AMERICANS for the ARTS

ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IV

The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences

in BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Arts and Economic Prosperity IV was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. Established in 1960, we are dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

The City of Asheville Cultural Arts Division served as the lead study partner for Buncombe County, one of 182 study partners in the United States. ***Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*** is the third Arts & Economic Prosperity study that Buncombe County arts and culture organizations have participated in with Americans for the Arts.

ASHEVILLE
Parks, Recreation
& Cultural Arts
Department

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"Understanding and acknowledging the incredible economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture, we must always remember their fundamental value. They foster beauty, creativity, originality, and vitality. The arts inspire us, sooth us, provoke us, involve us, and connect us. But they also create jobs and contribute to the economy."

— Robert L. Lynch
President and CEO
Americans for the Arts

"This study shows that an investment in the arts is an investment in an industry — one that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is a cornerstone of tourism."

— Linda A. Carlisle
Secretary
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

The Arts Mean Business

By Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO, Americans for the Arts

America's artists and arts organizations live and work in every community from coast-to-coast—fueling creativity, beautifying our cities, and improving our quality of life. In my travels across the country, business and government leaders often talk to me about the challenges of funding the arts amid shrinking resources and alongside other pressing needs. They worry about jobs and the economy. Is their region a magnet for attracting and retaining a skilled and innovative workforce? How well are they competing in the high-stakes race to attract new businesses? The findings from ***Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*** send a clear and welcome message: leaders who care about community and economic vitality can feel good about choosing to invest in the arts.

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV is our fourth study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry's impact on the economy. The most comprehensive study of its kind ever conducted, it features customized findings on 182 study regions representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as estimates of economic impact nationally. Despite the economic headwinds that our country faced in 2010, the results are impressive. Nationally, the industry generated $135.2 billion dollars of economic activity—$61.1 billion by the nation's nonprofit arts and culture organizations in addition to $74.1 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. This economic activity supports 4.1 million full-time jobs. Our industry also generates $22.3 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments every year—a yield well beyond their collective $4 billion in arts allocations.

Arts and culture organizations are resilient and entrepreneurial businesses. They employ people locally, purchase goods and services from within the community, and market and promote their regions. Arts organizations are rooted locally; these are jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. Like most industries, the Great Recession left a measurable financial impact on the arts—erasing the gains made during the pre-recession years, and leaving 2010 expenditures three percent behind their 2005 levels. The biggest effect of the recession was on attendance and audience spending. Inevitably, as people lost jobs and worried about losing their houses, arts attendance—like attendance to sports events and leisure travel—waned as well. Yet, even in a down economy, some communities saw an increase in their arts spending and employment. As the economy rebounds, the arts are well poised for growth. They are already producing new and exciting work—performances and exhibitions and festivals that entertain, inspire, and attract audiences.

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV shows that arts and culture organizations leverage additional event-related spending by their audiences that pumps revenue into the local economy. When patrons attend an arts event they may pay for parking, eat dinner at a restaurant, shop in local retail stores, and have dessert on the way home. Based on the 151,802 audience-intercept surveys conducted for this study, the typical arts attendee spends $24.60 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission.

Communities that draw cultural tourists experience an additional boost of economic activity. Tourism industry research has repeatedly demonstrated that arts tourists stay longer and spend more than the average traveler. ***Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*** reflects those findings: 32 percent of attendees live outside the county in which the arts event took place, and their event-related spending is more than twice that of their local counterparts (nonlocal: $39.96 vs. local: $17.42). The message is clear: a vibrant arts community not only keeps residents and their discretionary spending close to home, it also attracts visitors who spend money and help local businesses thrive.

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV demonstrates that America's arts industry is not only resilient in times of economic uncertainty, but is also a key component to our nation's economic recovery and future prosperity. Business and elected leaders need not feel that a choice must be made between arts funding and economic prosperity. This study proves that they can choose both. Nationally, as well as locally, **the arts mean business**.

"As all budgets—local and national, public and private—continue to reel from the effects of the economic downturn, some may perceive the arts as an unaffordable luxury reserved for only the most prosperous times. Fortunately, this rigorous report offers evidence that the nonprofit arts industry provides not just cultural benefits to our communities, but also makes significant positive economic contributions to the nation's financial well being regardless of the overall state of the economy. This certainly is something to applaud."

— Jonathan Spector
President & CEO
The Conference Board

The Economic Impact of the Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry in Buncombe County, NC

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV provides compelling new evidence that the nonprofit arts and culture are a significant industry in Buncombe County—one that generates $43.7 million in total economic activity. This spending—$16.9 million by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and an additional $26.8 million in event-related spending by their audiences—supports 1,427 full-time equivalent jobs, generates $32.5 million in household income to local residents, and delivers $4.8 million in local and state government revenue. This economic impact study sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we not only enhance our quality of life, but we also invest in Buncombe County's economic well-being.

Buncombe County is one of 182 study regions that participated in *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*, the most comprehensive study of its kind ever conducted. It documents the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture sector in 139 cities and counties, 31 multi-city or multi-county regions, 10 states, and two individual arts districts—representing all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The diverse study regions range in population (1,600 to four million) and type (rural to large urban). Project economists customized input-output analysis models to calculate specific and reliable findings for each study region. This study focuses solely on the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and event-related spending by their audiences. Spending by individual artists and the for-profit arts and culture sector (e.g., Broadway or the motion picture industry) are excluded from this study. For the purpose of this study, the geographic area included in this analysis is defined as **Buncombe County**.

Defining Economic Impact

This proprietary study uses four economic measures to define economic impact: full-time equivalent jobs, resident household income, and local and state government revenues.

(1) Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs describes the total amount of labor employed. Economists measure FTE jobs, not the total number of employees, because it is a more accurate measure that accounts for part-time employment.

(2) Resident Household Income (often called Personal Income) includes salaries, wages, and entrepreneurial income paid to local residents. It is the money residents earn and use to pay for food, mortgages, and other living expenses.

