



# St. Joseph receives state arts award

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The Missouri Arts Council chose St. Joseph as its recipient of the 2008 Creative Community Arts Award.

The award honors communities that use the arts to promote economic growth, tourism, business and/or resident attraction or civic growth.

A 2003 Arts & Economic Prosperity study by Americans for the Arts found St. Joseph's non-profit arts industry generates \$8.3 million in local economic activity, according to a city press release.

"St. Joseph is a unique community for its size," said Allied Arts Council Executive Director Teresa Fankhauser in the release. "The multitude of

artistic experiences available in St. Joseph is comparable to cities much larger than ours ... The community shows its support by attending arts events and by contributing financially to the arts."

Six communities vied for the award. The award will officially be presented in a ceremony at 2 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City. In honor of the award, the state will present the city with 12 street signs proclaiming St. Joseph as a Creative Community.

Representatives of local arts agencies will attend the City Council meeting Monday when Mayor Ken Shearin recognizes the community for its achievement.