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Further decline seen in arts income

By Michael Anthony
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While it's likely that Sylvester Stallone and Jack Nicholson will continue making big money in the '90s, earnings for artists in general are likely to remain low, recently published studies indicate.

Among findings reported in The Modern Muse: The Support and Condition of Artists is an 84 percent increase in the number of people working in arts professions between 1972 and 1988, reaching 1.18 million.

That number is expected to increase almost one-third by 2000.

Studies also show a disparity between earnings of men and women in the same or nearly identical arts jobs—a disparity greater than in the American work force in general.

In the '70s, while 75 percent of dancers were women, they earned only 66 percent of what men did. Female painters and sculptors earned less than half what men earned. In 1980, female musicians and composers (30 percent of the category) earned 45 percent of the wages paid to men.

In the work force as a whole (43 percent female), women received 70 percent of what men earned in similar positions.

Most artists would starve if they relied on their art

NEW YORK (AP) - A Columbia University survey of more than 4,000 artists nationwide has found that three-quarters earn $12,000 a year or less from their art and more than half earn $3,000 or less.

Most artists would starve if they relied on their art.

Seventy-seven percent need to work at other jobs to support themselves and their art.

"Clearly, the economic realities of artists' lives revealed by this study show that passion, commitment and inner drive are what compel artists to be artists," said Joan Jeffri, director of the university's Research Center for Arts and Culture, which conducted the survey.