Revenue to (3) Local and (4) State Government includes revenue from local and state taxes (e.g., income, property, sales, and lodging) as well as funds from license fees, utility fees, filing fees, and other similar sources.

Economic Impact of the ENTIRE Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry (Combined Spending by Both Organizations and Their Audiences) in Buncombe County

During fiscal year 2010, aggregate nonprofit sector spending by both Buncombe County's nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences totaled $43.7 million. The table below demonstrates the total economic impact of this spending.

TOTAL Economic Impact of the Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry in Buncombe County
(Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences)

	Buncombe County	**Median of Similar Study Regions** *Pop. = 100,000 to 249,999*	**National Median**
Direct Expenditures	**$43,749,707**	$23,879,203	$49,081,279
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	**1,427**	836	1,533
Resident Household Income	**$32,458,000**	$18,682,000	$35,124,500
Local Government Revenue	**$2,288,000**	$1,227,000	$1,946,500
State Government Revenue	**$2,465,000**	$1,223,000	$2,498,000

Direct and Indirect Economic Impact: How a Dollar is Re-spent in the Economy

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV uses a sophisticated economic analysis called input-output analysis to measure economic impact. It is a system of mathematical equations that combines statistical methods and economic theory. Input-output analysis enables economists to track how many times a dollar is "re-spent" within the local economy, and the economic impact generated by each round of spending. How can a dollar be re-spent? Consider the following example:

> A theater company in Buncombe County purchases several gallons of paint from a local hardware store for $200. The hardware store then uses a portion of the $200 to pay the sales clerk; the sales clerk re-spends some of the money at a grocery store; the grocery store uses some to pay its cashier; the cashier spends some on rent; and so on ...

Thus, the initial expenditure by the theater company was followed by four additional rounds of local spending (by the hardware store, the sales clerk, the grocery store, and the cashier).

- The economic impact of the theater company's initial $200 expenditure is the direct economic impact.
- The economic impacts of the subsequent rounds of local spending are the indirect impacts.
- Eventually, the $200 dollars will "leak out" of the local economy (i.e., be spent non-locally) and cease to have a local economic impact. In this example, if the theater company purchased the paint from a non-local hardware store there would be no local economic impact. Since the hardware store is located in Buncombe County, the dollars remain within the local economy and create at least one more round of local spending by the hardware company.
- The total impact is the sum of the direct impact plus all indirect impacts. **This report provides the total impact**.

A dollar "ripples" very different through each community, which is why a customized input-output model was created for Buncombe County.

“Partnerships between nonprofit organizations and the local community make a big difference in our state. Arts councils, arts organizations and other nonprofits are catalysts that reenergize downtowns, attract visitors and build community pride. Creative North Carolina is a key to our state’s future growth and well-being.”

— Wayne Martin
Executive Director
North Carolina Arts Council

"Many businesses support the arts across the country because they intuitively understand that the arts matter, so it is great to get the facts and a clearer understanding of the links between the arts and economic prosperity."

— Stephen Jordan, Executive Director
Business Civic Leadership Center
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Economic Impact of Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture ORGANIZATIONS in Buncombe County

Nonprofit arts and culture organizations are active contributors to their business community. They are employers, producers, and consumers. They are members of the Chamber of Commerce as well as key partners in the marketing and promotion of their cities, regions, and states. Spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations totaled $16.9 million in Buncombe County during fiscal year 2010. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services, and acquire assets within their community. These actions, in turn, support jobs, create household income, and generate revenue to the local and state governments.

Buncombe County's nonprofit arts and culture organizations provide rewarding employment for more than just administrators, artists, curators, choreographers, and musicians. They also employ financial staff, facility managers, and salespeople. In addition, the spending by these organizations directly supports a wide array of other occupations spanning many industries (e.g., printing, event planning, legal, construction, and accounting).

Data were collected from 34 eligible nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Buncombe County. Each provided detailed budget information about more than 40 expenditure categories for fiscal year 2010 (e.g., labor, payments to local and nonlocal artists, operations, administration, programming, facilities, and capital expenditures/asset acquisition). The following tables demonstrates the total economic impacts of their aggregate spending.

TOTAL Economic Impact of Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture ORGANIZATIONS in Buncombe County

	Buncombe County	Median of Similar Study Regions *Pop. = 100,000 to 249,999*	National Median
Direct Expenditures	**$16,928,713**	$12,013,659	$23,141,643
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	**550**	463	791
Resident Household Income	**$14,871,000**	$9,261,500	$19,488,000
Local Government Revenue	**$550,000**	$419,000	$867,000
State Government Revenue	**$734,000**	$506,000	$1,010,000

An Economic Impact Beyond Dollars: Volunteerism

While arts volunteers may not have an economic impact as defined in this study, they clearly have an enormous impact by helping Buncombe County's nonprofit arts and culture organizations function as a viable industry. *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* reveals a significant contribution to nonprofit arts and culture organizations as a result of volunteerism. During 2010, a total of 4,440 volunteers donated a total of 147,204 hours to Buncombe County's participating nonprofit arts and culture organizations. This represents a donation of time with an estimated aggregate value of $3,144,277 (Independent Sector estimates the dollar value of the average 2010 volunteer hour to be $21.36).

The 34 participating organizations reported an average of 33.2 volunteers who volunteered an average of 130.6 hours, for a total of 4,330 hours per organization.

The Value of In-Kind Contributions to Arts Organizations

The participating organizations were asked about the sources and value of their in-kind support. In-kind contributions are non-cash donations such as materials (e.g., office supplies from a local retailer), facilities (e.g., rent), and services (e.g., printing costs from a local printer). The 34 participating nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Buncombe County reported that they received in-kind contributions with an aggregate value of $979,615 during fiscal year 2010. These contributions were received from a variety of sources including corporations, individuals, local and state arts agencies, and government.

