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## The Impact of the Recession on Arts Education in American Communities

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Community arts education providers across the country report they are being forced to reduce classes and programs, cut back or eliminate outreach activities, cut faculty and staff positions, and in some cases, offer less financial aid to families struggling to provide arts instruction to their children.

373 community arts education providers nationwide responded to a recent web-based survey conducted by the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts during May 2009. The purpose of the survey is to understand the recession's impact on community arts education organizations, their students and those they employ. These organizations include music, theater, visual arts, media arts and dance schools; multi-arts centers; and community divisions of performing arts organizations, cultural centers, museums and universities in 43 states.

### Which artistic disciplines are taught by your organization (check all that apply)?

Music	59%
Visual Arts	44%
Theater Arts	41%
Dance	37%
Literary Arts	20%
Media Arts	18%
Photography	18%
Folk Arts/Crafts	16%

### In which of the following areas does your organization operate programs? (check all that apply)

Urban (operating programs in the center of a large city)	59%
Suburban (operating programs in a metropolitan area but outside of the city's center)	46%
Rural (operating programs in a small town or rural district)	30%

**In response to the recession, has your organization had to... (check all that apply)**

cut staff and/or faculty positions?	43%
reduce salaries, work hours and/or benefits?	43%
reduce professional development and/or travel expenses?	62%
Skipped question	24%

**Has your organization... (check all that apply)**

experienced a decline in enrollment in classes, lessons, camps, etc., for which you charge tuition?	51%
had to eliminate or reduce subsidized arts education programs (i.e., those supported in whole or in part by grants and/or contributions)?	38%
cut financial aid awards to needy students?	20%
Skipped question	27%

Of the 172 organizations able to predict, an estimated total of 356,000 students will not have access to high quality arts instruction as a result of the recession this year. Nationally the field is comprised of more than 5,000 nonprofit community arts education providers leading us to believe that thousands, if not millions, more are likely to be affected.

With many respondents saying the deeper impact is still to come, it can be difficult to see any opportunity during this time. However, a few community arts providers say the recession has forced them to examine and strengthen their mission and business model and focus more sharply on what is essential. New partnerships and collaborations and a greater effort to share resources and services with other organizations are also cited.

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