

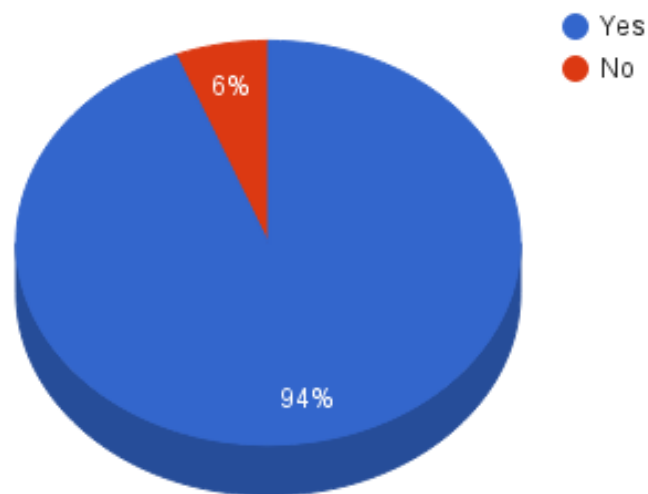
**National Arts-in-Corrections Organization Feasibility Research**  
**Summary of Responses to Initial Survey of the Field**  
**by the National Steering Committee**  
**May 2016**

## Summary

At the June 2015 conference, Arts in Corrections: Opportunities for Justice and Rehabilitation, a national steering committee was formed in order to guide the process of organizing a national support organization for artists who work in various correctional settings. Last fall, this committee designed and distributed a survey to test the level of interest in participating in such an organization. The survey's primary objective was to ascertain whether a national organization would be a valuable asset to those engaged in arts-in-correction. A total of 205 persons, representing 36 states, completed the survey instrument. The main findings are summarized here:

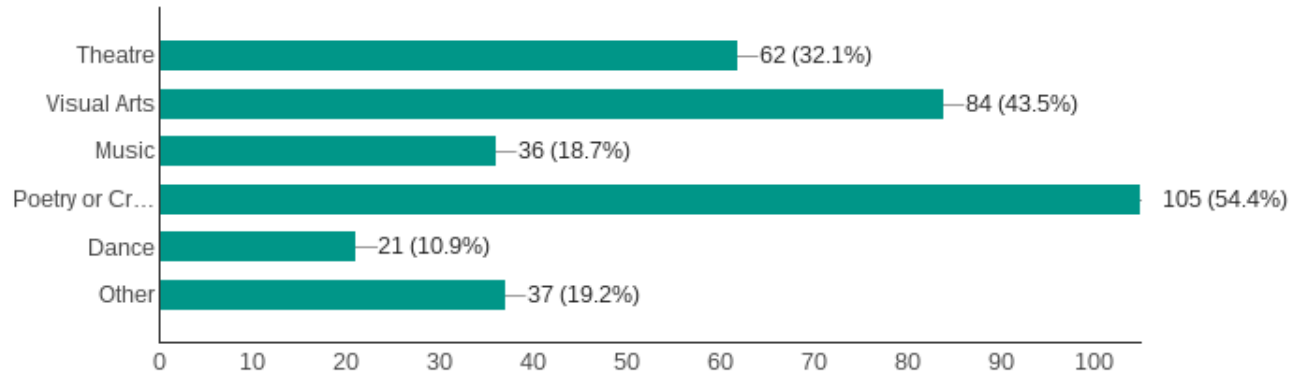
An overwhelming 94% of respondents expressed interest in joining such an organization.

### Would you be interested in joining a national support organization for arts in corrections?



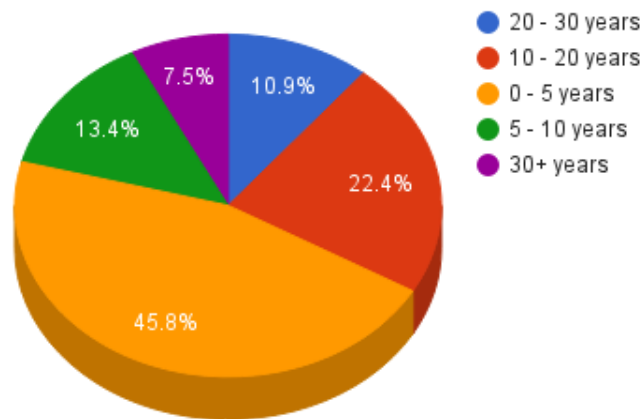
The results covered a wide range of programs in a variety of artistic disciplines, including theater, visual arts, music, poetry/creative writing, and dance.

