



Verlander’s retirement marks end of an era

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Program gives struggling artists \$1,000 a month



A few commissions, contracts, sales or cancellations can dramatically change what artists earn in a given year.
GETTY IMAGES

The result: freedom and time to focus on their art

Joanna Woronkowicz
Indiana University
and Doug Noonan
Indiana University Indianapolis
THE CONVERSATION

Though artificial intelligence is making it easier than ever to produce images, music and text, the technology is also making it harder for the people who have traditionally produced this work to earn a living.

A photographer who once was commissioned to make art for an advertising campaign is now competing with graph-

ics produced by the AI image generator Midjourney.

A novelist who used to make money on the side as a technical writer is seeing that work be replaced by a series of prompts in ChatGPT.

The extent to which AI will upend creative work remains unsettled. But that uncertainty has made guaranteeing income for creatives a more viable policy idea.

In fact, creatives in New York recently participated in the largest basic income program for artists in U.S. history, the Guaranteed Income for Artists initiative.

Spearheaded by Creatives Rebuild New York and primarily funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the pro-

gram gave 2,400 artists across New York state \$1,000 a month beginning in June 2022. There were no work requirements and no restrictions on how the money could be spent. The program sought to improve the financial stability of artists and encourage the public to see them as workers who deserve a stable income and social support.

As researchers who study artists, cultural work and public policy, we evaluated this program to see whether it achieved its stated goals. Our main finding was simple: Artists did not stop working. Instead, they changed the kind of work they did.

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Ceasefire falters as Iran buries slain leader

American official says that ‘technical talks continue’

Michael Loria and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

The fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran appeared to have fallen apart over continued strife over the Strait of Hormuz as Iranians buried their supreme leader, killed by U.S.-Israel forces at the outset of the war.

There were no new U.S. strikes on Iran overnight into July 10. But the United States previously struck Iran’s southern coastal and eastern provinces, after which Iranian armed forces launched attacks on U.S. military infrastructure in Persian Gulf states July 9.

Separately on that day, Iranian media reported multiple explosions across southern Iran, including Bush-eir, where one of the country’s nuclear plants is located.

A U.S. official told USA TODAY that President Donald Trump regards Iran’s recent attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping lane, as “acts of terrorism.”

Still, the official said that negotiations have not completely crumpled.

“The United States is still committed to finding a resolution, and technical talks continue,” the U.S. official said. “Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon.”

“The [memorandum of understanding] is performance-based, and Iran’s actions constitute failed performance at an unacceptable level,” the U.S. official added.

Iranian officials did not give indications in public statements that talks remained underway.

However, the country’s semiofficial Tasnim news agency reported that a Qatari delegation visited Iran on July 10 in what is believed to be an effort by Doha to consolidate its role as a mediator.

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GOP push for answers about McConnell

Absence revives debate about age, health in congressional service

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

It’s no longer just Democrats who are demanding answers about Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell’s status nearly a month after the 84-year-old lawmaker was hospitalized in Washington, DC.

The senator’s office still has not disclosed why McConnell was admitted. But the Kentucky lawmaker’s staff

sought to quell further speculation July 7 by releasing statements from allies who said they’d spoken with him.

That wasn’t enough for at least two GOP House members who took to social media this week to air their concerns, saying U.S. officials should be more forthcoming with voters if they go missing for weeks.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-South Carolina, drew comparisons to the public’s health concerns about former President Joe Biden, whose mental acuity became a focal point in the final months of the 2024 election, ultimately forcing him to leave the race.

“If McConnell is in as bad a shape as Biden ever was – or worse – he needs to step aside,” Mace said in a July 9 post on X. “This charade can’t continue. We can’t demand of others what we won’t demand of ourselves.”

In a separate post, Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Indiana, also evoked Biden in pressing for answers about McConnell’s health. He specifically mentioned Biden’s now infamous 2024 debate performance, which resulted in his startling exit from the race.

Biden was three years younger at that time than McConnell is now.

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Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, was admitted to the hospital on June 14, and staff members at the time said he was receiving “excellent care.” JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY FILE

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