

CREATIVE PORTLAND^{ME}

Creative Portland Programs/Initiatives during COVID-19

One-Sheet Summary: Summer 2020

info@creativeportland.com | 207-370-4784

We care deeply about the sustainability of the creative community. Creative Portland is in operation four days a week, with a staff of two, plus board members and volunteers, and our team is continually seeking new opportunities to provide resources and support for Portland's arts organizations. We publish a monthly arts update newsletter, with resources for financial relief, local economic impact survey results, and opportunities for artists. Public-facing programs like First Friday Art Walk are postponed during the pandemic until further notice; however, we continue to promote arts programming, including virtual event listings [online](#).

Advocacy for federal relief assistance is mostly happening at the state level (through Maine Arts Commission and the Economic Recovery Committee) and at the Federal level (by Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Co-Chair Congressional Arts Caucus). Congresswoman Pingree announced in April that almost half a million in relief was designated to the state's cultural economy. [The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced \\$75,000 in relief designated to Portland](#) organizations Portland Symphony (PSO), Portland Stage, Portland Ovations and The Telling Room in grants of \$50,000 each to help cover salaries to keep doors open. The Governor's Economic Recovery Committee is developing [policy recommendations](#) for providing relief across six economic sectors, which act as business magnets and catalysts for other sectors, like the arts and culture sector. We continually need to advocate for the arts and culture sector to be recognized statewide as a significant industry, reported as \$1.6 billion, according to a [2017 Bureau of Economic Analysis survey](#) (BEA) for the State of Maine. The [AEP5 \(2017\)](#) Study recognizes \$75 million in nonprofit expenditures in Portland alone.

As the City's local arts agency, Creative Portland's current projects and priorities include:

1. **[Portland Artist Relief Fund](#)**: In May, we disbursed 63 awards (\$500 each) to artists in the gig economy. Phase 2 will be launched in late September.
2. **Promotion of the City's [Rapid Response Business Assistance Programs](#)**
3. **State-Funded Public Health & Safety campaign**: The arts messaging part of this campaign will involve hiring local artists to create arts signage for businesses that are reopening.
4. **[Cultural Community Discussion - Sept 22 webinar at 2pm](#)**: We'll gather the creative community together September 22 via a Zoom webinar to problem-solve and to share resources and economic impact updates.
5. **[Cultural Plan Branding Work Group](#)**: Group continues to meet quarterly via Zoom.
6. **Grant-generated Programming - [Creative Bus Shelter Initiative](#) & [Cultural App Development](#)**: We continue to develop, plan and manage programs including the development of a cultural app and installations of creative bus shelters. The arts community has been sent a survey to assess interest during the planning phase of the cultural app.
1. **[Community Assistance](#)**: Arts organizations and artists are encouraged to contact us with arts-related initiatives or new public art projects. We would like to assist community members who are trying to implement alternative cultural programs to generate new revenue.
2. **[2020 Vision: Past, Present & Future](#)**: Our 6th juried show is a virtual arts exhibition with local art for sale. We're also curating an ongoing calendar of Virtual Event Listings.
3. **[Black Lives Matter Movement](#)**: We are forging partnerships for social impact messaging and new art installations.
4. **[Fiscal Sponsorships](#)**: We offer fiscal sponsorships on a limited basis, most recently supporting the Black Youth Fund and the Maine Production Safety guidelines for film production.