



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES EXCHANGE

JUNE 2-3, 2015

STAY CONNECTED!

www.CCXNewEngland.org



#CCX2015

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Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 2015 Creative Communities Exchange! This is the fourth CCX that NEFA has produced since 2009, each in a different community around New England and each with a unique feel. We are excited to hold this year's event in the Monadnock Valley with the help of local host Arts Alive!.

The CCX has become an integral part of NEFA's creative economy work. Advances in technology are critical to reinforce network strength, but there is no substitute for in-person conversations and networking when it comes to creative economy and placemaking. One of New England's great assets is our intimate scale and our authentic connections. CCX workshops spur ideas and illuminate the details – the how to's as well as what to avoid – as we learn from our neighbors and bring arts-based community development projects into our own community.

We thank the six New England state arts agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts for their sustained commitment and ongoing partnership, and extend special appreciation to our sponsors for their support of this year's CCX.

The creative sector is an important force in New England. Thank you for the work you do to leverage the creative sector in your community – and thank you for joining us!

With appreciation,

Cathy Edwards
 Executive Director

NEFA builds connections among artists, arts organizations, and funders, powering the arts to energize communities in New England, the nation, and the world. NEFA is a nonprofit that operates in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the New England state arts agencies, with additional funding from foundations, corporations, individuals and other government agencies.

NEFA's work is accomplished through grantmaking, services, and initiatives which strengthen and advance the national arts infrastructure. For more information, please visit www.nefa.org or call 617.951.0010.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE - DAY 1

TUESDAY | JUNE 2, 2015

9:30AM REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST Keene State Student Center

10:00AM OPENING SESSION Keene State Student Center
Mabel Brown

Welcome & Partnership Discussion with special guests Dr. Anne Huot, President of Keene State College, and the Honorable Kendall W. Lane, Mayor of Keene, NH.

11:00AM SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS

Peterborough Arts Center Assessment Cheshire County
Town of Peterborough Historical Society Gallery

Meredith Sculpture Walk Keene State
Greater Meredith Program Alumni Center

Nibble: Empowering Immigrant Culinary Entrepreneurs Keene State Student Center
Somerville Arts Council Mountainview

Awakening History: Creating and Innovating in a Rural Mill Town Keene State Student Center
West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts Madison

12:00PM SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS

Vermont Festival of the Arts Cheshire County
Valley Arts Foundation Historical Society Gallery

Community Engagement and Planning Through the Arts: What it Means to Have a Place at the Table Keene State
Burlington City Arts Alumni Center

¡Ay Santos! Puerto Rican Santos Carving Workshop and Cultural Performance Keene State Student Center
Rhode Island Latino Arts Mountainview

Five Seasons: Catalyst for Community Creativity Keene State Student Center
Main Street Arts Madison

1:00PM LUNCH AND NETWORKING DISCUSSIONS Keene State
Zorn Dining Commons

2:00PM SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS

Drawing on Watertown Cheshire County
Watertown Public Art Committee Historical Society Gallery
of the Watertown Cultural Council

City-Wide Open Studios Keene State
Artspace New Haven Alumni Center

The Creative Mile Keene State Student Center
I-195 Redevelopment District Mountainview

Becoming Your Own Umbrella: Waterville Creates! Keene State Student Center
Waterville Main Street Madison

3:00PM SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION

Funder Perspectives on How to Measure and Communicate Success Keene State Student Center
Mabel Brown

4:15PM BREAK

5:00PM OPTIONAL EVENING ACTIVITIES*

*visit monadnockartsalive.org/ccx-host-activities for registration info

SESSION FORMAT

Each 60-minute session includes several concurrent workshops. All workshops will begin and end promptly. Each workshop is made up of:

- 20 minutes - Presentation
- 20 minutes - Q&A
- 20 minutes - Networking

WORKSHOP CATEGORIES

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS

Organizational leaders building capacity within their organizations and communities through strong partnerships with local stakeholders.

HEADING DOWNTOWN

Innovative events and projects that catalyze the creative community and draw visitors and life to the economic centers.

POLICY & PLANNING

Programs that use information and cultural plans to implement policy and zoning decisions that affect all citizens of their local community.

SECTOR CONNECTOR

Model projects that use technology, networking, and training to enhance the capacity of the creative sector's connection to other sectors.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE - DAY 2

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 3, 2015

8:15AM BREAKFAST & NETWORKING Heberton Hall

9:00AM SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS

 *The Danville Transportation Project* Heberton Hall
Vermont Arts Council

 *Fairmount Innovation Lab* Keene Public Library
Artmorpheus Auditorium

 *Concord Multicultural Festival: Engaging Our New Community Members in the Local Creative Economy* Keene Public Library
Greater Concord Area Taskforce on Racism and Intolerance Kay Fox Room

 *Seeding Community Engagement* Keene City Hall
Arts Council of Greater New Haven City Council Chamber

10:00AM SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS

 *Discover Monadnock: Partnerships Enhance Cultural Tourism* Heberton Hall
Arts Alive!

 *When a Waterfall Comes to Town (not a Brick Chicken): Repurposing an Old Building for Art and Community* Keene Public Library
Waterfall Arts Auditorium

 *The Data of the Creative Economy: Somerville as Case Study* Keene Public Library
Metropolitan Area Planning Council Kay Fox Room

 *Freese Park Artist Village: Creating Relocatable Arts Urbanism* Keene City Hall
Norwalk 2.0 City Council Chamber

11:00AM SESSION 6 WORKSHOPS

 *A Patch of the iQuilt: Bushnell Park North* Heberton Hall
iQuilt Partnership, LLC

 *Square One Initiative* Keene Public Library
Olneyville Housing Corporation Auditorium

 *Building the Pioneer Valley Creative Economy Network* Keene Public Library
Arts Extension Service Kay Fox Room

 *Welcoming Immigrants in the Creative Economy* Keene City Hall
Creative Portland City Council Chamber

12:00PM CLOSING SESSION AND AWARDS

Closing Remarks by NEA Chairman Jane Chu The Colonial Theatre
NEFA Creative Economy Awards

1:00PM DINE-AROUNDS

Sign up at registration for lunch dine-arounds (voucher provided) at designated restaurants along Main Street.

2:00PM OPTIONAL AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES*

Visit monadnockartsalive.org/ccx-host-activities for more info

*OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN & AROUND KEENE, NH

Registration and details: monadnockartsalive.org/ccx-host-activities

Local host Arts Alive! has arranged activities to showcase the arts and culture of the region to enable CCX participants to have an even richer experience. Events vary in scope and include a reception at a historic arts colony, a traditional New England contra dance, an outdoor concert at a farm, and a tour of renovated historic mills and more. Try out some of the rural-flavored Monadnock cultural activities and see how strong communities have developed around them.

