

Critical Wind and Wildfires Rapid Impact Assessment

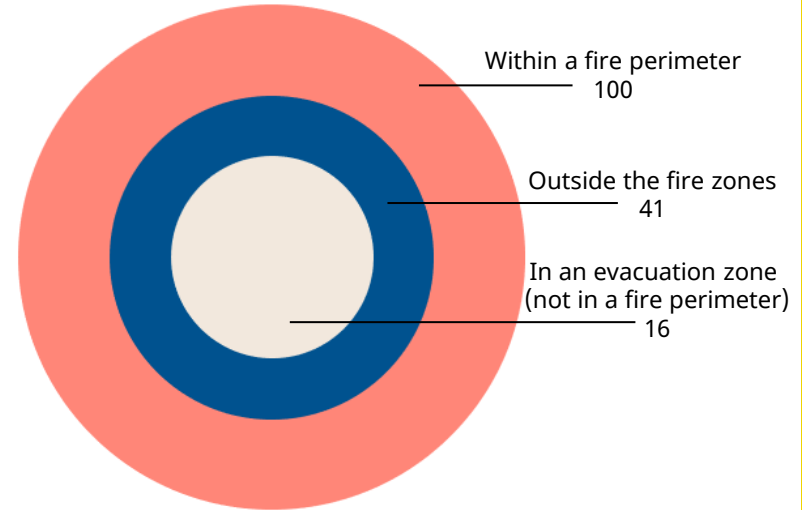
Brief #4, March 12, 2025

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.

While the immediate emergency may have passed, artists and creative workers, as well as arts organizations and institutions continue to experience both direct and indirect impacts. **157 individual artists** from 56 zip codes and **64 arts organizations and institutions** located in 40 zip codes have responded to the surveys, as of March 7.

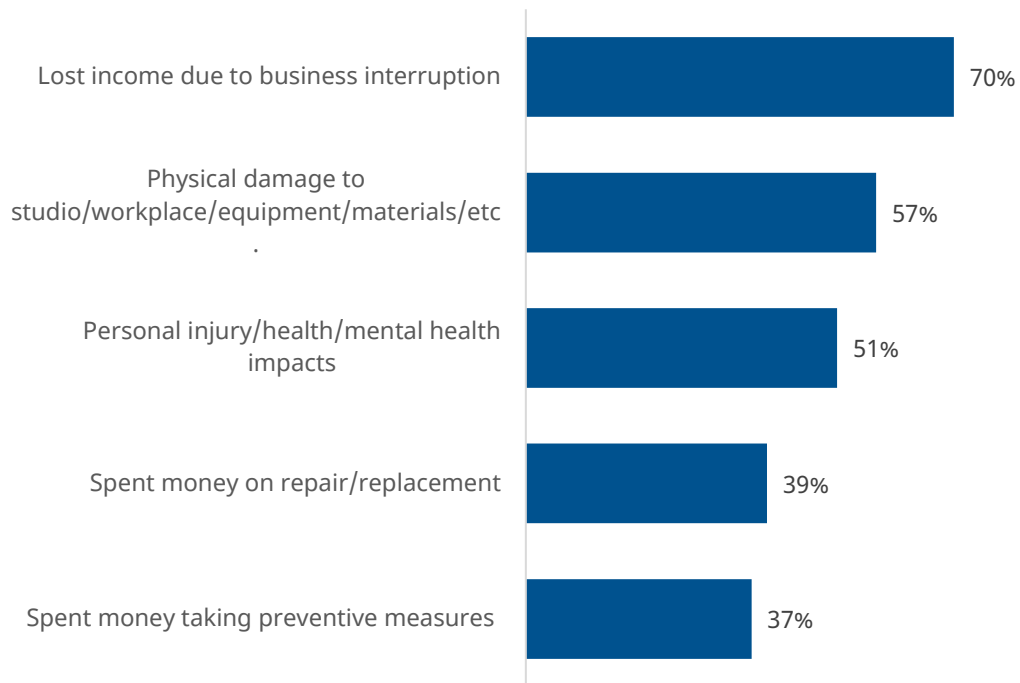
If you were impacted by the fires – directly or indirectly – and haven't yet completed the survey, we encourage you to take it: ncaper.org/rapidimpactassessment

Individual artist locations*



*based on residential zip codes

Major impacts on individual artists (n=157)



Individual artists

As the figure on the previous page shows, 64 percent of artists responding to this survey were within a fire perimeter, while another 10 percent were inside an evacuation zone.

While nearly one-third of these artists were visual artists (32 percent), 17 percent were musicians, 15 percent were multidisciplinary, and eight percent work in media arts. Another six percent each were theater artists and design artists.

