



# Portsmouth, NH Cultural Plan

*A Product of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee  
on Arts and Culture Nonprofits  
Including the Cultural Plan Subcommittee*



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Report Published, 2024





## Table of Contents

A Letter from Our City Council.....	1
Executive Summary.....	2
Methodology and Planning Process.....	4
Overview: Cultural Plan Pillars and Goals.....	6
Cultural Plan Pillars.....	8-17
Evaluation and Adjustment.....	18
Data Appendices.....	18
Acknowledgments.....	19

*Cover: Endeavor sculpture in Bohenko Gateway Park  
Photo Credit: Monte Bohanan*

*Inside Cover: African Burying Ground  
Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*





# A Letter from Our City Council

Dear Portsmouth Friends and Neighbors,

Arts and culture are a critical part of the fabric of Portsmouth—they showcase our history, our hearts, and our welcoming spirit. From neighborhood block parties to professional theater, street musicians to world-class jazz shows, historic preservation to modern art galleries, arts and culture are omnipresent in Portsmouth, and we are honored to have such a diverse and talented cultural community at our doorstep.

Our arts and cultural institutions are a significant driver of our economic prosperity, employing over 1250 talented individuals, and serving as a harbinger of our community's future success, generating over \$70.2 million in revenue in 2022 alone. According to the 2022 Americans for the Arts study, over half of that amount, \$41.1 million, was spent directly by audiences at Portsmouth businesses. Our arts and cultural institutions generated \$50.1 million in household incomes in 2022 and \$13.1 million in tax revenues. This robust investment in our local economy places Portsmouth's arts and cultural community on par with cities three and four times our size.

We are pleased to share with you our new Cultural Plan which highlights the importance of the arts and culture in Portsmouth, and sets the stage for the next 10 years of investment and growth in this crucial part of our City. Under the leadership of our Arts and Nonprofits Committee, the City Council appointed a Cultural Plan Subcommittee to oversee the process of developing a new Cultural Plan. This dedicated group of volunteers worked tirelessly with our consultants, Arts Consulting Group (ACG), to engage with our community and gather input from community members, including youth, artists, and City leaders. Through this process, they engaged in a broad community dialogue, gathering information from surveys, focus groups, tours, and individual meetings. Thank you to these volunteers for their dedicated service to our City. The end result is a Cultural Plan that reflects the priorities of our community members for our Arts and Cultural sector.

Our Cultural Plan provides a vision and recommendations for how our City government and our partners can best sustain and strengthen our arts and cultural community, and invest in our youth, artists, and institutions to make sure our cultural community remains strong and vibrant. We hope that this roadmap will help guide our newly established Arts & Cultural Commission in its stated mission of encouraging support for arts and culture within the wider Portsmouth community.

As we move into our implementation phase, we look forward to working closely with the Arts & Cultural Commission and all our community stakeholders to achieve the stated goals of this Plan and realize the potential of our arts and cultural community in Portsmouth. Together we can make sure our cultural future is bright!

Mayor Deaglan McEachern  
On Behalf of the Members of the  
Portsmouth City Council  
Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley  
City Councilor John Tabor  
City Councilor Kate Cook, Arts Liaison

City Councilor Josh Denton  
City Councilor Rich Blalock  
City Councilor Andrew Bagley  
City Councilor Beth Moreau  
City Councilor Vince Lombardi



Foundry Garage

*Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*

## Executive Summary

The Cultural Plan Subcommittee first met on February 6, 2023. The overarching goal of the subcommittee was to produce a Cultural Plan to be presented to City Council for inclusion in the 2025-2035 City Master Plan. Of paramount concern was gathering/inviting the input of as many individuals as possible.

The subcommittee created an Overall Project Plan based on seven phases:

1. Preparation;
2. Information Gathering and Research;
3. Assessment and Analysis;
4. Organization and Consultation;
5. Writing the Plan;
6. Finalization and Adoption; and
7. Implementation and Beyond.

