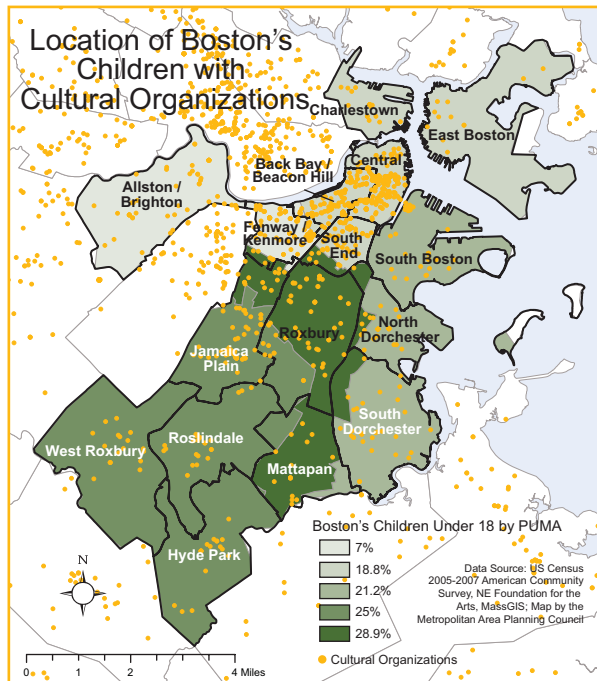


Cultural Life & the Arts



Boston's artistic and cultural vibrancy continues to grow: there are more opportunities for children and families to engage in the arts citywide and visitors flock to the region. However, the increasing number of nonprofit arts organizations coupled with sharply declining funding for the arts due to state budget shortfalls deeply threatens the strength and solvency of Boston's cultural sector.

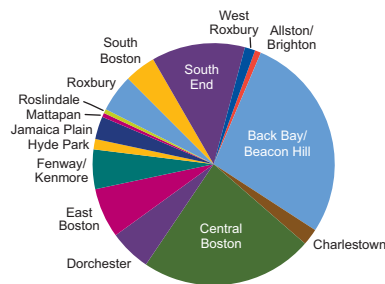
Equitable Access to Cultural Resources

Access for Children and Families

While Boston is home to more than 1,700 cultural facilities according to Culture Count—the online cultural database of the New England Foundation for the Arts—most facilities and venues are outside of areas with high concentrations of children. Roughly half of all facilities are located within the areas of Boston that are home to just 18% of all children under 18,

including Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the South End, Charlestown and East Boston. The Census PUMA where most of Boston's children and families of color reside—covering Roxbury, Mission Hill and Mattapan—is home to 29% of children under 18 and only 7% of cultural resources.

Boston's Free Cultural Events & Parades by Neighborhood, 2008

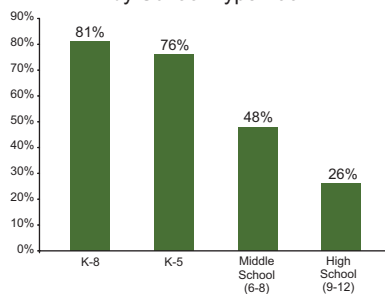


Source: City of Boston, Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism & Special Events

Access to Free and Low Cost Events

The City of Boston offers a multitude of free cultural events, festivals and parades, but nearly two-thirds of all of them take place in Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Central Boston and the South End. There are some 160 free events in the neighborhoods that are home to a majority Boston's children and families, or about 30% of all events. And the City of Boston's Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events, along with numerous nonprofit partners, launched SpectrumBoston in early 2009 to bring culturally diverse free or low-cost performing arts programming to Boston's underserved neighborhoods and families.

Percent of BPS Students Receiving In-School Arts Education by School Type 2007



Source: Boston Public Schools

Access to Arts Education

A recent report exploring arts education in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) found that 70% of all students have access to some arts education during the school day, with great variation across grade levels. Citywide, 53% of all BPS schools provided arts programming to 100% of students while 11% of schools offered no arts programming at all.

The study also found no consistent disparities in access to the arts in school by Boston neighborhood.

Cultural Vibrancy and the Creative Economy

A strong and vibrant cultural sector is a significant driver of Greater Boston's economy, generating jobs and revenue. In 2008, visitors to Greater Boston generated roughly \$7.2 billion in spending and employment in Leisure & Hospitality occupations, which include much of the Creative Sector, a 14% increase from 1999 to 2008.

Attendance at Museums & Cultural Attractions

In 2008, 9,086,755 visitors attended 24 of Greater Boston's museums, attractions and institutions. That represents a rise of about 2% over 2007, according to the Greater Boston Visitors Bureau.

Tourism

More than 18 million people visited Boston and Cambridge in 2008, up about 3% from 17.8 million in 2006, and more than 22 million people visited the entire Greater Boston region. Hotel occupancy in Boston and Cambridge was 75.1% in 2008, up 2.2% over 2007, according to the Greater Boston Visitors Bureau.

Funding for the Mass Cultural Council

Massachusetts budget constraints and the economic fallout of late 2008 have created an uncertain future for Arts Funding. From FY06 to FY09, funding for the Mass Cultural Council increased 31% to \$12.7 million. While funding has increased with each consecutive budget, the rate of increase has slowed considerably and the Legislature has proposed a \$1.27 million cut for FY10.

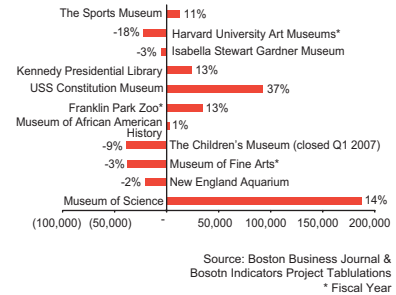
Artist Housing

Between 2001 and 2008, the City of Boston added 284 new units of affordable artist housing and work space through the Boston Redevelopment Authority, with 119 units between 2006 and 2008. The traditional artist community of Fort Point has the greatest number of added units, with 97, followed by Hyde Park with 66 units, South Boston with 46 units and the South End with 42 units.

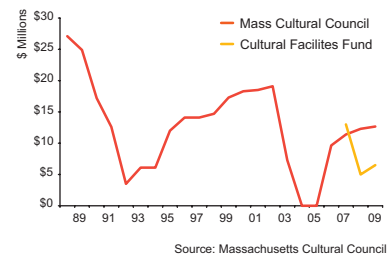
Cultural Organizations and Funding

Between 2003 and the first quarter of 2009, the number of registered nonprofit arts organizations in Massachusetts increased by 10% while reported revenue increased by 34%; however, with a projected 10% cut in state funding for FY10, many of these organizations may be in jeopardy. According to the New England Foundation for the Arts' 2007 Report on the Creative Economy, Massachusetts' cultural workforce comprised 3% of the total workforce.

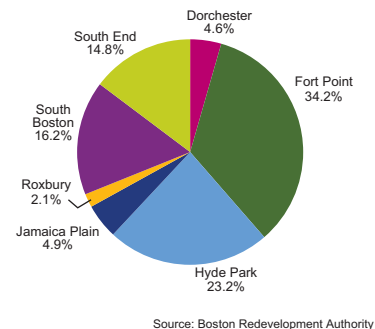
Net & Percent Change in Attendance at Select Boston Area Museums, 2005-2007



State Funding of the Massachusetts Cultural Council & Cultural Facilities Fund FY1988 to FY2009



Distribution of New Artist Housing by Boston Neighborhood, 2001-2008



Arts, Culture & Humanities Nonprofit Organizations Net Change MA 2003-Q1 2009

