

Critical Wind and Wildfires Rapid Impact Assessment

Brief #3, February 25, 2025

This brief summarizes preliminary findings from the [Rapid Impact Assessment](#) launched on January 29 to measure the impact of the critical windstorm and fire events emergency on the arts and culture community.

139 individual artists and **55 arts organizations and institutions** have responded to the surveys, as of noon on February 14.

In addition to quantitative data provided, both individual artists and arts organizations had an opportunity to describe the impact of the fires in their own words. These responses were coded into categories and a summary is presented in this report.

If you were impacted by the fires – directly or indirectly – and haven't yet completed the survey, we encourage you to take it: ncaper.org/rapidimpactassessment

Artists

"My studio was where I created and sold my art, and without it, I can no longer produce or sell my work."

"Lost many priceless irreplicable folk instruments."

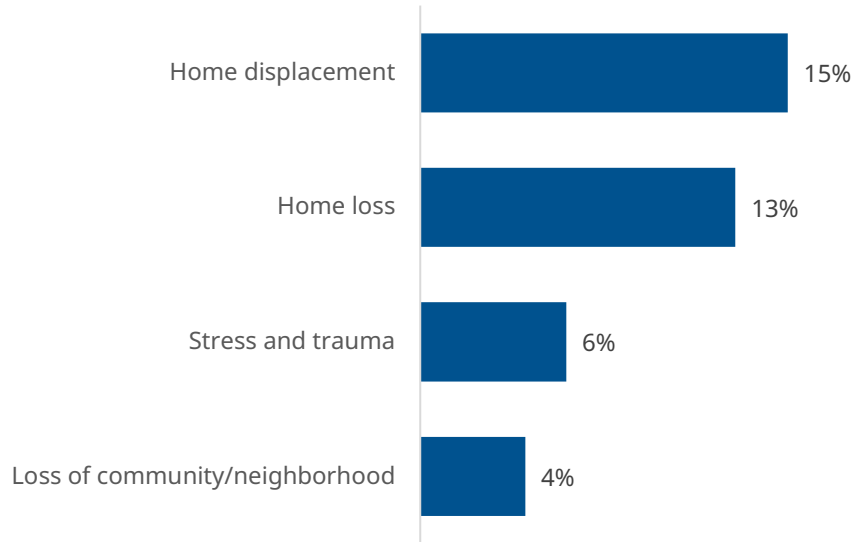


Organizations

"Right now, the main challenge is regaining stability."

"We've had members of our community (students, staff, leadership) who have lost their homes and cars."

Artists: home or personal impacts (n=139)



Individual artists

Thirty percent of respondents were visual artists, 17 percent were musicians, and 16 percent were multidisciplinary.

Individual artist respondents' homes were significantly impacted with 28 percent reporting home displacement or loss. In addition to home displacement, 6 percent also reported studio displacement (see next page).

Four percent specifically mentioned the impact of losing entire neighborhoods and communities.

"...Along with the house, the cafes, the grocery store, the post office - all the places I experienced COMMUNITY are gone. Neighbors are dispersed. It's overwhelming."

Individual Artists

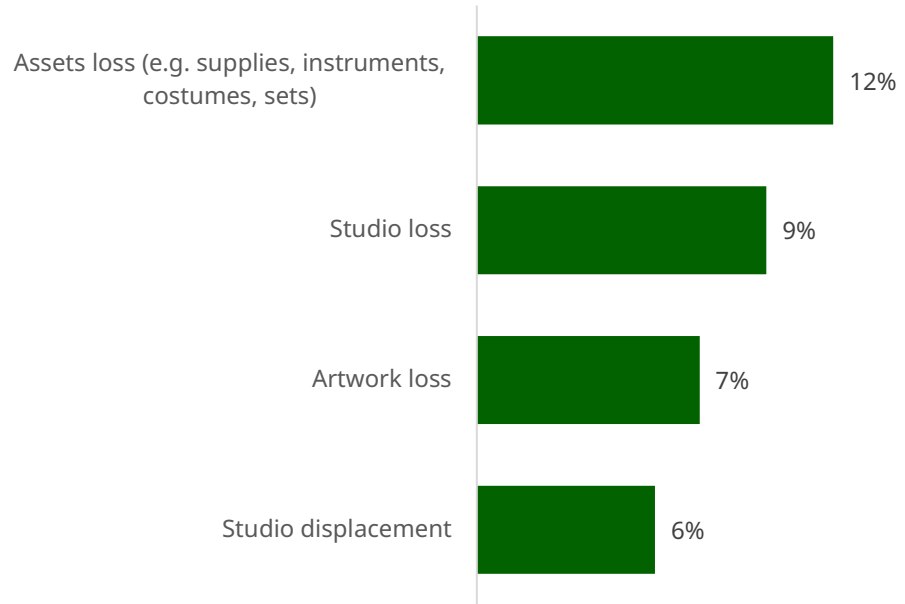
Twenty-two percent of artist respondents referenced financial burden as a critical impact. Nearly half of the artists (48 percent) described loss or damage to assets necessary for performance, presentation, or creation of art, such as artwork, instruments, supplies, or workspaces.

Disruption of work was also an area of concern for some, mainly due to cancellation of engagements and the need to tend to personal issues forcing artists to forgo job opportunities.

"Everything has burned to the ground: shop equipment, materials as well as components of my installations."

"Entire home destroyed. All instruments lost."