> "At Aetna, we encourage our employees to be active volunteers. It's good for the employee, good for the community, and a source of corporate pride. The research also makes clear that employees who are engaged in the community are more engaged at the workplace—and that is good for business. Arts organizations are part of the fabric of a healthy community, so we are delighted to provide incentives to our workers to be regular arts volunteers."
>
> — Floyd W. Green, III
> Head of Community Relations and Urban Marketing
> Aetna

Economic Impact of Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture AUDIENCES in Buncombe County

The nonprofit arts and culture industry, unlike most industries, leverages a significant amount of event-related spending by its audiences. For example, when patrons attend a cultural event, they may pay to park their car, purchase dinner at a restaurant, shop in nearby stores, eat dessert after the show, and pay a babysitter upon their return home. Attendees from out of town may spend the night in a hotel. This spending generates related commerce for local businesses such as restaurants, parking garages, retail stores, and hotels.

To measure the impact of nonprofit arts and culture audiences in Buncombe County, data were collected from 1,061 event attendees during 2011. Researchers used an audience-intercept methodology, a standard technique in which patrons complete a written survey about their event-related spending while attending the event. In Buncombe County, arts attendees spend an average of $34.49 per person, per event as a direct result of their attendance to the event. Local businesses that cater to arts and culture audiences reap the rewards of this economic activity.

The 34 participating nonprofit arts and culture organizations reported that the aggregate attendance to their events was 777,116 during 2010. These attendees spent an estimated total of $26.8 million, excluding the cost of event admission. The following table demonstrate the total impacts of this spending.

TOTAL Economic Impact of Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture AUDIENCES in Buncombe County (excluding the cost of event admission*)

	Buncombe County	**Median of Similar Study Regions** *Pop. 100,000 to 249,999*	**National Median**
Direct Expenditures	**$26,820,994**	$13,601,859	$21,573,435
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	**877**	364	643
Resident Household Income	**$17,587,000**	$7,286,500	$12,823,000
Local Government Revenue	**$1,738,000**	$704,500	$1,084,000
State Government Revenue	**$1,731,000**	$710,500	$1,334,000

* Why exclude the cost of admission? The admissions paid by attendees are excluded from the analysis because those dollars are captured in the operating budgets of the participating nonprofit arts and culture organizations and, in turn, are spent by the organization. This methodology avoids "double-counting" those dollars in the study analysis.

Cultural Tourists Spend More

The 1,061 audience survey respondents were asked to provide the ZIP code of their primary residence, enabling researchers to determine which attendees were local residents (live within Buncombe County) and which were non-residents (live outside Buncombe County). In Buncombe County, researchers estimate that 58.6 percent of the 777,116 nonprofit arts attendees were residents; 41.4 percent were non-residents.

Non-resident attendees spend an average of 367 percent more per person than local attendees ($63.96 vs. $13.71) as a result of their attendance to cultural events. As would be expected from a traveler, higher spending was typically found in the categories of lodging, meals, and transportation. When a community attracts cultural tourists, it harnesses significant economic rewards.

Event-Related Spending by Arts and Culture Event Attendees Totaled $26.8 million in Buncombe County (excluding the cost of event admission)

	Residents	Non-Residents	All Buncombe County Event Attendees
Total Attendance	455,390	321,726	777,116
Percent of Attendees	58.6 percent	41.4 percent	100 percent
Average Dollars Spent Per Attendee	$13.71	$63.96	$34.49
Direct Event-Related Expenditures	**$6,243,399**	**$20,577,595**	**$26,820,994**

Nonprofit Arts and Culture Event Attendees Spend an Average of $34.49 Per Person in Buncombe County (excluding the cost of event admission)

	Residents	Non-Residents	All Buncombe County Event Attendees
Refreshments/Snacks During Event	$2.12	$2.99	$2.48
Meals Before/After Event	$8.84	$17.30	$12.34
Souvenirs and Gifts	$0.74	$4.86	$2.44
Clothing and Accessories	$0.25	$1.30	$0.68
Ground Transportation	$1.13	$5.74	$3.04
Event-Related Child Care	$0.09	$0.25	$0.15
Overnight Lodging *(one night only)*	$0.11	$27.66	$11.51
Other	$0.43	$3.86	$1.85
Total Per Person Spending	**$13.71**	**$63.96**	**$34.49**

Cultural Events Attract New Dollars and Retain Local Dollars

Buncombe County's nonprofit arts and culture sector provides attractions that draw visitors to the community. In fact, 42.6 percent of all non-resident survey respondents reported that the primary reason for their trip was "specifically to attend this arts/cultural event."

In addition, 26.7 percent of Buncombe County's non-resident survey respondents reported that they will spend at least one night away from home in Buncombe County as a direct result of attending the cultural event. Non-resident attendees who stay overnight in paid lodging spend an average of $169.89 per person as a result of their attendance—significantly more than the overall per person average for all non-resident attendees to events in Buncombe County $63.96.

Finally, the audience survey respondents were asked, "If this event were not happening, would you have traveled to another community to attend a similar cultural experience?"

- 37.0 percent of Buncombe County's resident cultural attendees report that *they would have traveled to a different community in order to attend a similar cultural experience*.
- 48.6 percent of Buncombe County's non-resident cultural attendees report *the same*.

These figures demonstrate the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture in the purest sense. If a community does not provide a variety of artistic and cultural experiences, it will fail to attract the new dollars of cultural tourists. It will also lose the discretionary spending of its local residents who will travel elsewhere to experience the arts.

> "As a banker, I have visited businesses in almost every city and town in Oklahoma. There is a visible difference in places with a vibrant arts community. I see people looking for places to park, stores staying open late, and restaurants packed with diners … the business day is extended and the cash registers are ringing."
>
> — Ken Fergeson
> Chairman & CEO, NBanC
> Past President, American Bankers Association

Cultural Attendees are Artists!

