USING DATA TO MAKE YOUR CASE – RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island State Council On The Arts
STATEWIDE ARTS CHARETTE

• Convened by Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House

• Gathering of arts, government and business leaders - 2 days after a blizzard
THREE MAJOR THEMES EMERGED FROM THE GATHERING

- Promote Rhode Island as a Destination for the Arts
- Advance the Role Arts Education Plays As Part of Every Student's Basic Education
- Improve Rhode Island's (Crumbling) Cultural Infrastructure
THEMES RESULTED IN SPECIFIC LEGISLATION ACTION DESIGNED TO ADDRESS EACH ISSUE

• Statewide "arts district" - sales tax exemption for the sale of art in Rhode Island

• Every Rhode Island student must demonstrate proficiency in one or more art forms in order to graduate from a Rhode Island high school

• $30 million Creative & Cultural Economy bond - passed by the voters in November 2014
DATA IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF EACH OF THESE INITIATIVES
LEGISLATIVE REMEDIES – THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Added to RIGL 44-18-30.B

(5) The tax administrator, in cooperation with the Rhode Island council on the arts, will gather data to assess the overall impact of the statewide arts district program, and issue an annual report, including, but not be limited to, the impact of the tax exemption on employment, tourism, sales, and spending within the arts sector and adjacent businesses, and any other factors that describe the impact of the program.
Sales of artistic works totaled $16,973,981 in 2014.

Of that, sales reported on the Annual Reconciliation were $15,980,524 and sales that took place at fairs, festivals and shows totaled $993,457.

A significant majority (80%) indicated that the sales tax exemption had a positive impact on the sale of art over the past year.

A majority (58%) indicated that their sales had gone up in 2014 when compared to the previous year.
## Works of art sold – by month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>3082</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3082</td>
<td>5816</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5816</td>
<td>2734</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>3056</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>3691</td>
<td>4193</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>4685</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>3360</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3360</td>
<td>6464</td>
<td>3030</td>
<td>9494</td>
<td>6134</td>
<td>183%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3925</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>4095</td>
<td>8028</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>8123</td>
<td>4028</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6833</td>
<td>1066</td>
<td>7899</td>
<td>11319</td>
<td>5231</td>
<td>16550</td>
<td>8651</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>6516</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6516</td>
<td>13455</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>13545</td>
<td>7029</td>
<td>108%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>9023</td>
<td>3908</td>
<td>12931</td>
<td>14196</td>
<td>2450</td>
<td>16646</td>
<td>3715</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>9225</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>10081</td>
<td>14791</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>15295</td>
<td>5214</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>8778</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>8934</td>
<td>17799</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>18071</td>
<td>9137</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>9337</td>
<td>3730</td>
<td>13067</td>
<td>17822</td>
<td>9861</td>
<td>27683</td>
<td>14616</td>
<td>112%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>10516</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>11068</td>
<td>16805</td>
<td>3610</td>
<td>20415</td>
<td>9347</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23883</td>
<td>2173</td>
<td>26056</td>
<td>30324</td>
<td>5043</td>
<td>35367</td>
<td>9311</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Works of Art Sold – 2014 to 2015

- **In 2014**: 110,780
- **In 2015**: 191,690
- **Increase**: 73%
COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS – CREATIVE & CULTURAL ECONOMY BOND

Added to Public Law 145 – the Bond Initiative language

"Other funds to be allocated by RISCA - $6,887,960 - For 1:1 matching grants to be allocated by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts to 501 (c) 3 nonprofit cultural organizations that lease or own their performance space, and for RISCA's expense in administering the program."
ESTABLISHING THE RHODE ISLAND ARTS & CULTURE RESEARCH NETWORK

Exploring the Impact of Arts + Culture in Rhode Island
WE’VE CHOSEN OUR FIRST RESEARCH TEAM!

• Marc Vogel, visiting Assistant Professor at Brown University;

• Bill Zweig, Adjunct Professor in the Mathematics Department at Bryant University;

• Stacey Springs, Ph.D., Investigator in the Brown University School of Public Health and the Center for Evidence-Based Medicine; and

• Francis Leazes, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Rhode Island College.