REGISTRATION | 9:30AM

Keene State Student Center

OPENING SESSION | 10:00AM

Mabel Brown, Second Floor

SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS | 11:00AM-12:00PM

Peterborough Arts Center Assessment
Town of Peterborough (Peterborough, NH)

Cheshire County Historical Society Gallery

Leaders: Pete Throop, Community Development Director; Rodney Bartlett, Public Works Director

Originally approached as a public/private partnership to retrofit an old armory building into a new arts and culture center, this NEA grant funded project took on a new form, direction, and focus as it progressed. The end result was an arts assessment, conducted by Webb Management of NYC, which helped the partnership and community understand whether a new arts center was viable, had community support, and whether it could be financially sustainable. The assessment also helped to spawn new arts and technology centered collaborations, and paved the way toward the town securing additional grant funding to study enhancing existing spaces for the purpose of expanding the arts in Peterborough.

Meredith Sculpture Walk
Greater Meredith Program (Meredith, NH)

Keene State Alumni Center

Leaders: Liz Lapham, Executive Director; Bev Lapham, Chairman of Meredith Sculpture Walk; Katheryn Rolfe, Owner of Oglethorpe Fine Arts and Crafts

Sponsored by the Greater Meredith Program, the Meredith Sculpture Walk is committed to developing awareness and enjoyment of public art in Meredith, NH for residents and visitors. It is a year-round, outdoor, juried exhibition featuring works by twenty-four New England artists. Sculptures are positioned throughout the town in high visibility areas along Main Street, the Mill Falls Marketplace, and in our lakeside Hesky and Scenic Parks.

Nibble: Empowering Immigrant Culinary Entrepreneurs
Somerville Arts Council (Somerville, MA)

Keene State Student Center/Mountainview, Third Floor

Leader: Rachel Strutt, Cultural Director

Nibble is the Arts Council's ongoing culinary/cultural project, which includes market tours, cooking classes (primarily taught by members of the immigrant community), pop-up restaurants, food festivals, a blog, a book, and starting in 2015, a Nibble Entrepreneurship Program (NEP). NEP is an 8-week series of workshops for members of the immigrant community on how to get started in the food business; and serves as a mentoring/networking program. Collectively, Nibble offers inclusive cultural programming, fosters cultural interchange, promotes cultural tourism and creates task force development.

Awakening History: Creating and Innovating in a Rural Mill Town
West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts (Claremont, NH)

Keene State Student Center/Madison, First Floor

Leaders: Melissa Richmond, Executive Director; Nancy Merrill, Director of Planning and Development of City of Claremont; Josh Bushueff, Assistant Director at Claremont MakerSpace

The City of Claremont celebrated its 250th Anniversary in 2014, and through collaborations, was able to engage the community in public art, music, and live performance on a scale more typical of a community ten times its size. The West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts played the role of facilitator for the Claremont 250th Celebration Committee, and through that partnership the community built a 53-foot public art sculpture in the heart of the city, commissioned a major work for flute and orchestra, and created a spectacular celebration with quality artists that reached an underserved community's hearts. Now following the tremendous success and outpouring of appreciation, new collaborations are taking shape that will change the face of the city.

SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS | 12:00PM-1:00PM

Vermont Festival of the Arts
Valley Arts Foundation (Waitsfield, VT)

Cheshire County Historical Society Gallery

Leaders: Karen Nevin, Executive Director; Gary Eckhart, Board President; Dotty Kyle, Board Member

The Vermont Festival of the Arts consists of more than 100 arts-related events and activities each year and is designed to entertain the soul, enlighten the mind, and energize the spirit. The month-long Festival is a multi-dimensional, multi-media, multi-age series of events that has something for everyone. The goal of the Vermont Festival of the Arts is to provide a platform for the myriad arts events that already exist in the region and to encourage new events. By marketing the diverse arts events under the single umbrella of the Vermont Festival of the Arts, we have transformed the Mad River Valley into a destination for experiencing and participating in the arts – for the benefit of our entire community.

*Community Engagement and Planning Through the Arts:
What It Means to Have a Place at the Table*
Burlington City Arts (Burlington, VT)

Keene State Alumni Center

Leaders: Sara Katz, Assistant Director; Doreen Kraft, Executive Director

BCA has been the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grants focused on engaging the public through the arts for the purposes of planning. Now on the home stretch of the most recent project, Plan BTV South End, in partnership with the City of Burlington's Zoning Office, BCA Executive Director Doreen Kraft, and Assistant Director Sara Katz, share how they have approached planning through the arts and in collaboration with artists, what they've learned about the true impact of in-depth partnerships, the balance between quality products and quality experiences, and some of the unexpected circumstances that required them to adjust approach and recalibrate expectations throughout the project.

¡Ay Santos! Puerto Rican Santos Carving Workshop and Cultural Performance

Rhode Island Latino Arts (Providence, RI)

Keene State Student Center/Mountainview, Third Floor

Leaders: Marta V. Martinez, Executive Director; Lydia Pérez, Executive Director at Puerto Rican Institute for Arts & Advocacy

This program was a collaboration with Lydia Pérez and the Puerto Rican Institute for Arts & Advocacy (PRIAA) with the purpose of bringing together two Latino arts organizations to highlight the artistic and traditional art of Puerto Ricans, the largest Latino ethnic group in RI. The main goal was to educate about Puerto Rican (PR) culture by first offering a workshop to high school students who learned the traditional art form of wooden Santos carving, followed by an exhibition, music with Lorena Garay, and dance performances meant to honor the "Tallistas" (PR Santos Carvers).

Five Seasons: Catalyst for Community Creativity
Main Street Arts (Saxtons River, VT)

Keene State Student Center/Madison, First Floor

Leaders: Margo Ghia, Managing Director; Kathleen Bryar, Sr. Associate Director of Institutional Giving, Office of Development and Alumni Relations - Geisel School of Medicine/Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Main Street Arts' Five Seasons is an original, community-wide arts project that weaves music, poetry, performance, theater, art, and history into a celebration of Saxtons River and its environs in Southern Vermont. As part of our capital campaign to fund our building's new, accessible addition, we commissioned five local artists with national reputations—Eric Aho, Charlie Hunter, Julia Zanes, Donald Saaf and Michele Ratte—to each paint a full size theater curtain representing one of Vermont's five seasons—spring, summer, fall, winter, and—mud. These art curtains are backdrops to the Saxtons River Suite written by Saxons River composer, Carol Wood. Each movement is based on a season and the lyrics for chorus are based on poems by VT poets, including two poems written by the eminent poet John Wood.

