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Creative Minnesota 2019 Study Reveals Growth of Arts and Culture Sector in West Central Minnesota

SAINT PAUL, MN: Creative Minnesota, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and the Lake Region Arts Council released a new study today indicating that the arts and culture sector in West Central Minnesota is growing.

“The passage of the Legacy Amendment in Minnesota allowed the Lake Region Arts Council and Minnesota State Arts Board to increase support for the arts and culture in this area, and that has had a big impact,” said Sheila Smith, Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. “It’s wonderful to see how the access to the arts has grown in this area over time.”

The Legacy Amendment was passed by a statewide vote of the people of Minnesota in 2008 and created dedicated funding for the arts and culture in Minnesota. 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.

“**Creative Minnesota’s** new 2019 report is about Minnesota’s arts and creative sector. It includes statewide, regional and local looks at nonprofit arts and culture organizations, their audiences, artists and creative workers. This year it also looks at the availability of arts education in Minnesota schools,” said Smith. “We also include the results of fifteen local studies that show substantial economic impact from the nonprofit arts and culture sector in every corner of the state, including **\$6.9 million in Otter Tail County and \$9.6 million in Clay County** in this region.”

WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Although seventh in population size among the state’s eleven regions, West Central Minnesota is 6th in total attendance, youth attendance, economic impact from organizations, economic impact from artists and creative workers, and 4th in average hourly wage for creative workers. It also performs on target on many other metrics, ranking 7th in the number of artists and creative workers, economic impact from organizations and audiences, and economic impact per capita (tied with Region 7W).

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 West Central Minnesota is over \$26.2 million annually.**

- This includes **\$9.2 million** spent by nonprofit arts organizations, **\$5.2 million** spent by **316,450 attendees**, and the direct spending of artists in their communities, on things such as art supplies and studio rental, of **\$11.8 million.**
- This is a **growth of \$3.9 million** in economic impact since a previous 2017 Creative Minnesota study, and **\$882,121 in economic impact from arts organizations and their audiences** since the passage of the Legacy Amendment in 2008.

74 nonprofit arts and culture organizations in West Central Minnesota served 316,450 attendees at arts and cultural events in 2016.

NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS IN WEST CENTRAL MN BY DISCIPLINE	
PERFORMING ARTS	15
ARTS MULTIPURPOSE	21
VISUAL ARTS & ARCHITECTURE	5
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS	3
LITERARY ARTS	1
HISTORY & HISTORICAL PRESERVATION	15
OTHER*	14
TOTAL	74

**OTHER includes science and children's museums, zoos, and arts and culture programs housed in non-arts nonprofits and local governments.*

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

Alexandria Area Arts Association Inc., Alexandria Public Schools Community Education, Alexandria Senior Center Inc., Ann Bickle Heritage House, Art of the Lakes Association Inc., Becker County Museum & Historical Society, Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra, Central Square Inc., City of Elbow Lake, City of Fergus Falls, City of Henning, City of Moorhead, City of Moorhead Parks and Recreation/Facilities, City of Pelican Rapids, Concordia College, Cormorant Area Art Club, DanceBARN Collective, Detroit Lakes Community & Cultural Center, Douglas County Historical Society, Evansville Arts Coalition, Evansville Historical Foundation, Fargo-Moorhead Chamber Chorale Inc., Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists, Fergus Falls Center for the Arts Inc., Fergus Falls Public Arts Commission, Gooseberry Park Players, Grant County, Grant County Historical Society, Henning Landmark Center, Heritage Education Commission, Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, History Arts and Cultural Association of East Otter Tail County, Hoffman Economic Development Authority, Kaddatz Galleries, Kensington Area Heritage Society, KKWE White Earth Land Recovery Project, KUMM-FM University of MN Morris, Lake Park Area Historical Society, Lake Region Arts Council, Lakes Chamber Music Society, Minnesota Lakes Maritime Society, Minnesota State University - Moorhead, Minnesota State University - Moorhead/Cheryl Nelson Losset Performing Arts Series, Minnesota State University - Moorhead/Department of Music Percussion Studio, Minnesota State University - Moorhead/Music Department, Minnesota State University - Moorhead/Planetarium, Moorhead Community Access Television, Morris Area Arts Booster, Morris Area Community Education, New Rivers Press, New York Mills Arts Retreat, Nordic Culture Clubs, Otter Tail County Historical Society, Pelican Rapids Multicultural Committee, Perham Center for the Arts, Phelps Mill Country, Plays in Morris, Pope County,

Pope County Historical Society, Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance, Prairie Wind Players Community Theatre, Prospect House & Civil War Museum, Red Willow Arts Coalition, Regents of the U of M - Morris, Rourke Art Gallery Museum, Springboard for the Arts - Fergus Falls, Stevens County Historical Society, Terrace Mill Foundation, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, Trollwood Performing Arts School - Bluestem Center for the Arts, Ulen-Hitterdal Community Education, Underwood Community Education, White Earth Reservation Tribal Council, Wilkin County Agricultural Society

IMPACT AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS:

Creative Minnesota 2019 found that there are over **2,946 artists and creative workers in West Central 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 40 creative occupations.