To best meet these objectives, working groups were created from its members to address six specific areas:

1. Review of the 2002 Cultural Plan and other municipal cultural arts plans;
2. Review the activities of Artspeak, created post 2002 Cultural Plan; consider alternative structures for a new City arts agency;
3. Create a Steering Committee to manage the overall project plan and spearhead the Consulting Request for Proposals (RFP) process;
4. Develop and implement a communications plan;
5. Research and plan all forms of community engagement; and
6. Identify IT group or person to help with all IT related tasks pertaining to the subcommittee.

These work groups were instrumental in kick-starting the process of plan development and directly resulted in the passage of an Arts and Cultural Commission Ordinance, hiring Arts Consulting Group (ACG), an outside consultant specializing in arts management and community engagement, and inviting considerable community feedback and gathering background information to support the work.



Using multiple methods and tools, ACG canvassed the Greater Portsmouth region to solicit input from a wide swath of individuals. Special attention was paid to ensure that broad demographics of our communities were included. ACG was able to collect 762 survey responses and include 125 community members in both virtual and in-person discussions for which ACG was on-site in Portsmouth for a week in October 2023. Focus groups were categorized in the following interest groups:

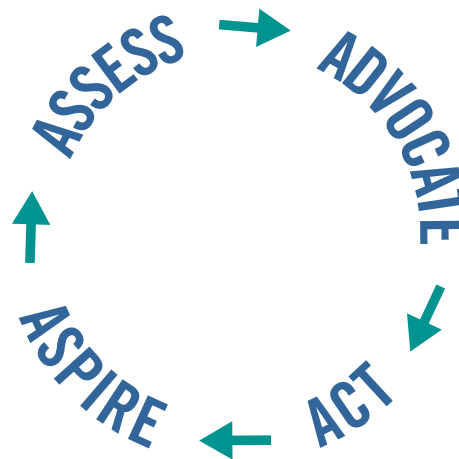
- Residents;
- Creative economy professionals;
- Independent artists;
- Young professionals;
- Youth Wellness Coalition;
- Nonprofit leaders; and
- Local officials.

Once the input was collated, analyzed, and discussed, the following five pillars became the core for the Cultural Plan:

1. Resources for the Cultural Community;
2. Diversity, Inclusion & Access;
3. Communication & Community Engagement;
4. Education; and
5. Preserving Portsmouth’s Historical Identity.

The Portsmouth Committee on Arts and Nonprofits and the Cultural Plan Subcommittee agreed that the optimal outcome would be to create a roadmap for the future of arts and cultural development to present to the City to be used as a foundational starting point for the newly created Arts & Cultural Commission.

The plan was created in a way that encourages a four-step cycle of work that can be accomplished by the City, the new Arts & Cultural Commission, and/or by independent artists, arts organizations, or community members. Each section of the plan encourages an **assessment** of existing resources, **advocacy** for arts and culture throughout our community, **actions** that can be taken to accomplish the goals of the plan, and a vision to which we can **aspire**.



The hopes and aims for the future are that the City and Arts & Cultural Commission will use this document, adjust and improve where necessary, and ensure that arts and culture remain the bedrock of Portsmouth’s identity.



*Prescott Park Arts Festival*

*Photo Credit: David J. Murray/ClearEyePhoto.com*



*“Reflections of Portsmouth” Foundry Window Art Project*

## Methodology and Planning Process

The Cultural Plan Subcommittee, in collaboration with the Portsmouth Committee on Arts and Nonprofits, the City of Portsmouth’s Economic and Community Development Department and ACG, spent most of 2023 in discussion with the arts, culture, and history communities with the intention of designing a shared, forward-looking Cultural Plan for future expansion and improvement. The Plan was completed in advance of the City’s master planning process scheduled to commence in 2024.