LUNCH AND NETWORKING | 1:00PM

Zorn Dining Commons

SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS | 2:00PM-3:00PM*Drawing on Watertown*Watertown Public Art Committee of the Watertown Cultural Council
(Watertown, MA)

Cheshire County Historical Society Gallery

Leaders: Barbara Epstein, Member; Janet Jameson, Member/Co-Founder;
Deborah Peterson, Member/Co-Founder

The 2013 Watertown Community Mural project involved citizens, students, teachers, officials, businesses and arts professionals in creating a work of art that reflects the character of the town. The widely-celebrated mural raised enthusiasm for the bike and pedestrian path where it was sited and provided a meaningful experience for local youth in the work of art making. More importantly, the project demonstrated the power of public art in placemaking and community building. The first mural led to a second created by paid student interns working again under the direction of a professional artist. Moreover, the committee is currently moving forward on a public art strategic plan to guide the town in incorporating public art routinely in the community fabric.

City-Wide Open Studios

ArtSpace New Haven (New Haven, CT)

Keene State Alumni Center

Leader: Shelli Stevens, Gallery Associate

City-Wide Open Studios, now in its 16th year, is our 21 day festival that invites all artists from the region to meet the public. CWOS is unique because artists without access to a working studio (predominantly low- and moderate-income artists) can also participate. Each year, ArtSpace finds different historic but vacant buildings for these artists to use as alternative studios. Artists work side-by-side to create temporary installations, meet one another, and often develop new collaborations as a result. Festival admission, the Official Map & Guide, and guided bike tours are all free. Anchoring CWOS is a central exhibition hub featuring one representative work by each participant. 10,000 people visit and up to 500 artists participate, making CWOS one of the largest open studios in the U.S.

The Creative Mile

I-195 Redevelopment District (Providence, RI)

Keene State Student Center/Mountainview, Third Floor

Leader: Kate Holguin, Project Associate

The Creative Mile is a temporary use public art program in Providence, Rhode Island. It was first organized in 2014 by the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission, an entity responsible for the development of twenty acres of land known as “The LINK” that were freed up by the relocation of Interstate 195. The Creative Mile is part of a long-term goal to transform The LINK into a dynamic center in the heart of the city. Twelve proposals were selected for a 1-year installation period in the Creative Mile. It gets people out walking, looking, and valuing the city and its creative residents. The Creative Mile celebrates the rich mix of local design talent, enhances the value of the surrounding communities, and promotes economic development—not just in The LINK, but Providence as a whole.

Becoming Your Own Umbrella: Waterville Creates!

Waterville Main Street (Waterville, ME)

Keene State Student Center/Madison, First Floor

Leader: Jennifer Olsen, Executive Director

What began as a project to program a downtown vacancy became a community branding and marketing initiative, spurred an arts consortium, sparked a walkability plan for social equity, and created new private investment in our city. Arts partners consisting of The Maine Film Center, Waterville Opera House, Waterville Public Library, Waterville Main Street, and Colby College Museum of Art aligned through Common Street Arts gallery and instruction space to form Waterville Creates!, a program and marketing consortium.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION | 3:00PM-4:00PM

Keene State Student Center/Mabel Brown
Second Floor

Funder Perspectives on How to Measure and Communicate Success

Panelists: Jamie Hand, Director of Research Strategies, Artplace America; Meri Jenkins, Manager of the Adams Arts Program for the Creative Economy and the Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative, Massachusetts Cultural Council

Moderator: Jane Preston, Director of Programs, NEFA

Explore the indicators of success that funders look for in supporting creative economy projects, as well as the frameworks grantees implement for assessing and communicating the outcomes of their community initiatives. How do you set your project goals? How do you explain the value of what you're doing directly and clearly? How do you know when you've had an impact on your community?



Photo Credits (left to right): Aranka Matolasy, Ivan Singer Photography, and Carrie Schneider.



Cultivating and promoting
the arts in New England
and beyond

nefa.org



WELCOME
to NEW HAMPSHIRE'S
CULTURAL CORNER




PHOTO COURTESY OF REDFERN ARTS CENTER

ARTPLACE



OPTIONAL EVENING ACTIVITIES* | 5:00PM

Arts Alive! has organized a list of optional activities in and around Keene. Visit monadnockartsalive.org/ccx-host-activities for more info.

***OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN & AROUND KEENE, NH**

Registration and details: monadnockartsalive.org/ccx-host-activities

Local host Arts Alive! has arranged activities to showcase the arts and culture of the region to enable CCX participants to have an even richer experience. Events vary in scope and include a reception at a historic arts colony, a traditional New England contra dance, an outdoor concert at a farm, and a tour of renovated historic mills and more. Try out some of the rural-flavored Monadnock cultural activities and see how strong communities have developed around them.

BREAKFAST | 8:15AM

Heberton Hall

SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS | 9:00AM-10:00AM

The Danville Transportation Project
Vermont Arts Council (Danville, VT)

Heberton Hall

Leaders: Michele Bailey, Senior Program Director; David Raphael, Planner/Landscape Architect, LandWorks

From 1999-2014, the Vermont Arts Council (VAC) partnered with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) and the Town of Danville to oversee and manage the Danville Transportation Enhancement Project, a program designed to nurture collaboration between artists, community members, and engineers in the re-development of a section of U.S. Highway Route 2 that runs through the center of Danville, Vermont. This was the first collaboration of its kind in the state. The project focused on developing roadway designs that would enhance the essence of a small, close-knit, rural community by providing a safe, attractive, and comfortable pedestrian environment in the Village of Danville, and celebrate its unique historic, built, and natural features.

Fairmount Innovation Lab
Artemorphus (Boston, MA)

Keene Public Library Auditorium

Leader: Liora Beer, Executive Director

Fairmount Innovation Lab (FIL) is a cross-sector lab, incubator, and accelerator that advances the aspirations of talented creative and entrepreneurial residents along the Fairmount/Indigo Corridor (population of 93,000, predominantly low income & minority). FIL strategies include space for creative makers, cultural events and exhibitions, community meetings, and ideas exchange; an access point for business resources, workshops, advising, network building, and funding; and a competitive accelerator to build viable start-ups that help catalyze innovation within a local context. Participants gain access to a community of highly motivated entrepreneurs, work space, mentors, and experts in business model development, marketing, finance, legal issues, technology, sales, and design.