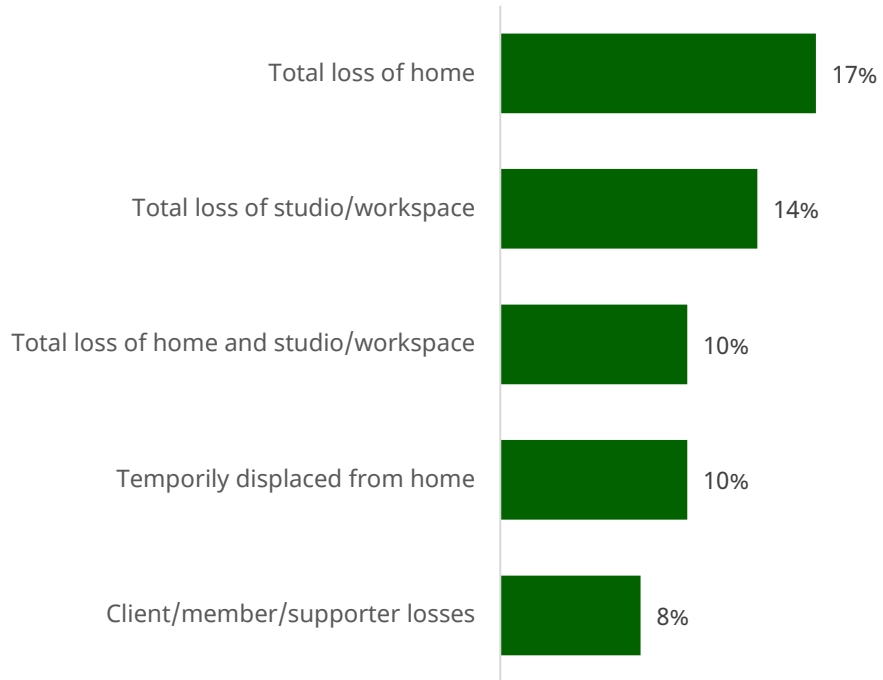
More than half of all responding artists had experienced lost income, physical damage, or personal health impacts. Many experienced more than one of these.

In addition to answering multiple-choice questions, artists were given the opportunity to describe the impact of the fires in their own words. These answers were coded into categories, as shown in this chart.

While 17 percent of them experienced a total loss of their home and 14 percent experienced a total loss of their studio or workspace, 10 percent lost both. Most often, this is because their studio or workspace was located in their home.

Ten percent experienced temporary displacement from their homes. In many cases they described damage to homes as well as lingering health effects of ash and soot from the fires.

Other impacts on individual artists (n=157)



Arts organizations and institutions

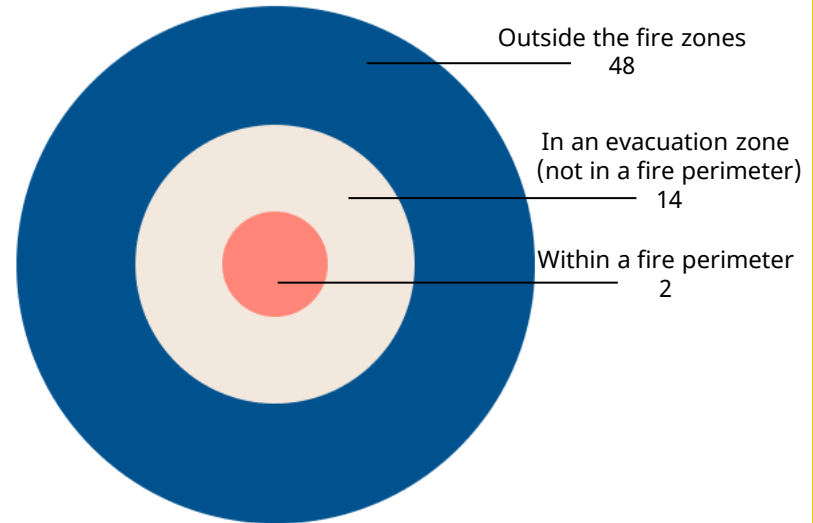
Of the 64 arts organizations and institutions that responded to the survey, 3 percent were located inside the fire perimeter and 22 percent were located in an evacuation zone.

Notwithstanding their location, 21 organizations (33 percent) sustained some kind of damage during the wind and wildfires. Of these, at the time of their response,

- Five were unable to provide services
- Five were able to provide limited services
- Eleven were able to operate at full capacity

