

Creative Community Housing

Maine Housing Conference 2019



INTRO



MAINE ARTS COMMISSION – WHO ARE WE?

Founded in 1964, we are an agency of the State of Maine, governed by a 15 member Governor-appointed Commission.

The Commission delivers grants, programs and services in support of Maine's arts and culture industry.

We are one of 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies throughout the country.

We work to ensure that arts & culture and the creative economy thrives in every corner of our state.

Funding – about \$1.75 million

WHO ARE
YOU?



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

WHY DO YOU LIVE
THERE?



THE DATA



In a few words – in years to come what do you hope your community will be known for?

AS A CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Source: 2015 Maine Arts Commission Cultural Planning Study



MORE DATA



According to THE JOBS IN NEW ENGLAND'S CREATIVE ECONOMY AND WHY THEY MATTER (New England Foundation for the Arts 2017)

Portland ranks 5th in Total Creative Enterprises in NE just after Boston, Cambridge, Providence and Stamford.

Portland ranks 8th in Number of Creative Enterprises per capita in NE

AND A LITTLE
MORE



98% of Mainers are
interested in the arts!

Source: 2015 Maine Arts Commission Cultural
Planning Study

WHY SHOULD
WE CARE?



BECAUSE PEOPLE WANT TO
LIVE IN **VIBRANT**, **VITAL** &
PROSPEROUS PLACES

WHY SHOULD
WE CARE?



AND PEOPLE IN MAINE WANT THEIR
COMMUNITIES TO BE KNOWN **AS CENTERS
FOR ARTS & CULTURE**...AND WHAT DO YOU
NEED IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO GET THERE?



ARTISTS!

A STORY



Jerome, AZ

STORIES FROM MAINE



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ARTS:

Portland

Rockland

Belfast

Biddeford

Winter Harbor

Monson

What happens
when you are
too successful?



GENTRIFICATION

What happens
when you are
too successful?



SOLUTIONS:



Affordable Artist Live/Work Space

ARTSPACE

Mission is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.

Mesa Artspace Lofts

Opened 2018

Estimated Project Cost

\$15.8 million

Live/Work Space

50 units

Ground Floor Commercial Space

1,450 square feet

Community Space

2,900 square feet

- 1,2 & 3 bedrooms
- Maximum Income Limits
- Application Process
- Rent: \$465 - \$992

Artspace is committed to attracting creative individuals and families from diverse artistic and cultural backgrounds. The property is intended to be a center for creative entrepreneurship, artistic and cultural collaboration and year-round community engagement through resident-led programming.

MAINE

AVESTA HOUSING

Oak Street Lofts

- Portland, ME
- 37 Units

Target Population:

- Artists
- Individuals

Rent:

- \$508-\$779

“Provides local artists affordable rental apartments and project workspace – all under one roof. This project is vitally important in helping to maintain the vibrant culture of the City of Portland.”

Low Income Tax Credits



RANDOM ORBIT Parkside Studios

- Portland, ME
- 8 Limited Equity Condo Units
- Goal – to develop units under market value that will be affordable to qualified artists with income at 80% of median income for the Portland area.

**ALSO BUILDS AFFORDABLE
STUDIO SPACE FOR ARTISTS**

Public/Private Partnership

THOUGHTS...



Thousands of artists living in Maine...more coming



Limited rentals available anywhere



Affordability...challenged



Lots of opportunity

The image features a white background with two large teal geometric shapes. On the left, a teal triangle points towards the center. On the right, a teal trapezoid is positioned. The text 'SWITCHING GEARS' is centered between these shapes.

SWITCHING GEARS

SOME AGING FACTS ABOUT MAINE



- The oldest population by median age in the country
- The highest concentration of baby boomers per capita
- Live rurally, away from service centers (most rural)
- Lowest 0 - 18 population
- Very low, if not the lowest, rate of in - migration
- High concentration of working family caregivers
- High rate of Alzheimer's and related dementia
- Higher than average poverty rate for those over 65

Source: Maine Council on Aging

What is Creative Aging?



- The practice of engaging older adults in participatory, professionally run arts programs, with a focus on **mastery** of new skills, **social engagement** and life review.

CREATIVITY & AGING STUDY

(Gene Cohen, NEA 2006)

FACTS:

- NEA Funded
- Over 3 years
- 300 participants
- Median age = 80

RESULTS:

1. Better health, fewer doctor visits, and less medication usage.
2. More positive responses on the mental health measures.
3. More involvement in overall activities.

SOLUTIONS



EngAGE

EngAGE is a nonprofit that takes a whole-person approach to community and creative, healthy aging by providing learning, community building and intergenerational programs to thousands of seniors and families living in intergenerational apartment communities in California, Oregon & Minnesota.

EngAGE FACTS



Here are some pertinent facts about the predominant population they serve: low- and moderate-income seniors between the ages of 55 and 100+.

- **Average age: 77 years old**
- **Gender: 68% female**
- **Marital Status: primarily widows/widowers**
- **Race: 15% African American, 10% Asian American, 35% Caucasian, 20% Latino/Hispanic, 20% Multicultural/Ethnic (Russian, Eastern European, etc.)**
- **Average income: \$10,800 per year**
- **Only 46% still own a car and fewer drive**
- **Only 16% are still employed**
- **Only 22% engaged in activity prior to EngAGE – 59% engage now**

EngAGE ARTS COLONIES

3 Senior Arts Colonies

1 Family Arts Colony

1 Older/Young Professional Artist
Colony

53+ program partners in three
states



OTHER MODELS



Del Webb 55+ Communities

Sun City West

- Rec Centers Provide:
 - 25 Visual Arts Programs
 - 7 Performing Arts Programs
 - Artist Studios
 - Theatre

OTHER MODELS



Pebble Creek – Goodyear, AZ

Amenities:

Artist Studios/Classes

300 Seat Theater

Pebble Creek Singers

CREATIVE AGING GRANTS



- Maine Arts Commission
- Up to \$1,000
- 501c3 nonprofits eligible
- Must use Creative Aging Teaching Artists from our Roster
- Deadline: October 17, 2019

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Thank You!

Julie Richard, Executive Director, Maine Arts Commission

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