Creativity is an Economic Driver

WHY BE A CREATIVE SECTOR ADVOCATE?

Vermont's Creative Sector

Vermont's share of creative economy jobs (9.3% of all employment) is higher than the average across the U.S. It includes painters and musicians, performing arts centers and galleries. It also includes artisan brewers and food producers, architecture studios, libraries and maker spaces, teachers and technicians. It includes not just creative people and enterprises, but the organizations, businesses, agencies and workers that support, hire, fund and employ them and the venues that house them.

Success Looks Like

Celebrating History. The statewide African American Heritage Trail tells the story of teachers, activists, ministers and legislators. Spanning eras and events, the trail draws visitors and revenue to essential historic sites, connecting Black history to Vermont's vibrant Black culture today.

Cross-Sector Partnerships. Catamount Arts in St. J has fostered several programmatic and promotional collaborations with Northeast Kingdom outdoor recreations enterprises including Burke Mountain and Kingdom Trails, and the economic benefits have scaled exponentially.

Innovative Problem-Solving. Art, history and affordable housing converge at the Exner Block on Canal Street in downtown Bellows Falls, among many collaborative efforts to revitalize the once sleepy downtown. Preference is given to artists who wish to live in the 10-unit building. Storefronts also available.

Got Funding?

Vermont is stepping up to provide more—and more equitable—support and resources for artists, spaces, and creative local projects. Grants like Better Places represent a new investment of public funds in community placemaking projects, such as public art installations, which complement the funding opportunities provided the Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Humanities, and the Vermont Community Foundation. State historic preservation grants, tax credits, village and downtown designation programs also support the creative sector, driving innovation and entrepreneurship.

For more state resources & success stories, it’s all in the CreateVT Action Plan at vermontcreativenetwork.org/actionplan

The Vermont Creative Network (VCN) is a broad collective of organizations, businesses, and individuals working to advance Vermont’s creative sector. Authorized by the Vermont Legislature in 2016, the VCN is a program of the Vermont Arts Council. Learn more about the VCN at vermontcreativenetwork.org.