Concord Multicultural Festival: Engaging Our New Community Members in the Local Creative Economy

Greater Concord Area Taskforce on Racism and Intolerance (Concord, NH)

Keene Public Library Kay Fox Room

Leaders: Jessica Fogg, Event Coordinator; Julianne Morse, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

The Concord Multicultural Festival is an annual one day celebration of the cultural diversity in New Hampshire's capital region. Located in one of the state's refugee resettlement cities, the Multicultural Festival invites new community members to be part of the local economy by sharing their cultural products of music, dance, storytelling, craft, and food as vendors and performers. The festival engages volunteers representing 18-20 community partners for six months prior to the event in collaborative planning of how artistic and cultural expression at a big outdoor party can increase racial and ethnic tolerance. During the planning process the committee representing community and social service organizations become aware of the arts as an additional tool for social and economic empowerment.

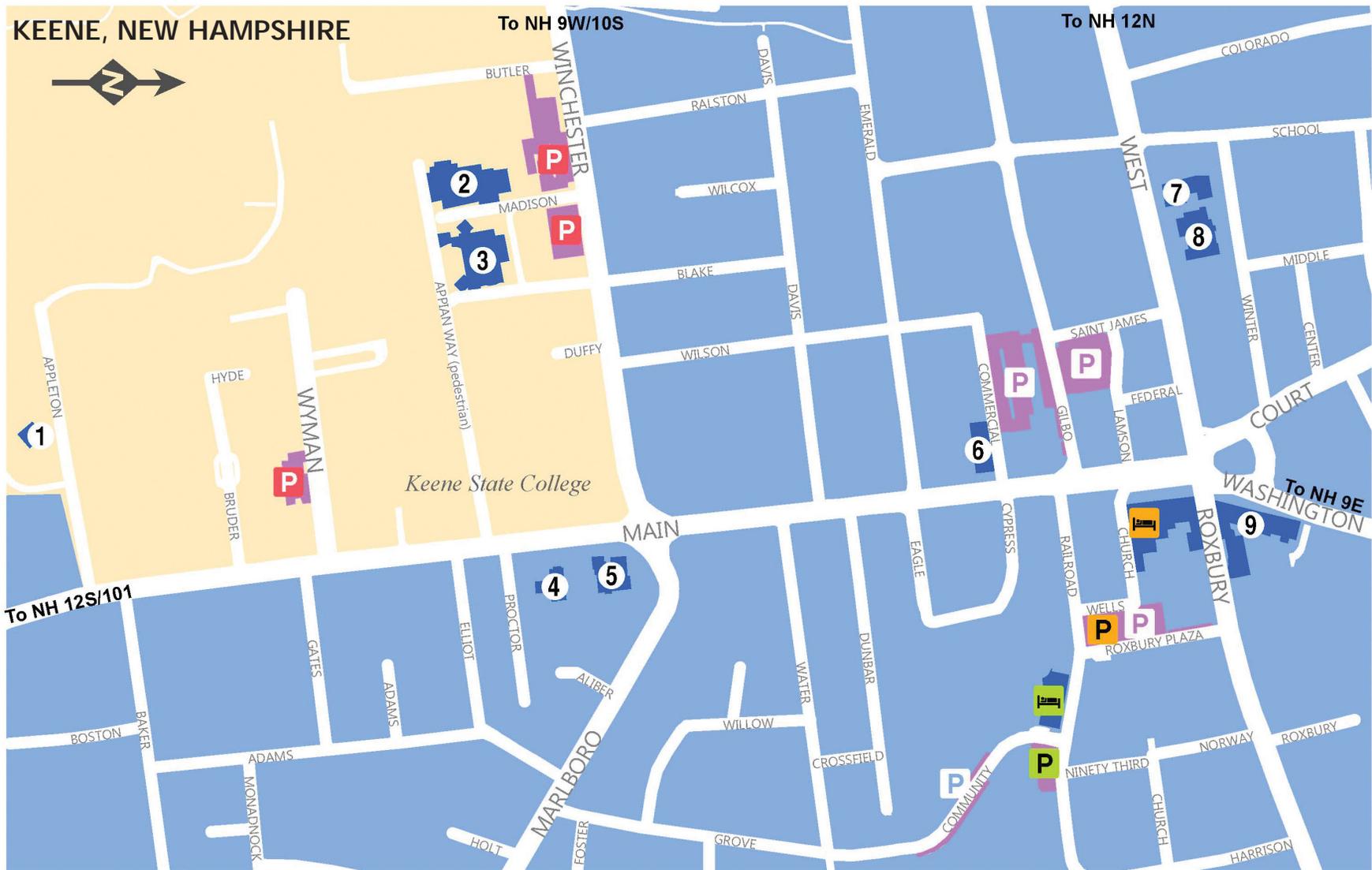
Seeding Community Engagement

Arts Council of Greater New Haven (New Haven, CT)

Keene City Hall/City Council Chambers

Leader: Cindy Clair, Executive Director

The Arts Council's Community Engagement Initiative, launched in 2013, invites artists, artist collectives and arts organizations to submit proposals for community projects that invite the public to actively participate in the creative process. A project might address a community concern or be designed to animate a space. Projects can target a group (i.e. recent immigrants or seniors), enliven a neighborhood, or facilitate interaction among community members. Four to five projects are selected and funded with small stipends of \$1,500 to \$2,500. Our first round of projects in 2014 ranged from an art installation created by youth in response to gun violence to a project that invited passersby to read Shakespeare scenes with professional actors on a public street.



KEENE STATE COLLEGE

- 1 Pondsides III Residence Hall
- 2 Zorn Dining Commons
- 3 Young Student Center
- 4 Alumni Center

DOWNTOWN KEENE

- 5 Cheshire County Historical Society
- 6 The Colonial Theater
- 7 Heberton Hall
- 8 Keene Public Library
- 9 City Hall

HOTELS

-  Fairfield Inn & Suites
30 Main Street
-  Courtyard Keene Downtown
75 Railroad Street

PARKING

-  KSC Student Center Parking
-  Fairfield Inn Parking
-  Marriot Parking
-  Public Parking

SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS | 10:00AM-11:00AM

*Discover Monadnock: Partnerships Enhance Cultural Tourism
Arts Alive! (Monadnock Region, NH)*

Heberton Hall

Leader: Jessica Gelter, Executive Director

Discover Monadnock promotes the Monadnock Region: its cultural events and resources, its hospitality, its businesses, its natural environment, and its economic development opportunities. A group that includes the Monadnock Travel Council, Arts Alive!, Chambers of Commerce, local media, and cultural and educational institutions has brought DiscoverMonadnock.com into being as a marketing tool of the Discover Monadnock brand.

