

Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation

...Advancing Vermont's Creative Economy

Some Useful Reports and Web Sites

VCCI's research uncovered a wealth of information related to developing the creative economy. Here are links to a few useful reports and sites.

- ≈ SEABA: Burlington Vermont's South End Arts & Business Association (<http://www.seaba.com/>) is dedicated to fusing culture and commerce to enhance the economic vitality and eclectic mix of Burlington's arts and business community. Its continued success can serve as a model for other communities.
- ≈ The Portsmouth, NH Cultural Plan (<http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/CommLifeandArts.pdf>) is an excellent example of community planning focused on merging cultural assets and community development.
- ≈ Maine just completed a year long study of its creative economy. The findings (www.mainearts.com/mainescreativeeconomy/conference/index) are relevant to Vermont, particularly its analysis of rural communities.
- ≈ *Clusters of Creativity: Innovation and Growth in Montana* (<http://www.rtsinc.org/whatsnew.html>) is a recent report for the Montana Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. It establishes some new approaches in measuring the impact of the creative sector in rural areas and what various clusters have in common.
- ≈ The Creative Economy Council (<http://www.creative-economy.org/>) is a partnership among leaders from New England's business, government, and cultural sectors that exists to promote the sustainable development of the region's creative economy. The site also provides links to creative economy initiatives in each of the six New England states.
- ≈ The Center for Arts and Culture (<http://www.culturalpolicy.org/>) is a national policy oriented site, with a great weekly e-news summary called Cultural Commons.
- ≈ The Americans for the Arts site is jam packed with data and national models. Start with Arts & Economic Prosperity (<http://www.artsusa.org/EconomicImpact/>).
- ≈ Innovations in State Cultural Policy (<http://www.culturalpolicy.org/state-cp/home.htm>) is a project designed to spark state-level coalitions (spanning arts, humanities, folklife and historic preservation) that can then work with policy makers

to increase the audiences and funding for culture. Be sure to click on *Policy Partners: Making the Case for State Investment in Culture*, an excellent guide detailing diverse, innovative policy mechanisms that are in place and can be adapted by other states.

- ≈ The Arts Education Partnership (<http://aep-arts.org/>) is a national coalition that compiles research in support of learning through the arts. Two of the reports it hosts (*Champions of Change* and *Critical Links*) are good starting points that offer compelling evidence.
- ≈ *The Artistic Dividend: The Arts' Hidden Contributions To Regional Development* (www.hhh.umn.edu/projects/prie/artistic_dividend.pdf) sets forth the idea of an "artistic dividend" that is fostered both by the kinds of communities that attract artists and by the economic vitality that artist residents generate in the community. This University of Minnesota report concludes that a regional economy's productivity and earnings rise as its artist population increases.
- ≈ Creative Clusters (<http://www.creativeclusters.co.uk/>) is a network for people working in the development of creative industries throughout the world. It is interested in regeneration and development projects that deliver outcomes in both cultural and economic terms. Many of these are featured at the biennial Creative Clusters Conference.
- ≈ *The International Creative Sector: Its Dimensions, Dynamics, and Audience Development* was a UNESCO sponsored conference held in 2003 at the University of Texas at Austin. The proceedings can be found at <http://www.culturalpolicy.org/pdf/UNESCO2003.pdf>
- ≈ *Acts of Achievement: The Role of Performing Arts Centers in Education* was a forum held at the Kennedy Center in conjunction with the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. The Executive Summary is available at http://www.dana.org/books/press/achievement/achvmt_execsum.pdf
- ≈ "Culture, Creativity, and the Economy" (<http://www.kieranhealy.org/files/drafts/creative-economy-bib.pdf>) is an annotated bibliography compiled at the University of Arizona in 2002.