as venues with museums that have "gallery" in their name such as "The National Gallery of Art".</p> <p>Includes: architectural centers and services; art conservation organizations; ceramic arts organizations; painting, drawing and sculpture organizations; and organizations and programs devoted to photography.</p> <p>Key Words: architectural centers; architectural services; art conservation; art galleries; art printmaking; ceramic arts; clay arts; computer art; crafts; decorative arts; drawing; enamelwork; experimental arts; fiber art; fine arts; glass arts; intermedia; jewelry arts; lacquer work; metal arts; mixed media; mosaics; origami; painting; paper arts; photography; pottery; printmaking; quilting; sculpture; stained glass; studio arts; textile arts; visual arts; visual arts appreciation; weaving arts</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A50	Museums	<p>Organizations or programs that acquire, preserve, research, exhibit, and provide for the educational use of works of art, objects or artifacts that are related to the study of zoology, biology, botany, mineralogy, geology, and other natural sciences; history; archeology; or science and technology. Use this code for types of museums not specified elsewhere.</p> <p>Includes: folk arts, ethnic museums; marine, maritime museums; planetariums; sports and hobby museums including halls of fame; and other specialized museums.</p> <p>Excludes: ethnic organizations that are not museums</p> <p>Key words: archaeological museums; archeological museums; automobile museums; boat museums; circus museums; comedy museums; crime museums; culture-specific museums; doll museums; film museums; fire-fighting museums; forestry museums; gun museums; hall of fame; historic ships; hobby museums; holocaust museums; lapidary arts museums; logging/lumber museums; mapparium museums; marine museums; maritime museums; model train museums; money/numismatic museums; motion picture museums; musical instrument museums; naval museums; observatories; philatelic museums; planetaria; planetarium; postal museums; railroad museums; religious museums; scouting museums; ship museums; specialized museums; sports halls of fame; sports museums; theater museums; toy museums; train museums; transportation museums; video museums; visitors center; wax museums; whaling museums; woodcarving museums</p>
A51	Art Museums	<p>Organizations or programs that acquire, preserve, and exhibit collections of objects including fine art, decorative art, folk/ethnic art, and textiles that are collected primarily for their aesthetic qualities and their importance as representatives of a particular artistic tradition or style.</p> <p>Key words: art exhibitions; art galleries; contemporary art museums; decorative art museums; ethnic art museums; folk art museums; modern art museums; textile museums</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A52	Children’s Museums	<p>Organizations or programs that develop and maintain educational exhibits that are structured for the size, interests, and intellectual capacity of young children. Children’s museums are participatory and allow visitors to interact with the exhibits (touching, exploring, manipulating); they may offer organized lessons for groups of school children that focus on one or more of the exhibits.</p> <p>Key words: discovery museums; youth museums</p>
A53	Folk Arts and Ethnic Museums	<p>Specialized museums, foundations, and other organizations whose activities and collections preserve and promote the culture and history of a specific nationality, or racial or ethnic group (<i>e.g.</i>, Native Americans).</p> <p>Excludes: folk art organizations that are not museums; and ethnic organizations that are not museums.</p>
A54	History Museums	<p>Organizations or programs that acquire, preserve, research, and exhibit collections of objects including documents, tools, implements, and furnishings that have significance in helping to interpret or understand the past. History museums may specialize in a specific era such as early Greece or Rome, a particular geographical region such as California or Appalachia, a particular ethnic or cultural group such as Native Americans, or a specific subject area such as costumes; and may contain items created or used by contemporary or historical figures. Use this code for historical societies that operate a museum as their primary purpose.</p> <p>Key words: local art and history museums; historic house museums; historical society museums; colonial farm museums; costume museums; interpretive farm museums; history museums; living history museums; military museums; war museums</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A56	Natural History and Natural Science Museums	<p>Organizations or programs that acquire, preserve, research, and exhibit collections of objects that have significance in the natural sciences including botany, zoology, geology, and physical and cultural anthropology.</p> <p>Key words: anthropology museums; entomology museums; ethnology museums; geology museums; herbarium museums; herpetology museums; mineralogy museums; natural history museums; natural science museums; ornithology museums</p>
A57	Science and Technology Museums	<p>Organizations or programs that develop and maintain educational exhibits which illustrate principles from mathematics and the physical sciences.</p> <p>Key words: agriculture museums; aeronautical museums; aeronautics and space museums; aerospace museums; air and space museums; astronomy museums; communications museums; industrial museums; medical science museums; mining museums; pharmacology museums; science museums; space museums; technology museums</p>
