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Seattle's Film & Video Industry's Economic Impact

Definition of Film & Video Industry:

- Feature film, videos, television movies, television programs, commercials, commercial still photography, documentaries, animation, music videos

Benefits of the Film & Video Industry to Seattle:

- Provides strong economic contribution to the local economy
- Stimulates local employment
- Generates tax revenues
- Builds positive image of Seattle and stimulates tourism
- Supports Seattle's cultural resources and creative sector (artists, arts organizations)

Revenues:

- $207 million in direct economic contribution, and $471 million total economic contribution in 2001
- Out of state film production companies spent $21.3 million in the city in 2001

Jobs:

- Film and video production produced 2,266 direct jobs in the City and supported a total of 4,991 jobs as a whole in 2001
- Direct jobs include actors, audio & video equipment technicians, camera operators, editors, photographers, producers, directors and set & exhibit designers
- Other (indirect) jobs were created from increased spending on caterers, car/truck rental companies, restaurants, fuel/service stations, equipment rentals, etc.
- Seattle is home to more than 700 freelancers in the film industry

Wages:

- Average wage of film industry job in Seattle: $41,620
- In 2001, $63 million of the direct output of $207 million in Seattle was salaries to local workers

Number of Projects:

- The City hosted 115 projects in 2002, with 219 total days of filming/production
- Seven films were shot in Seattle in 2002, including student and independent films

City Revenues:

- The City of Seattle's Film & Music Office along with Seattle City Parks, Sand Point and the Seattle Center all generate non-tax-related revenues from the film industry

Needs of Film Producers:

- Good, affordable locations
- Streamlined permitting process
- Experienced local cast, crew and support services

Seattle's Advantages:

- Good location and scenery
- Skilled workforce
- Commitment to arts and culture
- City of Seattle's efforts to date include:
  - the creation of the Mayor's Film Office in 1994;
  - the development of a master film permit process in 1996; and
  - the launch of an interactive website and online information in 2000.

Mayor's Office of Film and Music • Donna James, Director

SEATTLE film & music

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