From the start, the overarching goals of this planning process were defined as:

- Celebrate, strengthen and grow the City’s diverse artistic and cultural identities;
- Work with the community to identify goals and priorities that will inform short, medium and long-term strategies for the advancement of arts and culture; and
- Articulate a shared vision for the future: serve as a blueprint for the preservation and expansion of arts and cultural venues, activities, and initiatives.

In this cultural planning process, we prioritized diversity and inclusion by actively seeking broad participation to better understand how the community interacts with arts, culture, and history. In the span of six months, discussions took place with small focus groups, one-on-one interactions, in-person and online sessions, all to connect in a meaningful way with arts and culture community members.





*Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*

Partnered with the international expertise of ACG, the City undertook a series of steps to gather input and data from a range of internal and external sources through the following activities:

- Collaborating with the Cultural Plan Subcommittee and Portsmouth Committee on Arts and Nonprofits;
- Collecting and compiling the City’s planning, culture and program background materials and related data, such as Portsmouth 2025 Master Plan; City of Portsmouth Cultural Plan (2002); Americans for the Arts’ Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP5) Studies for Greater Portsmouth Area; and various economic surveys, updates and reports;
- Conducting an internal assessment survey with 33 respondents: 45% from the Cultural Plan Subcommittee, 24% from the Portsmouth Committee on Arts and Nonprofits, 15% from the Public Arts Review Committee, 9% from Council members, 3% from staff, and 3% from members of the Chamber of Commerce;
- Conducting a 65-question community survey with 762 respondents: 60% residents, 11% visitors/ tourists, 11% commuters, 3% artists, 1% art/culture/ history organization staff, and 12% who identified themselves as other community members;
- Conducting one interview and six focus group discussions virtually, reaching forty-three people, including five residents, two young professionals, six local government officials, two civic leaders, twenty-four Cultural Plan Subcommittee members, and four members of the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth; and
- Assembling four in-person focus groups and one town hall meeting. In total, seventy-one individuals participated: thirty-nine artists, six creative economy professionals, sixteen members of the Youth Wellness Coalition and ten additional stakeholders.

# Overview: Cultural Plan Pillars and Goals

## Pillar 1: Resources for Arts and Culture

**Focused Objective:** *To understand Portsmouth’s arts and culture community (the institutions, the people, and the places) and address its needs and challenges by leveraging opportunities that align with the goals of the community at large.*

The primary goals of this Pillar are:

- To better understand the community’s existing inventory of arts spaces, whether studio space, arts schools and classrooms, performance venues, and more. During the cultural planning process, we learned from the community that there are often gaps of knowledge about what exists and what could be created in the future; and
- Identify new opportunities for arts spaces and partnerships/ collaborations.

## Pillar 2: Diversity, Inclusion, and Access (DIA)

**Focused Objective:** *We will create an arts and culture environment that welcomes and supports the creative interests of all.*

The primary goals of this Pillar are:

- To identify ways to improve physical accessibility to Portsmouth’s arts and culture venues, facilities, and events;
- Ensure that our arts and culture offerings welcome diverse audiences and participants and leverage the arts to help all people feel welcome in our community; and
- Address issues of affordability to ensure the arts are accessible to all in our community.



Rock Street Park Photo



### Pillar 3: Communication and Community Engagement

**Focused Objective:** *Portsmouth is an actively engaged arts community. Residents, arts organizations, artists and other consumers of arts and cultural offerings report a need for efficient, streamlined communication about arts and cultural events, programming, education and resources.*

The primary goals of this Pillar are:

- Use existing resources to coordinate communications from the wide variety of arts organizations and independent artists in ways that improve visibility to all areas of our community; and
- Ensure that local artists and arts organizations are connected to City and community leaders.

### Pillar 4: Education

**Focused Objective:** *Increase availability, diversity, and accessibility to arts and cultural educational offerings and experiences in safe and inclusive environments.*

The primary goals of this Pillar are:

- Provide a community resource that informs our residents of the wide variety of existing arts and culture opportunities;
- Identify professional development resources for local independent artists;
- Encourage and increase involvement in arts education for community youth; and
- Grow opportunities for adult arts education for both amateurs and professionals.

