In General:

* Based on a 1979 regional study, Rhode Island's nonprofit arts industry has an annual spending impact in the state of nearly $110 million. Of course, this is just the nonprofit side of the arts com. The profiting sector - from Warwick Musical Theatre to the state's more than 80 art galleries - adds millions more.

* The R.I. nonprofit arts industry employs 5,600 people - more than Hasbro, Bostitch, Spidel, American Tourister and A.T. Cross combined.

* Combined audience figures for arts events in R.I. total millions of people annually. (Two examples: In 1983, events funded in part by the state Arts Council reached statewide audiences totalling 1,246,200. In 1984, the Scituate Art Festival drew well over 100,000 people to one 3-day event.)

* The arts touch every area of the state's life: education, the economy, community revitalization, our great ethnic diversity, tourism, and the special needs of groups such as the elderly and the disabled.

* The arts may be Rhode Island's NUMBER ONE "manna made" (and womanmade) resource.

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts:

* The R.I. State Council on the Arts (RISCA) is a nearly-$million state agency. It is funded by both federal and state monies. In the coming year, $483,900 of the agency's budget will be federal dollars while $419,301 will be state money. (In Fiscal Year '84 (ending June 30, 1984), the R.I. taxpayer contributed 3.5% per capita for arts support. RISCA's state appropriation for FY'84 represented just 300ths of 1 percent of the state's total budget. RISCA's short-term goal is to see that figure raised to 500ths of 1 percent. As other states have discovered, the arts are current investment.

* In an average year, RISCA funds 100 projects and operations of over 50 different K-12 arts organizations statewide. These organizations, in turn, account for the bulk of the state's $110 million spending impact from nonprofit arts. RISCA's funding is a key element in these groups' survival and prosperity.

* All RISCA grants are matched at least dollar for dollar by their recipients. (There is one exception: 8 fellowships awarded each year to outstanding R.I. artists. The winning artists are selected in open competition.)

* RISCA programs benefit every community in the state.

Besides providing funding to others, RISCA itself runs several wide-ranging programs: (1) an education program that sends top professional artists as curriculum supplements into schools K-12; (2) a program that involves the state's disabled citizens in arts experiences (up to 18% of the state's population at any one time is classified as disabled); 3) a program to conserve and publicize the state's important folk arts heritage - a tremendous heritage, drawing from R.I.'s 23 major (and additional minor) ethnic subgroups; (4) a training program for arts management professionals, done in cooperation with U.R.I. Division of Continuing Education; (5) a touring program which helps pay for performing artists at schools, libraries, museums, parks, senior centers and many other sites - this program alone played to almost a quarter-million Rhode Islanders last year.

* RISCA works in cooperation with many other state agencies among them, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Transportation, Division of Airports, Mental Health Retardation and Hospitals, the R.I. Heritage Commission, the University of R.I., the Department of Environmental Management, and the Department of Elderly Affairs.