The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Endowment for the Arts recently released estimates of the arts and cultural sector’s contributions to current-dollar gross domestic product, a measure of the final dollar value of all goods and services produced in the United States. According to these new estimates, 3.2 percent - or $504 billion - of current-dollar GDP in 2011 was attributable to arts and culture. In comparison, the estimated value of the U.S. travel and tourism industry was 2.8 percent of GDP. The US Secretary of Commerce noted that the positive value of arts and culture on society has been understood on a human level for millennia. “With new efforts, we are now able to quantify the impact of arts and culture on the gross domestic product… leading to more transparency and data to enhance decision-making, create more value, and better understand and grow our economy.”

Art and culture is a significant part of the U.S. economy and our local economy as well. While we appreciate all that the arts add to our lives, it’s good to be reminded that the arts are not only contributions of beauty, ideas and creativity, but also an important part of the labor force and the economic health of our communities, state, and nation.

Did You Know... Art Adds Value in Multiple Ways!

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Get Tickets Today - Richard Johnson in Watertown!

You are invited to an evening of great jazz at the Watertown-Mayer Performing Arts Center. Get tickets now for Richard Johnson in concert, February 22nd, 7:30 pm. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at the Arts Consortium website, www.artsofcarvercounty.org.

After graduating from the Berklee School of Music in just two years, Richard entered the Boston Conservatory, where he earned a Master’s Degree in Jazz Pedagogy followed by an Artist Performance Diploma at the New England Conservatory. Richard has also been a member of Wynton Marsalis’ Septet and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra in New York City, traveled extensively, and educated young people across the nation in the musical stylings of jazz and hip hop. Don’t miss this influential musician right here in Carver County. Get your tickets today!

Membership Matters...

Have you had the chance to renew your membership in the Arts Consortium of Carver County for 2014? It’s not too late! We thank those who have renewed their membership and we welcome the new members to date. The work for and through the arts in our communities is made possible, in part, by membership dollars. If you have not renewed for 2014, please consider your gift and level of membership today. There is still plenty of time to take advantage of the wonderful partner-supported tangible member benefits all while knowing that you are making a great difference to the quality of life in your community.

Thank You!