A60	Performing Arts	<p>Organizations or programs that provide access to the performing arts or a variety of art forms including the performing arts, and/or which present performing arts series. Use this code for organizations devoted to art forms not specified elsewhere.</p> <p>Key words: circus arts; experimental companies; multimedia companies; performing arts; performing arts series</p>
A61	Performing Arts Centers	<p>Organizations or programs that operate facilities including theaters for the performing arts. Use this code for organizations whose main activity is presenting touring performing arts productions to the public. Use other codes in the A60 series when the organization includes resident performing arts troupes that produce their work.</p> <p>Key words: performing arts theater facilities; theater facilities; performing arts presenters</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A62	Dance	<p>Organizations or programs that create and/or perform a variety of types of dances, including modern, folk, country and western, and square dancing. Use for ethnic and cultural organizations which promote, produce, or provide only dance productions; Use Cultural & Ethnic Awareness (A23) for ethnic & cultural organizations that promote, produce, or provide multi-discipline arts programming.</p> <p>Includes: organizations for the preservation and enjoyment of dance, such as dance clubs.</p> <p>Excludes: competitive dance drill and dance tumble teams.</p> <p>Key words: African dance; choreography; contra dance; country and western dance; dance companies; dance festivals; dance groups; ethnic dance; flamenco ballet; flamenco dancing; folk dance; interpretive dance; Irish dance; Israeli dance; jazz dance; line dance; modern dance; polka; square dance; tap dance; traditional dance</p>
A63	Ballet	<p>Organizations or programs that create and/or perform primarily ballet.</p> <p>Key words: ballet companies; ballet troupes</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A65	Theater	<p>Organizations or programs whose primary activity is the production of plays.</p> <p>Excludes: organizations that have as their primary purpose the operation, restoration, or maintenance of theater facilities that are used for presenting the works of others, films, or other community events. (Use A61, performing arts centers and presenters, for organizations focused on presenting the productions of other organizations and programs. Use A20, arts and culture, for arts centers that are equally focused on visual and performing arts.)</p> <p>Excludes: organizations, such as some guilds or "friends of" organizations that have as their primary purpose the financial support for a theater company that is a separately incorporated nonprofit organization (Use A11, single organization support).</p> <p>Key words: acting companies; amateur theaters; Broadway shows; burlesque; children's theaters; children's performances; children's plays; children's theater; comedies; community theaters; community theatrical groups; drama; dramatic arts; dramatic productions; marionette shows; mimes; musical plays; musical theater; musicals; plays; playwriting; puppet shows; Shakespeare festivals; Shakespearean festivals; stage plays; storytelling; summer stock; theater companies; theater festivals; theater performances; theater troupes; tragedies; traveling theaters</p>
A68	Music	<p>Organizations or programs whose primary activity is the production of musical events, including concert series and music festivals.</p> <p>Key words: concert series; music competitions; music composition; music festivals; musical events</p>
A69	Symphony Orchestras	<p>Organizations or programs whose primary activity is the operation of a symphony orchestra including youth symphonies.</p> <p>Key words: chamber orchestras; orchestras; philharmonic; symphonies; youth orchestras; youth symphonies</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A6A	Opera	<p>Organizations or programs whose primary activity is the production of operas.</p> <p>Key words: comic operas; light operas; opera companies; operettas</p>
A6B	Singing or Choral Groups	<p>Organizations or programs whose primary activity is the production of concerts including barbershop singing groups, glee clubs/choir groups, children’s choirs, and other singing ensembles.</p> <p>Key words: barbershop quartets; boys’ choirs; children’s choirs; choirs; choral groups; choruses; church music; glee clubs; gospel music; religious music; sacred music; singing ensembles; singing groups; singing societies; Sweet Adelines</p>
A6C	Bands and Ensembles	<p>Organizations or programs that produce music not specifically covered by another category including marching bands, jazz groups, chamber music groups, blues, country music, ethnic music (e.g., Brazilian, Celtic, Afro-pop, etc.), folk music, rhythm and blues.</p> <p>Key words: bands; brass bands; blues; chamber music; community bands; country music; ethnic music; folk music; improvisational music; jazz groups; jazz music; marching bands; musical groups; rhythm and blues; rock music; youth bands</p>
