NH North Country Council Projects, RC&D

Coos Economic Adjustment Project
A fifteen member Creative Economy Technical Review Committee was formed as part of the five year strategic economic action plan. In the final report on April 2008 the Committee revealed an five step action plan to support the Creative and Knowledge businesses in Coos County. This is an example of a county working with other regional organizations to intentionally promote the Creative Economy.

NH Women’s Rural Entrepreneurial Network
The Wings of the WREN Program www.wrencommunity.org
Wings is a program run by women volunteers for the enrichment of girls ages ten to eighteen. There are free workshops and activities with the emphasis on the arts. It is a program that encourages the arts while growing young women in "self knowledge and creativity" (wrencommunity.org).

Knowledge: Wings is an educational program for the future of young women.

VT Council for the Arts Project
Palettes of Vermont www.vermontartscouncil.org
Palettes is a community art project based on the premise to "give people of all ages, interests and abilities the opportunity to create, showcase and celebrate art"(www.vermontartscouncil.org). The Vermont Arts Council partnered with the Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association and other underwriters to supply the palettes at no cost to any resident interested in trying their hand at art. The medium is their choice. The palette's outcomes have been incorporated in other art forms such as dance. This project has been received with great enthusiasm demonstrated by the numbers of participants. It truly serves the premise by putting the materials in the people's hands and exhibiting the productions.

New England Foundation for the Arts Project
CultureCount www.nefa.org
CultureCount is a large online data warehouse of artists to audiences and other artists, and a reciprocal link for businesses to artists and the art enthusiasts to the arts. Currently it contains 22,856 active records.
Leadership: CultureCount is the only comprehensive and consistent data collection resource for New England's creative economy. The Impact Calculator, an interactive cultural economic impact analysis tool for CultureCount, is an example of a creative new means for study. CultureCount provides training for its use.

New England Foundation for the Arts Project
National Dance Project www.nefa.org
The National Dance Project (NDP) systematically supports and cultivates contemporary dance. The Project promotes dance through production, touring grants and more. NDP is
overseen by a group of 10 performing arts presenter Hub Sites and is advised by five dance field leaders and is endorsed by Dance/USA and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. It is a resource for international exchange, grants and research initiatives throughout the New England states and internationally.

**Investment:** The National Dance Project is a source for grants for dancers and dance organizations

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**Educational Program of the Maine Craft Association**

Community College Craft Curriculum [www.mainecrafts.org](http://www.mainecrafts.org)

Starting in the Fall of 2008 the Maine Crafts Association and the Eastern Maine Community College will offer an Associate Degrees in Traditional and Contemporary Craft. The courses will cover the art skills and the business skills for promoting the crafts and will be taught by master craftspeople. The students have upon completion of the degree requirements both a portfolio and practical skills.

**Leadership:** This is a first of its kind program in the U. S. It is a unique partnering of a leading crafts association and a statewide college system.

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**Maine Arts Commission**

Maine's Percent for Art Program [www.mainarts.gov](http://www.mainarts.gov)

The Maine's Percent for Art Program is a result of the Percent for Art Law. It is to provide funds for the acquisition of artworks for state buildings.

**Leadership:** Through this particular program the Maine Arts Commission provides leadership, resources and materials to facilitate the bringing of artworks to public buildings such as schools.

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**Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA)**

Studio Tours [www.adirondack.org](http://www.adirondack.org)

The Studio Tours organized by Adirondack North Country Association are guided, self guided, walking and driving tours that invite and encourage consumers to explore the handmade arts of the North Country. The High Peaks Tours include the Third Thursday Gallery Walk in Saranac Lake, the Plein Air Studio Tour, the Jay Artisans Studio Tour, the Artist at Work Tour and the Museum Without Walls tour in Plattsburgh.

**Leadership:** Through the tours ANCA brings consumers to artists, farmers, bakers of the region.

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**Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA)**

Arts Patron Survey [www.adknccrafts.com](http://www.adknccrafts.com)

ANCA and Americans for the ARTS have developed a survey has a tool for gathering data to measure the economic impact of the arts and culture in the Northern Adirondacks. The Survey is different in approach as it comes from the perspective of the patrons.

**Leadership:** The survey represents an effort to gather first hand information from arts patrons.
The Pequawket Trail Scenic Byway is an example of the National Scenic Byway program, which promotes local and regional development. The sixty mile trail through Maine and New Hampshire is a two hour drive. It is an organized manner of inviting guests and residents on a path to artisans and craftsmen, farms, historic villages, and wildlife in beautiful scenery.

Leadership: Other communities are proposing to be part of byways such as the Pequawket Trail in order to promote local and regional economic development. In 2007 NH was awarded grants for five projects from the National Scenic Byways Program.