

**MAPPING THE ARTS IN ILLINOIS:
THE ROLE OF LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES IN
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

An Abstract of

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by

Nicole Marcel Weigand

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ABSTRACT

The concurrent purposes of this study are to determine arts representation and economic impact throughout of the state of Illinois, with particular emphasis on the rural regions, to identify the tangible effects of the 2008-2009 partnership between the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) utilizing a Peace Corps Fellow (PCF) as an arts outreach liaison in rural southern Illinois, and to provide arts sector information relevant to future planning and development. To establish to what degree the arts are represented throughout Illinois, geospatial examination and analysis of arts sector indices and the creative class was performed using 2007 data from the IIRA and 2009 data from the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The arts sector was defined through the inclusion of SOC and NAICS codes which included in their definitions organizational relevance to the arts/creative sector. Through the application of raw data and location quotients, it was determined that county employment and revenue generated in the industrial arts sector were below the state average for the majority of Illinois. Linear correlation models suggest that while the arts sector as here defined is underrepresented in the majority of the state, there is not necessarily a correlation between the population of a given county and its arts representation. Possible explanations for this phenomenon include the broad definition of the arts sector employed, other contributing socio-demographic factors and potential imprecision of the identified measurements of arts representation.

The model component of this study describes significant anecdotal evidence that the arts are underrepresented in rural southern Illinois and provides a case study and framework through which some of this deficiency has been addressed and reversed.