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Creative Minnesota 2017 Study Reveals What Artists Need to Make a Living and a Life in the Arrowhead

SAINT PAUL, MN: Creative Minnesota, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council released a new study today indicating that Minnesotans strongly believe the arts and culture are important to their quality of life, and that Minnesotans attend and participate in the arts at a rate exceeding the national average.

“Nonprofit arts and culture organizations contribute to the vibrancy of Minnesota’s economy and quality of life and make our state a magnet for jobs and businesses. Now we can quantify that,” said Sheila Smith, Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. “In addition to providing life changing experiences, educational opportunities and accessibility to audiences of all ages in their stages and museums, arts and culture organizations are important employers and economic engines.”

As the most comprehensive report ever done of the state’s creative sector *Creative Minnesota 2017* fills in the gaps of available information about Minnesota’s cultural field and seeks to improve our understanding of its importance to our quality of life and economy. *Creative Minnesota 2017* quantifies the impact and needs of Minnesota’s artists and creative workers, updates previous studies on the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations, and reviews other research about the arts sector in the state.

The report includes both new, original research and analysis of data created by others. Creative Minnesota research is available for free at www.creativemn.org.

THE ARROWHEAD HIGHLIGHTS:

Although the Arrowhead is 4th of the 11 Regions in population size, it is 2nd in economic impact per capita, total economic impact, total resident household income generated by the arts, total audience, and creative job density, behind only the Twin Cities Metro Area. It is

also 3rd in total number of participating arts & culture organizations at 143. The region is performing far above what would be expected considering its population.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR:

- The study found that the **combined economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations, their audiences and artists and creative workers in Arrowhead Minnesota is over \$83 million annually**. This includes **\$30 million** spent by nonprofit arts organizations, **\$33 million** spent by **1.4 million attendees**, and the direct spending of artists in their communities, on things such as art supplies and studio rental, of **\$20 million**.

IMPACT AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS:

- *Creative Minnesota 2017* found that there are over **4,099 artists and creative workers in the Arrowhead**. Creative workers are defined as people who make their living wholly, or in part, by working for for-profits, non-profits, or self-employed, in 41 creative occupations.

- These occupations include:
architects, choir directors, curators, librarians, art directors, craft artists, fine artists including painters, sculptors and illustrators, multimedia artists and animators, commercial and industrial designers, fashion, graphic and interior designers, set and exhibition designers, actors, producers and directors, dancers, choreographers, music directors and composers, musicians and singers, editors, writers and authors, sound engineering technicians, photographers, camera operators
- The most common creative worker jobs in the state are **photographers, graphic designers, and musicians and singers**.
- **24 percent of self-identified artists in Minnesota are employed full-time as artists, 42 percent are employed part-time**, and the rest, 34 percent, are retired, hobbyists or students.
- The generations are changing. The most commonly practiced artistic discipline is visual arts, followed by theater and music/opera/musical theater. However, the younger an artist is the more likely they are to practice theater as opposed to the visual arts. **Millennials are the only generation that chose theater as their most popular artistic discipline**.
- **Artists volunteer more in their communities than other Americans, at 88 percent**, compared to 35 percent of all Minnesotans and 25 percent of all Americans.
- The study found that **women and artists of color had lower wages** than other artists, similar to wages in the larger workforce.
- The most dramatic change from a previous survey of artists in 2007 is that **95**

percent of 2016 survey respondents reported having health insurance. In the “Artists Count” 2007 study we found 14 percent of artists were uninsured, double the uninsured rate of all Minnesotans. The uninsured rate has dropped dramatically, to 5 percent, most likely because of the Affordable Care Act passed by congress in 2009.

STRONGEST NEEDS FOR ALL MINNESOTA ARTISTS:

From the Minnesota State Arts Board “Artists Thrive” Survey

- **SPACE TO WORK:** Artists desire spaces and tools of their own to do their work – but not in solitude.
- **CONNECT:** Artists have strong interest in opportunities to form connections and serve communities.
- **LEARN:** Artists embrace and are seeking more learning experiences, experienced artists would like to pass on their skills, younger artists are looking for mentors.
- **EARN:** Artists remain ambitious about developing paying audiences and generating income from their work, but their identities as artists and the non-monetary value they derive from their practice are strong regardless of earnings.
- **AUDIENCE:** Artists desire to reach wider audiences and markets.

STRONGEST NEEDS FOR:

- **Greater Minnesota Artists:** more access to markets and audiences, more reliable access to work spaces and equipment, greater access to fellow artists for peer learning.
- **Emerging Artists:** Access to markets, adequate work space and equipment, a variety of learning opportunities and professional skills and mentors

IMPACT AND NUMBER OF NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS:

- **143 nonprofit arts and culture organizations in the Arrowhead served 1,373,159 attendees** at arts and cultural events in 2014.

NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS IN MN BY DISCIPLINE	
PERFORMING ARTS	51
ARTS MULTIPURPOSE	21
HISTORY & HISTORICAL PRESERVATION	24
OTHER*	14
VISUAL ARTS & ARCHITECTURE	19
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS	11
LITERARY ARTS	3
TOTAL	143

**OTHER includes science and children's museums, zoos, and arts and culture programs housed in non-arts nonprofits and local governments. There was an overall increase of 36 participating organizations since the last study in 2015, which accounts for some of the larger audience.*

- The economic impact of just nonprofit arts and culture **audiences in this region totaled \$33 million**. Adding in the economic impact of arts organization spending, **the total economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in this region totals \$63 million**.

Participating organizations included:

Aitkin Community Education, Aitkin County Historical Society, Arrowhead Chorale, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Art 'Round Town, Arts on Superior, Bemidji Community Theater, Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, Borealis Chorale, City of Duluth, City of Grand Rapids, Common Language, Cook Chamber of Commerce, Cook County Community Radio Corporation, Cook County Historical Society Museum, County Seat Theater Company, Crescendo Youth Orchestra, Dorothy Molter Foundation and Museum, Duluth Art Institute, Duluth Children's Museum, Duluth Festival Opera, Duluth Fiber Handcrafters Guild, Duluth Superior Symphony Association, East Range Choral Society, Edge of the Wilderness Community Center, Ely Artwalk, Ely Greenstone Public Art, Ely Winter Festival, Empty bowls, Friends of B'nai Abraham, Good Harbor Hill Players, Grand Marais Art Colony, Grand Marais Playhouse, Gunflint Trail Historical Society, Heartland Concert Association, Hovland Arts Festival, Icebox Radio Theater, Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program, Jaques Art Center, Inc., Koochiching County Historical Society, Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra, Lake Superior Marine Museum Association, Lake Superior Suzuki Talent Program, Lake Superior Youth Chorus, Inc., Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance, Lyric Opera of the North, MacRostie Art Center, Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe, Matinee Musicale, Inc., Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Ballet, Minnesota Discovery Center, Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Contest, Nordic Center, North House Folk School, North Shore Music Association, Northern Bedrock Conservation Corps, Northern Lakes Arts Association, Northern Lights Music Festival, Inc., Northwoods Friends of the Arts, Poetry Harbor, Prøve Collective, Rainy Lake Community Orchestra, Reif Arts Council/ Center, Ressler Dance!, Schroeder Area Historical Society, Sisu Heritage Inc./History Project, Sky Blue Jazz Ensemble, SoHo Artists, Sons of Norway, Sound Unseen International Duluth, St. Louis County Historical Society, Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center, Tamarack Dance Association, The Creativity Tank, Three Bridges International Chamber Music Festival, Tweed Museum of Art, Voices of Reason, Wise Fool Shakespeare, Armory Arts and Music Center, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission/History Project, Backus Community Center/Arts Programs, Bigfork Improvement Group/History Project, Biwabik Area Civic Association, Chalk.a.Lot, CHOICE, Unlimited, City of Ely/History Project, College of St. Scholastica - Arts Program, Commemorative Air Force; Lake Superior Squadron 101, Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, Duluth All Souls Night, Duluth Playhouse, Duluth Pop-Up Galleries, Duluth Public Library/History Project, Duluth Public Television (WDSE-WRPT), Duluth Sister Cities International, Duluth Superior Film Festival, Echoes of Peace Choir, Ely Community Spring Musical, Embarrass Music Festival, Forest History Center, Gimaajii Mino Bimaadizimin/American Indian Housing Org, Glensheen, Grand Rapids Area Male Chorus, Grand Rapids Arts, Grand Rapids Players, Inc., Grand Rapids Showboat, Great Lakes Aquarium, Great River String Ensemble, Hubbard County Historical Society, Itasca Choral Society, Itasca Community Chorus, Itasca County Historical Society, Itasca County Private Woodland Committee - Arts Programs, Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery, KAXE Northern Community Radio, KBFT Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio, KUMD University of MN Duluth, Lake County Historical Society, Lake Superior Community Theatre, Lake Superior Zoo, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Ball Club Community Center, Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame, Oldenburg Art and Cultural Community, Park Point Art Fair, Proctor Area Historical Society, Project Lulu, Renegade Theater Company, Sacred Heart Music Center, Singing Slovenes, Inc., Socially Active Seniors, Spirit Lake Poetry Series, Tofte Lake Center, Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Twin Ports Wind Ensemble, U of M/Duluth Campus/History Project, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Vermilion Community College, Virginia Mural Committee, WGZS-FM Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, WTIP-FM Cook County Community Radio, Zeitgeist Arts Initiative

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS:

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR:

- The study found that the **combined economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations, their audiences and artists and creative workers is over \$2 billion annually**. This includes \$819 million spent by nonprofit arts organizations, \$564 million spent by audiences, and the direct spending of artists in their communities, on things such as art supplies and studio rental, of \$644 million.
- State and local government revenue exceeded \$222 million, including income and sales taxes.

