



Building Long-Term Stability for Our Creative Community



Mission

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) connects Houston's creative community by equipping artists and organizations with support, resources, and partnerships to grow and lead with creative strength.

Vision

We envision a Houston where the arts are woven into everyday life and artists, organizations, neighbors, and visitors can flourish together.

Values

- champion creativity
- collaboration with community
- respond with care
- steward cultural life



ABOUT HAA

Houston's local arts agency.

We strengthen
Houston's creative
ecosystem.



INVEST

in artists and
organizations



CONNECT

People to resources
and opportunities



PARTNER

across sectors



BRIDGE

the creative community
and public systems

LEADERSHIP

Michelle Dobbins

Director of
Resilience & Recovery



25 + years

of nonprofit experience; background in community-based recovery, long-term disaster case management, and emergency management

State & federal grants

DHAP, SSBG, CDBG, and CDBG-DR

Leadership roles

Advisory Board for TX-CERA

Former Chair of the Texas Gulf Coast Regional
VOAD

Former Committee member of the Harris County
Long-Term Recovery Committee

The People Behind the Art



People & Families

Artists and arts workers are people first, with families and responsibilities beyond their creative work.



Livelihoods

Artists and arts workers need stable income, economic opportunities, and support to sustain their livelihoods.



Creative Work

Creative work depend on equipment, materials, performance spaces, and access to markets to continue their work..



Community

Arts and culture contribute to community connections, collaboration, and belonging.



Resilience

Artists, arts workers, and arts and cultural organizations need to be included in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning.

Because when we plan for people, we build a stronger, more resilient community – for everyone.

PRIOR WORK

When Our Creative Community Needs Us.

A look back at our
emergency relief
support.



Hurricane Harvey Response

95

Grants made

\$115,770

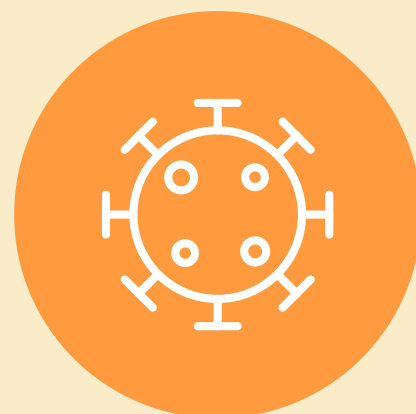
Awarded



Derecho/Beryl Response

97

Assisted



Covid Response

475

Grants made

\$330,000

Raised

THE REALITY WE FACE

A more uncertain future.

Disasters and economic shocks are disrupting creative work more often and in new ways.



Disasters are becoming a recurring economic condition.



Federal disaster systems are placing greater responsibility on states and local communities.



Economic disruption can happen without physical damage.



Creative work does not always fit traditional recovery models.



Creative-sector disruption affects Houston's economy and culture.



Why the Creative Community Is Unique

01

Irregular income

02

Economic loss without physical damage

03

Nontraditional work structures

04

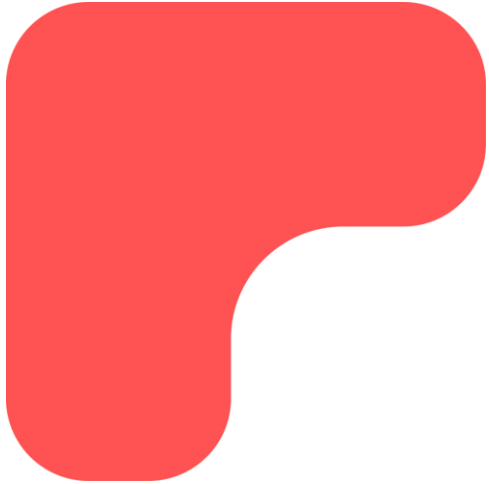
Thin financial margins

05

Irreplaceable creative and cultural assets

06

Limited organizational capacity



RESILIENCE & RECOVERY

Year-round support for a stronger tomorrow.

The Division provides **year-round support to strengthen the creative community**, including artists, cultural workers, entrepreneurs, nonprofit arts organizations, and cultural and heritage groups, helping them build stable, sustainable livelihoods.