### Pillar 5: Preserving Our Historical Identity

**Focused Objective:** *To connect diverse constituencies to our historic spaces and artifacts for the purpose of reflection, enjoyment, understanding, and inspiration; and to champion resources to ensure their long-term care and preservation.*

The primary goals of this pillar are:

- To better understand and communicate our current preservation efforts with the community at large; and
- Support funding and education for historic preservation initiatives.



*Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*

# Cultural Plan Pillars

## Pillar 1: Resources for Arts and Culture

### FOCUSED OBJECTIVE:

*To understand Portsmouth's arts and culture community (the institutions, the people, and the places) and address its needs and challenges by leveraging opportunities that align with the goals of the community at large.*



*Street a.k.a Museum mural by Herakut  
Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*

### Physical Spaces

- a. Compile a database and map of existing physical spaces for Portsmouth's arts and culture sector with relevant details related to these spaces (ownership, size, affordability, flexibility, etc.) and develop a process to keep the database/map updated.
  - i. Spaces include but are not limited to: existing studio spaces, traditional arts spaces, non-traditional spaces, potentially available art spaces, rentals, studios, community art spaces, City-owned properties, buildings, sites, and open spaces contributing to Portsmouth's history, unique character, and culture.
- b. Seek opportunities to utilize a variety of spaces in our community for artmaking opportunities, based on learnings from the data.
  - i. Repurpose underutilized spaces for artmaking, including identifying opportunities for artists and arts organizations to use spaces for free or affordable cost;
  - ii. Adopt City guidelines that expand opportunities and reduce barriers for performance artists throughout the City, including street performers;
  - iii. Facilitate collaborations between downtown businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to activate neighborhoods and find creative ways to showcase works;
  - iv. Bring theater and music groups to local parks and community centers;
  - v. Advocate for additional artist live-work space to retain local talent; and
  - vi. Expand the arts and culture scene to include the neighborhoods and all parts of Portsmouth.
- c. Advocate for zoning changes/adaptations as necessary to:
  - i. Eliminate barriers to creating artmaking and arts education spaces throughout the City;
  - ii. Allow more flexibility for in-home instruction space for music, visual arts, and other cultural education programs; and
  - iii. Encourage historic preservation and open space, including overlay districts.





*CreativeMornings PKX at The Music Hall Lounge*

*Photo Credit: Emily McNair*

## Partnership and Collaboration Initiatives

- a. Provide opportunities to connect artists with community resources.
  - i. Connect with neighborhood groups, after-school programs, and others to augment their programs;
  - ii. Convene or collaborate with partners and regional/State organizations to offer best practices programs on professional development, etc;
  - iii. Establish connections with neighboring communities where Seacoast artists may live or have studios, and where properties developable as arts spaces may be located; and
  - iv. Encourage local funders to think outside the box about collaborating with arts and nonprofit partners.



*En plein air painting at Strawberry Banke Museum*

*Plein air painting by: David Lussier. Photo Credit: Pamela Lussier.*

# Cultural Plan Pillars

## Pillar 2: Diversity, Inclusion, and Access (DIA)

### FOCUSED OBJECTIVE:

*We will create an arts and culture environment that welcomes and supports the creative interests of all.*



*Colson Whitehead at The Music Hall  
as part of the Writers on a  
New England Stage series  
**Photo Credit:** Will Zimmermann*

### Physical Accessibility

- a. Assess the status of the arts and culture community in relation to DIA initiatives. Identify all arts and culture-related buildings, programs, and events, and consider all future locations;
- b. Utilize existing accessibility reports and resources, and in the absence of existing reports, investigate accessibility or partner with Accessibility Navigators to do so;
- c. Create a report of accessibility challenges, including gaps and shortfalls;
- d. Develop a plan to mitigate gaps and shortfalls;
- e. Create relationships between organizations to share accessibility resources, i.e. list of ASL interpreters; and
- f. Work with the City to improve accessible public transportation networks, and parking.