*When a Waterfall Comes to Town (not a Brick Chicken): Repurposing an
Old Building for Art and Community
Waterfall Arts (Belfast, ME)*

Keene Public Library Auditorium

Leader: Martha Piscuskas, Co-Director

Over 15 years, a small rural volunteer-run seasonal community art center morphed into a year-round vibrant “anchor” of the creative economy in the working arts town of Belfast, Maine, with thousands coming through the doors every year. Waterfall Arts expanded beyond their rustic stream-side campus by taking over an old elementary school in town, now with 5 staffers and robust programming for adults and youth. How did they do this in one of the poorer counties in Maine? How did they find the resources to buy a building? And what did they do when pipes burst? This workshop will review a variety of concrete ways, both planned and un-planned, this artist-led organization acquired, re-purposed, and enhanced an old building to be a model cultural hub.

*The Data of the Creative Economy: Somerville as Case Study
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Somerville, MA)*

Keene Public Library Kay Fox Room

Leaders: Stephen Houdlette, City Planner; Gregory Jenkins, Director of Somerville Arts Council

In the context of the City of Somerville experiencing a once-in-multiple-generations cycle of public and private investment, the question of how to maintain the success of creative work in the City is highly pertinent.

There are a wide range of approaches to this topic, but our study focuses on three areas: (1) placing the role of creative activity within Somerville’s larger economy, (2) detailing the relationship between creative economy and the spatial characteristics of the City, and (3) analyzing independent creative workers and their contributions to the larger cluster.

*Freese Park Artist Village: Creating Relocatable Arts Urbanism
Norwalk 2.0 (Norwalk, CT)*

Keene City Hall/City Council Chambers

Leaders: Jackie Lightfield, Chief Problem Solver; Maribeth Becker, Chief Dot Connector

We had a crazy idea. What if we put shipping containers in Freese Park? And then invited artists, writers, poets, singers, musicians, architects, entrepreneurs, makers, and builders to create a village? All sorts of wonderful things happened as a result of hauling four twenty-foot shipping containers, placing them in a neglected park and transforming them into a vibrant village. We will tell the story of how a dash of creativity, a splash of innovation and a lot of perspiration can make a place come alive and discuss the logistics of how to make a village happen anywhere.

SESSION 6 WORKSHOPS | 11:00AM-12:00PM

A Patch of the iQuilt: Bushnell Park North
iQuilt Partnership, LLC (Hartford, CT)

Heberton Hall

Leader: Jackie Gorsky Mandyck, Managing Director

The iQuilt Plan is made up of a series of “patches.” When all completed and sewn together they create a more walkable, vibrant, economically sustainable City. Bushnell Park North is a street that runs from Hartford’s Union Station (bus and rail) to Main Street in Downtown Hartford. Bushnell Park North also runs along the northern edge of Bushnell Park, the first publically funded park in the United States. Since the 1940s this gateway from a major transportation hub to Main Street has been sacrificed to accomodate the increase in automobile use. Changes in this key gateway narrowing roadways, expanding sidewalks, implementing traffic calming measures and providing lighting and furnishings that encourage walking has begun to transform Connecticut’s capital city’s downtown neighborhood.

Square One Initiative
Olneyville Housing Corporation (Providence, RI)

Keene Public Library Auditorium

Leader: Chris Ackley, Stewardship Program Manager

The Square One Initiative is an effort spearheaded by Olneyville Housing Corporation (OHC) to comprehensively revitalize the commercial corridor of Olneyville, a low-income neighborhood on the west side of Providence. Square One uses marketing, beautification and sanitation, and the input of community stakeholders to rebrand Olneyville Square—once known as “Providence’s second downtown”—as a destination attractive to all Providence residents. The Square One Initiative works concurrently with OHC’s social enterprise landscaping venture, One Olneyville.

Building the Pioneer Valley Creative Economy Network
Arts Extension Service (Pioneer Valley, MA)

Keene Public Library Kay Fox Room

Leaders: Dee Boyle-Clapp, Director; Diane Pearlman, Executive Director of Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative; Jeffrey Bianchine, Creative Economy Coordinator for the City of Holyoke

A member of the Massachusetts Creative Economy Initiative, the Pioneer Valley Creative Economy Network is a collaboration of art, business, university, economic development, city and community partners working to connect and expand opportunities for artists and creative businesses in the 3 counties of the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. We host monthly Plug-In network events for artists and creative business workers; conduct and share research; amplify professional development opportunities; co-create and host an annual Creative Economy Summit focusing on five areas including Business Development, Access to Capital, Visibility, Talent and Space.

Each partner represents their own constituencies, yet together reaches and connects thousands of artists and creative businesses.

Welcoming Immigrants in the Creative Economy
Creative Portland (Portland, ME)

Keene City Hall/City Council Chambers

Leaders: Jennifer Hutchins, Executive Director; Tim Honey, Board President of World Affairs Council of Maine

Creative Portland partnered with the World Affairs Council of Maine and other community organizations to reach out into Portland’s growing immigrant community to investigate the scale and scope of interest and participation in the creative economy, and to design a public event where information, ideas, and inspiration could be shared among diverse populations. The ultimate goal is to welcome recent immigrants into Portland’s creative community and to build lasting networks and relationships that support a previously underserved part of the creative economy.

CLOSING SESSION & AWARDS | 12:00PM

The Colonial Theatre

CLOSING REMARKS BY NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS CHAIRMAN JANE CHU

Jane Chu has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate in June 2014 as the 11th chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 2006, Chu served as the president and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, overseeing a \$413-million campaign to build the center. As the performance home of the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Kauffman Center has hosted more than one million people from all 50 states and countries throughout the world since its grand opening in September 2011.

She was a fund executive at the Kauffman Fund for Kansas City from 2004 to 2006, and vice president of external relations for Union Station Kansas City from 2002 to 2004. Previously, she was vice president of community investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation from 1997 to 2002. Chu also served as a trustee at William Jewell College and on the board of directors of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Chu was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, but was raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She studied music growing up, eventually receiving bachelor's degrees in piano performance and music education from Ouachita Baptist University and master's degrees in music and piano pedagogy from Southern Methodist University. Additionally, Chu holds a master's degree in business administration from Rockhurst University and a PhD in philanthropic studies from Indiana University, as well as an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

NEFA CREATIVE ECONOMY AWARDS

Join us at the Colonial Theatre where two exemplary projects will be recognized with NEFA's creative economy award, which includes a cash prize. These projects are chosen for their clear strategies, effective collaboration, and visible impact on the New England creative economy.

DINE-AROUNDS | 1:00PM

Sign up at registration for lunch dine-arounds (voucher provided) at designated restaurants along Main Street.

