

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 2025



“Mount Washington” by Robert Giggi, NHSCA Arts Bank Collection

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

1 PREFACE AND CONTEXT



Close up of Governor's Arts Award Folk Heritage recipient Sylvia Miskoe playing Scottish and New England contra dance music on the accordion

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts engages in a strategic planning process to create a dialogue with NH's cultural community and to align our efforts with the needs and priorities of the arts in our state.

This plan, which sets our direction for the next three years, is a departure from our previous plans in many ways. Rather than having a program-driven plan, the focus is transformational and value-based work, a deep commitment to serving the people and communities of this state; building connections through listening and learning; and adapting whenever and however we are able.

Our plan was developed with contributions from more than 200 Granite Staters—artists, administrators, arts patrons, supporters, and community members. Through surveys, geographically-based focus groups, and interviews, we learned about local, regional, statewide, and fieldwide needs and assets, and about NHSCA's strengths and opportunities. We would like to thank everyone that gave their time to help us determine strategies and improvements to meet the expectations of those we serve and those we need to serve better.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our facilitators, Deidra Montgomery and Danya Sherman, for their expertise and support throughout the process.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

We are delighted to present the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' strategic plan which outlines our vision for the future of the arts in New Hampshire.

The plan is the result of many months discussions and collaboration with important voices in New Hampshire's arts community. It reflects our commitment to support the arts in our State and outlines our beliefs that will guide us for the next three years.

We believe in the intrinsic value of the arts, not only for its ability to inspire, but also for its ability to heal, to bring us together as a community, and to fix our place in time and space.

We are profoundly supportive of the Creative Community which contributes annually over three billion dollars to our State's economy as measured by the Federal Bureau of Economic Analysis.

We are committed to reaching out and including marginalized communities who have yet to benefit fully from participating in our arts community. We seek to learn more about your culture and to celebrate your artistic heritage.

Dr. Roger C. Brooks, Chair
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts



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Crotched Mountain
(FY19 Arts in Health grant)

A state agency enhancing the quality of life in New Hampshire by:

- Stimulating economic growth through the arts.
- Investing in the creativity of students.
- Making the arts accessible to underserved populations.

OUR MISSION

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) strives to ensure that every citizen and community in New Hampshire enjoys the cultural, civic, economic, and educational benefits of the arts.

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top: MOCO Arts, Beauty and the Beast Jr. (FY17 Public Value Partnership grant), Steve Holmes Photography

bottom: The Music Hall (FY23 Public Value Partnership grant)

OUR CORE FUNCTIONS

- FUND THE ARTS
- RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE ARTS
- BUILD THE ARTS FIELD



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OUR CORE VALUES

Responsiveness

We strive to meet needs as they arise or become apparent.

Service

We are dedicated to public service and go above and beyond to support the arts community and the public.

Visibility

We recognize the unique voices of each of the arts in NH and work to increase their visibility and impact.

Empathy

We build compassionate relationships to center the well-being of others.

Access

We are committed to making our programs and services increasingly approachable, inclusive, and equitable.

Agency

We enter into relationships with respect for the strength, experience, and abilities of all.

Openess

We work to create a culture where everyone can express themselves.



above: Furniture Masters Prison Outreach Program

below: Center for the Arts Lake Sunapee, Pas de Deux (FY22 Arts for Community Engagement grant)



TOP OPPORTUNITIES

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FY23 Poetry Out Loud at the Rochester Opera House, Student Eve Dearborn from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy, photo George Dannecker

Increase **diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility** of staff, council members, processes, funding, and programs.

Improved and expanded visibility, communications, storytelling, celebrating, and awareness-raising activities.

Expansion of **convenings**.

Increase overall **funding**.

Increase staff **capacity**.

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BIG QUESTIONS



Town of Lancaster Mural by Positive Street Art
(FY22 Arts for Community Engagement grant)

How can we, given our specific role in the ecosystem, use our current and any future additional funding to more strategically accomplish our goals and serve our mission?

How can we raise the profile of NH's artists and arts organizations, and the Arts Council itself?

How can we invest in communities and foster equitable access to the arts?

FUND THE ARTS

Provide equitable access to financial support for the benefit of arts and cultures in New Hampshire

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OBJECTIVES

Provide grants and services that expand access to funding and center on our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Forge platforms and develop sustained discussions with plural voices and perspectives to co-create programs with New Hampshire's arts and culture communities.

Be accountable to our stewardship of public funds and our constituency.

Respond to the needs of artists and communities to increase access to financial support.

