

Mississippi Creative Economy Summit
**Random Examples of Local and State Strategies
Supporting Creative Industries in Other Places**

Grants: The Massachusetts Cultural Council established the Adams Arts Program for the Creative Economy in 2004 through a \$4.5 million allocation from the state legislature. It provides grants for arts-related projects in the state that can demonstrate an economic development impact. Examples of projects funded include the Boston Cyberarts festival, Sourcebook on Handcrafted architectural elements on Cape Cod (modeled on HandMade in America), and Assets for Artists to develop an Individual Development Account for low-income artists. <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/programs/adamsarts.html>

Young filmmakers: In Arkansas My Community is a documentary filmmaking program that engages high school and college students in their communities, encourages creativity, and teaches career skills. By making digital documentary films about places in Arkansas, students learn communication skills, planning, teamwork, digital technologies, writing, and editing skills in a real-world environment. They also develop an appreciation for what makes places special. Videos compete for awards from the state based on content, theme, story, narration, camera techniques, editing, and music. Recent documentaries include student art murals at Fayetteville High School; Randolph County's great outdoors with a historical backdrop; Batesville, the second-oldest city in the state; and World War II Japanese internment camps in Arkansas.

Creative Economy Council: Berkshire Creative is the recently formed Creative Economy Council for the Berkshires region of Massachusetts, formed in response to a Strategic Creative Economy Plan. The Council has about 25 members from all segments of the arts community, as well as people from the business community. Working committees have formed around design, marketing, an arts database, and entrepreneurial training. The Council hosts a bi-monthly networking activity for artists called "Spark." Funding from the state Cultural Council has allowed the hiring of a new Director and Assistant.

Design education: In the Department of Merchandising in Colorado State University's College of Applied Human Sciences about 90 percent of all Apparel and Merchandising students participate in paid internships at fashion designer houses such as Betsey Johnson and DKNY for apparel design and Neiman Marcus and Ralph Lauren on the production and merchandising side. Increasingly, students end up employed in the state, such as at local athletic apparel and skiwear companies Pearl Izumi, Spyder, and Sierra Designs. CSU's Department of Design Merchandising offers hands-on training through the Avenir Museum of Design and Textiles, formerly CSU's Historic Costume and Textile Museum, which owns over 12,000 artifacts from the 19th and 20th centuries with a special emphasis on objects reflective of Colorado's development and diversity.

Artists' Resource Center: Chicago Artists Resource (CAR) is an arts service website that provides information and resources on a wide range of issues related to artists' creative and professional practice. Designed by artists for artists with help from national collaborators, CAR uses open-source software to connect artists to local, national, and international resources. An important site feature is Spacefinder, which provides an online posting of sites available for purchase or rent that are relevant to creative users. CAR also published *Square Feet Chicago: The Artist's Guide to Buying and Leasing Space*. This resource guide includes interactive maps that highlight cultural features as well as real estate values for each of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods.

Artist Relocation Incentives: In 2001 Paducah, Kentucky, in an effort to rebuild a decaying, drug infested area of the city and to strengthen its economy, began offering incentives to artists to relocate there: \$2,500 reimbursements for design or renovation of buildings and 100% financing of low interest loans. The city has become a poster child for building an arts community, its success featured in the New York Times in May 2008.

Arts Districts: The Maryland Arts and Entertainment Districts program provides financial incentives to participating districts. Existing districts include Annapolis, Bethesda, Salisbury, Downtown Frederick, the Gateway Arts District, Silver Spring, Station North, and Wheaton. The program includes a 10-year property tax credit for new construction or renovation on buildings that provide live-work space for artists or arts and entertainment enterprises, income tax subtraction modification for income from artistic work sold by qualifying resident artists, and exemption from the admissions and amusement tax.

Culinary Arts: The New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vermont provides paid intern training for students at a number of facilities they own in the state. "Our restaurants' kitchens are our classrooms," NECI advertises to prospective students. In Montpelier, there's "La Brioché", a bakery and café, "The Main Street Grill" restaurant, and "The Chef's Table Event Center" that caters weddings, receptions, and parties."

ArtBusiness Initiative: Seedco's program provides loans and services to nonprofit and for-profit arts-related enterprises. Recipients of loans can use funds for "start-ups and expansions, construction and renovation of facilities, purchase of new equipment, and debt consolidation." In New Orleans, where Seedco has an ArtBusiness program, the organization has provided financial and technical support to more than 140 arts enterprises and organizations. Technical assistance services include strategic marketing, business planning, financial management, and access to financing.

Creative Job Banks: The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance's Job Bank provides up-to-date listings on jobs of all types in the city's arts and cultural arena. The Massachusetts Cultural Council oversees hireCulture, a free, searchable database of cultural employment opportunities in Massachusetts. hireCulture.org has 1,000 registered organizations, including schools, theaters, museums, galleries, and cultural societies.

Cultural Training: Falkirk Further Education & Training College in Scotland offers "Falkirk Inspired" training for hospitality workers. Typical courses are called "the Cultural Jungle" about how to understand cultural differences, "Discovering Hidden Delights" to inform about unusual local highlights, and "Magical Mystery History Tour" about the region's history.

Arts Tax Increment Financing Program: In 2008 Portland, Maine was the first to use tax increment financing (TIF) for the arts. Recognizing the potential for gentrification following artists moving into a neighborhood, the program provides protection for the artists and the arts and cultural organizations located in a designated Arts District. A portion of any increases in property taxes associated with improvements through the renovation or construction of properties in the designated Arts District will go to support arts and creative economy uses.

Creativity: The Laboratory of Arts and Ideas in Belmar, Colorado offers regular art exhibitions, music, classes, and discussions, the latter often in quirky formats to bring people together. For example, their Mixed Taste Series pairs lectures on seemingly unrelated topics like "Prairie Dogs and Gertrude Stein," "Earth Art and Goat Cheese," or "Swiss Typology and TV Theme Songs." <http://www.belmarlab.org>.

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