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2026 Legislative Preview

Vermont's Creative Sector Advocacy Priorities



Image: Next Stage Arts

Vermont's Creative Economy

- In 2023, arts and culture contributed **more than $1.2 billion** to the Vermont economy
- The sector represents **3% of Vermont's GSP and 10,412 jobs**
- **87% percent** of 2024 Vermonter Poll respondents believe arts and culture help communities thrive

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Image: Generator Makerspace

VCN 2026 Advocacy Goals

- Position the creative sector as part of the solution to existing, significant issues
- Strengthen relationships with legislators and communicate the importance of the creative sector even during an uncertain federal landscape

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Economic Development: Arts and culture contribute $1.2 billion to Vermont's economy annually. Strengthening Vermont's creative economy will strengthen Vermont's overall economy.

Arts, culture, and creativity are foundational to solving existing, significant issues in Vermont

Workforce Development: Investing in creative sector jobs attracts and keeps workers in Vermont.

Community Connection: Arts, culture, and creativity are essential to bringing Vermonters together and building resilient communities.

VCN 2026 Legislative Priorities



Image: Sandglass Theater

- Regulate the online ticket resale market (H.512)
- Build support for the Film and Creative Media Workforce Development Initiative

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Advocacy and Legislative Events



Image: Brattleboro Music School

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- Dec. 4: Creatives at the Table: Getting Involved in Local and State Government (Chandler Center, Randolph)
- Jan. 16: League of Local Historical Societies Day
- Feb. 12: Creative Sector Day in the State House
- Date TBD: Nonprofit Advocacy Day
- Date TBD: Downtown Day and Tourism Day
- June 5: Creative Sector Convening (St. Albans)



Image: Middlebury Studio School

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Top 5 Ways to be a Creative Sector Advocate in 2026

1. Get to know your elected officials
2. Invite your elected officials to your programs!
3. Define your organizational values
4. Get involved (sometimes outside of work)
5. Run for office! (learn how with us on Dec. 4)

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