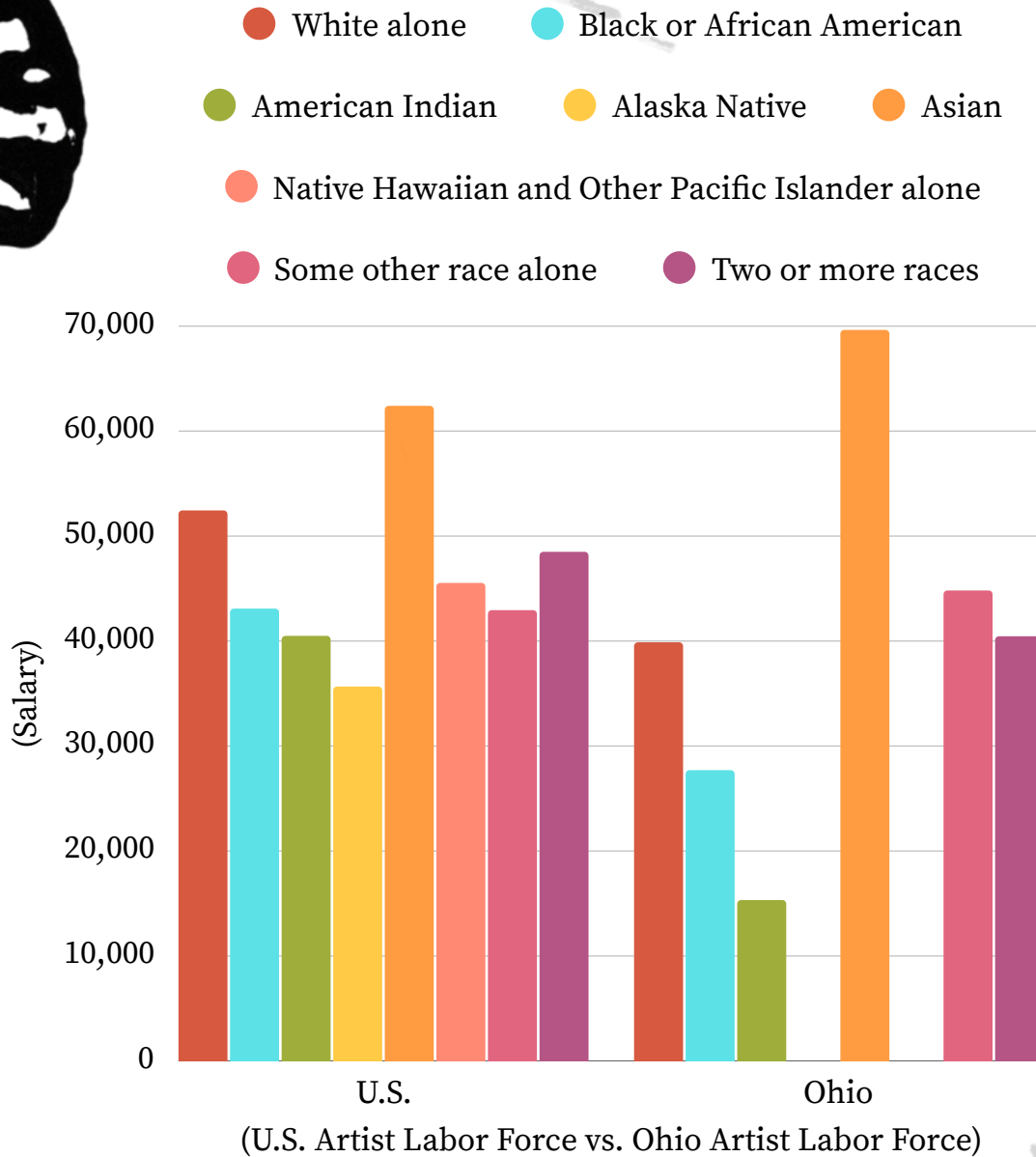




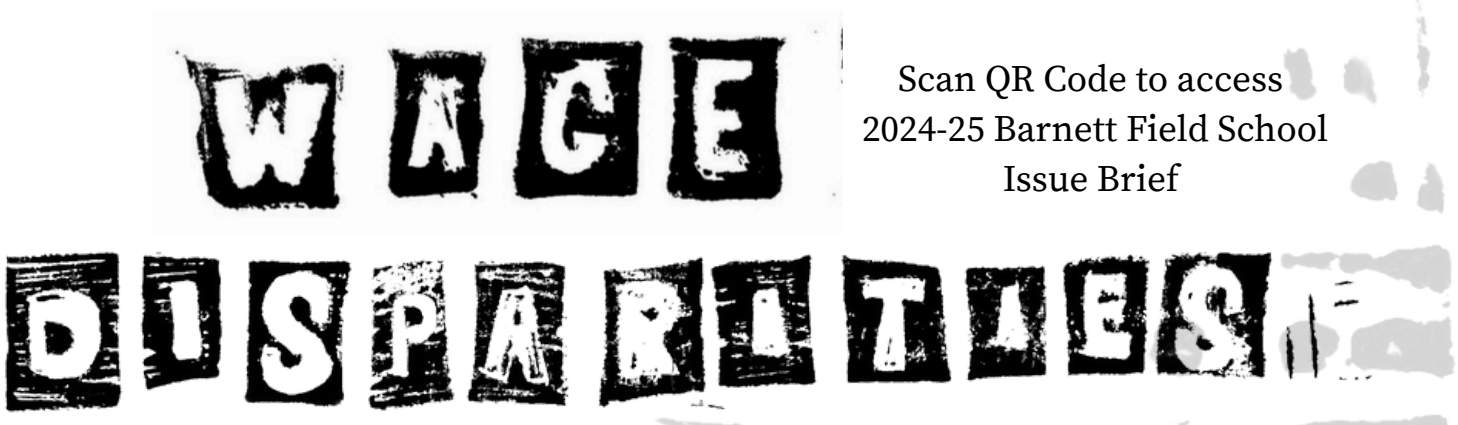
Figure 1: U.S. and Ohio Artist Labor Force



Within Ohio, the creative sector had an economic impact of \$32.9 billion