- This is a growth of **120** creative workers since the 2017 study.
- Included occupations are:
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 region are **photographers, musicians and singers, and writers and authors**.

STATEWIDE MINNESOTA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The study found that the **combined economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations, their audiences and artists and creative workers is over \$2.167 billion annually** in Minnesota. This includes **\$902 million** spent by nonprofit arts organizations, **\$594 million** spent by audiences, and the direct spending of artists in their communities, on things such as art supplies and studio rental, of **\$671 million**. **This combined total represents an increase of \$167 million since the 2017 study.**
- **1903 nonprofit arts and culture organizations and programs in Minnesota** served **23.2 million attendees** at arts and cultural events in 2016.
- These organizations serve **5.3 million K-12 students**. There are approximately 900,000 K-12 students in Minnesota, so on average every student is participating **six times a year** in arts and culture activities provided by these nonprofits.
- 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, **eleven times the arts economy of North Dakota, and twelve times the arts economy of South Dakota**.
- *Creative Minnesota 2019* found that there are over **108,755 artists and creative workers** in Minnesota, a **growth of 4,607 creative workers since the 2017 study**.

- **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.
- **State and local government revenue from the arts sector exceeded \$245 million**, including income and sales taxes.

STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL 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:

- **74%** of Minnesotans, compared to **54%** of all Americans, attend arts and culture events in the past year.
- **55%** of Minnesotans are personally involved in creative activity in their everyday life.
- **81%** of Americans believe that the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world.”
- **90%** of Americans believe that cultural facilities (theaters, museums, sculpture parks, neighborhood arts centers) improve quality of life.

ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA’S SCHOOLS

New data from Minnesota’s Department of Education have allowed us to take a look at students’ access to arts education in Minnesota’s K-12 schools. Minnesota statute sets requirements for arts education offerings, credits for graduation, and achievement of academic standards in the arts. Local control in Minnesota means that each school district decides how it will provide arts education to its students. Some schools are meeting or exceeding the requirements set in statute, and others are falling short.

This study covers one year of data from the **2016/2017 school year, in High School grades 9 through 12**, from **482 public and charter schools serving 252,181 students**. Information on more grades will become available over time.

High schools **must offer at least three** and require at least one of the following arts areas: **media arts, dance, music, theater and visual arts**. Students must take one credit of the arts to graduate.

Unfortunately, our first report on the availability of arts education in Minnesota schools is incomplete because **so many schools have not complied with the mandatory reporting requirements**. We cannot definitively say what percentage of students do not have access to the three arts courses that should be available to them in high school. It may be that their school has reported that they are not providing the courses, or it may be that the schools have not reported in at all.

- So far **165 schools, representing 24 percent of Minnesota's high school students, have not yet submitted their data**.
- Only **20% of high schools** have affirmatively reported that they are providing access to the required three arts disciplines. They serve just 37% of Minnesota’s 252,181 high school students.

- However, **76% of students** are in schools that report they provide at least some arts instruction.
- The most common disciplines offered are **Visual or Media Arts and Music**.
- **Traditional public schools are doing much better than Charter schools in providing access to arts courses.** Only **6% of Charter Schools** report they provide access to three arts disciplines required by Minnesota Statute, compared to **23% of Traditional Public Schools** which have reported the same. Stated in terms of the percentage of students in each type of school, **11% of students** at Charter Schools, compared to **38% of students** at Traditional Public Schools, have been reported to have access to the three arts disciplines.

While the results are summarized here, much more information will be available soon at **CreativeMN.org**, including details from each reporting school. Our new research is intended to be a tool for schools, principals, superintendents and most importantly parents and community members to learn whether or not their school is providing the state mandated access to arts courses and academic standards. They can then advocate for more arts education in their communities.

ABOUT CREATIVE MINNESOTA

Creative Minnesota was developed by a collaborative of arts and culture supporting organizations in partnership with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA). The report includes both new, original research and analysis of data created by others. It is a long-term endeavor to provide hard data about the arts sector for education, policy making, and advocacy. We envision that arts advocates, legislators, local government officials, schools and parents, as well as arts and culture organizations, will use this report to find new ways to improve their lives and communities with arts and culture. Creative Minnesota research is available for free at **CreativeMN.org**.

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
- **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>
- **Target:** <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility>
- **Jerome Foundation:** <http://www.jeromefdn.org/>
- **Bush Foundation:** www.bushfoundation.org
- **Mardag Foundation:** <http://www.mardag.org/>
- **Perpich Center for Arts Education:** <http://perpich.mn.gov/>
- **Springboard for the Arts:** <https://springboardforthearts.org/>
- **Minnesota Music Teachers Association:** <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/>
- **Americans for the Arts:** www.AmericansForTheArts.org
- **CURA Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota:** <http://www.cura.umn.edu/>
- **Ideas that Kick:** www.ideasthatkick.com
- **Minnesota Compass:** <http://www.mncompass.org>
- **Minnesota Historical Society:** <http://www.mnhs.org/about>
- **Lake Region Arts Council:** <https://lrac4.org/>

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