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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. This is just the nonprofit side of the arts coin. The profitmaking side - from the Warwick Musical Theatre to the Newport Jazz Festivals to the more than 60 art galleries in the state - add many millions more.

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

- Combined audience figures for arts events in R.I. total millions annually. In 1983, audiences for events funded in part by RISCA totalled 1,246,200. But of course, this represents audiences in just the nonprofit sector.

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

- The arts may be Rhode Island's NUMBER ONE man- and womanmade resource.

R.I. State Council on the Arts (RISCA):

- The R.I. State Council on the Arts is a nearly-million dollar state agency. It is funded by both federal and state monies. In the year coming, $483,900 of the agency's budget will be federal dollars while $419,301 will be state.

- In Fiscal Year 84 (ending June 30, 1984), the R.I. taxpayer contributed 35.5¢ per capita for arts support. RISCA's state appropriation for FY84 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.

- In an average year RISCA funds the projects and operations of over 60 different state arts organizations. These organizations, in turn, account for the bulk of the $110-million spending impact from nonprofit arts. RISCA's funding, small as it is, is a key element in these groups' survival and prosperity... thus a key to that $110-million.

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- 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 artists are selected in open competition.)

- RISCA programs benefit every community in the state. Besides providing funding to others, RISCA itself runs several programs:  

  1. An education program that sends top professional artists into schools K-12 as curriculum supplements;  
  2. A program that involves the state's disabled 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 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, 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: 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, the Department of Elderly Affairs...and others.

Call 277-3880.

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.