- 50.7 percent of Buncombe County's arts attendees report that they actively participate in the creation of the arts (e.g., sing in a choir, act in a community play, paint or draw, play an instrument).

Conclusion

The nonprofit arts and culture are a $43.7 million industry in Buncombe County—one that supports 1,427 full-time equivalent jobs and generates $4.8 million in local and state government revenue. Nonprofit arts and culture organizations, which spend $16.9 million annually, leverage a remarkable $26.8 million in additional spending by arts and culture audiences—spending that pumps vital revenue into local restaurants, hotels, retail stores, parking garages, and other businesses. By demonstrating that investing in the arts and culture yields economic benefits, *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* lays to rest a common misconception: that communities support the arts and culture at the expense of local economic development. In fact, they are investing in an industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is a cornerstone of tourism. This report shows conclusively that **the arts mean business!**

> "Disney has a rich legacy in animation, film and storytelling, so naturally we consider the arts to be an essential part of our business, as well as an essential element of our communities. We have seen how the arts not only enrich American life, but also support millions of jobs across the country, generate billions of dollars in economic impact, and help drive the family-vacation industry. By investing in the arts, we plant seeds for the future and make our communities better places to live."
>
> — Meg Crofton, President
> Walt Disney World Parks & Resorts Operations, U.S. and France

This study proves that the arts are a diverse and thriving industry that enriches our community, provides jobs, and supports tourism throughout Buncombe County.

— Diane Ruggiero
Superintendent of Cultural Arts
City of Asheville

"A vibrant arts environment stimulates and sustains a richer quality of life and economic health. In Delaware, where the arts are among our top 10 employers, we see how the arts contribute to the renaissance of downtown areas, enhance our educational system, and attract new businesses and residents to the state."

— Governor Jack A. Markell
Chair, National Governors Association

The *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* Calculator

To make it easier to compare the economic impacts of different organizations within Buncombe County, the project researchers calculated the economic impact per $100,000 of direct spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences.

Economic Impact Per $100,000 of Direct Spending by ORGANIZATIONS

For every $100,000 in direct spending by a nonprofit arts and culture organization in Buncombe County, there was the following total economic impact.

TABLE 1:
Ratios of Economic Impact Per $100,000 of Direct Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations in Buncombe County

	Buncombe County	Median of Similar Study Regions *Pop. = 100,000 to 249,999*	National Median
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	**3.25**	3.68	3.46
Resident Household Income	**$87,845**	$82,457	$82,084
Local Government Revenue	**$3,249**	$3,825	$3,819
State Government Revenue	**$4,336**	$4,491	$4,656

An Example of How to Use the Organizational Spending Calculator Table (above):

An administrator from a nonprofit arts and culture organization that has total expenditures of $250,000 wants to determine the organization's total economic impact on full-time equivalent (FTE) employment in Buncombe County. The administrator would:

1. Determine the amount spent by the nonprofit arts and culture organization;
2. Divide the total expenditure by 100,000; and
3. Multiply that figure by the FTE employment ratio per $100,000 for Buncombe County.

Thus, $250,000 divided by 100,000 equals 2.5; 2.5 times 3.25 (from the top row of data on Table 1 above) equals a total of 8.1 full-time equivalent jobs supported (both directly and indirectly) within Buncombe County by that nonprofit arts and culture organization. Using the same procedure, the estimate can be calculated for resident household income and local and state government revenue.

Economic Impact Per $100,000 of Direct Spending by AUDIENCES

The economic impact of event-related spending by arts audiences can also be derived for individual or groups of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and events in Buncombe County.

The first step is to determine the total estimated event-related spending by arts and culture event attendees (excluding the cost of admission). To derive this figure, multiply the average per person event-related expenditure in Buncombe County by the total event attendance. The ratios of economic impact per $100,000 in direct spending can then be used to determine the total economic impact of the total estimated audience spending.

TABLE 2:
Average Per Person Event-Related Spending by All Arts and Culture Event Attendees in Buncombe County (excluding the cost of event admission)

	Buncombe County	Median of Similar Study Regions *Pop. = 100,000 to 249,999*	National Median
Refreshments/Snacks During Event	**$2.48**	$2.45	$3.02
Meals Before/After Event	**$12.34**	$8.61	$10.12
Souvenirs and Gifts	**$2.44**	$2.06	$2.74
Clothing and Accessories	**$0.68**	$1.02	$1.31
Ground Transportation	**$3.04**	$1.79	$2.65
Event-Related Child Care	**$0.15**	$0.27	$0.36
Overnight Lodging *(one night only)*	**$11.51**	$1.52	$3.51
Other	**$1.85**	$0.64	$0.89
Total Per Person Spending	**$34.49**	**$19.07**	**$24.60**

TABLE 3:
Ratios of Economic Impact Per $100,000 of Direct Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture Audiences in Buncombe County

	Buncombe County	Median of Similar Study Regions *Pop. = 100,000 to 249,999*	National Median
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	**3.27**	2.84	2.69
Resident Household Income	**$65,572**	$59,133	$57,140
Local Government Revenue	**$6,480**	$5,155	$5,100
State Government Revenue	**$6,454**	$5,689	$5,802

An Example of How to Use the Audience Spending Calculator Tables (on the preceding page):

An administrator wants to determine the total economic impact of the 25,000 total attendees to his/her organization's nonprofit arts and culture events on full-time equivalent (FTE) employment in Buncombe County. The administrator would:

1. Determine the total estimated audience spending by multiplying the average per person expenditure for Buncombe County by the total attendance to nonprofit arts and culture events;
2. Divide the resulting total estimated audience spending by 100,000; and
3. Multiply that figure by the FTE employment ratio per $100,000 for Buncombe County.

