

SUNY study: Arts drive the economy

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Along with presenting cultural events, Hudson Valley arts organizations generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact and create thousands of jobs.



(Photo: Chris Cusumano / Poughkeepsie Journal)

The economic impact of Dutchess County's cultural community ranks fourth out of seven Hudson Valley counties surveyed in a new study. But the county's cultural sector comes in second for number of jobs created.

The Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach at the State University of New York at New Paltz analyzed data from 517 arts and culture organizations in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.

Among the findings: the arts across these counties generate nearly a half-billion dollars in economic activity and are linked to nearly 5,000 jobs. Also, audience spending on lodging, food, recreation, retail and transportation accounted for \$498 million injected directly into the region's economy. The value of volunteer labor accounted for another \$28.7 million.

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According to the study, Dutchess County's cultural sector has an economic impact of \$28.5 million and has created 1,015 jobs. Westchester finished first in both categories, with an economic impact of \$300 million and 1,103 jobs. Putnam County finished last in both categories, with an economic impact of \$11.5 million impact and 159 jobs. Ulster County's economic impact of \$23.5 million ranked sixth and its 372 jobs ranked fourth.

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