City of Slidell
Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kim Bergeron, 985-646-4375

City of Slidell selected for first-ever Local Arts Index Research Study

The City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs has been selected by Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts, to be one of 100 agencies that will participate in the inaugural Local Arts Index. These local arts agencies will be part of an 18-month research initiative that serves as a complement to the National Arts Index. The findings from the Local Arts Index will be reported in Fall 2011.

The Local Arts Index will be the first county-level study designed to measure the health and vitality of the arts industries throughout the United States. It will use a single methodology utilizing information gathered from research produced by the federal government and private research organizations and covering multiple industries, including nonprofit groups, for-profit arts businesses, employment figures, and more. When these quantitative measures are taken together, the Local Arts Index will provide a year-by-year and community-by-community comparison of the nation's arts sector.

"It's a tremendous honor for Slidell to be included in this national study," said Mayor Freddy Drennan. "To be able to gauge what we do, in comparison to organizations throughout the United States, should be very enlightening. I look forward to seeing the final report."

"The Local Arts Index is an incredible tool for local arts leaders and we are excited to work with our community partners over the coming year. The Local Arts Index will allow the arts groups to place their community in a national context and strengthen the arts in their schools, businesses, and homes," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts.

The Kresge Foundation has awarded Americans for the Arts a $1.2 million grant to conduct the Local Arts Index, as well as the supporting workshops and materials necessary to assist communities in the effective application of the local data. Research for the Local Arts Index is directed by Roland Kushner, PhD, through support from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

Americans for the Arts announced the National Arts Index in January. Those findings showed that the National Arts Index fell 4 points in 2008 to a score of 98.4, reflecting losses in charitable

giving and declining attendance at larger cultural institutions, even as the number of arts organizations grew. Figures from 2009 will be released in October.

“We’re all feeling the crunch of the current economy,” said Kim Bergeron, Director of the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, who will oversee the local study. “However, the arts remain a vital part of who we are and our quality of life, and a tremendous economic engine. We’re looking forward to working with local artists, arts organizations and cultural economy businesses, in an effort to quantify the true impact.”

Local artists and arts organizations interested in being included in the study should contact the City of Slidell’s Department of Cultural & Public Affairs by calling (985) 646-4375 or emailing Bergeron at kbergeron@cityofslidell.org.

The Local Arts Index participants are:

AGENCY NAME	CITY	STATE
Tucson Pima Arts Council	Tucson	AZ
Arts Council of Silicone Valley	San Jose	CA
Community Development Department - City of Ventura	Ventura	CA
Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission	Sacramento	CA
City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture	San Diego	CA
Colorado Business Committee for the Arts	Denver	CO
Art on the Corner, Downtown Partnership	Grand Junction	CO
Cultural Services Department	Loveland	CO
Wildethyme Art	Monte Vista	CO
Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center	Parker	CO
Arts Council of Greater New Haven	New Haven	CT
Greater Hartford Arts Council, Inc.	Hartford	CT
Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington	Washington	DC
Hernando County Fine Arts Council	Brooksville	FL
Broward County Cultural Division	Fort Lauderdale	FL
Gainesville Association for the Creative Arts	Gainseville	FL
United Arts of Central Florida	Maitland	FL
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs	Miami	FL
Cultural Arts Association of Walton County, Inc.	Santa Rosa Beach	FL
City of Tampa	Tampa	FL
Palm Beach County Cultural Council	West Palm Beach	FL
City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs	Atlanta	GA

Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County	Douglasville	GA
City of Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs	Savannah	GA
East Hawai`i Cultural Council	Hilo	HI
City of Dubuque, Iowa	Dubuque	IA
City of Boise, Department of Arts & History	Boise	ID
Illinois Arts Alliance	Chicago	IL
Rockford Area Arts Council	Rockford	IL
Columbus Area Arts Council	Columbus	IN
Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne	IN
Arts Council of Indianapolis	Indianapolis	IN
Tippecanoe Arts Federation	Lafayette	IN
Arts Place, Inc.	Portland	IN
Manhattan Arts Center	Manhattan	KS
City of Wichita Arts and Cultural Services	Wichita	KS
Arts Council of New Orleans	New Orleans	LA
City of Slidell Department of Cultural & Public Affairs	Slidell	LA
Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts	Baltimore	MD
Frederick Arts Council	Frederick	MD
Prince George's Arts Council	Hyattsville	MD
Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County	Silver Spring	MD
Cultural Alliance of Southeast Michigan	Detroit	MI
Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council, Inc.	Coldwater	MI
Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division	Farmington Hills	MI
Lexington Arts Council, Inc.	Lexington	MI
The Art Center aka Anton Art Center	Mount Clemens	MI
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council	Saint Paul	MN
United Arts of Central Minnesota	St. Cloud	MN
Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City	Kansas City	MO
Springfield Regional Arts Council	Springfield	MO
Allied Arts Council of St. Joseph, Inc.	St. Joseph	MO
St. Louis Regional Arts Commission	St. Louis	MO
Arts Council of Big Sky	Big Sky	MT
Missoula Cultural Council	Missoula	MT
Arts & Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Inc.	Charlotte	NC

Durham Arts Council	Durham	NC
City of Raleigh Arts Commission	Raleigh	NC
Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire	Wonalancet	NH
Montclair Arts Council	Montclair	NJ
Monmouth County Arts Council	Red Bank	NJ
Creative Albuquerque	Albuquerque	NM
CNYCAC, dba Stanley Center for the Arts	Utica	NY
Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County	Ithaca	NY
Arts Westchester	White Plains	NY
The Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa	Tulsa	OK
Fine Arts Fund	Cincinnati	OH
Portsmouth Area Arts Council	Portsmouth	OH
Arts Commission of Greater Toledo	Toledo	OH
Clackamas County Arts Alliance	Oregon City	OR
Regional Arts & Culture Council	Portland	OR
Lehigh Valley Arts Council	Allentown	PA
ArtsErie	Erie	PA
Jump Street	Harrisburg	PA
City of Philadelphia - Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy	Philadelphia	PA
Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council	Pittsburgh	PA
The Cultural Alliance	York	PA
City of Providence, Dept. of Art, Culture + Tourism	Providence	RI
Charleston Regional Alliance for the Arts	Charleston	SC
Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington counties	Columbia	SC
Arts Council of York County	Rock Hill	SC
The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg	Spartanburg	SC
Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga	Chattanooga	TN
Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville	Nashville	TN
Cultural Arts Division - City of Kingsport	Kingsport	TN
ArtsMemphis	Memphis	TN
City of Austin Cultural Arts Division	Austin	TX
City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs	Dallas	TX
Greater Denton Arts Council	Denton	TX
Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD)	El Paso	TX

Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County	Fort Worth	TX

Houston Arts Alliance	Houston	TX
Salt Lake City Arts Council	Salt Lake City	UT
Alexandria Office of the Arts	Alexandria	VA
Arlington Cultural Affairs	Arlington	VA
The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen	Glen Allen	VA
Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads	Norfolk	VA
Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs	Seattle	WA
Spokane Arts Commission (City of Spokane)	Spokane	WA

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