### Diversity

- a. Recruit for diverse representation on Portsmouth's Arts & Cultural Commission;
- b. Identify underrepresented groups and increase outreach to those communities and organizations;
- c. Encourage a diverse range of arts and culture programming, including cross-cultural offerings;
- d. Expand the arts and cultural scene to include all geographic areas of Portsmouth (not just the downtown areas);
- e. Work with organizations throughout the state that provide resources and support for diversity, inclusion, and access;
- f. Curate a series of workshops to share skills and build capacity across the arts and culture community (for individual artists and arts and culture organizations); and
- g. Encourage creative leaders to participate in DIA training.





*Dan Brown's Wild Symphony and Chestnut Street Fair at The Music Hall*

*Photo Credit: Will Zimmermann*

## **Affordability**

- a. Lobby for zoning changes to allow for artist live/workspace in the community;
- b. Identify potential spaces for art instruction, with a focus on affordability (including spaces that are already equipped to be used as classrooms);
- c. Identify potential low-cost studio space within the City, and ways to preserve that space for artists' use;
- d. Promote community resources that reduce costs for economically disadvantaged audiences, i.e., library passes;
- e. Promote free arts and culture offerings and opportunities in the City;
- f. Identify funding sources to sponsor memberships and event attendance for economically disadvantaged individuals;
- g. Conduct outreach to lower income communities, specifically working with the Portsmouth Housing Authority; and
- h. Reduce barriers to participation and access to financial resources.

# Cultural Plan Pillars

## Pillar 3: Communication and Community Engagement

### FOCUSED OBJECTIVE:

*Portsmouth is an actively engaged arts community. Residents, arts organizations, /artists and other consumers of arts and cultural offerings report a need for efficient, streamlined communication about arts and cultural events, programming, education, and resources.*



*street.life! 400*

**Photo Credit:** Will Zimmermann

### Improve gaps in current communications about Portsmouth's arts and cultural resources and programming

- a. Identify and leverage existing pathways and communication channels.
  - i. continuously assess emerging technologies as a means to enhance communications related to arts and culture events.
- b. Encourage use of all current Citywide communication channels by arts and cultural organizations.

### Communication and Visibility Initiatives

- a. Publicize via central hubs (City of Portsmouth, Chamber Collaborative) and existing media channels and platforms that have fostered engaged audiences and sustain awareness of emerging technologies and interest groups; and
- b. Establish official lines of communication between the Commission and local, regional, State, and Federal organizations/agencies which channel resources for artists (NH State Council on the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, NH Humanities Council, Institute of Library and Museum Services, National Endowment for the Arts, etc.) to identify best practices and to advocate for resources.

### Connect artists and cultural organizations to community and City leaders

- a. Invite community leaders at the local and state level to milestone arts and cultural celebrations and grand openings to reinforce the importance of funding and support;
- b. Engage each relevant City department (Planning & Sustainability, DPW/Parking, City Manager's Office, Schools, Recreation, etc.) in ongoing dialogue with the Commission to further support arts and culture in their work; and
- c. Promote and foster collaboration among City arts/culture-related commissions, relevant City Departments, individual artists, arts and culture organizations, and businesses for communication purposes.





*Summer in the Street*

*Photo Credit: Courtesy of Pro Portsmouth*

# Cultural Plan Pillars

## Pillar 4: Education

### FOCUSED OBJECTIVE:

*Increase availability, diversity, and accessibility to arts and cultural educational offerings and experiences in safe and inclusive environments.*

**Compile a list of existing arts and culture education opportunities (from beginner to professional development levels) to better understand needs, gaps, or barriers in these suggested focus areas:**

- a. Public and private school arts offerings (including whether AP art classes are offered);
- b. Nonprofit community arts education offerings; and
- c. For-profit arts education businesses.

