

## The New Hampshire Creative Communities Network

The NH Creative Communities Network, established in October, 2008, is a statewide consortium of local and regional arts councils, municipally associated arts commissions, arts presenters, arts service organizations and organizations (chambers of commerce, main street programs, municipal economic development departments) that support strengthening the arts infrastructure in their communities/regions. Their mission is: *To strengthen and promote economic and community development across New Hampshire through the arts, artists and creative industries.*

Network members engage in diverse cross-sector collaborations to advance community arts development and the creative economy in the state. For example, network member Creative Concord contracted with Minnesota based Artspace for a survey project and included NHCCN members in a free Artspace workshop session on affordable live-work spaces for the creative sector while they were in the state.

Members meet quarterly in different regions of the state to share resources, discuss community arts related issues and plan collaborative, capacity building projects. Topics of interest include: affordable live-work space for artists/creative workers, public art programs, community cultural planning, cultural assets (local, regional and statewide) surveys, economic impact studies, funding options, the creative economy and cultural tourism. The network also assists in statewide arts advocacy efforts and is working to develop/strengthen partnerships with those involving in planning, tourism, economic and community development, and business sectors.

The Network's steering committee assists in the governance of the network. It works closely with the Network Coordinator to: develop and review grant applications; provide oversight on collaborative projects; participate in the selection process for scholarships to members to attend relevant conferences/workshops; assist in strategic planning processes; and oversee the process for contracting with the Network Coordinator and project consultants. The committee meets at least quarterly. One of its members currently serves as fiscal agent. The Network's strategic plan was adopted in June, 2011.

The State Arts Council awarded a \$10,000 FY 11 partnership grant to the Network to support a part-time Coordinator, and professional development and capacity building projects for its members. A ListServ has been created for ongoing resource sharing and communication among members.

**NH Creative Communities Network  
Members – 2011**

Arts Alive! (Keene area)  
Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire  
Art Esprit, (Rochester)  
Art-Speak, Portsmouth Cultural Commission (seacoast area)  
ArtVentures New Hampshire (statewide)  
AVA Gallery & Arts Center (Lebanon)  
) Center for the Arts (Lake Sunapee region)  
Children’s Museum of New Hampshire (Dover)  
City Arts Nashua  
Creative Concord  
Dover Arts Commission  
Great Mills Management (statewide)  
Lamprey Arts and Cultural Alliance (Newmarket)  
Lebanon Recreation & Parks Department  
Manchester Arts Commission  
Manchester Economic Development Office  
MoCo Arts (Keene)  
Nashua Arts Commission  
New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts  
New Hampshire Children’s Museum (Dover)  
Peterborough Cultural Planning Committee  
Portsmouth Economic Development Program  
Rochester Main Street Program  
Rochester Opera House  
Upper Valley Arts Alliance

Partners:

NH Citizens for the Arts  
NH State Council on the Arts  
Regional Planning Commissions  
NH Planners Association

**For more information, contact:**

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