

The Colorado Artist Company Act: Creating America's First Legal Framework for Artist-Owned Businesses (A-Corps)



The Colorado Artist Company Act establishes the nation's first statutory framework for artist-owned businesses, creating a corporate form between nonprofit and for-profit accepting both grants and investment capital. It resolves the tension between creative control and access to capital by creating a new entity—the “Artist Company”—that allows artists to retain decision-making authority and reclaim their works upon dissolution, while enabling investors to earn returns without control.

First statute to create a distinct entity type for artists. Innovations include IP reversionary rights returning works to artists, artist-majority approval for creative decisions, and separation of economic from control rights enabling capital without governance loss. Lawyers architected novel mechanisms within LLC law, creating a replicable framework protecting vulnerable communities and sustainable creative businesses.

The statute protects thousands of artists while enabling sustainable creative businesses by allowing access to capital without loss of ownership. It strengthens creative economies and serves as a scalable model that can protect artists nationwide, expand cultural production, and demonstrate how legal innovation advances both creative work and economic opportunity.

Colorado Artist Company Act (A Corp)

Impact & Benefits

- Transforms artists from 1099 gig workers into company owners and entrepreneurs.
- Protects intellectual property through automatic reversionary rights upon dissolution.
- Ensures artist ownership and control (51% minimum + artist-majority approval for creative decisions).
- Separates economic returns from governance control, preventing investor takeover of creative work.
- Enables flexible capital structures (equity, grants, revenue sharing, pooled income).
- Creates permanent legal infrastructure for collective wealth-building in the creative sector.
- Designed as a replicable model statute capable of national adoption.

ARTIST CORPORATIONS

A new structure for creative work.

Ownership

- Artist Ownership
- IP Protection
- Creative Control

Capital

- Capital Access
- Revenue Flexibility
- Hybrid Funding

Systemic Impact

- Collective Power
- Wealth Building
- Sustainable Growth

For additional information on the Artist Company Act and legal framework: <https://www.acorp.co/law>