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS ACKLEY

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER /OLNEYVILLE HOUSING CORPORATION

Chris Ackley has been working at Olneyville Housing Corporation in Providence RI for the last six years, and manages their Stewardship program. The Stewardship program entails managing a social enterprise landscaping business and overseeing commercial district improvement efforts in two Providence neighborhoods. Chris lives in Providence where he spends his time biking, gardening, and climbing trees.

MICHELE BAILEY

SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR /VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL

Michele Bailey has worked in the field of arts administration at the Vermont Arts Council since 1988. She is currently the Senior Program Director. Since 1996, she has been responsible for administering the Vermont Art in State Buildings Program, a public art program for new or renovated construction of State buildings. She was instrumental in developing other public art initiatives for the Council such as the "Danville Transportation Project."

RODNEY BARTLETT

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR /TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, NH

Rodney has been the DPW Director in Peterborough since 2006. Previously Rodney has worked as the DPW Director for the towns of Salem and Derry, NH. With nearly 30 years of municipal experience in NH, he has seen lots of changes in the state's Public Works industry. He has been involved in many infrastructure improvement programs over the years. Rodney believes being involved across the full spectrum of a community only helps to support better infrastructure planning and maintenance.

MARIBETH BECKER

CHIEF DOT CONNECTOR /NORWALK 2.0

Leaving no stone unturned, Maribeth Becker uses her inquisitive powers to solve the eternal questions that stymie most organizations. A community leader with hands-on experience, Maribeth blends intuitive analysis with her unique style and a flair for strategic planning. Her experience developing and organizing various groups is based on facilitating communication, increasing participation and effecting change. She is the Chief Dot Connector for Norwalk 2.0.

LIORA BEER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /ARTMORPHEUS

At eight, feisty, trilingual, but with no English, kids thought Beer was "exotic" and competed for rights to her UNTIL she defiantly befriended the hardscrabble unpopular girl. After attending Parsons School of Design for fashion, Beer opted for an art practice followed by nine years in economic development. In 2009 Beer founded Artmorpheus and in 2012 she co-founded New Art Love, now a social enterprise of Artmorpheus. A partner in the Fairmount Cultural Corridor since 2013, Artmorpheus recently launched the Fairmount Innovation Lab.

JEFFREY BIANCHINE

CREATIVE ECONOMY COORDINATOR /CITY OF HOLYOKE

Jeffery is the City of Holyoke's first Creative Economy Director working through the Massachusetts Cultural Council Adams Art Grant. He oversees training programs, public art, and arts-related economic development efforts. Owner of Paper City Pictures, he is a photographer and has long been involved in visual and performing arts. He graduated from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, majoring in film, photography and visual arts.

DEE BOYLE-CLAPP

DIRECTOR /ARTS EXTENSION SERVICE

Dee Boyle-Clapp leads training programs in a variety of artist-in-business, public art, and arts management topics for state arts agencies. She teaches in the Arts Extension Service's arts management degree and certificate programs, heads the new Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative, and conducts research projects. Dee is a sculptor and holds bachelor's degrees in art and art history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, an MFA in sculpture from UMass Amherst, and a Master's in Nonprofit Management from Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

KATHLEEN BRYAR

SR. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL GIVING/ OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS - GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE/ DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK

Kathleen Bryar is co-chair Main Street Arts' Board of Directors and serves as chair of the capital campaign committee. She has worked closely with this superb committee over the past five years to manage MSA's \$1.5 million capital campaign to expand their building and add accessibility. She has also played a central role in the Five Seasons project. Ms. Bryar directs the corporate and foundation relations office for Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth-Hitchcock. When not raising money, she appears on MSA's stage in musicals.

JOSH BUSHUEFF

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR /CLAREMONT MAKERSPACE

Josh Bushueff is Asst. Director of TwinState MakerSpaces, Inc., a NH based nonprofit dedicated to promoting creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the Gr. Upper Valley region. TSMS is currently developing the Claremont MakerSpace. Josh is a NH native, lifelong artist and enthusiastic proponent of self directed and experiential education. He has worked extensively as a filmmaker and photographer in NYC and LA, and has been professionally engaged as a designer, builder, and producer in a variety of creative fields. Always "making."

CINDY CLAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Cindy Clair, with the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, a regional arts agency serving over 500 individual artists and 120 arts organizations. Prior to New Haven, Cindy was the Executive Director of Silvermine Guild Arts Center in New Canaan, CT for nine years. Additionally, she served as Executive Director for the Huntington Arts Council in NY and Executive Director of the statewide Michigan Alliance for Arts Education.

GARY ECKHART

BOARD PRESIDENT /VALLEY ARTS FOUNDATION

Gary Eckhart is the President of the Board of the Valley Arts Foundation. He is also a watercolor artist and co-owner of Moosewalk Studios in Warren, VT. His work is represented at The Art Loft (Westfield, NY), The Parade Gallery (Warren VT) and Artisans' Gallery (Waitsfield, VT). Gary Eckhart is also Prof. Emeritus of Stage Design at SUNY Fredonia and designed for regional theater and opera companies. He continues to develop his watercolor skills by teaching rendering and painting techniques. Gary also teaches skiing at Sugarbush Resort.

BARBARA EPSTEIN

MEMBER /WATERTOWN PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Barbara Epstein is member of the Watertown Public Art Committee and a writer, editor, and consultant working with nonprofit, academic, and community organizations. She has worked in foundation, academic, and corporate settings and was formerly a clinical social worker and program administrator. She is past president of the Arsenal Center for the Arts and led the organization from development through start-up, and has been involved in many other community organizations. She also maintains an art practice in a studio in Watertown.

JESSICA FOGG

EVENT COORDINATOR /GREATER CONCORD AREA TASKFORCE ON RACISM AND INTOLERANCE

Jessica (Fogg) Livingston is the owner of JFogg Social Inspirations, an Event Planning and Promotions Company. She has been in event planning for 12+ years and is the organizer of the Concord Multicultural Festival. She takes great pride in her community and has served on many nonprofit boards and committees, assisting with the planning and execution of several community events and initiatives. Jessica lives in Downtown Concord, NH with her husband, Paden, and three children: Alden, Grace and Baby Lincoln.

JESSICA GELTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /ARTS ALIVE!

Jessica Gelter is Executive Director of Arts Alive! Arts Alive! is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization comprised of a broad range of arts and cultural organizations and businesses that share a common goal: to enhance quality of life by promoting arts and culture in the Monadnock Region. Jessica has managed, produced, and marketed arts events for 10 years in Vermont and Boston. She has also helped nonprofits build "social capital" in the community. She has a BFA in Theatre from Boston University and Certification in Arts Management from UMass Amherst.