Revise or design funding programs that align with NHSCA's mission and values while addressing our DEIA priorities

Develop and institute mechanisms for regular feedback and reflection

Streamline and increase accessibility of application processes for funding programs

Expand programmatic support for a diversity of artistic practices and entity types

Clarify grantmaking eligibility requirements to applicants, grantees, and the public

Streamline NHSCA's organizational work to increase program staff capacity

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RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE ARTS

Elevate the profile of arts and cultures in New Hampshire

OBJECTIVES

Communicate the value and importance of the arts and cultures of New Hampshire.

Improve structures for external communication centered on our commitment to DEIA to provide varied and accessible paths to information and assistance.

Cultivate partnerships to increase NHSCA's reach within the state.

STRATEGIES

Create and maintain a strategic communications plan, with social media and website redesign as priorities for the division

Organize and distribute data for storytelling and casemaking about arts impact

Amplify New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' offerings and contributions to arts and culture communities statewide

Build and formalize partnerships in New Hampshire and regionally with people, entities, and organizations that augment New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' impact

Engage, develop and diversify the State Arts Councilors to support New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' work

BUILD THE ARTS FIELD

Facilitate the development of skills, knowledge, resources, and connections required for the future of arts and cultures in New Hampshire

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OBJECTIVES

Foster relationships across sectors, agencies, and departments to advance the profile of arts and cultures in the state.

Build opportunities for peer sharing and learning.

Provide professional development for individual artists and capacity building for organizations.

Lead by example with internal work related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

STRATEGIES

Engage the community to participate in the assessment of the needs in the field

Review and refine in-person convenings and relationship-building activities

Partner with external arts service organizations to increase professional development offerings for New Hampshire artists and organizations

Facilitate connections among and between the arts ecosystem

Create internal diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility plan that includes considerations for staffing, grant panel reviewers, programs, and training

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



left: National Heritage Fellowship recipient Newt Washburn making a brown ash basket
above: North Country landscape

We recognize and acknowledge that we are on N'dakinna, the traditional lands and waterways of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the aki (land), nebi (water), and the aln8bak (people) who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION ACCESSIBILITY

Excerpt from New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts commits to championing policies and practices that are inclusive, accessible, equitable, and that celebrate our diversity. We recognize that artists, arts organizations, audiences, and cultural stakeholders may face practical barriers due to systemic unequal power, privilege, and access related to race, ethnicity, geographic location, socio-economic, language, ability, age, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, and immigration status.

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts recognizes the importance of having a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility work plan that addresses the many facets of diversity present in our great state. We commit to pursuing a planning process that will inform the specific actions we take in accordance with the strategies we have developed to meet our stated goals and objectives.

FULL TEXT: https://www.nh.gov/nharts/aboutus/pdf/NHSCA_DEIAstatement.pdf



clockwise from top:

Upbeat NH Amherst Street School December
Concert (FY22 Youth Arts Project grant)

Bharatanatyam Artist Swathi Jaisankar at the
2023 Arts Partnership Conference (Traditional Arts
Apprenticeship grant), photo Allegra Boverman

Center for the Arts, First Fridays featuring artist Richard Haynes
(FY22 Arts for Community Engagement grant)



Dover Teen Center, Youth Mental Health Alliance Mural
(FY22 Arts in Health grant)



NHSCA STAFF

Adele Bauman

Director

Cassandra Mason

Chief Grants Officer

Kayla Schweitzer

Heritage & Traditional Arts

Lisa Burk-McCoy

Creative Community
Development

Emily Killinger

Arts in Health

Allison Hawkins

Arts Education

Christina Hoppe

Grant Programs Associate

Carey Johnson

Curatorial Specialist

Virginia Lupi*

Former Director

NHSCA COUNCIL

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Jason Tors

Sugar Hill

Cecilia Ulibarri

Nashua

Peter Warburton*

Pembroke

Amanda Whitworth

Ashland

Leah Woods*

Dover

** Indicates those that assisted with plan creation, but terms expired prior to plan approval.*



New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

A Division of the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts would like to acknowledge the work of Councilor **Peter Warburton**. Peter served as a member of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts beginning in 2011. During his tenure on the Council he offered his expertise on our strategic plans and participated in their development.

As a superintendent of schools at NH SAUs #53 and #39, he instilled a passion for arts integration among students and colleagues. In 2017, he received the New Hampshire Art Educators Association Outstanding Service Award for his leadership in the arts.

We miss his kind counsel, warmth, easy laugh, and gentle advocacy.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Sophia Staples-Roy for her work on the design of our plan. Sophia, a graphic design student at Ohio Wesleyan University, had a memorable summer internship packing boxes during the flood and relocation of our offices. We appreciate her good humor and patience.



Town of Peterborough Children and the Arts Committee, Lantern Festival
(FY20 General Project grant) photo Steve Lipofsky