MINNESOTA’S IRON RANGE
Counties of: Itasca, Lake, St. Louis

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ART AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS
& AUDIENCES IN MINNESOTA’S IRON RANGE
(Itasca, Lake and St. Louis Counties excluding Duluth):

$12.3M

NONPROFIT ARTS & CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE IRON RANGE (excluding Duluth)

TOTAL SPENT BY
NONPROFIT ARTS AND
CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

$9 Million

TOTAL SPENT BY
ARTS AND CULTURE ATTENDEES

$3.3 Million

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS &
THEIR AUDIENCES IN IRON RANGE

$12.3 Million +

ARTISTS & CREATIVE WORKERS
IN ITASCA, LAKE, & ST. LOUIS COs. (including* Duluth)

SPENDING BY FULL-TIME
ARTISTS AND CREATIVE
WORKERS IN 3 COUNTIES

$11.5 Million

SPENDING BY PART-TIME
ARTISTS AND CREATIVE
WORKERS IN 3 COUNTIES

$4.8 Million

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM
ARTISTS & CREATIVE WORKERS IN 3 COUNTIES (including* Duluth)

$16.3 Million

$77.22:
ECONOMIC IMPACT PER CAPITA FROM ORGANIZATION and
AUDIENCE SPENDING IN THE IRON RANGE
(not including artist spending)

IRON RANGE POPULATION

170,076

ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS IN ITASCA, LAKE, & ST. LOUIS COUNTIES (including* Duluth):
Includes creative workers employed full or part time by others, as well as the self employed. Does not include student, retired, or hobbyist artists.

TOP 3 CREATIVE JOBS
PHOTOGRAPHY | MUSIC | WRITER

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE FROM ARTIST
SPENDING IN ITASCA, LAKE, & ST. LOUIS COUNTIES: $1.7M

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR CREATIVE WORKERS
Creative worker wages are below the average for all worker wages of $19.46 in Itasca, Lake, & St. Louis Counties

$17.52

NUMBER OF CREATIVE JOBS PER 1,000 JOBS
IN ITASCA, LAKE, & ST. LOUIS COUNTIES

28

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
FULL-TIME ARTISTS AND
CREATIVE WORKERS

1,239

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PART-TIME ARTISTS AND
CREATIVE WORKERS

2,079

TOTAL ARTISTS AND
CREATIVE WORKERS

3,318

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS:
The Iron Range stands out!

ORGANIZATIONS AND AUDIENCES
Of the 15 geographies studied for this Creative
MN series, the Iron Range (excluding Duluth) ranks 4th in population size but 1st in economic impact from audience and organizational spending, and 3rd in attendance.

A total of $12M in annual economic impact is generated by 57 arts and culture organizations who serve over 135,000 attendees, including nearly 39,000 students. The organizations in the Iron Range also generate $1.2M in state and government revenue.

ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS*
The three counties of Itasca, Lake and St. Louis (including Duluth) can celebrate an economic impact of over $16.3 million generated by the spending of over 3,300 artists and creative workers.

The creative worker spending in these three counties generated Local and State Government revenues of over $1.9M.

*NOTE: Data on artists and creative workers was only available by county and so includes Duluth.
PARTICIPATING NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE IRON RANGE:

**BY DISCIPLINE**
- 16 Performing Arts
- 13 History and historical preservation
- 8 Visual arts and architecture
- 4 Media and communications
- 4 Literary arts
- 11 Arts multipurpose

**57 TOTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**BY BUDGET SIZE**
- $1 - $5M: 3 organizations
- $250K - $1M: 3 organizations
- $100K - $250K: 5 organizations
- UNDER $25K: 24 organizations

**ATTENDANCE**
- TOTAL ARTS & CULTURE ATTENDEES: 136,781
- ATTENDEES IN THIS REGION SPEND PER PERSON ABOVE THE COST OF THEIR TICKET: $23.99
- NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED: 38,898

PARTICIPATING IRON RANGE NONPROFIT ARTS & CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS:

- Arrowhead Regional Development Commission/History Project
- Arts on Superior
- Bigfork Improvement Group/History Project
- Bseebik, Area Civic Association
- Bonnails Art Guild
- Chalk 4 Lot
- City of Ely/History Project
- City of Grand Rapids
- Commemorative Air Force; Lake Superior Squadron 101
- Cook Chamber of Commerce
- Crescendo Youth Orchestra
- Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust
- Dorothy Motier Foundation and Museum
- Edge of the Wilderness Community Center
- Ely Area Concert Association
- Ely Artwalk
- Ely Community Spring Musical
- Ely Folk School
- Ely Greestone Public Art
- Ely Winter Festival
- Ely-Winton Historical Society
- Embarrass Music Festival
- Friends of Bhai Abraham
- Grand Rapids Area Male Chorus
- Grand Rapids Arts
- Grand Rapids Players, Inc.
- Hibbing Public Access Television
- Iron Range Historical Society
- Itasca Choral Society and Community Chorus
- Itasca Community Television, Inc.
- Itasca County Historical Society
- Itasca County Private Woodland Committee - Arts Programs
- Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program
- Lake County Historical Society
- Lake Superior Community Theatre
- Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Ball Club Community Center
- MacRostie Art Center
- Mesabi Symphony Orchestra
- Minnesota Discovery Center
- Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Contest
- Northern Community Radio
- Northern Lakes Arts Association
- Northern Lights Music Festival, Inc.
- Northwoods Friends of the Arts
- Proctor Area Historical Society
- Reif Arts Council Center
- Situ Heritage, Inc.
- Socially Active Seniors
- SoHo Artists
- Tofte Lake Center
- Vermilion Community College
- Virginia Area Historical Society
- Virginia Band Boosters
- Virginia Mural Committee
- Voices of Reason
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES:

GOVERNMENT REVENUE (TAXES AND FEES) GENERATED BY ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES IN ITASCA, LAKE, & ST. LOUIS COs. (excluding Duluth) $1.2M

GOVERNMENT REVENUE GENERATED BY SPENDING OF ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS IN ITASCA, LAKE, & ST. LOUIS COs. (including Duluth) $1.9M

TOTAL FTE JOBS SUPPORTED BY THE SPENDING OF ORGANIZATIONS & AUDIENCES: 362

TOTAL RESIDENT HOUSEHOLD INCOME GENERATED BY ORGANIZATIONS & AUDIENCES: $8.2M

Creative Minnesota is a collaborative effort to fill the gaps in available information about Minnesota’s cultural field and to improve our understanding of its importance to our quality of life and economy. It is part of a long-term endeavor to collect and report data on the creative sector every two years for analysis, education and advocacy.

Our first Creative Minnesota report, released in 2015, was a snapshot of the health and impacts of nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

Our 2017 study updates the previous study and also looks into the economic lives of artists in Minnesota.

Creative Minnesota was developed by a collaborative of arts and culture funders in partnership with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA). 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, the Bush Foundation, Mardag Foundation, and Jerome Foundation with in-kind support from Ideas that Kick, the Minnesota Historical Society and others. Data sources and methods can be found at CREATIVEMN.org.

We hope that arts advocates, legislators, local government officials and arts and cultural organizations will use this report to find new ways to improve their lives and economies with arts and culture.

Find much more at: creativemn.org

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
651 LaSalle Street #220
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-251-0868
artsMN.org
staff@artsMN.org