



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**North Dakota's nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$109.2 million
in economic activity and supports 4,006 jobs annually according to
Americans for the Arts study**

Arts industry in North Dakota returns \$10 million in revenue to local and state coffers

Bismarck, ND — The North Dakota Council on the Arts recently participated in a study on the economic impact of the arts in North Dakota. The results demonstrate the exceptional impact of the arts on the economy of our state. The survey, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education.

The most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* concludes that the nonprofit arts and culture industry in North Dakota generates \$109.2 million in annual economic activity—supporting 4,006 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$10 million in local and state government revenues.

Further results show that North Dakota nonprofit arts and culture organizations spent \$56.4 million during fiscal year 2015. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services and acquire assets within their community. Those dollars, in turn, generated \$40.8 million in household income for local residents and nearly \$4.5 million in local and state government revenues. A copy of North Dakota's summary report is available at <http://bit.ly/ND-AEP17>; and the full report is available at http://www.nd.gov/arts/sites/default/files/PDFs/nd_aep5report17.pdf.

“In my position with the North Dakota Council on the Arts, I have had the privilege of traveling to many North Dakota communities, visiting arts organizations, community leaders, artists, schools, and community members of all ages. The economic and cultural impact of the arts in our North Dakota communities, both rural and urban, is impressive.” said Dr. Beth Klingenstein, Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. “We want our communities to thrive, and the arts contribute to healthy, vibrant communities. This study validates the importance of the arts within our state.”

Nationwide, the *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* reveals that the nonprofit arts industry produces \$166.3 billion in economic activity every year, resulting in \$27.5 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues. In addition, it supports 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs.

“This study demonstrates that the arts are an economic and employment powerhouse both locally and across the nation,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive and helps local communities become stronger and healthier places to live. Leaders who care about community and economic vitality can feel good about choosing to invest in the arts. Nationally as well as locally, the arts mean business.”

Arts Industry Boon for Local Businesses

In addition to spending by organizations, the nonprofit arts and culture industry in North Dakota leverages \$52.8 million in event-related spending by its audiences. As a result of attending a cultural event, attendees often eat dinner in local restaurants, pay for parking, buy gifts and souvenirs, and pay a babysitter. What’s more, attendees from out of town often stay overnight in a local hotel.

Americans for the Arts enlisted 341 diverse communities and regions across the United States (representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia) to participate in this study. A map is available at <http://bit.ly/AEP17Map> that displays the 341 study regions that participated. Americans for the Arts' economic impact studies continue to be among the most frequently cited statistics used to demonstrate the impact of the nation’s nonprofit arts industry on the local, state, and national economy.

The *arts mean business*, as this research shows the nonprofit arts and culture industry is an economically sound investment.

The *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* study was supported in part by The Ruth Lilly Fund of Americans for the Arts. Americans for the Arts also had local, regional, and statewide project partners who contributed both time and financial support to the study. Financial information from organizations was collected in partnership with DataArts™, using a new online survey interface. For a full list of the communities who participated in the *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* study, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners.

For more information visit <http://www.nd.gov/arts/get-involved-advocacy>; contact the North Dakota Council on the Arts at (701) 328-7590; or e-mail amschmid@nd.gov.

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Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, it has a record of more than 40 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.