

ART ECOSYSTEM

The art ecosystem is a summary of all the different ways artists, art and culture interact with the Finnish society. For more information, visit Uniarts Helsinki's Art Pro Finland material bank at artpro.uniarts.fi.

✕ Artists and the Arts

There are an estimated 25,000 professional artists in Finland. Research determines professionalism in the arts through factors such as an artist's education, received grants, memberships in associations, and compensation paid for their artistic work. An artistic career might begin during childhood, such as in the case of an actor, and engagement in the arts often continues well into retirement. Independent artist, grant-funded artist, freelancer, entrepreneur, light entrepreneur, employee – many artistic careers are shaped by a combination of these roles, either simultaneously or sequentially.

✕ Artist's Inner Circle

For artists, the role of colleagues and personal networks is significant. Many join artists' associations through field-specific or regional unions. The unions promote the interests of artists and provide legal counselling and channels to exert influence. Many independent associations also organise art events and activities related to performing, exhibitions, distribution, residency and training. Finland's national network of artist associations is called Forum Artis.

By joining a copyright organisation, artists can authorise the organisation to manage their copyrights, supervise the use of their works, grant licences to their works and to collect and distribute royalties.

✕ Artist's Qualifications

Artists may have formal qualifications or degrees in the arts, while others are self-taught or learn their discipline through non-formal training. For professional artists, the educational field offers both supplementary training and job opportunities.

Basic Education in the Arts is provided through the art studies offered to children and young people outside the school curriculum. Artists can work as teachers providing such basic education or operate a dance school, for example.

Institutes of higher education – universities of applied sciences, research universities, and the University of the Arts – provide education and carry out research in the fields of arts, art education, creative industries, culture, and the media.

✕ Artist's Income

Artists earn their living by creating art and performing, selling their works, from royalties, grants and scholarships, and through employment and self-employment. It is typical for earnings to vary and occur from different sources simultaneously. For artists doing gig or project work, short periods of unemployment are also common. Wages can be earned in the field of performing arts, for example, through permanent employment or freelance engagements with numerous entities, from providing art-related wellbeing services in care facilities, teaching and training work, various expert and design tasks, and work in other sectors.

Grants and scholarships have a particularly significant role in the fields where there are no art institutions offering paid work. The amount and periods of working grants vary between funders.

✕ Artist's Taxation and Social Security

An artist pays taxes on their wages and remuneration according to their tax card. Working grants are tax-exempt up to a certain amount. When selling works and services, an artist must pay value-added tax if their annual sales revenue exceeds the VAT threshold.

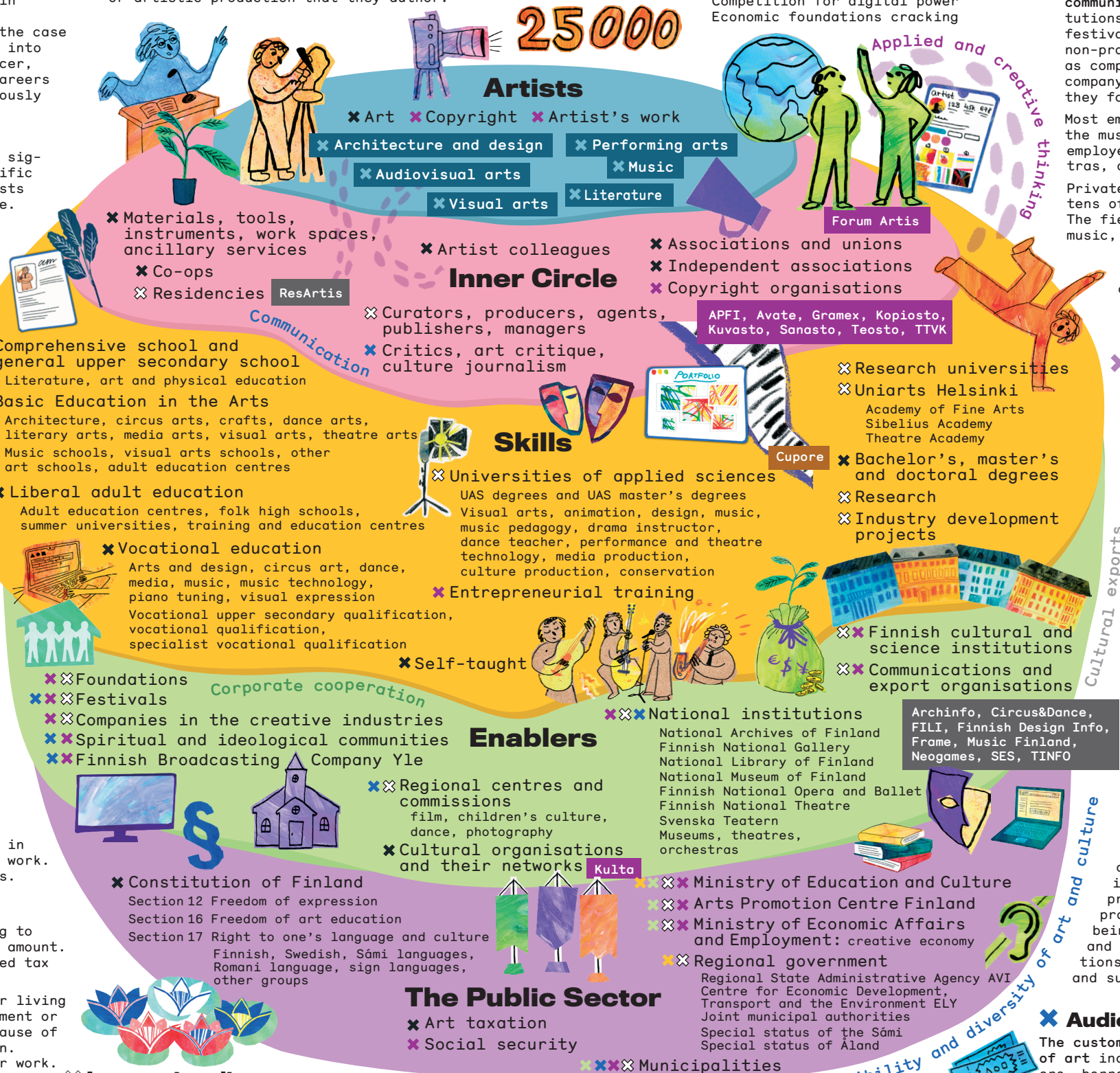
Social security provides support if a person cannot earn their living independently, for reasons such as studies, illness, unemployment or having a child. If an artist's ability to work is reduced because of an injury or illness, they can be granted a disability pension. The amount of the pension is affected by compensation paid for work. For example, royalties are not compensation paid for work and therefore do not affect the amount of disability pension.