**Identify resources and collaborate to support various networking and professional development opportunities in arts and culture:**

- a. Utilize City resources such as the Public Library, and partnership with nonprofits and local businesses to foster professional development opportunities for professional artists;
- b. For arts and cultural organizations and businesses on City processes and resources;
- c. For community arts leaders on ‘how to’ set up and promote arts and cultural programs;
- d. Encourage and connect artists/art educators with reputable programs to enhance skills and gain certifications in areas such as mental health and first aid; and
- e. Support monthly/bi-monthly gatherings or other networking series for local independent artists and arts organizations.



*Elephant in the Room Series*

**Photo Credit:** *Courtesy of New Hampshire Theatre Project*





*Prescott Park Arts Festival Kick-off*

*Photo Credit: Terri Nulph*

## **Collaborate to increase exposure and encourage participation and involvement in arts and culture in the following areas:**

- a. Youth
  - i. Encourage for profit and nonprofit venues to increase opportunities for community youth to attend performances. Mental health (of youth or education participants).
- b. Adult learning
  - i. Investigate the potential for bringing back adult education programs in our community to include Continuing Education opportunities for arts professionals and amateurs and
  - ii. Encourage the continued development of Creative Aging programs that are accessible to retirees.
- c. School systems
  - i. Expand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) principles to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) in our local schools;
  - ii. Ensure public school scheduling affords all students the opportunity to participate in arts education courses without negatively impacting their access to non-arts studies;
  - iii. Foster relationships with local colleges/universities that include opportunities for youth artists to participate in college courses where appropriate; and
  - iv. Offer college credits for art classes in high schools as they do for Math and Science.
- d. Mentorship opportunities
  - i. Encourage local schools to develop Apprenticeship/Mentorship/Artist-in-Residence opportunities for youth with professional artists; and
  - ii. Support the development of an arts education program that provides short-term stays for developing artists to work with teachers to further their craft.

# Cultural Plan Pillars

## Pillar 5: Preserving Our Historical Identity

### FOCUSED OBJECTIVE:

*To connect diverse constituencies to our historic spaces and artifacts for the purpose of reflection, enjoyment, understanding, and inspiration; and to champion resources to ensure their long-term care and preservation.*



*African Burying Ground Memorial Park  
Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*

**Compile and maintain a database on previous and current preservation efforts and identify gaps, needs, and opportunities for public/private partnerships in the following areas:**

- a. Historic markers;
- b. Existing wayfinding maps;
- c. Archival preservation and storage;
- d. Initiatives;
- e. Establish communication channels with the City related to history and preservation; and
- f. Information exchange about historic preservation and related initiatives.

**Identify spaces/sites, funding and areas of programmatic support and education for historical preservation initiatives.**

- a. Space/Sites
  - i. Preserve buildings and open spaces contributing to Portsmouth's unique character;
  - ii. Nominate sites for the National Register of Historic Places; and
  - iii. Collaborate with City entities and preservation groups to create a plan to help.
- b. Funding and incentives to support historic preservation initiatives
  - i. Incentives to developers to preserve historic structures and to provide public access to properties of cultural significance;
  - ii. Property owners;
  - iii. Communal funds for local projects; and
  - iv. Regular meetings with business leaders to incorporate such initiatives into their work.





History Through Art Mural of Ruth Blay

Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman

### Identify spaces/sites continued...

- c. Programmatic support and education for Portsmouth history and culture
  - i. Support Portsmouth Historical Society welcome center;
  - ii. Promote Portsmouth as a destination to host conferences and meetings for historic and preservation organizations;
  - iii. Support new organizations promoting historic education and preservation, with special attention to 20th and 21st century histories and marginalized histories;
  - iv. Promote inclusion of historical subjects in artwork by collaborating with Public Art Review Committee;
  - v. Encourage developers to promote and share historical significance of their sites;
  - vi. Work with the City on future historical markers along the lines of those already in the City;
  - vii. Engage businesses with the history of Portsmouth; and
  - viii. Distribute info to local businesses, kiosks, and other public venues.

