



Pennsylvania Creative Industries

Powered by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts



Pennsylvania Creative Industries

Mission: Empower, connect, and amplify creatives and creative industries and their contributions to Pennsylvania's communities, economy, and workforce.

Creative Industries Defined:

Creative industries encompass individuals, organizations, and businesses that generate goods, services, and intellectual property through creative work. This includes advertising, architecture, performing and visual arts, design, crafts, music, media and film production, publishing, and digital games. Innovation, technology, and creative expression unite these diverse sectors.

In PA, the Creative Sector...

- **\$30.4B sector (8th in the US)**
- **Employs 189,700 (7th in the US)**
- **Compensation = \$14.6B**

Key Focus Areas:

- **Asset Development**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Community Development**
- **Visibility**
- **Policy**



Creative Communities Initiative

- **Purpose:** Supports community-driven, arts-based initiatives that promote community and economic development – commonly known as creative placemaking or placekeeping.
- **What is Creative Placemaking?** A practice that integrates creative sector, local assets, a community's traditions, history and cultural identity, and design to transform public spaces as vibrant, accessible, and inclusive places that foster connection and livability.



Funding Details

- **Duration:** Up to 4 years
- **Amount:** Up to \$25,000 per year
- **Match Requirement:** 1:1 (50% may be in-kind)
- **Local Government Match:** At least 10% of the match must come from a local government source (can be in-kind)

Project Requirements

- Must be **place-based**
- Must be **planned and implemented** by a partnership of **at least two organizations**
- Must be **accessible to all members** of Pennsylvania communities
- Must be **community-driven**, with deep and inclusive engagement throughout
- Must **authentically engage artists, designers, and culture-bearers** in both planning and implementation

Key Components of a Creative Communities Project

Deep Community Engagement

Authentic Inclusion of Artists

Strong Community Partnerships

Next Call for Letters of Interest: *Fall 2026*



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2026 Creative Communities Map



★ Communities that have completed CCI

★ Current CCI Communities

★ New in 2026 Communities



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Meadville (Crawford County) Creative Communities Project – The Arc Community Greenspace

Project Partners: The Arc of Crawford County, Art & Environment, Allegheny College, City of Meadville, Meadville Arts Council.

Other Funding: DCNR, Marquette Bank, City of Meadville.



The Arc
Please
Join Us for
the dedication of
**The Arc
Community
Greenspace**

**Friday,
October 6th,
2023
1:00 pm**

The event will take place
at The Greenspace,
953 Market Street
in downtown Meadville

Rain location will be at
The Arc of Crawford County,
222 Chestnut Street,
Meadville, right around the
corner from The Greenspace

Please RSVP by Sept. 29th
to: markweindorf@arcofcrawfordcounty.org

With the initiatives that are happening downtown [...] Meadville's just like other towns, and for a while it seemed like it was a really dying town, but it seems to be coming back. And a big part of that is people are coming to gatherings and spending time in the community beyond just coming here to work.

- Meadville community member



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Berwick (Columbia County) Creative Communities Project – Berwick Arts District

Project Partners: Berwick Arts Association, Community Giving Foundation, Community Strategies Group, Exchange Arts, Berwick Theatre and Arts Center

Other Funding: Community Giving Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation, Berwick Borough, Columbia County.



BERWICK ARTS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Show Up...



SEPTEMBER 11TH
4-8 PM

SEPTEMBER 12TH
12-8PM

ART SHOW AND SALE
BRIGGS FARM STUDIO
88 OLD BERWICK HWY
NESCOPECK, PA

FEATURE ARTISTS:
RICHARD AND ALISON BRIGGS
DAVE AND DEB STABLEY
*FREAS FARM WINERY AND FOOD TRUCK
AVAILABLE

NEW ARTWORK IN
BERWICK'S ARTS
DISTRICT



THANK YOU TO
ARTIST DREW
HOENIGKE



Corry (Erie County) Creative Communities Project – Creative Placemaking for Economic Development & Resiliency

Project Partners: Impact Corry, City of Corry, Corry Blues Zones, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, City of Corry, Corry Chamber of Commerce, Corry Area Arts Council, Corry Area School District, Corry Area Historical Society, Corry Community Foundation, Corry RAILS, Corry Young Professionals, Downtown Corry Business Association, Edinboro University, Erie Arts & Culture, Erie County Department of Planning, Erie County Housing Department, Erie to Pittsburgh & Industrial Trails Coalition, Integrated Design, Jefferson Educational Society, Northwestern PA Trail Association, Penn State Behrend, Village Friends

Other Funding: AARP Community Challenge Grant, DCED, DCNR, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, City of Corry.



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What is a creative small business?

Marketing – Advertising and marketing agencies & professionals

Architecture – Architecture firms & architects

Visual Arts & Crafts – Galleries, artists, artisans & makers

Design – Product, interior, graphic, and fashion design firms and designers

Film & Media – Film, video, animation, TV & Radio businesses

Digital Games – Companies, programmers & individuals producing games.

Music & Entertainment – Producers, venues, musicians & performers

Publishing – Print or electronic businesses & content creators, editors & writers



Creative Business Loan Fund

- Up to \$250,000 (avg. loan is \$130,000 – smallest loan is \$5,000)
- To date 54 loans – about 1/3 are for real estate acquisition
- Community Development Finance Institution(CDFI) partners are Bridgeway Capital and Rising Tide Community Loan.

Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator 2.0

- Support early to mid-stage creative small businesses (revenue under \$250K)
- Access to small business and professional development consulting services
- Financial assistance to support business growth (amounts to be determined)
- Fall 2026: [Bridgeway Capital](#) will take over as the statewide administrator to provide a higher level of support and more direct financial assistance to entrepreneurs.



Creative Districts (New)

Focus: Support for Creative District coordination and promotion:

- Technical assistance for mapping, planning and implementation.
- Branding and promotion opportunities for visibility.
- Peer learning and networking
- Evaluation and sustainability

Goals:

- Community interaction through public art and programming.
- Economic development and support for creative enterprises.



Pennsylvania
Creative District

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Welcome to the River Arts District



Asheville's Creative Heart in Motion

For over 30 years, the River Arts District (RAD) has been a destination for art lovers, collectors, and visitors seeking inspiration. Here, you can meet hundreds of artists, watch creativity unfold in real time, take hands

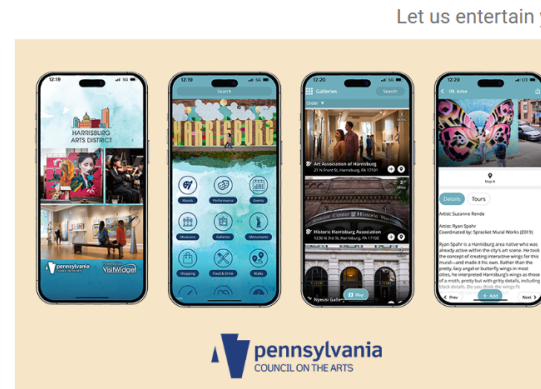
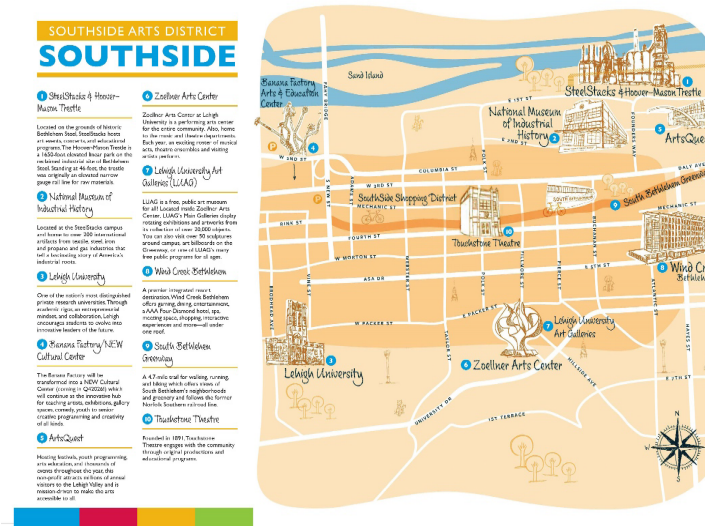
Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 28 | May 28, 2026 @ 10:00 am
A Feel For The Furnace: 3 Hour Workshop
North Carolina Glass Center
140 Roberts Street |
| May 28 | May 28, 2026 @ 11:00 am
Flameworking Sculpture in Miniature
North Carolina Glass Center
140 Roberts Street |
| May 29 | May 29, 2026 @ 10:30 am
Hot Shop: 30 Minute Make Your Own
North Carolina Glass Center
140 Roberts Street |
| May 29 | May 29, 2026 @ 11:30 am |



Foundational Activities (Application Requirements):

- Community Asset Mapping
- Assemble a Creative District Advisory Committee (include businesses, artists, local government, and community stakeholders) and designate a District Coordinating Organization
- Designation of geographic area of District with recognition by local government (ensure safe walkability and easy navigation)
- 5 Year District Activation Plan



Let us entertain you!

The NEW Harrisburg Arts District App

Now available to download!

Use the app to search for murals, performance venues, events, museums, galleries, monuments, shopping, and places to eat. Create and share custom itineraries with planning mapping features. It's a free and convenient way to plan your day exploring diverse arts & culture opportunities throughout the Harrisburg Arts District. The development of this app was made possible in part by the [PA Council on the Arts](#).





New & Upcoming Opportunities

Spotlight Program (New)

- **Target:** Arts organizations and arts programs across Pennsylvania that provide arts activities and arts programs and have average revenue of \$10,000 – under \$100,000.
- **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$5,000.
- **Application Due Date:** TBA

Asset Program (New)

- **Target:** Arts organizations that provide arts programming with an average revenue size of \$100,000 to \$2,000,000.
- **Anticipated Grant Amounts:** Between \$10,000 and \$15,000
- **Application Due Date:** Winter 2027

Innovation & Impact Grant (New)

- **Focus:** Supports new, multi-year strategies and initiatives that elevate new models, ideas, and partnerships and drive innovation and sector visibility.
- **Anticipated Grant Amounts:** \$100,000 – \$150,000
- **Application Due Date:** Rolling

Thank you!

Sarah Merritt, Senior Director of Community Development
skmerritt@pa.gov



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Sign up for
updates and
news!



pa.gov/creative-industries