



Posted: Wed., Oct. 13, 2004, 12:41pm PT

Lincoln Center making big impact in Gotham

Study says total 2003 contribution \$1.52 bil

By [LISA D. HOROWITZ](#)

Gotham's Lincoln Center -- home to the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet and the New York Philharmonic, among others -- released a study Wednesday showing its significant economic contribution to the New York city, state and metropolitan area.

Prepared by the Economic Development Research Group in association with Mt. Auburn Associates, the study finds Lincoln Center's total economic contribution in 2003 to the greater metropolitan region was \$1.52 billion of business sales, which in turn supported 15,200 workers with \$635 million in benefits and wages.

"Lincoln Center enjoys an international reputation as a unique cultural destination offering the finest in performing arts," commented Bruce Crawford, chairman of Lincoln Center. "Perhaps less apparent is the extent to which Lincoln Center serves as a dynamic economic engine for the city, state and metropolitan economies."

Direct operations spending by Lincoln Center's 12 resident orgs totaled \$530 million in 2003, supporting an estimated 9,000 full-time, part-time and contract positions (the equivalent of 5,500 full-time employees) with \$350 million spent on employee wages and benefits. These numbers are included in the \$1.52 billion in total business sales cited.

The complex attracts about 4.7 million visitors annually, including 3 million ticketed audience members as well as hundreds of thousands of individuals and family groups attending free performances, special events and civic celebrations.

Direct spending on local restaurants, lodging, retail and other activities by out-of-town visitors represents about \$258 million for the New York City economy.

New construction and capital redevelopment activities under way and planned by Lincoln Center will generate additional business sales, earnings and employment throughout the New York City metropolitan region.

From 1998-2008, it is estimated that construction activity associated with Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall, located at the Time Warner Center, and the West 65th Street Redevelopment Project will generate \$1.1 billion in economic activity, including 8,500 construction-related jobs in the metropolitan region.