MISSION

To inspire and showcase Deaf Culture and Sign Languages through the arts

Deaf Spotlight wants to collect data to support the future generations of underrepresented artists. This will be an annual effort to understand, to support and to create more equitable opportunities for Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing artists and creatives to succeed in their respective careers and industries across North America.

Thank you, everyone, who participated in this first survey. If any questions, please contact info@deafspotlight.org.

76 RESPONSES
Where do you live?

How do you identify yourself in your career?

- Emerging: 32%
  - I am in the early stage of my career

- Mid-Career: 49%
  - I have received regional or national recognition for my work

- Established: 19%
  - I have made a nationally or internationally recognized contribution to my arts discipline
How long have you been a practicing artist?

- 1-5 years: 20%
- 6-10 years: 19%
- 11-20 years: 27%
- 21-30 years: 20%
- 40+ years: 14%

What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

- High School: 5%
- Ph.d. or higher: 3%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 44%
- Trade School: 5%
- Master’s Degree: 40%
- Prefer not to say: 3%

Do you have formal education in your artistic discipline (college degree, professional development courses, workshops, certifications, on-the-jobtraining)?

- Yes: 61%
- No: 38%
What is your current artistic discipline (select all that apply)?

- Craft: 23%
- Dance: 3%
- Digital: 53%
- Film: 26%
- Literary: 12%
- Management: 14%
- Music: 10%
- Media: 31%
- Museology: 1%
- Poetry: 14%
- Performance: 23%
- Tactile: 8%
- Theatre: 30%
- Visual: 55%
- Sculpture: 1%
- Lighting Design: 1%
- Mixed Media: 1%
- Photography: 1%
What is your income level?

- 28% Under $20,000
- 15% $20,000 to $40,000
- 20% $40,001 to $60,000
- 12% $60,001 to $80,000
- 9% $80,001 or over
- 16% Decline to state

How do you identify yourself?

- 85% Deaf
- 4% DeafBlind
- 3% DeafDisabled
- 23% Hard of Hearing

What is your primary Language?

- 73% ASL
- 0% Black American Sign Language (BASL)
- 0% ProTactile
- 3% Bilingual: ASL/English
- 21% English
- 1% Spanish / English
What is your age?

- 18-24: 1%
- 25-34: 31%
- 35-44: 28%
- 45-54: 13%
- 55-59: 8%
- 60-64: 8%
- 65-74: 9%
- Decline to state: 1%

What is your immigrant status?

- An immigrant: 5%
- Not an immigrant: 95%

What is your gender?

- Female Cisgender: 50%
- Male Cisgender: 40%
- Transgender: 1%
- Nonbinary: 3%
- Decline to state: 2%
What is your sexual orientation?

- 14% Bisexual
- 48% Heterosexual
- 16% Gay
- 10% Queer
- 7% Lesbian
- 1% Demisexual

How do you define your race and ethnicity?

- 8% Asian/Asian American
- 7% Biracial/Multiracial
- 5% Black/African American
- 8% Hispanic
- 8% Latinx
- 1% Spanish
- 4% Native American/Indigenous American
- 0% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 0% South Asian
- 61% Caucasian
- 9% Prefer not to specify

Do you live in a rural, suburban, or urban area?

- 5% Rural
- 33% Suburban
- 62% Urban
Do you feel welcome in the hearing arts world?

- 21% Yes
- 24% No
- 55% Somewhat

Have you felt discriminated from the hearing arts world?

- 30% Yes
- 30% No
- 40% Somewhat

Who were your biggest supporters as you developed your artistic skills?

- 1% Art Museum
- 1% Community
- 1% Book Sources
- 1% Arts Organization
- 1% Consumers
- 1% Fans / Viewers
- 1% Friends
- 19% Parents
- 2% Myself
- 1% Mentors
- 34% Peers
- 14% Relatives
- 1% Social Media Followers
- 3% Spouse
- 19% Teachers
Have you ever collaborated with other Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled and /or Hard of Hearing artists?

- **Yes**: 76%
- **No**: 24%

If you are a member of an underrepresented racial group including BIPOC, do you feel welcome in Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled and / or Hard of Hearing arts community?

- **Yes**: 21%
- **No**: 13%
- **Not applicable**: 65%

What do you need to build a sustainable practice?

- **Community support**: 35%
- **Childcare / support for families**: 7%
- **Collaborators**: 38%
- **Critique dialogue**: 26%
- **Exhibition**: 50%
- **Exposure**: 55%
- **Money**: 53%
- **Patrons / connections**: 47%
- **Studio Space**: 39%
- **Representation (Gallery / Agency)**: 57%
- **Time**: 42%
- **Training**: 1%
- **Equipment**: 1%
- **Professional development**: 47%
What challenges do you face as an artist?

- Access to affordable housing: 23%
- Access to career development training: 26%
- Access to affordable studio/practice space: 53%
- Access to specialized tools, equipment: 38%
- Building an audience statewide/national: 42%
- Business management of my career: 39%
- Building an audience locally: 28%
- Day to day financial challenges: 42%
- Determining clear career goals: 23%
- Finding mentors: 38%
- Finding support from art community: 46%
- Finding support outside from art community: 30%
- Maintaining focus of my art: 47%
- Marketing my work and myself: 53%
- Networking: 32%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Institution</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative or Non-traditional Arts Space</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist-Run Spaces</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Galleries</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention - Artists’ Alley Table</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated Performance Spaces</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentaries</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flickr</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galleries</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Galleries</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Retailer (i.e. Etsy, Society6)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Video Platform (i.e. YouTube, Vimeo)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Art Studio</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Studio</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcasts</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions to Festivals</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How interested are you in receiving business practice training / resources for the artist in the following ways?

- 40% Art residencies
- 33% Critiques
- 36% Convenings / conferences
- 38% In-person workshops
- 32% In person panel discussion
- 38% Grant writing / fundraising
- 58% Marketing
- 21% Multi-day training intensives
- 54% Networking / connections
- 47% One on one coaching
- 51% Pricing your work
- 29% Short videos
- 43% Taxes / finances
- 28% Webinars
- 42% Writing / artist statement
- 1% How to write and to understand contracts

What kind of access do you need to be a full participant?

- Captions: 70%
- Sign Language Interpreter: 91%
- Real time captioning: 49%
- Transcripts: 31%
- Childcare: 4%