and supported over 132,000 jobs in Ohio in 2022 (Creative Ohio 2025).



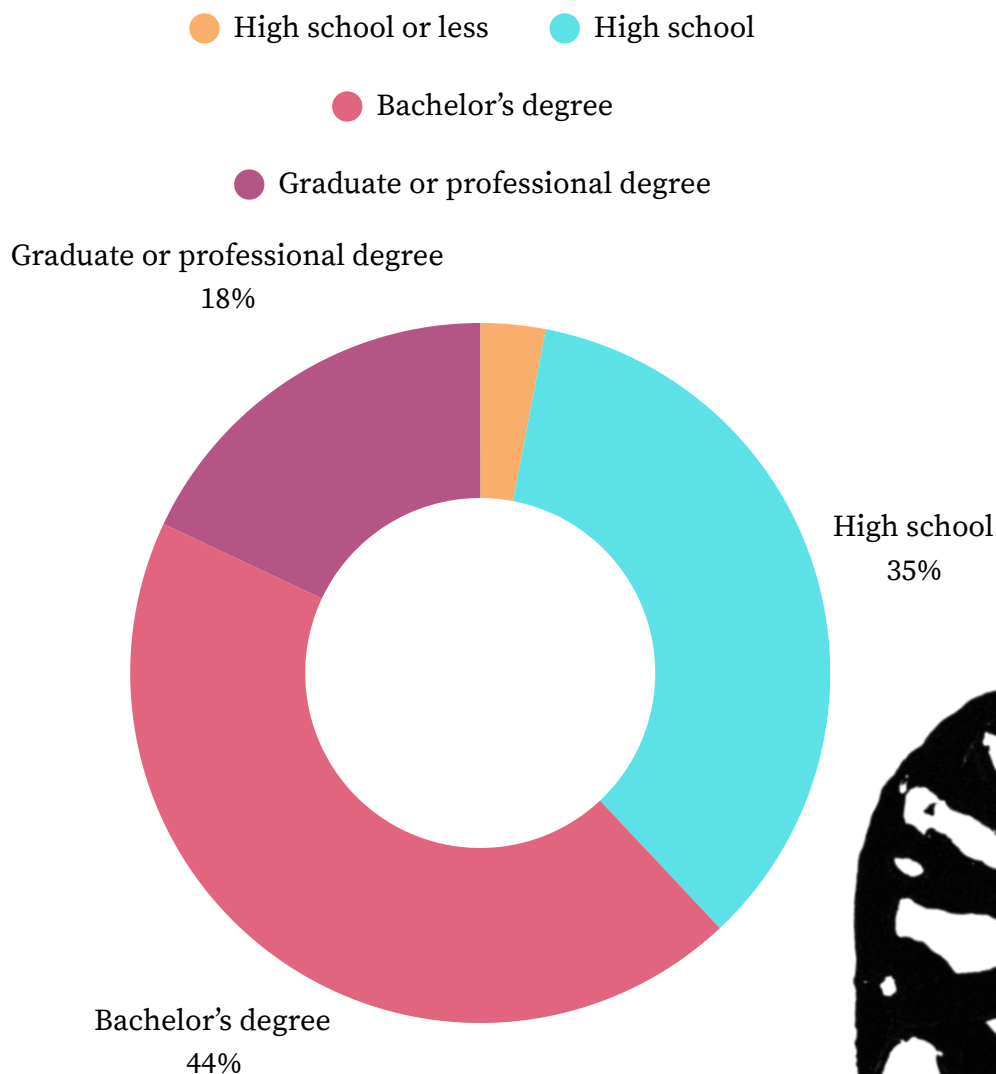
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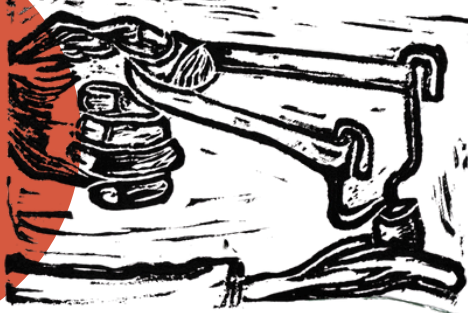


