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PRESS RELEASE

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Oneonta Ranked the 8th Most Arts-Vibrant Small Community America

On Tuesday, August 20, SMU DataArts, the National Center for Arts Research at Southern Methodist University in Dallas released our fifth annual Arts Vibrancy Index Report, which ranks more than 900 communities across the nation, examining the level of supply, demand, and government support for the arts.

Based upon their research, **Oneonta, NY** is ranked as the #8 most arts-vibrant small community in America. The ranking is a reflection on all of Otsego County with the City of Oneonta seen as the urban core. The report notes the presence of Cooperstown's museums, Glimmerglass Opera, Foothills Performing Arts Center, and CANO.

Oneonta Mayor Gary Herzig stated, "This recognition that Oneonta and surrounding Otsego County are rich in both artists and arts organizations is consistent with the recently completed Artspace study and further supports the current proposal to create affordable artists' lofts in our downtown. Our artists contribute greatly to both our quality of life and our economy."

SMU's Center for Arts Research ranks more than 900 communities across the country, examining the level of supply, demand and government support for the arts in each city. The small community category includes communities with a population under 100,000 including an urban core of 10,000-50,000). The report complements each listed community's scores with information about what makes the community unique and dynamic.

The 10 top small communities selected were:

RANK	MSA	REGION	2018 POPULATION
1	Jackson, WY-ID	West	34,721
2	Summit Park, UT	West	41,933
3	Steamboat Springs, CO	West	25,733
4	Bennington, VT	Northeast	35,631

5	Vineyard Haven, MA	Northeast	17,352
6	Hudson, NY	Northeast	59,916
7	Brookings, SD	Midwest	35,232
8	Oneonta, NY	Northeast	59,749
9	Greenfield Town, MA	Northeast	70,963
10	Breckenridge, CO	West	31,007

Dr. Zannie Voss, director of SMU DataArts.stated, “Arts and cultural organizations exist throughout the nation, serving communities both poor and affluent, rural and urban The current climate of polarization makes it more important than ever to recognize and celebrate the essential role that arts and culture play in making communities throughout the country not only more vibrant places to live and visit but also more unified, safe and tolerant.”