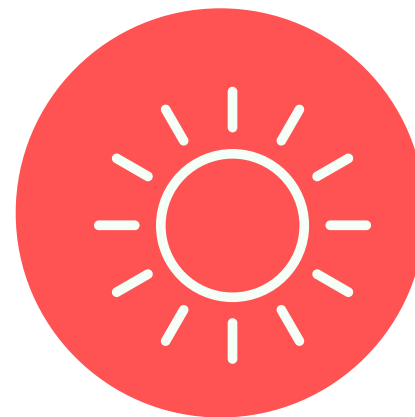
Prepare



Adapt



Recover



Thrive



The Shift

From responding to individual disruptions to strengthening the conditions that allow the creative community to prepare, adapt, recover, and remain economically viable.

 **Then**

- Respond to disruption
- Prepare and respond
- Connect to emergency resources
- Support recovery
- Build disaster partnerships

 **No**

- ✓ **Build resilience year-round**
- ✓ **Prepare, adapt, recover, thrive**
- ✓ **Strengthen access to resources and opportunities**
- ✓ **Support long-term stability**
- ✓ **Build cross-sector partnerships**

Who and How We Support

Support tailored for people and organizations at every stage.



Individuals WHO WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Career and economic stability
- ✓ Resource navigation
- ✓ Emergency assistance
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Access to opportunities

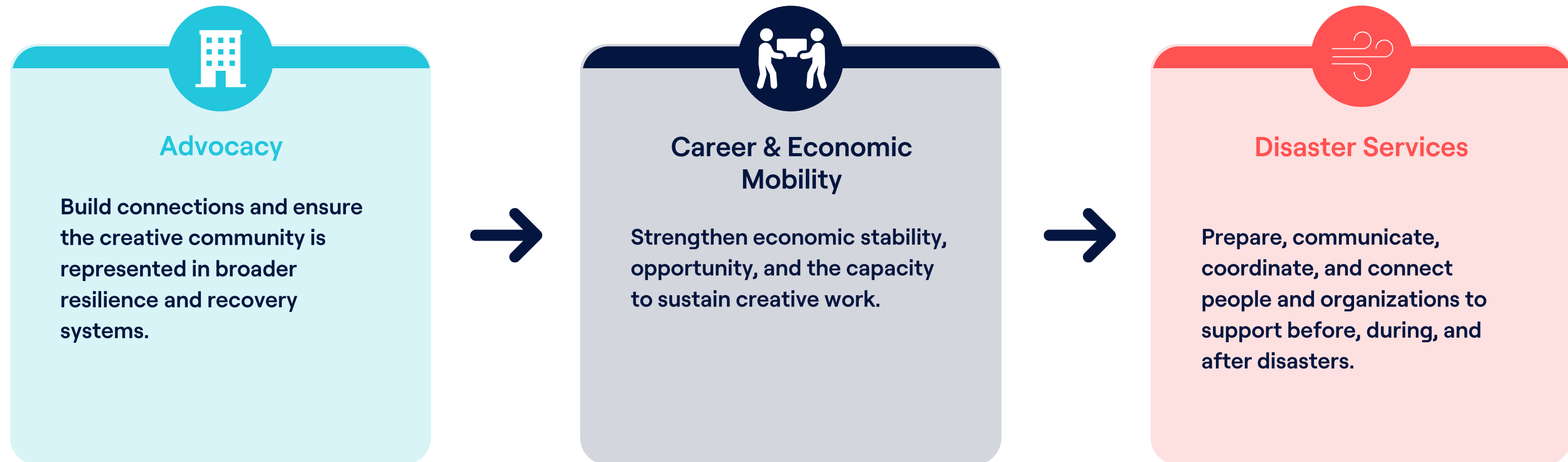


Organizations WHO WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Organizational resilience
- ✓ Continuity and preparedness
- ✓ Planning and recovery
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Partnerships and resources

How the System Works

A connected system that strengthens Houston's creative community at every stage.





What Does Success Look Like

1



More prepared

People and organizations know what to do and where to go.

2



More connected

The creative community is connected to systems and partners.

3



More economically stable

Creative workers and organizations have stronger pathways to sustain their work.

4



Faster recovery

The creative community can resume work and contribute to Houston's recovery more quickly.



A resilient creative community contributes to a resilient Houston.



Contact Us



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