MARGO GHIA

MANAGING DIRECTOR /MAIN STREET ARTS

Margo Ghia has been the Managing Director for Main Street Arts for five years. She was excited to join a beloved community arts organization in the heart of the village she calls home. Working with an amazing team of board and community members, she has led the organization through a tremendous time of growth and change as MSA has improved the streetscape of Saxtons River, VT, made their own building accessible to all, and continues to enrich the lives of community members.

JACKIE GORSKY MANDYCK

MANAGING DIRECTOR /iQUILT PARTNERSHIP, LLC

Jackie provides leadership and logistical support for all key iQuilt Partnership initiatives, objectives and events. The iQuilt Plan lays out a strategy and design for linking Hartford cultural and physical assets and making the intersecting public spaces more walkable, engaging and vibrant. Jackie has also worked for the state of Connecticut and Trinity College in Hartford CT. She is a graduate of Syracuse University and SUNY Albany.

JAMIE HAND

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH STRATEGIES /ARTPLACE AMERICA

Jamie Hand brings a background in urban design, project management, and grant making to her role as ArtPlace's Director of Research Strategies. Previously, Jamie served as a Design Specialist at the National Endowment for the Arts where she launched and managed Our Town, the agency's signature creative placemaking grant program. While in DC, she advised the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force on development of the Rebuild by Design competition based on her prior experience leading competitions for Van Alen Institute. Jamie is coeditor of Gateway: Visions for an Urban National Park, and began her career as a project manager for public artist Topher Delaney. Jamie holds degrees from Princeton and Harvard.

KATE HOLGUIN

PROJECT ASSOCIATE /I-195 REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMISSION

Kate Holguin is the Project Associate of the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission in Providence, RI. The Commission is charged with bringing to market 19 acres in downtown Providence reclaimed after the relocation of a portion of Interstate 195. She is from Los Angeles, CA, and received her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Brown University in Providence.

TIM HONEY

BOARD PRESIDENT /WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF MAINE

Tim Honey is the president of BEGlobal Network, an international consulting group specializing in local governments. He is the board president of the World Affairs Council of Maine and a board member of the Creative Portland Corporation.

STEPHEN HOUDLETTE

CITY PLANNER /METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

Urban planner and economic analyst with substantive and varied experience in the areas of district planning, community and business development and regional economics. Most recently worked in real estate consulting role for Fort Point Consulting and as a research analyst for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Before this Stephen worked in the planning office for the City of Somerville overseeing developments in Union Square and Assembly Square and contributing to the City's first Comprehensive Plan.

JENNIFER HUTCHINS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /CREATIVE PORTLAND

Jennifer Hutchins is the executive director of Creative Portland, a nonprofit organization founded in 2008 to support Portland's creative economy. Prior to joining CP, Jennifer was the director of communications and external affairs for

the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. She is the co-author of a 2004 report on Maine's creative economy. Previously, she worked as a communications and public affairs professional for nonprofits in Maine and Washington, D.C.

JANET JAMESON

MEMBER/CO-FOUNDER /WATERTOWN PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Janet Jameson is a clinical psychologist with a practice in Watertown and a long-time resident of the town. In the 1980s she established a Bicycle Committee with Deborah Peterson to work on turning an abandoned railroad track into a bike and pedestrian path through Watertown, connecting the Minuteman and Charles River Paths. She has participated in many other local organizations, including the Public Art Committee.

GREGORY JENKINS

DIRECTOR /SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

Since 2001, Gregory has been the Director of the Somerville Arts Council. His professional experience includes arts education, public folklore, and community based programming. Since 2005 has led a cultural economic development initiative within Union Square, Somerville. Jenkins has a BA in Anthropology and MA in Folklore. Prior to coming to the SAC, he worked for Arts in Progress, ArtReach NJ, Delaware Folklife Program and the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

MERI JENKINS

MANAGER OF THE ADAMS ARTS PROGRAM FOR THE CREATIVE ECONOMY AND THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL DISTRICTS INITIATIVE /MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Adams Arts Program for the Creative Economy and the Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative are designed to promote the use of cultural assets in economic development efforts. Jenkins has worked at the Council since 2000, and was the architect of the Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative. She has cultivated numerous dialogues among diverse stakeholders on the topics of creative placemaking, sector capacity, and tourism; developed educational programs, symposia, and conferences; and designed technical assistance initiatives to support the development of the field.

SARA KATZ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR /BURLINGTON CITY ARTS

Sara Katz began working with BCA in 1999. Since then she has taken on many roles, playing a key part in developing programming, managing Art in Public Places projects, overseeing BCA's diverse contemporary exhibitions program, and writing grants and budgets. She was the lead staff member for for Imagine City Hall Park, BCA's 2011 Our Town funded engagement project culminating in a new master plan for Burlington's City Hall Park; and is now working with a team to procure artist projects for the 2014 Our Town funded PlanBTV South End.

DOREEN KRAFT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /BURLINGTON CITY ARTS

Doreen was one of the founding volunteers of BCA in 1981 and has since shepherded the organization through monumental growth in programs, staff, and op-

erating budget. Doreen's accomplishments at BCA include: a \$3.5 million capital campaign to restore the historic Ethan Allen Firehouse (BCA's current home); the development of the BCA Center as one of the only contemporary art showcases in Vermont; and the establishment of the Art in Public Places program for the City of Burlington.

DOTTY KYLE

BOARD MEMBER /VALLEY ARTS FOUNDATION

Dotty Kyle is an artist and member of the Board of Directors of the Valley Arts Foundation. Dotty is a founder of the Vermont Festival of the Arts and the Big Red Barn Art Show, which has run continuously for 18 years. She is a former innkeeper and YMCA Executive Director.

BEV LAPHAM

CHAIRMAN /MEREDITH SCULPTURE WALK

Chairman of Meredith Sculpture Walk. Board member of the Greater Meredith Program. Local business owner of Village Canvas. Meredith Rotary Club, president from 2012-13. Member of the Meredith Board of Selectman. Involved in many civic projects.

LIZ LAPHAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /GREATER MEREDITH PROGRAM

Executive Director of the Greater Meredith Program a community development organization seeking to enhance economic vitality, historical and cultural heritage and town wide beautification. Chairman, Village Pathways Committee. Juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen.

JACKIE LIGHTFIELD

CHIEF PROBLEM SOLVER /NORWALK 2.0

Jackie Lightfield, has travelled the world discovering interesting places, unusual history, and fascinating adventures. She currently serves as Executive Director of The Stamford Partnership, and is Chief Problem Solver at Norwalk 2.0, a creative economy economic development agency, which she co-founded in 2010. She has been leading a renaissance of downtown Norwalk by tapping into innovative public art and entrepreneurial development in Norwalk.