Thus, 25,000 times $34.49 (from the bottom row of data on Table 2 on the preceding page) equals $862,250; $862,250 divided by 100,000 equals 8.62; 8.62 times 3.27 (from the top row of data on Table 3 on the preceding page) equals a total of 28.2 full-time equivalent jobs supported (both directly and indirectly) within Buncombe County by that nonprofit arts and culture organization. Using the same procedure, the estimate can be calculated for resident household income and local and state government revenue.

Making Comparisons with Similar Study Regions

For the purpose of this research project, the geographic region being studied is defined as Buncombe County, NC. According to the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Buncombe County was estimated to be 231,452 during 2010. For comparison purposes, more than 300 pages of detailed data tables containing the study results for all 182 participating study regions are located in Appendix B of the National Statistical Report. The data tables are stratified by population, making it easy to compare the findings for Buncombe County to the findings for similarly populated study regions (as well as any other participating study regions that are considered valid comparison cohorts).

All of the national study publications are available both by download (free) and hardcopy (for purchase) at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact.

"The success of my family's business depends on finding and cultivating a creative and innovative workforce. I have witnessed firsthand the power of the arts in building these business skills. When we participate personally in the arts, we strengthen our 'creativity muscles,' which makes us not just a better ceramicist or chorus member, but a more creative worker—better able to identify challenges and innovative business solutions. This is one reason why the arts remain an important part of my personal and corporate philanthropy."

— Christopher Forbes, Vice Chairman, Forbes, Inc.

About This Study

The *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* study was conducted by Americans for the Arts to document the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in 182 communities and regions (139 cities and counties, 31 multi-city or multi-county regions, and 10 states, and two individual arts districts)—representing all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

The diverse communities range in population (1,600 to four million) and type (rural to urban). The study focuses solely on nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences. Public arts councils and public presenting facilities/institutions are included as are select programs embedded within another organization (that have their own budget and play a substantial role in the cultural life of the community). The study excludes spending by individual artists and the for-profit arts and entertainment sector (e.g., Broadway or the motion picture industry). Detailed expenditure data were collected from 9,731 arts and culture organizations and 151,802 of their attendees. The project economists, from the Georgia Institute of Technology, customized input-output analysis models for each study region to provide specific and reliable economic impact data about their nonprofit arts and culture industry, specifically full-time equivalent jobs, household income, and local and state government revenue.

The 182 Local, Regional, and Statewide Study Partners

Americans for the Arts published a Call for Participants in 2010 seeking communities interested in participating in the *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* study. Of the more than 200 potential partners that expressed interest, 182 agreed to participate and complete four participation criteria: (1) identify and code the universe of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in their study region; (2) assist researchers with the collection of detailed financial and attendance data from those organizations; (3) conduct audience-intercept surveys at cultural events; and (4) pay a modest cost-sharing fee (no community was refused participation for an inability to pay).

The City of Asheville Cultural Arts Division responded to the 2010 Call for Participants, and agreed to complete the required participation criteria.

Surveys of Nonprofit Arts and Culture ORGANIZATIONS

Each of the 182 study regions attempted to identify its comprehensive universe of nonprofit arts and culture organizations using the Urban Institute's National Taxonomy of Exempt Entity (NTEE) coding system as a guideline. The NTEE system—developed by the National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute—is a definitive classification system for nonprofit organizations recognized as tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Code. This system divides the entire universe of nonprofit organizations into 10 Major categories, including "Arts, Culture, and Humanities." The Urban Institute reports that 113,000 nonprofit arts and culture organizations were registered with the IRS in 2010, up from 94,450 in 2005.

The following NTEE "Arts, Culture, and Humanities" subcategories were included in this study:

- A01 – Alliances and Advocacy
- A02 – Management and Technical Assistance
- A03 – Professional Societies and Associations
- A05 – Research Institutes and Public Policy Analysis
- A11 – Single Organization Support
- A12 – Fund Raising and Fund Distribution
- A19 – Support (not elsewhere classified)
- A20 – Arts and Culture (general)
- A23 – Cultural and Ethnic Awareness
- A24 – Folk Arts
- A25 – Arts Education
- A26 – Arts and Humanities Councils and Agencies
- A27 – Community Celebrations
- A30 – Media and Communications (general)
- A31 – Film and Video
- A32 – Television
- A33 – Printing and Publishing
- A34 – Radio
- A40 – Visual Arts (general)
- A50 – Museums (general)
- A51 – Art Museums
- A52 – Children's Museums
- A53 – Folk Arts Museums
- A54 – History Museums
- A56 – Natural History and Natural Science Museums
- A57 – Science and Technology Museums
- A60 – Performing Arts (general)
- A61 – Performing Arts Centers
- A62 – Dance
- A63 – Ballet
- A65 – Theatre
- A68 – Music
- A69 – Symphony Orchestras
- A6A – Opera
- A6B – Singing and Choral Groups
- A6C – Bands and Ensembles
- A6E – Performing Arts Schools
- A70 – Humanities (general)
- A80 – Historical Organizations (general)
- A82 – Historical Societies and Historic Preservation
- A84 – Commemorative Events
- A90 – Arts Services (general)
- A99 – Arts, Culture, and Humanities (miscellaneous)

In addition to the organization types above, the study partners were encouraged to include other types of eligible organizations if they play a substantial role in the cultural life of the community or if their primary purpose is to promote participation in, appreciation for, and understanding of the visual, performing, folk, and media arts. These include government-owned or government-operated cultural facilities and institutions, municipal arts agencies and councils, private community arts organizations, unincorporated arts groups, living collections (such as zoos, aquariums, and botanical gardens), university presenters, and arts programs that are embedded under the umbrella of a non-arts organization or facility (such as a community center or church). In short, if it displays the characteristics of a nonprofit arts and culture organization, it is included. For-profit businesses and individual artists were excluded from this study.

