



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Clackamas County's Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry Generates \$14.8 million in Economic Activity and Supports 417 Jobs Annually According to Americans for the Arts**

### ***Arts Industry Returns \$1.2 million in Revenue to Local and State Coffers***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$14,837,677 in annual economic activity in Clackamas County, supporting 417 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$1,199,000 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 in Clackamas County spent \$5,821,109 during fiscal year 2015. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services and acquire assets within their community. Those dollars, in turn, generated \$8,027,000 in household income for local residents and \$1,199,000 in local and state government revenues.

"This study provides, for the first time, direct evidence that the arts and culture industry has significant impact in our county, providing jobs, supporting businesses and attracting visitors. We've long claimed that arts and culture contributes to vibrant, thriving County communities, and now we have proof that is true!" said **Cheryl Snow**, Clackamas County Arts Alliance Executive Director:

#### **Arts Industry Boon for Local Businesses**

In addition to spending by organizations, Clackamas County's nonprofit arts and culture industry leveraged \$9,016,568 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, spending on average \$32 beyond ticket price. The study also reports that 32 percent of attendees reside outside the County. Attendees from out of town often stayed overnight in a local hotel or motel, and spent on average \$143 per day.

**Wilda Parks**, Milwaukie City Councilor and former President/CEO North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce said: "There is no doubt that communities that embrace arts and culture activities, programs, events and education are far richer in many ways than those who do not purposefully invite them into the fabric of their community. In addition to sensory benefits, access to such things as poetry readings, sculpture gardens, artists' showings, theatre and music performances, museums and libraries all add greatly to economic vitality. Businesses and residents prefer to live and do business in vibrant communities."

Nationwide, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* reveals that the nonprofit arts industry produces \$166.3 billion in economic activity every year, resulting in \$14.6 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues. In addition, it supports 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$96.1 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.”

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](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners).

The Clackamas County Arts Alliance, a nonprofit organization, works to keep arts and culture central to life in Clackamas County, and has developed programs and services to meet needs countywide since 1994.

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