MARTA V MARTINEZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /RHODE ISLAND LATINO ARTS

Marta is the founder and executive director of RI Latino Arts, the oldest Latino non-profit arts organization advocating for Latin American arts, culture heritage and history in the state. She is an oral historian and the founder and current project director of the Latino Oral History Project of RI. She is a RI Foundation Fellow, NALAC Fellow Alumnus and Member of the RI Governor's Board of Education.

NANCY MERRILL

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT /CITY OF CLAREMONT

Nancy Merrill has been with the City of Claremont since 2004, currently serving as Director of Planning & Economic Development. During Nancy's tenure, the City

has focused on reinvestment and adaptive reuse as a driver for economic growth. Nancy has written several articles for magazines and publications including "Economic Development Now" and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's "Communities & Banking." Claremont received the 2010 International Economic Development Council Program Award for Real Estate Development and Reuse.

JULIANNE MORSE

HERITAGE AND TRADITIONAL ARTS COORDINATOR /NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Julianne Morse is the Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator for the NH State Council on the Arts where she oversees traditional arts grants, fieldwork, research, and special initiatives. Recent efforts have focused on expanding support for New American artists and for NH's vibrant social dance community. Morse has taught courses in art history, digital media, and studio arts for area colleges, has led arts workshops, and advised on evaluation processes for nonprofits.

KAREN NEVIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /VALLERY ARTS FOUNDATION

Karen Nevin has 20 years experience working in event planning, fundraising and development. She joined the Valley Arts Foundation as Executive Director in January 2012 and is responsible for all aspects of the Foundation including planning all events, coordination with event producers, managing volunteers, fundraising and development, and marketing and advertising.

JENNIFER OLSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /WATERVILLE MAIN STREET

As Executive Director of Waterville Main Street, the administrative agency for the Waterville Creates! Project, Jen's role was to support the diverse, arts-interested agencies in Waterville. Waterville Main Street's mission is economic development in the context of historic preservation, with four areas of concentration: promotional events, volunteer development, public space design, and economic restructuring. Waterville Main Street produces year-round community events and initiatives including the Maine Open Juried Art Show and Arts Fest.

DIANE PEARLMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /BERKSHIRE FILM AND MEDIA COLLABORATIVE

Diane is an independent entertainment producer with over 25 years experience in media creation and production. She is also producing two independent film projects, a screen adaptation of Edith Wharton's novel, Summer, written and directed by feature film art director, Carl Sprague, as well as, A Tree A Rock A Cloud, based on the short story by Carson McCullers - being adapted and directed by award-winning actor, Karen Allen.

LYDIA PÉREZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /PUERTO RICAN INSTITUTE FOR ARTS & ADVOCACY

Lydia is founder and executive director of the Puerto Rican Institute for Arts and Advocacy, Inc. (PRIAA). Lydia has an extensive record of promoting activities that increase cross-cultural understanding, cultural awareness; and the self-esteem of both children and adults. She is a RILA Teaching Artist and Arts Partner.

DEBORAH PETERSON

MEMBER/CO-FOUNDER /WATERTOWN PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Deborah Peterson is a longtime Watertown resident and community activist. Her participation in local organizations has generated such projects as an extension of a state bicycle path, a local walking initiative, a community garden to support the Food Pantry, support to the local youth coalition, and a plastics reduction initiative. A former teacher, she is currently a mental health policy researcher and divides her time between work, community activities, and her grandchildren.

MARTHA PISCUSKAS

CO-DIRECTOR /WATERFALL ARTS

Martha Piscuskas has co-founded half a dozen Maine organizations that are still standing, including Waterfall Arts. She has over 30 years in the progressive nonprofit sector as volunteer, staff, and board director. She has a BA in Cultural Anthropology from Wesleyan University, and finally joined her four artist siblings getting her BFA in sculpture from Maine College of Art in 2008. She lives on a homestead farm with her family, friends, and many animals.

DAVID RAPHAEL

PLANNER/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT /LANDWORKS

David Raphael of Panton, VT was the Lead Artist for the Danville Transportation Project. He is a graduate, with honors, of Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and received a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is the founder and Principal of LandWorks, an interdisciplinary planning, design, and communications firm based in Middlebury, VT.

MELISSA RICHMOND

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /WEST CLAREMONT CENTER FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Melissa Richmond (BMus, MSM) is the Founder and Executive Director of the West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts, and former ED of the Gr. Claremont Chamber of Commerce. She is a teacher and performer, arts administrator, and is actively involved in Claremont's community revitalization. Melissa commissioned and performed the World Premiere of Kinan Azmeh's Concerto for Flute and String Orchestra for the Claremont 250th Celebration. She is passionate about the power of the arts and their necessity in underserved communities.

KATHERYN ROLFE

OWNER /OLGETHORPE FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS

Owner of Oglethorpe Fine Arts & Crafts which sells American handcrafts from over 500 artists. President of Mill Falls Merchants Association. Board member of Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Meredith Program. Awarded Top 100 Retailer of American Craft by Niche Magazine.

SHELLI STEVENS

GALLERY ASSOCIATE /ARTSPACE NEW HAVEN

Shelli is the Gallery Associate and Artist Liaison at Artspace New Haven, a nonprofit arts organization located in the historic Ninth Square District of New Haven, CT. She acts as lead educator and organizer of Artspace's Summer Apprenticeship Program, coordinates the annual City-Wide Open Studios art festival in October,

and helps curate and plan Artspace's annual benefit auction and gala. She's a semi-avid yogi when there's time for it and spends most of her downtime with her very small, very cute dog.

RACHEL STRUTT

CULTURAL DIRECTOR /SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

Strutt works collaboratively to cultivate and celebrate the creative expressions of the Somerville community. She leads multicultural initiatives such as: Intercambio, a culture and language exchange; Nibble, a cultural economic development project; and an NEA-funded placemaking initiative in East Somerville with a focus on storytelling. Prior to the Arts Council, Strutt was a journalist; she has written numerous articles on art and culture for Boston Magazine and the Boston Globe. She holds a Master's degree in Art History from Tufts University.

PETE THROOP

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR /TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, NH

Pete is the Community Development Director for Peterborough, NH, which he joined in July 2013. Prior to coming to Peterborough, he created and directed the Monadnock Conservancy's Community Conservation Partnership program, worked as a planner for the City of Keene, NH, and was Associate Core Faculty at Antioch New England Graduate School in the Resource Management and Conservation Program. Prior to moving to NH in 1997, he spent 18 years as a management and strategy consultant. Pete has an MBA from New York University and an MS from Antioch.

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