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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Indianapolis' Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry
Generates \$440 Million in Economic Activity
and Supports 14,729 Jobs Annually
According to Americans for the Arts**

Arts Industry Returns \$47 Million in Revenue to Local and State Coffers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$440 million in annual economic activity in Indianapolis—supporting 14,729 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$47 million in local and state government revenues, according to the *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* national economic impact study. The most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education.

Results show that nonprofit arts and culture organizations spent \$227 million during fiscal year 2015. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services and acquire assets in Indianapolis. Those dollars, in turn, generated \$213 million in household income for local residents and \$20.5 million in local and state government revenues.

“The arts are an important economic engine for the city of Indianapolis - bringing millions of dollars to the city, providing thousands of jobs and opportunities for

creative individuals, and providing a staggering return on investment,” said **Dave Lawrence**, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis. “The results detailed in *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* clearly demonstrate, not only the profound impact the arts have on our economy, but also how Indianapolis continues to embrace the arts as an important part of our collective identity.”

Nationwide, the *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* reveals that the nonprofit arts industry produces \$166.3 billion in economic activity every year, resulting in \$27.5 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues. In addition, it supports 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$96.07 billion in household income.

“This study demonstrates that the arts are an economic and employment powerhouse both locally and across the nation,” said **Robert L. Lynch**, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive and helps local communities become stronger and healthier places to live. Leaders who care about community and economic vitality can feel good about choosing to invest in the arts. Nationally as well as locally, the arts mean business.”

Arts Industry Boon for Local Businesses

In addition to spending by organizations, the nonprofit arts and culture industry leverages \$213 million in event-related spending by its audiences. As a result of attending a cultural event, attendees often eat dinner in local restaurants, pay for parking, buy gifts and souvenirs, and pay a babysitter. What’s more, attendees from outside of Central Indiana often stay overnight in a local hotel. In Indianapolis, these dollars support 7,780 full-time equivalent jobs and generate \$27 million in local and state government revenues.

“Promoting artistic expression not only highlights our region’s talented individuals, but invites others to consider a supportive community like Indianapolis as a place to call home,” notes Michael Huber, president and CEO of the Indy Chamber. “Talent is the currency by which our community will thrive in a global economy, and fostering an ecosystem that supports arts and culture is pivotal to this growth. The work of the Arts Council of Indianapolis and our diverse creative class underscored by this report makes a significant impact in a myriad of ways for our economic future.”

The *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* study was conducted by Americans for the Arts and supported by The Ruth Lilly Fund of Americans for the Arts. Americans for the Arts’ local, regional, and statewide project partners contributed both time and financial support to the study. Financial information from organizations was collected in partnership with DataArts™, using a new online survey interface. For a full list of the communities who participated in the *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* study, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners.

About the Arts Council of Indianapolis:

The Arts Council is an organization that advocates for the need and importance of broad community funding and support for a thriving arts scene; connects artists, audiences, businesses, foundations, and arts and cultural organizations with opportunities to expand central Indiana's creative vitality; and innovates by constantly pursuing and promoting programs that catalyze creative growth in central Indiana.

The Arts Council owns and operates two performance and exhibition spaces, the Indianapolis Artsgarden (attached to Circle Centre Mall) and Gallery 924 (at 924 N. Pennsylvania Street). The Arts Council allocates public funding to arts and cultural organizations through a competitive grant program; offers fellowship opportunities including the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship, the Transformational Impact Fellowship, and the Robert D. Beckmann, Jr. Emerging Artist Fellowship; provides programs, services, and technical assistance for artists and arts organizations; and manages the city's public art program including the new Public Art for Neighborhoods initiative. The Indy Arts Guide provides a comprehensive arts calendar featuring thousands of events, performances, and exhibitions throughout central Indiana. For more information on the Arts Council, call [\(317\) 631-3301](tel:3176313301) or visit online at indyarts.org.

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