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Contacts: Sheila Smith, 651-251-0868
Executive Director, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
Nicole DeBoer, (507) 537-1471
Executive Director, Southwest MN Arts Council

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

SAINT PAUL, MN: Creative Minnesota, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and the Southwest MN 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.

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA HIGHLIGHTS:

Although Southwest Minnesota is 5th in population size and 5th in number of creative workers, it is 7th in total economic impact. The region is performing slightly under expected in economic impact considering the region’s population, but performing as expected in terms of total number of artists and creative workers. The good news is that Pipestone county has the

17th highest creative worker average wages of all 87 Minnesota counties at \$19.34/hour, with Kandiyohi county 24th at \$19.15/hour.

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 Southwest Minnesota is \$19.8 million annually**. This includes **\$4 million** spent by nonprofit arts organizations, **\$3 million** spent by **139,551 attendees**, and the direct spending of artists in their communities, on things such as art supplies and studio rental, of **\$13 million**.

IMPACT AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS:

- *Creative Minnesota 2017* found that there are over **3,217 artists and creative workers in Southwest Minnesota**. 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:

- **87 nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Southwest Minnesota** served **139,551 attendees** at arts and cultural events in 2014.

NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS IN MN BY DISCIPLINE	
PERFORMING ARTS	29
ARTS MULTIPURPOSE	17
HISTORY & HISTORICAL PRESERVATION	24
OTHER*	5
VISUAL ARTS & ARCHITECTURE	12
TOTAL	87

**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 17 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 \$3 million**. Adding in the economic impact of arts organization spending, **the total economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in this region totals \$6.6 million**.

Participating organizations included:

Appleton 52 Wing Restoration Committee, Big Stone Arts Council, Blue Mound Area Theatre, Buffalo Ridge Chorale, Chippewa County Historical Society, City of Glencoe/History Project, City of Granite Falls/History Project, City of Walnut Grove/Laura Ingals Wilder Pageant, Crow River Area Youth Orchestra, Crow River Singers, Dakota Wicohan, Dassel Area Historical Society, Friends of the Auditorium, Inc., Friends of the Orchestra, Granite Area Arts Council, Green Earth Players, Historic Hutchinson, Hutchinson Center for the Arts, Hutchinson Theatre Company, Kaleidoscope an Artists' Gallery, Kandiyohi County Historical Society, Lac qui Parle County Historical Society, Litchfield Community Theatre, Litchfield Opera House, Marshall Area Fine Arts Council, Marshall Area Stage Company, Meander Art Crawl, Meeker County Historical Society, Milan Village Arts School, Milwaukee Road Heritage Center, Murray County Historical Society, New London Music Festival, Norway Lake Lutheran Historical Association, Pipestone County Historical Society, Prairie Arts Chorale, Prairie Arts Continuum, Prairie Dance Alliance, Prairie Wind Folk Music and Bluegrass Association, Redwood County Historical Society, Rhythm of the River, RiverSong Music Festival, Rock County Fine Arts Association, Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, Swift County Concert Band, The Barn Theater/Willmar Community Theatre, Inc, The Calumet Players, Inc., Willmar Area Arts Council, Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra, Winsted Arts Council, Worthington Area Symphony Orchestra, Yellow Medicine County Historical Society, Andrew J. Volstead House Museum, City of Cottonwood - Arts Programs, City of Litchfield/History Project, City of Montevideo - arts and history projects, City of Rushmore - Arts Programs, Crow River Drumline Association, Crow River Players, Dawson-Boyd Arts Association, Fiber and Fabric Guild, Granite Falls Area Community Theater, Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization, Hutchinson Concert Association, Hutchinson Photography Club, Hutchinson Public Arts Commission, Lake Benton Opera House, Lyon County Historical Society, McLeod County Historical Society, Minnesota Pottery Festival, New London Arts Alliance, New London Clay Center, New London Little Theatre, Nobles County Historical Society, Pipestone Civil War Days Committee, Pipestone Indian Shrine Association, Pipestone Performing Arts Center, Prairie Arts Council, Prairie Winds Concert Band, Redwood County, Redwood Falls Public Library/Plum Creek Library Sys/History Projects, Sacred Heart Area Historical Society, Southwest Minnesota Regional Research Center, Spicer Beautification Committee, Walnut Grove Community Club, Worthington International Festival, Worthington Okabena Windsurfers, Inc.

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>
- **Southwest MN Arts Council:** <https://swmnarts.org/>

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