**Where applicable, work in concert with HDC and others to support Historical Preservation.**





*Fitz John Porter Statue*

*Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*



# Evaluation and Adjustment

The Cultural Plan Subcommittee proposes the following:

- Update and adjust the Cultural Plan as needed and synchronize with the timeline associated with the Master Plan for the City of Portsmouth;
- Present a progress report semi-annually for 2024 and annually thereafter to City Council; and
- Continue to seek input from the community and key stakeholders (referenced in this Cultural Plan) to ensure objectives are being prioritized and accomplished in a timely manner.

# Data Appendices

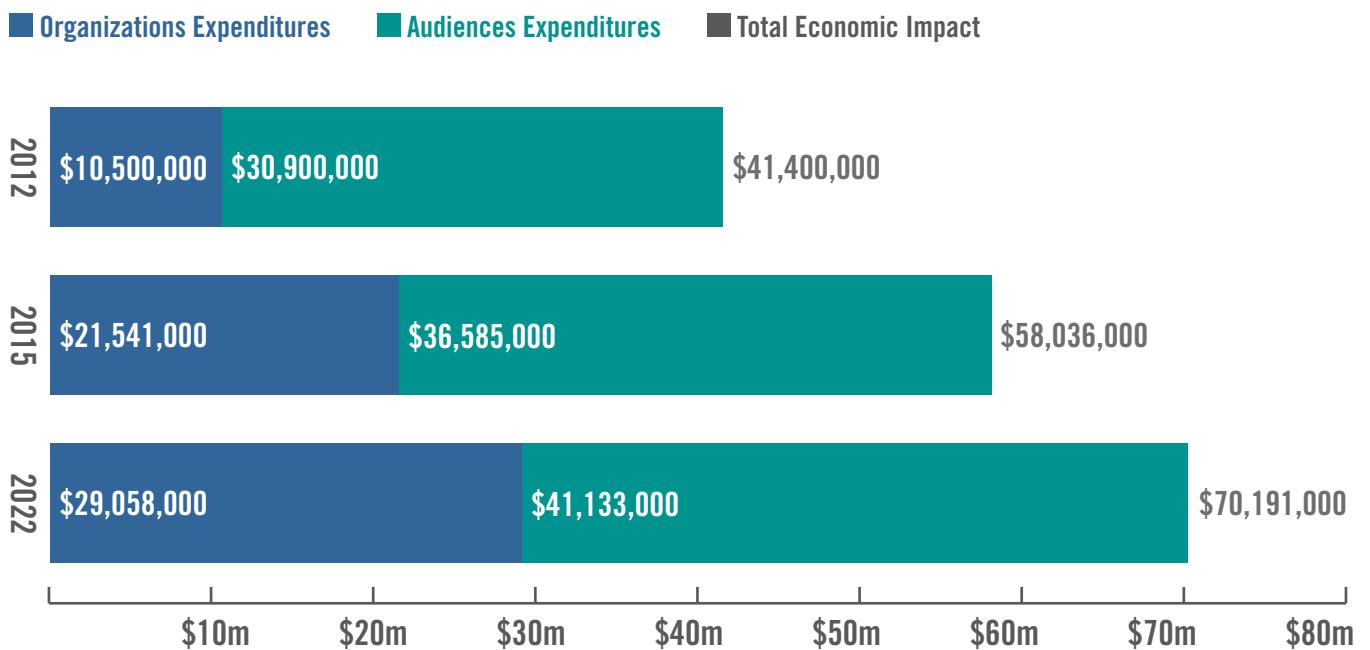


Scan the QR code or visit [portsnh.co/2023CulturalPlan](https://portsnh.co/2023CulturalPlan) to see community engagement feedback shared during focus groups, interviews and surveys.

