



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.