For an artist in salaried employment, the employer pays the earnings-related pension insurance contributions (TyEL). The recipient of a working grant for a period lasting at least four months must take out MYEL pension insurance. A self-employed artist must take out self-employed pension insurance (YEL) once their earnings exceed the income threshold. Pension insurance entitles an artist to a pension, and protection against occupational accidents or illness. It is possible to have several pension insurance policies at the same time. Being employed or having self-employed pension insurance (YEL) does not remove the obligation to take out MYEL insurance for a grant period.

An artist may also be granted a supplementary artist's pension in recognition of an outstanding contribution to art.

Article 27 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right to participate in culture and enjoy arts, and to the protection of interests resulting from any literary or artistic production that they author.



✕ Enablers of the Arts

Commissioners, producers, funders, promoters, publishers, distributors, brokers, exporters and sellers of art and those communicating on art form a diverse group of national institutions, regional and local museums, orchestras, theatres and festivals, expert organisations working in the background, non-profit organisations, associations and communities as well as companies of different sizes, from the state broadcasting company Yle to companies with just a few employees. Together, they form the so-called intermediary layer of art and culture.

Most employment opportunities for artists are found in the music and performing arts industries. Large institutional employers include national and regional theatres and orchestras, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

Private foundations and funds support art and culture with tens of millions of euros every year. The fields that receive the most support from foundations are music, literature, visual arts, performing arts and cinema.

Leader groups, or local action groups, promote the vitality and wellbeing of rural areas. Leader funding can be granted for, among other things, business development, renovating cultural spaces, or starting international activities. The funding decisions are confirmed by ELY Centres.

✕ Art and the Public Sector

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for areas including research, education and early childhood education; art and culture; archives, museums and public libraries; religious communities; and copyright. The Arts Promotion Centre Finland (Taike) is an expert and service agency operating under the Ministry of Education and Culture. Taike promotes art nationally and internationally.

The Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI) promote regional equality. The Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY) develop regions by improving the conditions to produce art and culture services, in order to enhance the availability, accessibility and diversity of art. ELY Centres process all project applications for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF+) in Finland.

Regional councils are joint municipal authorities with two primary statutory tasks: regional development and regional land use planning. Many regional councils also have their own cultural strategy and even funding for developing creative industries.

The Åland Islands and the Sámi Homeland have their own structures that support regional art and culture, and promote international and Nordic collaboration.

All Finnish municipalities have their own library and a statutory obligation to provide cultural activities. Municipalities create the conditions for artistic work and activities. They maintain culture centres, museums, theatres, chairs and orchestras, in addition to funding grants, employing artists and providing spaces for different operators. Municipalities promote the availability, internationality, and wellbeing benefits of art and culture, as well as offering art and cultural education. Municipalities and the organisations operating within them can receive government grants and subsidies for their cultural activities.

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