COMPOSITION DISPARITIES

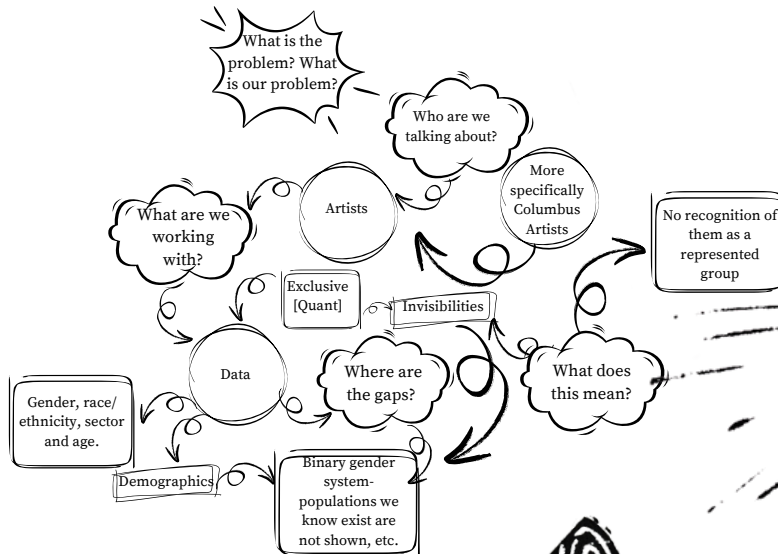
To shed light on the artist labor force within the state of Ohio, the following infographic illustrates the educational attainment levels of artists in the workforce. These figures also examine the composition and earnings of the artist labor force within the state. For more statistics on the Ohio artist labor force, including a comparative perspective on the national U.S. artist labor force, see the 2024-25 Barnett Field School's Issue Brief, *The Artist Labor Force: A Statistical Look at Ohio.*"

Figure 2: Educational Attainment of Ohio Artist Labor Force





Understanding the financial challenges of performing artists is key to making positive changes. Dancers' pay varies, but there are gaps in compensation for their labor. Our survey examined how dancers in Columbus are paid, their cost of living, and their working conditions. By collecting this data, we can push for fair wages and long-term career stability for dancers.



"There is a need for artist-led spaces in Columbus, but the current arts labor force is too unorganized and underfunded for there to be a space where artists can share their knowledge"
~ Indigo Gonzalez-Miller, 24 January 2025



GCAC's individual grants are easy to access and non-competitive, with a clear application process supported by workshops and online resources. Artists benefit from its transparency, and community engagement helps them find funding. Providing more dedicated support for students and emerging artists would make the program even more inclusive and effective.



"Can arts educational programming for youth increase diverse perspectives in the Ohio artist labor force?"



Artist Year and Visionary Labs are art education programs that connect students to the arts through professionals in the artistic field and access to their wealth of knowledge. Both believe in the importance of student access and promote diversity within the arts, as students without access are left unaware and unengaged in opportunities. This is why individuals like The National Program Director of Artist Year, Maggie Phillips, thinks that programming helps students with areas like their portfolios to art schools "who never knew that could be an option." Contributions like Artist Year and Visionary labs lead additions in diverse perspectives in artist environments, impacting spaces like the Ohio Artist Labor Force.

Do you feel that creativity alone isn't enough for success? Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) data show that artists feel as if their education didn't fully prepare them for a career as an artist.

Finance, project management, networking, technological literacy, and grant writing are essential, too.



Scan the QR-code for a list of creative incubators, project management tools, free learning resources, and granting organization websites.

Barnett Field School at The Ohio State University
The Lawrence and Isabel Barnett Center for Integrated Arts and Enterprise established The Barnett Field School Fellowship in 1993. It is a collaborative class where students explore arts and related entrepreneurial fields. Its goal is to introduce students to the business side of the arts and the worlds of arts management, policy, and culture.

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