Nationally, detailed information was collected from 9,721 eligible organizations about their fiscal year 2010 expenditures in more than 40 expenditure categories (e.g., labor, local and non-local artists, operations, materials, facilities, and asset acquisition) as well as about their event attendance, in-kind contributions, and volunteerism. Responding organizations had budgets ranging from a low of $0 to a high of $239.7 million. Response rates for the 182 communities averaged 43.2 percent and ranged from 5.3 percent to 100 percent. It is important to note that each study region's results are based solely on the actual survey data collected. No estimates have been made to account for non-respondents. Therefore, the less-than-100 percent response rates suggest an understatement of the economic impact findings in most of the individual study regions.

In Buncombe County, 34 of the approximately 189 total eligible nonprofit arts and culture organizations identified by the City of Asheville Cultural Arts Division participated in this study—an overall participation rate of 18 percent.

Surveys of Nonprofit Arts and Culture AUDIENCES

Audience-intercept surveying, a common and accepted research method, was conducted in all 182 of the study regions to measure event-related spending by nonprofit arts and culture audiences. Patrons were asked to complete a short survey while attending an event. Nationally, a total of 151,802 valid and usable attendees completed the survey for an average of 834 surveys per study region. The randomly selected respondents provided itemized expenditure data on attendance-related activities such as meals, souvenirs, transportation, and lodging. Data were collected throughout 2011 (to guard against seasonal spikes or drop-offs in attendance) as well as at a broad range of both paid and free events (a night at the opera will typically yield more spending then a weekend children's theater production or a free community music festival, for example). The survey respondents provided information about the entire party with whom they were attending the event. With an overall average travel party size of 2.69 people, these data actually represent the spending patterns of more than 408,000 attendees.

In Buncombe County, a total of 1,061 valid and usable audience-intercept surveys were collected from attendees to arts and culture performances, events, and exhibits during 2011.

Economic Analysis

A common theory of community growth is that an area must export goods and services if it is to prosper economically. This theory is called economic-base theory, and it depends on dividing the economy into two sectors: the export sector and the local sector. Exporters, such as automobile manufacturers, hotels, and department stores, obtain income from customers outside of the community. This "export income" then enters the local economy in the form of salaries, purchases of materials, dividends, and so forth, and becomes income to local residents. Much of it is re-spent locally; some, however, is spent for goods imported from outside of the community. The dollars re-spent locally have an economic impact as they continue to circulate through the local economy. This theory applies to arts organizations as well as to other producers.

Studying Economic Impact Using Input-Output Analysis

To derive the most reliable economic impact data, input-output analysis is used to measure the impact of expenditures by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences. This is a highly regarded type of economic analysis that has been the basis for two Nobel Prizes. The models are systems of mathematical equations that combine statistical methods and economic theory in an area of study called econometrics. They trace how many times a dollar is re-spent within the local economy before it leaks out, and it quantifies the economic impact of each round of spending. This form of economic analysis is well suited for this study because it can be customized specifically to each study region.

To complete the analysis for Buncombe County, project economists customized an input-output model based on the local dollar flow between 533 finely detailed industries within the economy of Buncombe County. This was accomplished by using detailed data on employment, incomes, and government revenues provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce (County Business Patterns, the Regional Economic Information System, and the Survey of State and Local Finance), local tax data (sales taxes, property taxes, and miscellaneous local option taxes), as well as the survey data from the responding nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences.

The Input-Output Process

The input-output model is based on a table of 533 finely detailed industries showing local sales and purchases. The local and state economy of each community is researched so the table can be customized for each community. The basic purchase patterns for local industries are derived from a similar table for the U.S. economy for 2007 (the latest detailed data available from the U.S. Department of Commerce). The table is first reduced to reflect the unique size and industry mix of the local economy, based on data from County Business Patterns and the Regional Economic Information System of the U.S. Department of Commerce. It is then adjusted so that only transactions with local businesses are recorded in the inter-industry part of the table. This technique compares supply and demand and estimates the additional imports or exports required to make total supply equal total demand. The resulting table shows the detailed sales and purchase patterns of the local industries. The 533-industry table is then aggregated to reflect the general activities of 32 industries plus local households, creating a total of 33 industries. To trace changes in the economy, each column is converted to show the direct requirements per dollar of gross output for each sector. This direct-requirements table represents the "recipe" for producing the output of each industry.

The economic impact figures for *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* were computed using what is called an "iterative" procedure. This process uses the sum of a power series to approximate the solution to the economic model. This is what the process looks like in matrix algebra:

$$T = IX + AX + A2X + A3X + ... + AnX.$$

T is the solution, a column vector of changes in each industry's outputs caused by the changes represented in the column vector X. A is the 33 by 33 direct-requirements matrix. This equation is used to trace the direct expenditures attributable to nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences. A multiplier effect table is produced that displays the results of this equation. The total column is T. The initial expenditure to be traced is IX (I is the identity matrix, which is operationally equivalent to the number 1 in ordinary algebra). Round 1 is AX, the result of multiplying the matrix A by the vector X (the outputs required of each supplier to produce the goods and services purchased in the initial change under study). Round 2 is A2X, which is the result of multiplying the matrix A by Round 1 (it answers the same question applied to Round 1: "What are the outputs required of each supplier to produce the goods and services purchased in Round 1 of this chain of events?"). Each of columns 1 through 12 in the multiplier effects table represents one of the elements in the continuing but diminishing chain of expenditures on the right side of the equation. Their sum, T, represents the total production required in the local economy in response to arts activities.

Calculation of the total impact of the nonprofit arts on the outputs of other industries (T) can now be converted to impacts on the final incomes to local residents by multiplying the outputs produced by the ratios of household income to output and employment to output. Thus, the employment impact of changes in outputs due to arts expenditures is calculated by multiplying elements in the column of total outputs by the ratio of employment to output for the 32 industries in the region. Changes in household incomes, local government revenues, and state government revenues due to nonprofit arts expenditures are similarly transformed. The same process is also used to show the direct impact on incomes and revenues associated with the column of direct local expenditures.

A comprehensive description of the methodology used to complete the national study is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact.

