Resolution in Support of The Economic Impact of The Arts and Culture in America

Economic Impact Study of The Nonprofit Arts & Culture Industry

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with the National Lieutenant Governors Association, conducted the fifth national economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in 341 communities, regions, and states representing every state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it was found that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates $166.3 billion in economic activity annually, which supports 4.6 million U.S. jobs in communities ranging from large urban to small rural; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts and culture industry annually returns $13.0 billion in federal income taxes, $7.7 billion in state government revenue and $6.9 billion in local government revenue, for a total of $27.5 billion in government revenue; and

WHEREAS, this new Arts and Economic Prosperity 5 study collected extensive survey data from 14,439 nonprofit and governmental arts and cultural organizations and 212,691 of their attendees; and

WHEREAS, data collected from the 212,691 attendees at a range of events reveal an average spending of $31.47 per person, per event—in addition to the cost of admission—generating $102.5 billion of valuable revenue for local merchants and their communities annually; and

WHEREAS, 34 percent of audience attendees are non-local—living outside of the county in which the arts event took place—and spend more than twice that of their local counterparts: $47.57 vs. $23.44 per person, per event; and

WHEREAS, findings from Arts and Economic Prosperity 5 study reveal that America’s nonprofit arts and culture industry generates $166.3 billion in economic activity every year—$63.8 billion in spending by arts and cultural organizations and an additional $102.5 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences—resulting in a significant benefit to the nation’s economy:

- Total Expenditures $166.3 billion
- Full-Time Jobs 4.6 million jobs
- Household income $96.1 billion
- Local Government Revenue $6.9 billion
- State Government Revenue $7.7 billion
- Federal Income Tax Revenue $13.0 billion

WHEREAS, per the United States Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis, the for profit and nonprofit arts and culture industry combined is a $730 Billion a year industry that makes up 4.2% of the United States Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is more than construction (3.9%), transportation (2.9%) and tourism (2.6%). Further, if the Arts and Culture were its own economy, it would be larger than 45 states and the territories.
NOW LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association supports the comprehensive research conclusions of the *Arts and Economic Prosperity 5* study and urges Lieutenant Governors to promote nonprofit arts organizations through their state and local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, stimulate business development, spur both urban and rural renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America’s states and territories.