## Arts & Economic Prosperity Survey Trends (AEP4/5/6)

Arts spending from Americans for the Arts Arts & Economic Prosperity Surveys taken every five years show the economic impact of the arts and cultural sector on Portsmouth’s economy.

For more information visit [portsnh.co/2023CulturalPlan](https://portsnh.co/2023CulturalPlan).





*Street a.k.a Museum mural by Alexandros Vasmoulakis*

## Acknowledgments

### This report was made possible with support from:

Portsmouth City Council

City Manager Karen Conard

Assistant City Manager Economic  
& Community Development Sean Clancy

### The following individuals led the process in creating this version of the Cultural Plan:

#### Cultural Plan Subcommittee:

Co-Chairs: Alan Chace and Karen Rosania

Secretary: Jeffrey Cooper

Sachiko Akiyama, Karen Battles, Councilor Kate Cook, Suzanne Danforth, Ellen Fineberg, Gerardo Gonzalez, Tom Kaufhold, Amanda Kidd-Kestler, John Mayer, Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf, Ed Simeone, Emma Stratton, Linnea Grim

#### Portsmouth Committee on Arts and Nonprofits:

Co-Chairs: Russ Grazier and Barbara Massar

Genevieve Aichele, Robin Albert, JerriAnne Boggis, Councilor Kate Cook, Nicho Gallo, Renee Giffroy, Jason Goodrich, Beth Falconer, Courtney Perkins, Tina Sawtelle, Larry Yerdon

Ben VanCamp, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth

#### Arts Consulting Group (ACG):

Co-leads: Heran Sereke-Brhan and Nagham Wehbe  
Vanessa Kestner

In Spring 2023 a Cultural Plan Subcommittee work group drafted a City Ordinance for City Council approval to create an Arts & Cultural Commission within City government. Special thanks to the Councilors for their timely, unanimous approval on September 5, 2023.

#### Focus Group Host Organizations:

Thank you to the Portsmouth Historical Society, Portsmouth Music and Arts Center and Sash and Solder at the Button Factory for hosting the in-person focus groups.





*Photo Credit: Kenneth Goldman*

### **Focus Group Participants:**

The following individuals provided valuable input during phone interviews or in-person focus groups. We apologize for any names that may have been inadvertently left off this list.

Samantha Areson, Andrew Bagley, Kristen Barton, Jennifer Benn, Fran Berman, Robin Bettencourt, Kathleen Boduch, Thomas Bolko, Denise Brown, Jordan Brown, Christine Burke, Alice Carroll, Don Chick, Wendy Clement, Rich Clyborne, Maureen Conley, Laurie Contrino, Jason Crigler, Jo Anne Coles, Dave Cosgrove, Alistair Dacy, Janet Davis, Jonathan Day, Kelly Delekta, Drew DeSimone, Jessica Dickey, Nicole Falcaro, Monique Foote, Priscilla French, Kaley Gagne, Vivienne Gale, Margherita Giacobbi, Paul Gilson, Lisa Grey, Linnea Grim, Kim Harty, Nate Hastings, Todd Henley, Stephanie Rohwer Hewson, Anna Howard, Sabina Ion, Jane James, Sandi Kaddy, Eli Kaynor, Melissa Kershaw, Dusty Knight, Peter Labrie, Cheryl Lesser, Vince Lombardi, Eric MacDonald, Colin McKenna, Reiley McLaughlin, Lynn White McMahan, Maureen Mills, Jennifer Minicucci, Elizabeth Moreau, Brian Murphy, Kate Murray, Kerry Nolte, Alex Nunn, Anna Nuttall, Maureen O’Leary, Fred Orlando, Darlene Furbush

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### **Others who have contributed in meaningful ways:**

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# Portsmouth, NH Cultural Plan



*Darlene Furbush Ouellett at her studio in the Button Factory*

*Photo Credit: Michael Sterling Photography*