May 11, 2020

CREATIVE SECTOR RECOVERY & RESPONSE FORUM

The creative sector is essential to Vermont's recovery and provides more than 9% of all jobs. The Forum provided an opportunity for legislators and policymakers to hear from the creative sector.

If you identify as a member of the creative sector in Vermont, what is keeping you up at night?

- Long-term impacts to economy
- Food insecurity
- Loss or insecurity of healthcare
- Lost income from another job
- How to stay safe and reopen
- Navigating federal/state assistance programs
- Navigating uncertainty
- Lost income for venue or organization
- Lost income from creative work/events

With museums and galleries shuttered and theaters and performance halls gone quiet, many in Vermont's creative sector are grappling with the unknown. Most survey respondents said navigating uncertainty keeps them up at night. But having strong community connections and support makes them most hopeful. Other top concerns were how to reopen safely and lost income for a venue or organization.

Nearly 500 artists, creatives, and policymakers from all regions of Vermont registered to attend the Forum, which was co-hosted by the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Creative Network. More than one-fourth of participants responded to several poll questions designed to capture the immediate experience of living through the nation's health and economic crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
What makes you hopeful?

- Other
- More time to be creative
- Innovations in creative sector
- New opportunities for art and creativity
- Community connections and support
- New connections from Covid-19 response

What actions do you plan to take after this call to grow and support the creative sector?

- Offer to help someone in the creative sector...
- Bring creativity to local COVID response
- Connect with other creatives in my sector
- Financially support local artists, creatives and...
- Bring creativity to local COVID response
- Other
- Connect with other creatives in my zone
- Talk to a friend or colleague about the creative...
- Contact a legislator to advocate for creative...
- Apply for relief funding or other supports for...

In which creative zone do you live or primarily work?

- Chittenden County Zone
- Addison-Rutland Zone
- Southern Zone (Bennington and Windham)
- 3CVT Zone (Windsor and Orange Counties primarily)
- 4 County Zone (Washington, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille)
- NEK Zone (Essex, Caledonia, Orleans)