IMPACT AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS:

- *Creative Minnesota 2017* found that there are over **104,000 artists and creative workers** in Minnesota.
- **The total economic impact of artists and creative worker spending in the state is \$644 million annually.**

IMPACT AND NUMBER OF NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS:

- **1601 nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Minnesota** served **22 million attendees** at arts and cultural events in 2014.
- These organizations serve **3.8 million K-12 students**, hosting **29,318 school group visits** each year. There are approximately 900,000 K-12 students in Minnesota, so on average every student is participating four times a year in arts and culture activities provided by these nonprofits.
- The economic impact of just the participating organizations and their audiences totaled \$1.4 billion, **an increase of \$185 million since our previous study in 2015**. This is primarily due to an additional 332 participating organizations, but also includes **a 1.5 percent increase in impact** by the organizations participating in both studies.

Just looking at the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations, Minnesota has **double the arts economy of Wisconsin** even though we have nearly the same population, **ten and a half times** the arts economy of Kansas and **twelve and a half times** the arts economy of South Dakota.

STATEWIDE PUBLIC OPINION POLLING ON THE ARTS:

Minnesotans strongly believe the arts and culture are important to their quality of life, and Minnesotans attend and participate in the arts more than other Americans:

- **76%** of Minnesotans, compared to 68% of all Americans, attend arts and culture

- events
- **63%** of Minnesotans, compared to 49% of all Americans, are personally involved in creative activity in their everyday life
- **91%** of Minnesotans believe that people who create art are contributing something important to their communities
- **90%** of Minnesotans believe that arts & cultural activities help make Minnesota an attractive place to live and work
- **82%** of Minnesotans believe it's important to have the opportunity to express themselves creatively or to experience the creativity of others every day

ABOUT CREATIVE MINNESOTA

Creative Minnesota was developed by a collaborative of statewide arts and culture supporting organizations in partnership with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA). The report leverages in-depth research made possible because of Minnesota's participation in the **Cultural Data Profile** (culturaldata.org) at DataArts. Creative Minnesota's first round of studies, released in February 2015, looked at the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture organizations in the state's 11 arts regions and at the state as a whole. The second round in October, 2015 looked at the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in 17 Minnesota cities and counties.

The *Creative Minnesota* team includes **Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, The McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota, Target, Bush Foundation, Mardag Foundation, and Jerome Foundation**, with in-kind support from the **Minnesota Historical Society** and others.

Highlights of Creative Minnesota 2017's Data Sources:

ORIGINAL RESEARCH:

- **"Artists Count" Survey** of 2100 Minnesota artists by **Creative Minnesota** done with 194 organizational partners in 2016.
- **"Artists Thrive" Survey** of 800 Minnesota artists by the **Minnesota State Arts Board** in 2015.
- Analysis and Update of economic impact data of 1601 nonprofit arts and culture organizations

ANALYSIS OF OTHER DATA SETS WITH MANY PARTNERS:

- **Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), University of Minnesota** analysis and mapping of *"Artists and Arts Workers in the United States"* from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
- **Minnesota Compass** analysis of Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010-2014, on arts participation
- **Minnesota Center for Survey Research, University of Minnesota**, Public Opinion Polling, *2014 and 2015 State Surveys*
- **Center for the Study of Art and Community**, literature review, synthesis and analysis by Bill Cleveland.
- **For a full list, download the report at www.creativeMN.org**

The Legacy Amendment

The Legacy Amendment was passed by a statewide vote of the people of Minnesota in 2008 to dedicate a portion of the state's sales tax to create four new funds for 1. land conservation, 2. water conservation, 3. parks and trails, and 4. arts and culture. The legislature appropriates the dollars from the Legacy Arts and Culture Fund to the Minnesota State Arts Board, Regional Arts Councils, Minnesota Historical Society and other entities to provide access to the arts and culture for all Minnesotans.

Major Sponsoring Organizations:

- **Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA)** is a statewide arts advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure opportunity for all people to have access to and involvement in the arts. MCA organizes the arts community

and lobbies the Minnesota State Legislature and Congress on issues pertaining to the nonprofit arts and conducts original research. MCA works with over 40,000 arts advocates in Minnesota. 651-251-0868, www.artsMN.org @MNCitizen

- **The McKnight Foundation:** www.mcknight.org
- **Target:** <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility>
- **Bush Foundation:** www.bushfoundation.org
- **Mardag Foundation:** <http://www.mardag.org/>
- **Jerome Foundation:** <http://www.jeromefdn.org/>
- **The Minnesota State Arts Board:**

<http://www.arts.state.mn.us/>

- **Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota:** <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/forum.htm>
- **Minnesota Historical Society:** <http://www.mnhs.org/about>
- **Ideas that Kick:** www.ideasthatkick.com
- **Americans for the Arts:** www.AmericansForTheArts.org
- **CURA Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota:** <http://www.cura.umn.edu/>
- **Minnesota Compass:** <http://www.mncompass.org>
- **Arrowhead Regional Arts Council:** <http://aracouncil.org/>

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