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**STUDY SHOWS \$1.09 BILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND
OVER 30,000 JOBS ARE GENERATED ANNUALLY BY
THE NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE INDUSTRY IN CHICAGO**

Revealing the Nonprofit Arts Industry as a Formidable Business and Economic Driver for Chicago

Chicago, Illinois —The Illinois Arts Alliance announced today the results of the economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry in Chicago. These local results were compiled as part of the most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States. Entitled *Arts & Economic Prosperity III*, the study was conducted in 156 communities and regions (116 cities and counties, 35 multi-county regions, and 5 states) including Chicago. The Illinois Arts Alliance helped to facilitate the gathering of the detailed economic data from 115 arts and culture organizations that were among 6,080 local arts and cultures organizations surveyed nationwide. Americans for the Arts, which conducted the national study, is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America.

The local data reveals that Chicago's nonprofit arts industry generates \$1.09 billion in economic activity annually, including:

- 30,134 full-time equivalent jobs
- \$629 million in resident household income
- \$58.1 million in local government tax revenues
- \$45 million in state government tax revenues

"This study clearly demonstrates that the arts mean business in Chicago," said Ra Joy, Executive Director of the Illinois Arts Alliance. "Illinois' creative industry has proven to be a wise investment for the state, but government funding for the arts in Illinois has remained stagnant for too long. In order to build upon the creative infrastructure that exists in Illinois, we are asking the state to increase the Illinois Arts Council's budget from \$20 million a year to \$24 million. That works out to about \$2 per person, dollars that Illinois can leverage to create more jobs, spur economic development, increase tourism and generate additional tax revenue. Investment in the arts is a win-win."

The \$1.09 billion total includes \$659 million in spending by arts organizations and \$433 million in event-related spending by arts audiences, excluding the cost of admission. The \$433 million in event-related spending by arts audiences reflects an average of \$38.12 per person in spending for hotels, restaurants, parking, souvenirs, refreshments, or other similar costs—with non-local attendees spending nearly twice as much as local attendees Chicago's \$1.09 billion compares to San Francisco's \$1.03 billion, Greater Philadelphia's \$1.29 billion and Washington, DC's \$746 million.

MORE

ADD 1 – AFTA ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Nationally, according to Americans for the Arts report, the nonprofit arts industry generates 5.7 million jobs and \$166.2 billion in total economic activity every year, resulting in \$29.6 billion in federal, state, and local government revenues. The \$166.2 billion total includes \$63.1 billion in spending by arts organizations and \$103.1 billion in event-related spending by their audiences. The total economic activity has a significant national impact, generating the following:

- 5.7 million full-time equivalent jobs
- \$104.2 billion in resident household income
- \$7.9 billion in local government tax revenues
- \$9.1 billion in state government tax revenues
- \$12.6 billion in federal government tax revenues

“This study is a myth buster,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “Most Americans understand that the arts improve our quality of life. This study demonstrates that the arts are an industry that stimulates the economy in cities and towns across the country. A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive.”

The nation’s nonprofit arts and culture industry has grown steadily since the first analysis by Americans for the Arts in 1992, expanding at a rate greater than inflation. Between the second study conducted in 2000 and 2005, spending by organizations and their audiences grew 24 percent, from \$133 billion to \$166.2 billion in total economic activity.

The *Arts & Economic Prosperity III* study shows that nationally nonprofits arts support more jobs than accountants and auditors, public safety officers, and even lawyers, and just slightly fewer than elementary school teachers. Spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations provide rewarding employment for more than just artists, curators, and musicians but they also directly support builders, plumbers, accountants, printers, and an array of occupations.

In addition, the study reveals that the nonprofit arts industry is the cornerstone of tourism. The \$103.1 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences reflects an average of \$27.79 per person in spending for hotels, restaurants, parking, souvenirs, refreshments, or other similar costs—with non-local attendees spending twice as much as local attendees (\$40.19 vs. \$19.53). When a community attracts cultural tourists, it harnesses significant economic rewards.

The results of the economic impact of the arts in Chicago are available at www.artsalliance.org. The results of the economic impact of the arts for each of the 156 city and county participants, as well as comparative data for the 25 communities that participated in both the 2002 and current study are available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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The Arts & Economic Prosperity III study was conducted by Americans for the Arts and supported by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and The Ruth Lilly Fund of Americans for the Arts. Americans for the Arts’ local and statewide project partners contributed both time and financial support to the study. The full text of the report is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact.

The Illinois Arts Alliance (IAA) is the statewide arts advocacy and service organization promoting the value of the arts to all residents of Illinois. Since 1982, IAA has advanced widespread support of all the arts, enhanced the health of the arts and cultural sector and fostered a climate in which the broadest spectrum of artistic expression can flourish through research, capacity building and communication. Today, IAA’s members, partner organizations and funders recognize the Arts Alliance as one of the most innovative and effective statewide arts advocacy groups in the nation.