

THE STATE OF FINE ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Top 10 metropolitan areas with the highest employment level of fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators - as of May 2021*



2,110

510

210

210

210

160

120

80

80

70

New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA

Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD

Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA

Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI

New Orleans-Metairie, LA

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA

Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH

San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA

Columbus, OH

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI

Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top 10 paying metropolitan areas for fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators - as of May 2021*

\$121,240

\$118,980

\$98,990

\$76,560

\$73,230

\$72,370

\$72,140

\$70,170

\$66,690

\$66,390

\$125,000

\$100,000

\$75,000

\$50,000

\$25,000

\$0

New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA

Charleston-North Charleston, SC

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI

San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA

Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT

Salt Lake City, UT

Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA

Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA

Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



When taking a closer look at metropolitan areas across the country (see our previous infographic for a statewide perspective) one area that stands out for opportunities is New York City, Newark, and Jersey City. It not only has the highest employment, but also the highest mean incomes.

Yet moving there might not be the best choice for an artist for a variety of reasons including higher living costs and work related expenses. Perhaps it makes more sense to sell online as more and more art collectors become familiar with and comfortable with buying from online galleries such as Blue Hill Fine Arts?