Artists at Work

**Project Description**
Housed at Maine College of Art, Artists at Work serves as an employment connector for creatives. In addition to connecting artists to freelance and full-time jobs, Artists at Work provides professional development education and resources to support career growth.

**To Do Checklist**

**Evaluate the need**
Are there underemployed creatives in your town?
Are there businesses that have budgets for creative services?
Are there budgets that are not traditionally used for creative services that could be?

**Assess the Talent Pool**
Identify the creatives in your community
Inventory their skills set by medium and experience
Develop a system for easily accessing and contacting targeted creatives
Decide the minimum and maximum size of projects you are willing to take on

**Assess the Employer Pool**
Identify traditional employers of creatives: ad agencies, large corporations
Identify nontraditional employers: small nonprofits, other artists

**Identify Partners**
Identify and communicate with those who have a vested interest in keeping local talent employed: ie Chamber of Commerce, municipal government, Buy Local

**Create a System and Policies**
Know what is the scope of work you will take on: what job is too small? Too big?
What are the guiding principles of your work? ie, fair wage work only
Develop an intake process
Define your business model

**Fill the Skills Gap**
Identify key business and professional development skills needed by creatives and then offer workshops on those topics.