

Arts Council of Johnson County – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Program Summary Overview:

With American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding the Arts Council of Johnson County implemented a multi-year recovery initiative to support the creative sector in Johnson County, Kansas. The program addressed COVID-19's impact on the Johnson County community and creative industries, emphasizing economic recovery, mental health, and community rebuilding.

Key Programs & Outcomes

1. COVID Recovery Grants for Artists & Nonprofits

- **Artists:**
 - 79 grants awarded totaling **\$539,066**. Grants ranged from \$1,500–\$7,500 (79% received full amount).
 - 76% used funds for rent/studio relief; 70% for equipment; 64% for overhead.
 - 27% of recipients identified as BIPOC; 36% below low-income threshold; 21% were single parents.
- **Nonprofit Arts Organizations:**
 - 17 grants awarded totaling **\$155,461**. Grants ranged from \$4,000 to \$10,000.
 - Funds supported payroll, programming, outreach, and strategic planning.
 - Majority of grantees were women-led and serve BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and low-income communities



2. Financial Literacy Workshops (2024) in partnership with InterUrban ArtHouse

- 77 artists completed 8+ workshops on budgeting, taxes, contracts, & more.
- Participants reported **reduced stress, increased confidence, and strong interest** in advanced sessions.



3. Canvas Collective (2024–2025) – led by two art therapists and a local artist

- A community art initiative promoting connection and resilience.
- Included 4 workshops and a public exhibition.
- Participants reported increased creativity, emotional well-being, and a stronger sense of community.

Impact & Conclusion

The SLFRF programs provided critical support to Johnson County's creative sector, helping artists and organizations recover financially, emotionally, and professionally. The initiatives fostered innovation, equity, and community engagement—affirming the arts as essential to public health, economic vitality, and cultural resilience. Scan the QR code for the full report.