### Artistic Discipline (193 responses)

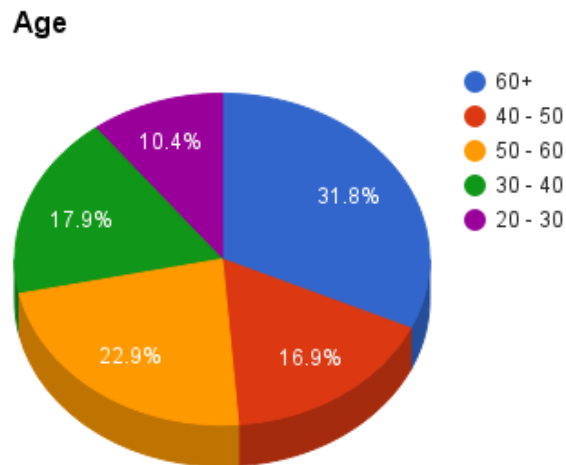


While many advocates, artists, and organizations have been involved more than 10 years, nearly half of all participants to our survey have been engaged five years or less in AIC.

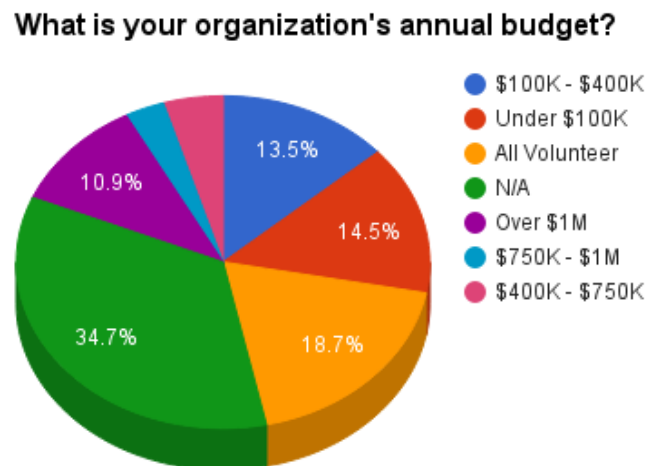
### How long have you been engaged in arts in corrections work?



Despite such a high percentage being engaged in this work for 5 years or less, respondents to our survey represented diverse age groups; however the largest group is more than 60 years old.



Organizations of various sizes and budgets were represented in this survey.

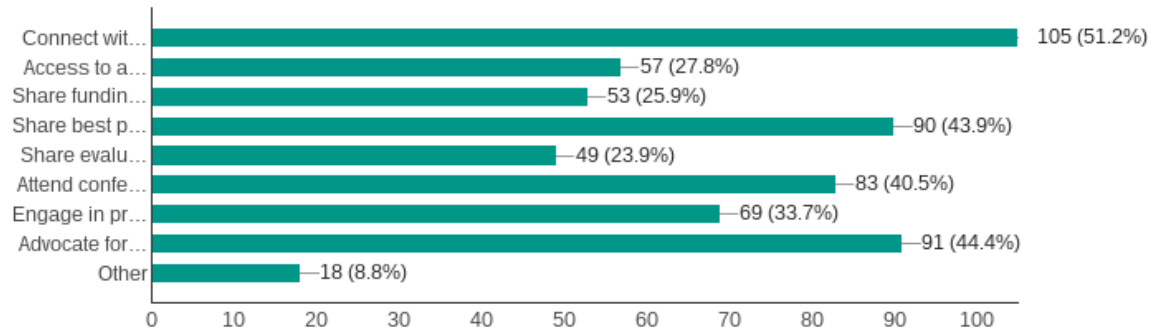


Asked for the top three ways they would use the services of such an organization, respondents listed:

1. Connect with others in the field,
2. Advocate for public support and
3. Share best practices.

### Select the top three ways in which you would utilize potential national prison arts association services.

(205 responses)



The Arts-in-Corrections Steering Committee (of prison arts advocates and practitioners) includes:

Jonathan Blanco - [Oregon State Penitentiary Hobby Shop](#)

Laurie Brooks - [William James Association](#)

Nathalie Costa Thill - [Adirondack Center for Writing](#)

Lesley Currier - [Marin Shakespeare Company](#)

Weston Dombroski - [California Lawyers for the Arts](#)

Cynthia Gutierrez - [Barrios Unidos Prison Project](#)

Freddy Gutierrez - [Community Worker, Performing Artist](#)

Wendy Jason - [Prison Arts Coalition](#)

Illya Kowalchuk - [Pop Culture Classroom](#)

Alma Robinson - [California Lawyers for the Arts](#)

Victoria Sammartino - [Voices UnBroken](#)

Ella Turenne - [Artist, Activist, Educator; Occidental College](#)

Treacy Ziegler - [An Open Window](#)

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