A6E	Performing Arts Schools	<p>Organizations or programs that offer classes in the performing arts but do not confer academic degrees. The school must be a nonprofit organization (excludes full-time performing arts schools at the secondary or college level that offer a high school or college degree).</p> <p>Key words: dance schools (non-degree); drama schools (non-degree); performing arts schools (non-degree); theater schools (non-degree)</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A70	Humanities	<p>Organizations or programs that promote the study, teaching, or appreciation of the humanities (archaeology, art history, history, modern and classical languages, philosophy and ethics, and theology and comparative religion). Use for language instruction schools that offer language instruction only and do not teach language as part of a broader cultural education program. For cultural education including language instruction use A23, Cultural and Ethnic Awareness.</p> <p>Key words: art history; book clubs; book discussion groups; book fairs; book readings; book review groups; book signings; Chinese languages; classical languages; comparative religion; creative writing; English language; ethics; fiction-writing; foreign language schools; French language schools; German language institutes; holocaust studies; humanities; Japanese language; language and linguistics; literary activities; literary services; literature; philosophy; poetry readings; poetry writing; reading clubs; Russian language; social sciences; Spanish language; theology</p>
A80	Historical Organizations	<p>Organizations or programs that promote awareness of and appreciation for history and historical artifacts. Use this code for organizations that are not specified elsewhere.</p> <p>Key words: ancestry; family histories; family name societies; genealogical societies; genealogy; holocaust memorials; material culture conservation; memorials; monuments; patriotic societies; presidential birthplaces; veterans memorials; war memorials</p>
A82	Historical Societies and Historic Preservation	<p>Organizations or programs that interpret, collect, and preserve the historical heritage of a specific geographic location. (For historical societies that operate a museum as their primary purpose use A54, History Museums.)</p> <p>Excludes: Main Street programs.</p> <p>Key words: historical markers; historic district preservation; historic home preservation; historic house designation; historic preservation; historic properties preservation; historic preservation of churches; historic site designation; historic site preservation; historical associations; historical burial site preservation; historical preservation; historical societies; oral history</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
A84	Commemorative Events	<p>Organizations or programs that sponsor activities that celebrate, memorialize, and sometimes recreate important events in history such as battles, treaties, speeches, centennials, Independence days, and catastrophes that had an important impact or other similar occasions.</p> <p>Includes: July 4th Parades and Celebrations.</p> <p>Key words: bicentennials; centennials; civil war reenactments; Columbus Day; dedication ceremonies; heritage days; historical reenactments; Independence Day; July 4th; memorial celebrations; revolutionary war reenactments; Veterans Day</p>
A90	Arts Services	<p>Organizations or programs that provide services such as facilities or touring assistance for arts organizations. Use for organizations offering a variety of services specifically for artists and arts organizations including legal and financial services, services to individual artists or groups of artists in the form of workshops, funds to indigent artists, discounts on group purchases, or tax, legal, or accounting aid.</p> <p>Key words: art facilities; artisans services; artist registries; artists services; arts services; equipment access and services for artists; legal services for artists; slide registries; touring assistance; travel grants for artists</p>
A99	Miscellaneous Arts, Culture, and Humanities (not elsewhere classified)	<p>Organizations or programs with no clear or primary NTEE code.</p> <p>Examples may include embedded arts organizations that have an established budget; unincorporated entities that play a substantial role in the cultural life of the community.</p>
B70	Libraries	<p>Facilities that house a collection of materials including books, manuscripts, journals, government documents, and non-print formats such as paintings, musical recordings, videotapes, films, and data files which are organized for access by a targeted population.</p>

Code	NTEE Category	Detailed Description
C41	Botanical Gardens & Arboreta	<p>Organizations that plant, maintain and display for public study and enjoyment collections of flowers, trees, shrubs, and ground cover, some of which are rare and exotic.</p> <p>Key words: Aquatic Gardens; Arboreta; Botanical Gardens; Botanical Societies (See also A56, Natural History and Natural Science Museums)</p>
C42	Garden Clubs	<p>Organizations that provide organized opportunities for individuals to pursue their interest in ornamental plants, flowers, trees, shrubs, house plants, herbs, garden fruits and vegetables, or other species of plants.</p>
D50	Zoos and Aquariums	<p>Organizations that house collections of living animals, birds, reptiles, living aquatic plants and animals including fish, shellfish, shore birds, insects, and other wildlife for the purpose of study and public viewing.</p> <p>Key words: Animal Parks; Aquariums; Petting Farms; Petting Zoos; Wild Animal Parks; Zoological Parks; Zoological Societies; Zoos.</p>
N52	Fairs and Festivals	<p>Organizations that sponsor, organize and promote fairs and festivals. Includes collectible/antique fairs, county and state fairs, street fairs, festivals, parades, and other similar activities during religious and patriotic holidays and other special occasions.</p> <p>Key words: Agricultural Fairs; Antiques Fairs; County Fairs; Pageants; Parades; Processions; State Fairs</p>
Q21	International Cultural Exchange	<p>Organizations whose primary purpose is to provide international cultural educational experiences abroad and/or sponsor international cultural events (e.g., touring performing arts troupes) that are designed to increase understanding of other societies through the arts and humanities).</p>