Creative Community Housing

Maine Housing Conference 2019
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
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
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?
A STORY

Jerome, AZ
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
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.
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.
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
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
Thank You!

Julie Richard, Executive Director, Maine Arts Commission
Julie.Richard@maine.gov