

Arts, Entertainment and Cultural Districts National Data

- At least eleven states have created cultural economic development strategies designed to stimulate the creative economy.
- Rhode Island has designated 9 tax-free arts districts since establishing its program in 1998, which originally started with just one district in Providence. Maryland was the first state in the country to designate Arts and Entertainment Districts on a statewide basis, with 12 designated since 2001. Iowa has designated 19 cultural districts in the first two years of its program and hopes to invest \$40 million in historic preservation tax credits over the next 10 years in these districts, not to mention other incentives to create live/work spaces for artists and other spaces for arts and entertainment uses. Legislation has been proposed in New York to implement a similar program.
- While without a formal district program, Massachusetts has established a cultural economic development grants program, giving out over \$1 million in grants to 22 cultural economic development projects in the first year. New Mexico has created Arts Enterprise Partnerships to help create new arts and cultural-oriented businesses.
- The Michigan Cultural Redevelopment District Act, under consideration, sets up special authority made up of arts and culture advocates and economic development experts to designate Cultural Redevelopment Districts throughout the state. Local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other entities can create an arts and culture-centered economic redevelopment plan for a specific area with the support of the local municipality. The economic redevelopment plans will show how arts and cultural activities can be leveraged to create long-term economic revitalization through the rehabilitation of some vacant buildings into housing for artists or new gallery space, or collaboration with a nonprofit arts organization to relocate and expand their activities in the district.
- According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, in fiscal year 2006, state arts agencies invested \$327.5 million in creating and sustaining arts infrastructures in communities across the nation.
- According to Americans for the Arts, America's nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion in economic activity every year, including \$24.4 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues. In 2005, more than 578,000 businesses were involved in the production or distribution of the arts and these businesses employ almost 3 million people.
- The creative sector, whose economic function is to create new ideas or creative content, employs 38 million Americans, or 30 percent of all employed people, according to Richard Florida's *The Rise of the Creative Class*.
- The National Endowment for the Arts found that Americans spent \$12.1 billion (\$42 per person) on admissions to performing arts events in 2002. In 2004, the Giving USA Foundation found that Americans donated more than \$13.99 billion to the arts in 2004 through individual giving, estates, foundations and corporations.