



JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

City of Charleston

SCOTT WATSON
DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For Immediate Release June 20, 2017

City of Charleston's Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry Generates \$ 186,525,751 in Economic Activity and Supports 6,744 Jobs Annually According to Americans for the Arts

Arts Industry Returns \$ 19,088,000 in Revenue to Local and State Coffers

Charleston, S.C. – The arts are an engine of economic growth, tourism, and employment. The nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$186,525,751 in annual economic activity in Charleston, SC—supporting 6,744 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$19,088,000 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 spent \$186,525,751 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 \$131,328,000 in household income for local residents and \$19,088,000 in local and state government revenues.

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.”



JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

City of Charleston

SCOTT WATSON
DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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.

Established in 1977, the **City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA)** is committed to promoting and fostering excellence through artistic expression, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all of Charleston's citizens regardless of social, economic, or physical considerations. The OCA strives to provide access to the arts for all citizens and plays an important role in producing and/or supporting programs that educate, inform, and inspire through a wide variety of cultural activities that celebrate creativity and diversity, contribute to the area's economic development, and underscore Charleston's reputation as an international cultural destination. For more information about the projects and programs of the OCA, visit charlestonarts.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kelly Walker, Public Relations Coordinator
Phone: (843) 724-3705
Email: walker@charleston-sc.gov