Artists: work or business impacts (n=139)



Arts organizations and institutions

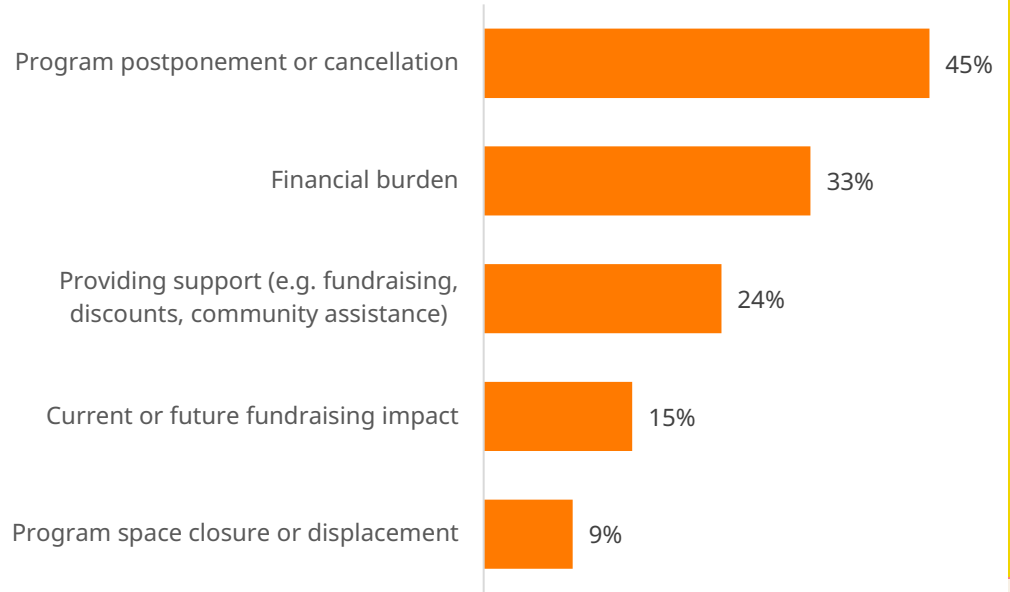
Forty-five percent of responding organizations reported program postponement or cancellation due to the winds and wildfire emergency, and 33 percent described financial burden.

Despite the challenges they face, just under a quarter (24 percent) of the organizations reported they are engaged in providing some level of recovery assistance or service to communities affected.

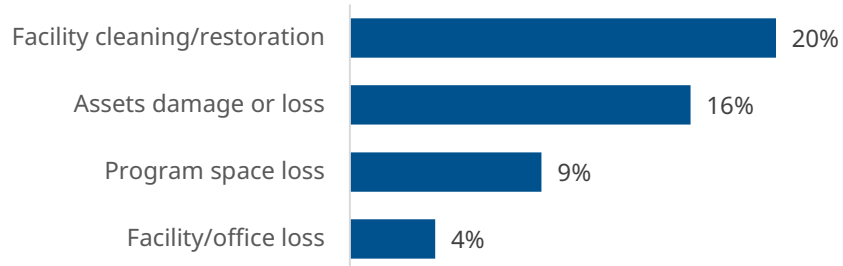
Fifteen percent of respondents anticipate fundraising challenges resulting from the high number of donors impacted and redirection of philanthropic dollars toward recovery.

"We put aside current fundraising to work on fire benefit fundraising and hiring artists from the affected areas for these efforts."

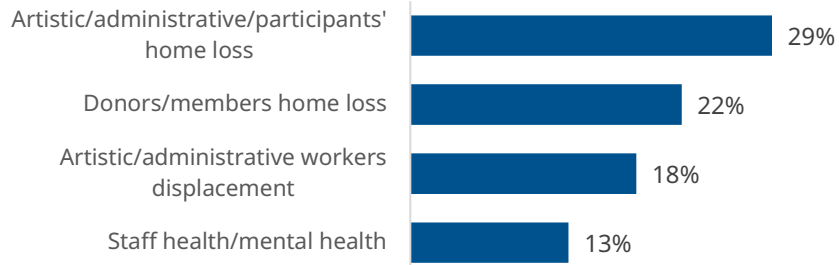
Impacts on organizational operations (n=55)



Impacts on physical assets (n=55)



Impacts on stakeholders (n=55)



Arts organizations and institutions

Twenty-nine percent of arts organizations and institutions reported loss of assets, program space or office. Nearly half (44 percent) described loss or damage to assets such as artwork, instruments, supplies, as well as the spaces in which they perform, present, or create.

Arts organizations and institutions shared great concern for their stakeholders, reporting home loss, health issues and displacement among staff, donors, members, supporters, and program participants.

“The immediate and long-term implications of the fires on things like mental health and philanthropy will surely negatively impact arts organizations going forward.”

Arts organizations and institutions

Other impacts included reports of staff trauma and stress, physical symptoms due to poor air quality and home loss. Arts organizations and institutions also described taking preventative action to protect their facilities and assets from future fires/natural disasters. Many anticipate a long recovery process, with the totality of impact not being realized for quite some time.

Summary

This is not a complete report of all impact on the arts and culture community. Artists, creatives, arts organizations, and cultural institutions are continuing to respond to the [Rapid Impact Assessment](#) surveys, and we will continue to keep them open for as long as needed.

More information is available at our [Wildfire Impact Reporting](#) page.

