



North Country Rising is a planning effort led by North Country Council to develop strategies and solutions for a more resilient, inclusive, and caring economy that can withstand, adapt, innovate, and transform in the face of natural and human disasters.

Arts & Culture Focus Group

The Art & Culture Focus Group met in February and March 2021 and included participants from the Great North Woods Center for the Arts, Catamount Arts; The Loading Dock, Littleton Cultural Arts Commission, Colonial Theater, Weathervane Theater, NH State Council on the Arts, Littleton Studio School, NOCO Mural Project, Franconia Art Walk, White Mountain School, Jean's Playhouse, North Country Center for the Arts, Upstage Players, Whitefield Library, and Haverhill Heritage Commission.

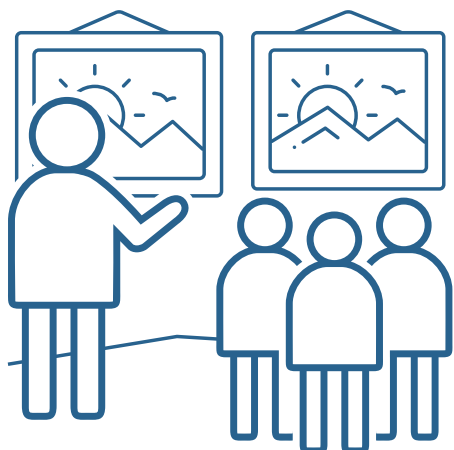
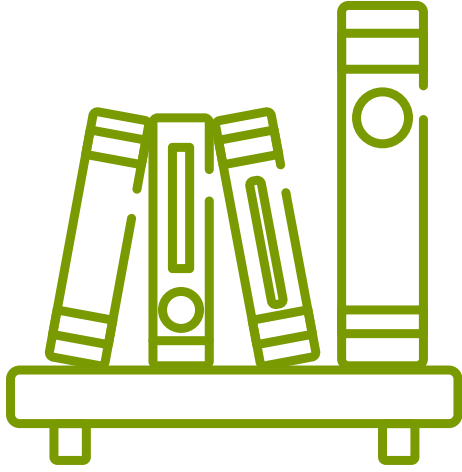
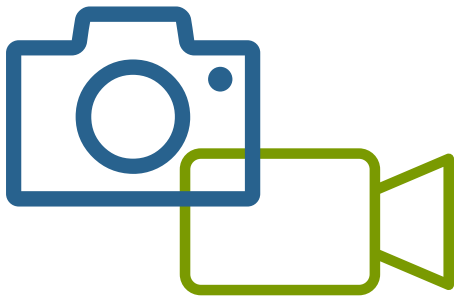


Resiliency

Resiliency for the region's arts and culture industry would include recognition and value of the industry as an essential part of the North Country lifestyle and efforts to support the ongoing cultural capital the industry supplies for local residents and the tourism economy. A resilient arts and culture industry would not have to solely rely on grants and donations to provide this essential service nor would arts and cultural organizations work independently but more as a collaborative unit and asset for the region. Art education would be valued and restored, and students would have the opportunity to learn in the community with professional artists and cultural organizations to continue to support and grow the arts and culture workforce.

Assets

- Our location in the North Country is our greatest asset. Nature, the surrounding mountains, the overall landscape, and the views in this part of the country are inspirational to creative artists. It's why so many artists call the North Country their home.
- There is strong demand for public art & culture. Arts and culture are a way of life in the North Country and when it was gone during the pandemic, people missed it.
- The North Country has beautiful spaces, historic buildings, and community facilities that can be used for various art and cultural events
- The hard stop created by the pandemic gives the arts and culture industry the opportunity to fix what was broken before the pandemic and to come back stronger and come back together.
- There are a lot of passionate, creative young people in the area. We must find ways to engage them more in the arts and build back value and respect for the arts in education.
- There are a lot of creative, innovative thinkers and partners across other sectors of the economy that can support the arts and work collaboratively on cross-sector opportunities.
- There is strong Social Capital in the Arts & Culture community and a willingness to share ideas, stories, resources and work together to uplift the industry as a whole.
- The Arts & Culture community knows how to utilize other forms of capital to make things happen.



Needs

- There is an opportunity to create collaboration between Arts & Science where artists can help tell the Natural Capital Story through art and support scientific research and ecosystem services. An example is our Experimental Forests where art and science coexist to tell the important story of our natural capital.
- There are more opportunities to collaborate between the Art Community and our Community Libraries. Develop art and cultural programs that can be hosted indoors and outdoors at public libraries.
- Create more sustainable, resilient revenue models for the arts where arts and cultural organizations rely less on fundraising and grants and are supported more as an essential part of the North Country economy and tourism economy.
- Create a list of in-kind donations that are typically available for arts & culture events, existing capitals, and resources inventory – what do we have, outside of financial capital, that is available to support this event/concert/program.
- Develop a Story Corp that gathers and tells the story of our region's collective history and sense of place through photographs, interviews, and buried and forgotten art relics of the past.
- Create an Arts & Culture Collaborative/Council for the North Country and develop a strategic plan for arts in the region that includes sharing services and resources and innovative funding solutions for the arts.
- Develop a model for bringing arts and culture back into the school curriculum including innovative internship programs and supporting artists in the community as teachers when art education does not exist in the schools.

Project & Program Ideas and Solutions

- Develop the North Country Arts & Culture Collaborative which will focus on bringing the arts together and finding ways to collaborate for the entire industry. This could include sharing a regional arts calendar, sharing service contracts, creating and sharing a list of existing resources to support a program or performance, developing innovative funding solutions, and promoting arts and culture as an important piece of the tourism economy.
- Develop a strong arts and culture education program that connects the schools with local arts and culture organizations, and provides opportunities to support and grow the creative economy. Offer innovative internship opportunities, scholarships for the arts, and other programs aimed at supporting youth entering the industry and growing the industry.

If you have any questions regarding the economic recovery and resiliency planning work, please contact Stacey Doll, Community Resiliency Planner, at sdoll@nccouncil.org.



North Country Council
(603) 444-6303
www.nccouncil.org