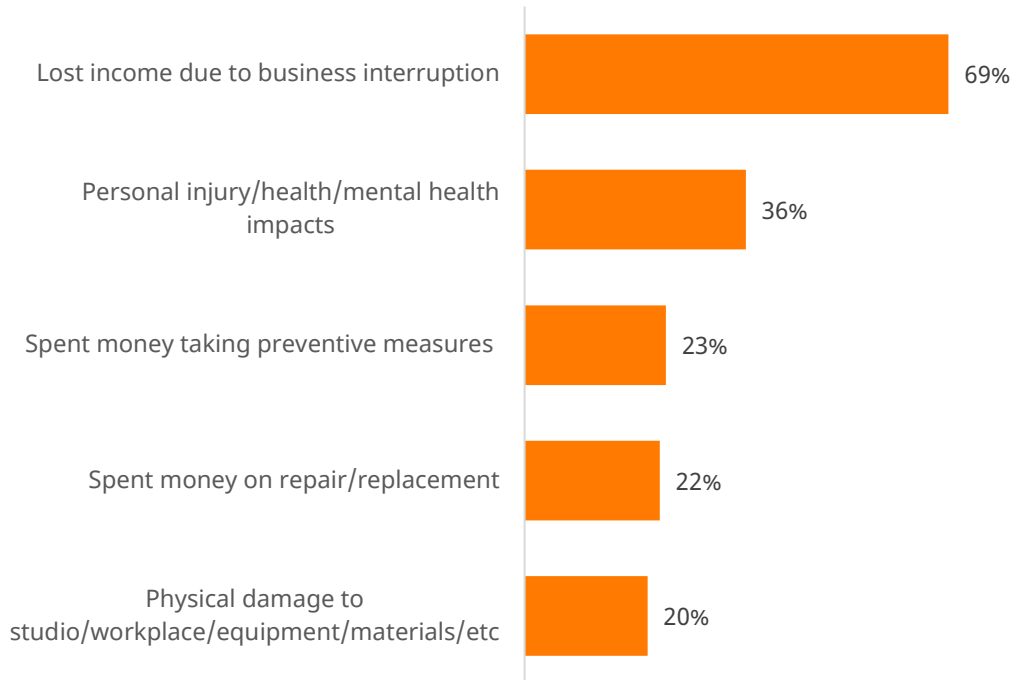
Half of the organizations that responded were performing arts organizations, 23 percent were arts community organizations, 14 percent were visual arts organizations or galleries, 13 percent were schools, and 11 percent were media arts organizations.

Arts organizations and institutions locations



*based on office or location addresses

Major impacts on organizations and institutions (n=64)



As was true for individual artists, the most common impact on organizations and institutions was loss of income due to business interruption (69 percent). More than one-third reported that they or their staff had experienced personal injury or health impacts.

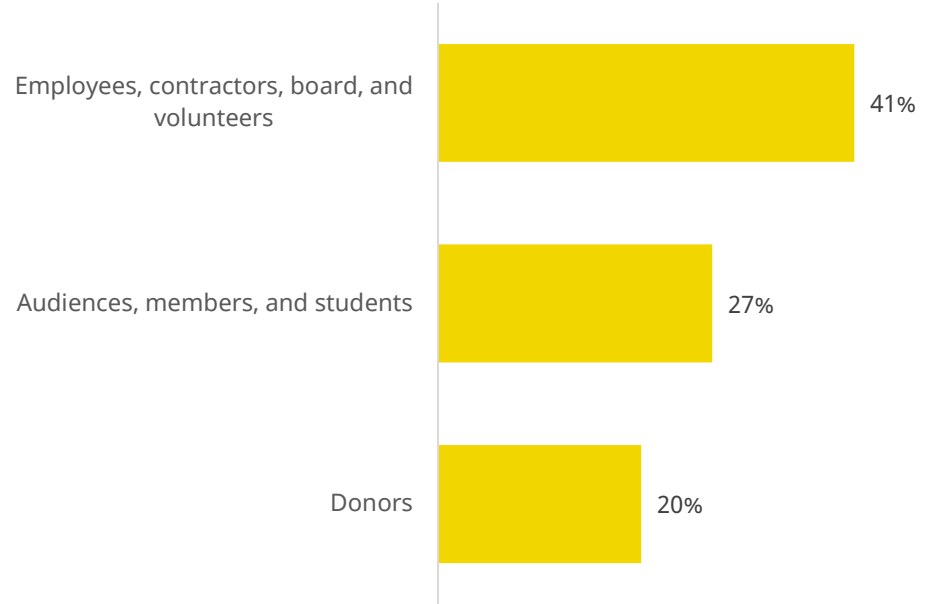
When describing the impact of the wildfires in their own words, many talked about the impact on their employees, contractors, board members, or volunteers. They also told about the impact on the communities they serve, especially their audiences, members, and students.

The impacts they described included temporary and permanent displacements, as well as physical and mental health impacts. Many provided details about their revenue losses, including cancelled shows, reduced ticket sales, and tuition reimbursements.

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

Despite the challenges they face, 22 percent of organizations and institutions reported they are engaged in providing some level of recovery assistance or service to communities affected. This ranged from directly raising funds, to providing arts and culture services for free, to amplifying calls for financial support from others in their communities.

Other impacts on organizations and institutions (n=64)



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.