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Local Art Nonprofits Generate over \$1 Billion in Economic Activity

ARTS INDUSTRY RETURNS \$116 MILLION IN REVENUE TO LOCAL AND STATE COFFERS

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$1.1 billion in annual economic activity, according to the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, an arts industry economic impact study conducted by Americans for the Arts.

According to the study, San Diego nonprofit organizations support 35,914 full-time equivalent jobs and generate a notable \$116 million in local and state government revenues. In June, the City of San Diego announced over \$11 million in awarded contracts to 133 arts nonprofits through Commission for Arts and Culture funding programs.

“The arts are a powerful force not only for enriching the lives of citizens in a community, but as a driver of economic activity,” said Janet K. Poutré, Chair of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. **“Even the smallest dance company employs dancers, administrators and stagehands. Tourists visiting to attend arts and cultural events spend on hotels and restaurants. A city with a vibrant arts scene will always enjoy a vibrant economy as well.”**

Poutré will be joined by Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research and Policy at Americans for the Arts, along with Councilmembers Lorie Zapf and Chris Ward to present the study findings on Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Museum of Photographic Arts, Joan and Irwin Jacobs Theater, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101.

Study results also show nonprofit arts and culture organizations spent \$553.6 million 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 \$894.4 million in household income for local residents and \$116 million in local and state government revenues.

“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.”**

Results of the study will be available for free download on the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture’s website www.sandiego.gov/arts-culture/ on Oct. 18, 2017.

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