

## CENTRAL MINNESOTA

**Counties:** Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright

**Key Cities:** St. Cloud, Foley, Elk River, Buffalo, Sauk Centre, Monticello

---

364,623	Region's 2004 population
7.09%	Region's percentage of state's population in 2004
34	Number of arts and culture organizations surveyed in this region
79%	Percent of this region's organizations that responded
17	Number of arts and culture events whose audiences were surveyed
577	Number of individual audience member surveys collected

---

### Regional Highlights:

**Region 7W** stands out from the rest of the state in several interesting ways. Overall, it has the fifth largest arts and culture economy of the eleven regions. However, it exceeds this rank in that the region is third in the state in the value of in-kind contributions (the donation of essential goods and services for which the group would otherwise have to pay) to responding arts organizations, showing that local organizations have very strong support from businesses and individuals in the area. Interestingly, it is also third in the state in total payments to artists (\$1,015,058).

---

### Participating Arts and Culture Organizations:

Amadeus Chamber Symphony, Colleeville \* Buffalo Community Orchestra \* Central Minnesota Watercolorists, Sartell \* Centre Area Concert Association, Sauk Centre \* Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud \* College of St. Benedict Fine Arts Programming, St. Joseph \* Command Performance Choirs, Elk River \* Elk River Area Arts Alliance \* Granite City Folk Society, St. Cloud \* Great Northern Theatre Company, Cold Spring \* Land of Lakes Choirboys of Minnesota, Elk River \* Melrose Area Historical Society \* Minnesota Center Chorale, St. Cloud \* Multicultural Children's Art, St. Cloud \* Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society, St. Cloud \* New Prague Czech Singers \* Paramount Arts Resource Trust, Inc., St. Cloud \* Paynesville Community Education \* Saint Cloud OUT \* SCSU Music Department, St. Cloud \* Sinclair Lewis Foundation, Sauk Centre \* Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict (Haehn Museum), St. Joseph \* St. John's Boys Choir, Colleeville \* St. Cloud Arts Commission \* St. Cloud State College Performing Arts Foundation, Alexandria \* St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra \* St. John's Boys' Choir, Colleeville \* St. John's University Fine Arts Programming, Colleeville \* Stearns History Museum, St. Cloud \* Studio Arts Tour \* The Troupe Theatre, Inc., St. Cloud \* United Arts of Central MN, St. Cloud \* Wright County Historical Society, Buffalo \*

---

**Project Manager:** Sheila Smith.

**Regional Coordinator:** Leslie Schumacher for the Central Minnesota Arts Board.

**Regional data collection conducted by:** Jane Gelbmann, Leslie Schumacher, Preeti Jha, Lindy Sexton, Jess Filiaggi, Sarah Bettendorf, Ashley Blank, Lois Head

### Study Partners

This project is a collaboration of the **Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota** (RAC Forum) and **Minnesota Citizens for the Arts** (MCA) [www.mtn.org/mca](http://www.mtn.org/mca), principle partners, with major funding provided by **The McKnight Foundation**. Additional partners include the **Twin Cities Performing Arts Research Coalition** (PARC) project funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, and **Minnesota Arts Communicators**. Twelve studies were conducted statewide. The year-long study was managed by MCA, while each of the state's eleven regional arts councils coordinated audience surveys and will host the data release events in their own regions. **Americans for the Arts**, the study's national partner, created the economic models for the twelve studies, one for each region and one for the statewide study, and also provided secure web-based surveying tools.

The mission of the **Central Minnesota Arts Board** (CMAB) is to promote the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties. The CMAB is one of eleven regional arts councils in Minnesota who provide grants and services to nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists on a regional basis. Funding for these services is provided by the Minnesota State Legislature, The McKnight Foundation, and other private sources. Contact CMAB at 320-968-4290 or [mail@centralmnartsboard.org](mailto:mail@centralmnartsboard.org) or [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org).