Frequently Used Terms

This section provides a glossary of economic impact terminology.

Cultural Tourism
Travel directed toward experiencing the arts, heritage, and special character of a place.

Direct Economic Impact
A measure of the economic effect of the initial expenditure within a community. For example, when the symphony pays its players, each musician's salary, the associated government taxes, and full-time equivalent employment status represent the direct economic impact.

Direct Expenditures
The first round of expenditures in the economic cycle. A paycheck from the symphony to the violin player and a ballet company's purchase of dance shoes are examples of direct expenditures.

Econometrics
The process of using statistical methods and economic theory to develop a system of mathematical equations that measures the flow of dollars between local industries. The input-output model developed for this study is an example of an econometric model.

Econometrician
An economist who designs, builds, and maintains econometric models.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs
A term that describes the total amount of labor employed. Economists measure FTE jobs—not the total number of employees—because it is a more accurate measure of total employment. It is a manager's discretion to hire one full-time employee, two half-time employees, four quarter-time employees, etc. Almost always, more people are affected than are reflected in the number of FTE jobs reported due to the abundance of part-time employment, especially in the nonprofit arts and culture industry.

Indirect Economic Impact
Each time a dollar changes hands, there is a measurable economic impact. When people and businesses receive money, they re-spend much of that money locally. Indirect impact measures the effect of this re-spending on jobs, household income, and revenue to local and state government. It is often referred to as secondary spending or the dollars "rippling" through a community. When funds are eventually spent non-locally, they are considered to have "leaked" out of the community and therefore cease to have a local economic impact. Indirect impact includes the impact of all rounds of spending (except for the initial expenditure) until the dollars have completely "leaked out" of the local economy.

Input-Output Analysis

A system of mathematical equations that combines statistical methods and economic theory in an area of economic study called econometrics. Economists use this model (occasionally called an inter-industry model) to measure how many times a dollar is re-spent in, or "ripples" through, a community before it "leaks out" of the local economy by being spent non-locally (see Leakage below). The model is based on a matrix that tracks the dollar flow between 533 finely detailed industries in each community. It allows researchers to determine the economic impact of local spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations on jobs, household income, and government revenue.

Leakage

The money that community members spend outside of the local economy. This non-local spending has no economic impact within the community. A ballet company purchasing shoes from a non-local manufacturer is an example of leakage. If the shoe company were local, the expenditure would remain within the community and create another round of spending by the shoe company.

Multiplier (often called Economic Activity Multiplier)

An estimate of the number of times that a dollar changes hands within the community before it leaks out of the community (for example, the theater pays the actor, the actor spends money at the grocery store, the grocery store pays its cashier, and so on). This estimate is quantified as one number by which all expenditures are multiplied. For example, if the arts are a $10 million industry and a multiplier of three is used, then it is estimated that these arts organizations have a total economic impact of $30 million. The convenience of a multiplier is that it is one simple number; its shortcoming, however, is its reliability. Users rarely note that the multiplier is developed by making gross estimates of the industries within the local economy with no allowance for differences in the characteristics of those industries, usually resulting in an overestimation of the economic impact. In contrast, the input-output model employed in *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* is a type of economic analysis tailored specifically to each community and, as such, provides more reliable and specific economic impact results.

Resident Household Income (often called Personal Income)

The salaries, wages, and entrepreneurial income residents earn and use to pay for food, mortgages, and other living expenses. It is important to note that resident household income is not just salary. When a business receives money, for example, the owner usually takes a percentage of the profit, resulting in income for the owner.

Revenue to Local and State Government

Local and state government revenue is not derived exclusively from income, property, sales, and other taxes. It also includes license fees, utility fees, user fees, and filing fees. Local government revenue includes funds to city and county government, schools, and special districts.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section answers some common questions about this study and the methology used to complete it.

How were the 182 participating communities and regions selected?

In 2010, Americans for the Arts published a Call for Participants for communities interested in participating in the *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* study. Of the more than 200 participants that expressed interest, 182 agreed to participate and complete four participation criteria: (1) identify and code the universe of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in their study region; (2) assist researchers with the collection of detailed financial and attendance data from those organizations; (3) conduct audience-intercept surveys at cultural events; and (4) pay a modest cost-sharing fee (no community was refused participation for an inability to pay).

How were the eligible nonprofit arts organizations in each community selected?

Local partners attempted to identify their universe of nonprofit arts and culture organizations using the Urban Institute's National Taxonomy of Exempt Entity (NTEE) codes as a guideline. Eligible organizations included those whose primary purpose is to promote appreciation for and understanding of the visual, performing, folk, and media arts. Public arts councils, public presenting facilities or institutions, and embedded organizations that have their own budget also were included if they play a substantial role in the cultural life of the community. For-profit businesses and individual artists are excluded from this study.

What type of economic analysis was done to determine the study results?

An input-output analysis model was customized for each of the participating communities and regions to determine the local economic impact their nonprofit arts and culture organizations and arts audiences. Americans for the Arts, which conducted the research, worked with highly regarded economists to design the input-output model used for this study.

What other information was collected in addition to the arts surveys?

In addition to detailed expenditure data provided by the surveyed organizations, extensive wage, labor, tax, and commerce data were collected from local, state, and federal governments for use in the input-output model.

Why doesn't this study use a multiplier?

When many people hear about an economic impact study, they expect the result to be quantified in what is often called a multiplier or an economic activity multiplier. The economic activity multiplier is an estimate of the number of times a dollar changes hands within the community (e.g., a theater pays its actor, the actor spends money at the grocery store, the grocery store pays the cashier, and so on). It is quantified as one number by which expenditures are multiplied. The convenience of the multiplier is that it is one simple number. Users rarely note, however, that the multiplier is developed by making gross estimates of the industries within the local economy and does not allow for differences in the characteristics of those industries. Using an economic activity multiplier usually results in an overestimation of the economic impact and therefore lacks reliability.

