ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Cedarhurst Center for the Arts

- Spends over $1.5 million annually on goods and services locally and regionally.
- Employs 16 people, generating an estimated $27,000 in additional tax revenue, 1/3 of which goes to state and local governments.
- Offers free general admission to ensure everyone has access to art and culture.
- Served more than 35,000 people in 2021, despite ongoing regulations and program modifications necessitated by the ongoing pandemic.
- 2/3 of visitors to Cedarhurst are from out-of-town, meaning in 2021 Cedarhurst influenced over 20,000 daytrips and over 500 overnight lodgings in Mt. Vernon, generating an estimated $1.1 million for local businesses and the tourism industry.

MUSEUMS ARE VITAL TO A HEALTHY ECONOMY

- Museum visits rank among the top three family vacation events.
- 78% of all U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural and/or heritage activities while traveling.
- Museums are viewed as a trusted source of information, playing a vital role in communities during times of crisis and change.
- When making a decision to relocate, businesses factor in access to cultural resources that includes a dynamic museum community, according to research by the National Governors Association.
- Governments that support the Arts on average see a return on investment of over $7 in taxes for every $1 that the government appropriates.
LEVERAGING the ARTS to Enhance southern ILLINOIS

~ Championed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts with multiple exhibitions featuring black artists and a residency program aimed at breaking down color barriers within our community.

~ Hired one of three staff positions that were eliminated in 2020 due to the pandemic.

~ Brought back in-person classes for children and adults, including a sold out Summer Art Camp that served over 250 children!

~ Accommodated school restrictions by developing a digital Black History Month curriculum for southern Illinois students and educators.

~ Enhanced the Cedarhurst Sculpture Park visitor experience with the installation of 12 new benches, improvements to the park’s walking trails, and the development of new digital content.

~ Enlisted community feedback to create a new Strategic Plan that will guide the Cedarhurst organization through 2026.

WHAT’S next FOR CEDARHURST?

- Staff are working to launch a new Festival of Lights program that will make Mt. Vernon a destination during the holiday season, generating additional tourism and serving as a resource for southern Illinois residents - your constituents. Please support the Illinois Office of Tourism!

- We have formed an Outreach Team to deliver arts programming to southern Illinois' underserved audiences and invite them to Cedarhurst. Please support the Illinois Humanities Council!

- Cedarhurst plans to invest over $1 million in capital projects during the next two years. Please expand the Public Museum Capital Grants Program to include non-government funded museums!

- Cedarhurst will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023. Our quality programs continue to serve tens of thousands of southern Illinois residents annually. Please support the Illinois Arts Council and Arts Alliance Illinois!