



# Pennsylvania Creative Industries

Powered by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts



# Pennsylvania Creative Industries

## 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 (8<sup>th</sup> in the US)
- Employs 189,700 (7<sup>th</sup> in the US)
- Compensation = \$14.6B

### Why Creative Industries?

- Alignment with growth opportunities
- Retain and attract talent
- Community revitalization
- National and global recognition



## Agency Areas of Focus:

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



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# 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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# 2025 Creative Communities Map



★ Communities that have completed CCI

★ Current CCI Communities

★ New in 2025 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](mailto: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...

...For the Pop Up! at Briggs Farm

Thursday Sept. 11th 4-8pm  
Friday Sept. 12th 12-4pm

Artwork by: Ali and Richard Briggs and Deb and Dave Stabley

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

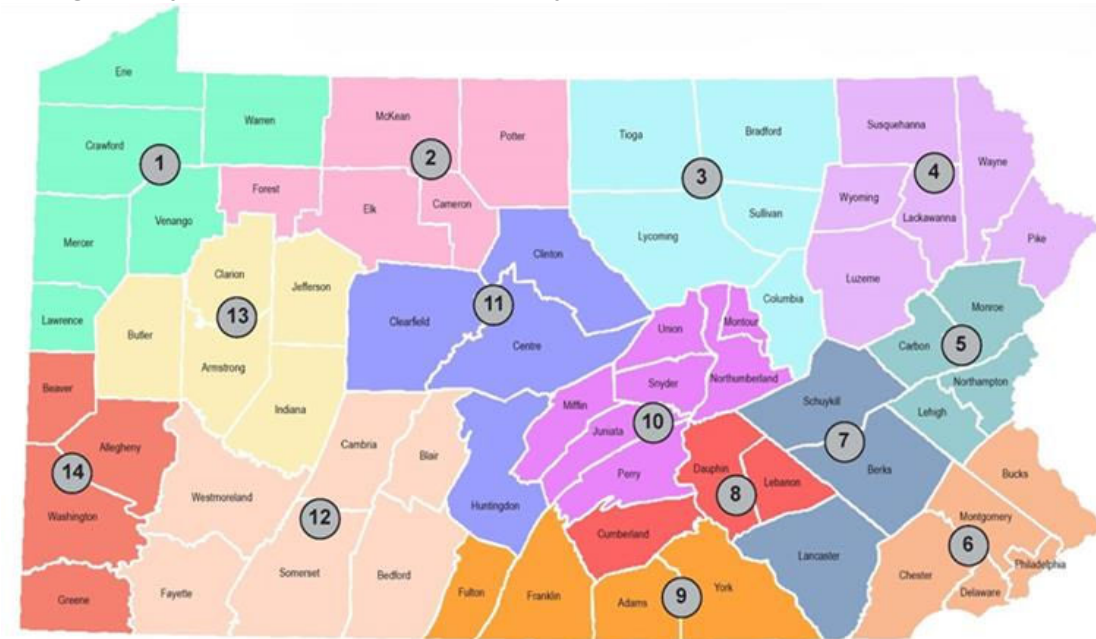


# Creative Business Loan Fund

- 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, Community First Fund, and Rising Tide Community Loan.

# Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator

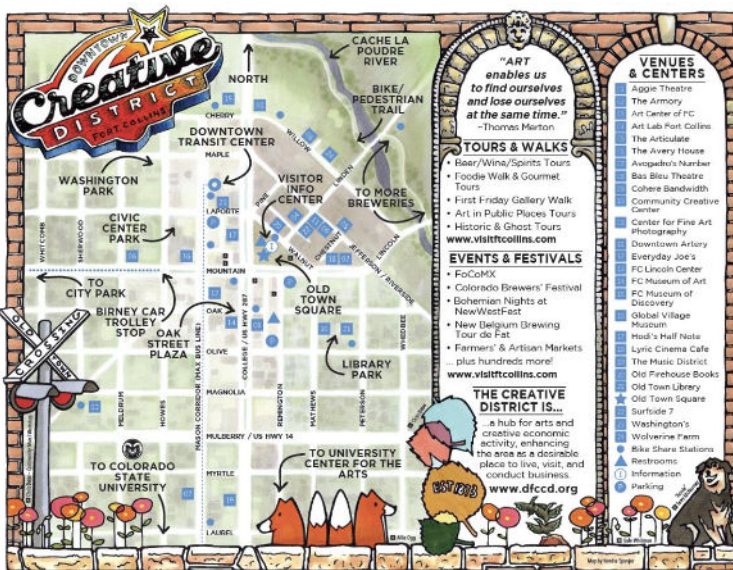
- Administered by the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts
- At least 18 years old
- Annual revenue under \$200,000
- Resident of PA for at least 1 year
- Work with a designated small business referral coordinator –  
PA SBDC's, CDFI's, SCORE, local providers of free small business development services.



# Proposed Designated Creative Districts Program Overview

## Purpose

The Designated Creative District Program is designed to support, promote, and celebrate the vibrancy and uniqueness of Pennsylvania's downtowns by harnessing the talents, resources, and offerings of the local creative sector.



## Definition

A Creative District is a geographically defined area that serves as a hub for cultural and economic activities, fostering innovation and creativity. It is characterized by a high concentration of cultural facilities, creative industries, and creative small businesses, creating a vibrant environment for community engagement and economic development. Creative districts aim to enhance the quality of life in their communities by promoting local culture, enhancing the quality of life for residents, and attracting investment and tourism.

# Foundational Activities (Pre-Application Requirements):

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

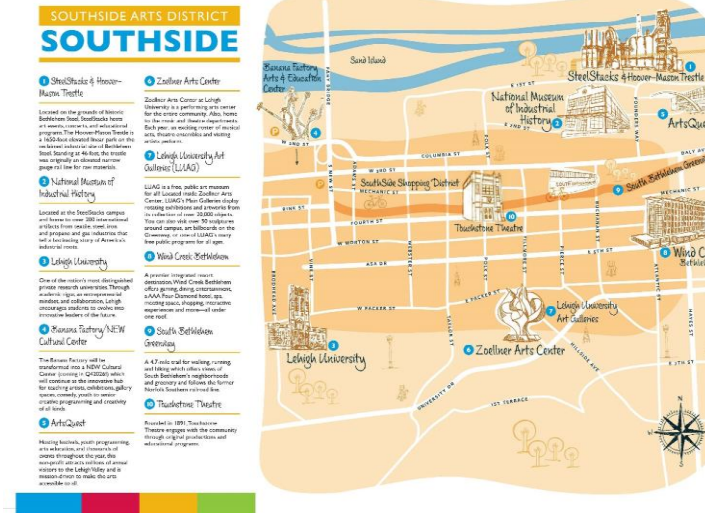
Let us entertain you!



**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**.

# Thank you!

Sarah Merritt, Director of PA Creative Communities & the Creative Economy  
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[arts.pa.gov](https://arts.pa.gov)