Why are the admissions expenses excluded from the analysis of audience spending?

Researchers make the assumption that any admissions dollars paid by event attendees are typically collected as revenue for the organization that is presenting the event. The organization then spends those dollars. The admissions paid by audiences are excluded because those dollars are captured in the operating budgets of the participating nonprofit arts and culture organizations. This methodology avoids "double-counting" those dollars in the analysis.

How is the economic impact of arts and culture organizations different from other industries?

Any time money changes hands there is a measurable economic impact. Social service organizations, libraries, and all entities that spend money have an economic impact. What makes the economic impact of arts and culture organizations unique is that, unlike most other industries, they induce large amounts of related spending by their audiences. For example, when patrons attend a performing arts event, they may purchase dinner at a restaurant, eat dessert after the show, and return home and pay the baby-sitter. All of these expenditures have a positive and measurable impact on the economy.

Will my local legislators believe these results?

Yes, this study makes a strong argument to legislators, but you may need to provide them with some extra help. It will be up to the user of this report to educate the public about economic impact studies in general and the results of this study in particular. The user may need to explain (1) the study methodology used; (2) that economists created an input-output model for each community and region in the study; and (3) the difference between input-output analysis and a multiplier. The good news is that as the number of economic impact studies completed by arts organizations and other special interest areas increases, so does the sophistication of community leaders whose influence these studies are meant to affect. Today, most decision makers want to know what methodology is being used and how and where the data were gathered.

You can be confident that the input-output analysis used in this study is a highly regarded model in the field of economics (the basis of two Nobel Prizes in economics). However, as in any professional field, there is disagreement about procedures, jargon, and the best way to determine results. Ask 12 artists to define art and you may get 12 answers; expect the same of economists. You may meet an economist who believes that these studies should be done differently (for example, a cost-benefit analysis of the arts).

How can a community not participating in the Arts and Economic Prosperity IV study apply these results?

Because of the variety of communities studied and the rigor with which the *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* study was conducted, nonprofit arts and culture organizations located in communities that were not part of the study can estimate their local economic impact. Estimates can be derived by using the *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* Calculator (found at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact). Additionally, users will find sample PowerPoint presentations, press releases, Op-Ed, and other strategies for proper application of their estimated economic impact data.

Acknowledgments

Americans for the Arts and the City of Asheville Cultural Arts Division expresses its gratitude to the many people and organizations who made *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences in Buncombe County* possible and assisted in its coordination and production. Generous funding for this project was provided by the City of Asheville Cultural Arts Division, which also served as the local project partner and as such was responsible for the local implentation and data collection requirements of the study.

Special thanks to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Ruth Lilly Fund of Americans for the Arts for their financial support of the national implementation of *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*.

Thanks also to the Cultural Data Project (CDP), a collaborative project of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Pew Charitable Trusts, The William Penn Foundation, and The Heinz Endowments (in each participating state, the CDP is also the result of a collaborative partnership of public and private funders and advocacy agencies). The CDP was created to strengthen arts and culture by documenting and disseminating information on the arts and culture sector. CDP data were used in the economic impact analysis for all study regions located in Arizona, California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. For more information about the Cultural Data Project, visit www.culturaldata.org.

Buncombe County's Participating Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations

This study could not have been completed without the cooperation of the 31 nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Buncombe County, listed below, that provided detailed financial and event attendance information about their organization.

Arts for Life; Asheville Area Arts Council; Asheville Area Center for the Performing Arts; Asheville Art Museum Association, Inc.; Asheville Bravo Concerts; Asheville Community Theatre; Asheville Fringe Arts Festival; Asheville Lyric Opera; Asheville Symphony Society, Inc.; Asheville Wordfest; Black Mountain Center for the Arts; Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center; Blue Ridge National Heritage Area; City of Asheville Cultural Arts Division; Colburn Earth Science Museum; Diana Wortham Theatre; Grove Arcade; HandMade in America; Keowee Chamber Music DBA Pan Harmonia; Lake Eden Arts Festival; North Carolina Stage Company; Open Hearts Art Center; Serpent Child Ensemble; Smith-McDowell House Museum; Southern Highland Craft Guild; Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance; The Montford Park Players; Thomas Wolfe Memorial; Weaverville Art Safari; Western North Carolina Jazz Society; YMI Cultural Center; and Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace.

Buncombe County's Participating Nonprofit Arts and Culture Patrons

Additionally, this study could not have been completed without the cooperation of the 1,061 arts and culture audience members who generously took the time to complete the audience-intercept survey while attending a performance, event, or exhibit within Buncombe County.

"One of the keys to building and sustaining communities and promoting high quality economic development is support and funding of the arts. We have witnessed, in some states, decreased support of the arts which is counterproductive and a major step backward. We need to emphasize that potential employers look at enrichment of lives as well as schools, hospitals, libraries, and other essential services for the communities in which they want to locate. We need to continue—and increase—our support for the arts. In today's competitive marketplace, it has never been truer that supporting the arts means business."

— Senator Steve Morris
President, National Conference of State Legislatures

"The Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP), which is active in measuring trends and best practices in corporate giving to the arts, values the far-reaching research and leadership of Americans for the Arts, demonstrated in the Arts & Economic Prosperity™ series."

— Charles H. Moore
Executive Director, Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy

PARTNERS

The following national organizations partner with Americans for the Arts to help public and private sector leaders understand the economic and social benefits that the arts bring to their communities, states, and the nation.

The United States Conference of Mayors

BCLC Business Civic Leadership Center
An affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

NACo National Association of Counties
Counties Care for America

cecp

Grantmakers in the Arts
Supporting a Creative America

National Conference of State Legislatures
The Forum for America's Ideas

National League of Cities

Destination Marketing Association International

National Lieutenant Governors Association NLGA Est. 1962

The Conference Board
Trusted Insights for Business Worldwide

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Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. Established in 1960, we are dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.