

CREATIVE PORTLAND

84 Free Street | Portland, ME | 04101 | 207-370-4784

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

3:30 PM

Via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/xaz-upox-svr>

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and President's Comments (Herb Ivy)**
 - A. Consent Agenda: February financials & February minutes
VOTE: to accept consent agenda
 - B. City Council Workshop (March 9) Update (Clare Hannan - VP)
- 2. Executive Director Update (Dinah)**
 - A. First Friday Art Walk - March update - next FFAW is April 3
 - B. Monday Morning Drop By - April 6
 - C. CP Gallery - Resistance Exhibition Update/jury review process
 - D. Artist Activation Program Update
 - i. Open Call
 - ii. Downtown Biz - FFAW engagement
 - iii. Summer Stage reactivation
 - E. Grant Update - NEA/MAC/ONION applications
 - F. Outreach Update
 - G. City Council Workshop: Feedback & next steps - Growth & Metrics doc with hyperlink (attached) added to website and sent to City Councilors
 - H. Discussion to prepare FY27 Work Plan & Budget Draft
- 3. Board Business**
 - A. Board Share
- 4. FY26 Board Meeting Dates: May 6, and June 3, 2026 (in-person).**

Creative Portland
Statement of Activity
Profit & Loss
Budget vs. Actual
July through February 2025

	Jul '25 - Feb 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4100 · Operations (unrestricted)	124,385	133,533	-9,149	93.15%
4200 · Programs	14,628	94,333	-79,705	15.51%
Total Income	<u>139,013</u>	<u>227,867</u>	<u>-88,854</u>	<u>61.01%</u>
Cost of Goods Sold				
5000 · Cost of Programs	42,730	100,750	-58,020	42.41%
Total COGS	<u>42,730</u>	<u>100,750</u>	<u>-58,020</u>	<u>42.41%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>96,283</u>	<u>127,117</u>	<u>-30,834</u>	<u>75.74%</u>
Expense				
6000 · Marketing	2,566	4,833	-2,267	53.09%
6100 · Personnel	118,735	117,267	1,469	101.25%
6200 · Occupancy Expenses	5,732	5,533	199	103.6%
6300 · Travel	140	2,000	-1,860	7.0%
6500 · Professional Services	14,422	23,500	-9,078	61.37%
6600 · Operating Expenses	9,174	10,160	-986	90.3%
Total Expense	<u>150,770</u>	<u>163,293</u>	<u>-12,523</u>	<u>92.33%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(54,487)</u>	<u>(36,177)</u>	<u>-18,310</u>	<u>150.61%</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
7000 · Other Income-Expense	63	40	23	157.8%
Total Other Income	<u>63</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>157.8%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>63</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>157.8%</u>
Net Income	<u>(54,424)</u>	<u>(36,137)</u>	<u>-18,287</u>	<u>150.61%</u>

Creative Portland
Statement of Financial Position
As of February 28, 2025

	Feb 28, 26	Jan 31, 26	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1010 · Creative Portland Checking	71,297	24,186	47,111	194.8%
1011 · GSB Savings 5265	73,647	73,641	6	0.0%
1015 · Petty Cash	1,858	1,858	-	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>146,802</u>	<u>99,685</u>	<u>47,117</u>	<u>47.3%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>146,802</u>	<u>99,685</u>	<u>47,117</u>	<u>47.3%</u>
1220 · Other Receivable				
Total Other Current Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>146,802</u>	<u>99,685</u>	<u>47,117</u>	<u>47.3%</u>
Fixed Assets				
1400 · Fixed Assets	31,952	32,191	(238)	-0.7%
Total Fixed Assets	<u>31,952</u>	<u>32,191</u>	<u>(238)</u>	<u>-0.7%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>178,754</u></u>	<u><u>131,875</u></u>	<u><u>46,879</u></u>	<u><u>35.5%</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
2000 · Accounts Payable	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Accounts Payable	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Other Current Liabilities				
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	5,674	5,674	-	0.0%
2500 · Fiscal Sponsorship Liability	77,967	74,642	3,325	4.5%
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>83,640</u>	<u>80,315</u>	<u>3,325</u>	<u>4.1%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>83,640</u>	<u>80,315</u>	<u>3,325</u>	<u>4.1%</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>83,640</u>	<u>80,315</u>	<u>3,325</u>	<u>4.1%</u>
Equity				
3100 · Unrest'd Net Assets	149,538	149,538	-	0.0%
Net Income	<u>-54,424</u>	<u>-97,978</u>	<u>43,554</u>	<u>44.5%</u>
Total Equity	<u>95,114</u>	<u>51,560</u>	<u>43,554</u>	<u>84.5%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>178,754</u></u>	<u><u>131,875</u></u>	<u><u>46,879</u></u>	<u><u>35.5%</u></u>

Creative Portland Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 (google meet)

Attendance:

Board Members:

Kate Anker (Immediate Past President), Mike Bove, David Brenerman (for last hour) , Haj Carr, Tae Chong (for last hour), Heidi Dikeman, Gib Foltz (Treasurer), Elyse Grams, Lindsay Hancock (first half hour only) Sam Hamilton, Clare E. Hannan (Vice President), Lee Hartman, Herb Ivy (President), Zsofia McMullin, Dinah Minot (Assistant Secretary), Dave Page, Matt Schwach (Secretary), and Greg Watson (ex officio)

Absent: Daniel Minter, Councilor Regina Phillips

Staff: Dinah Minot, Walks Tall Keith

Board Meeting Summary

1. Welcome & President's Comments (3:31pm)

Herb Ivy called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

2. Consent Agenda (3:33pm)

November Minutes, December Financials

Action: Vote to approve the Consent Agenda:

Motion first by Clare Hannan and seconded by Kate Anker.

Unanimously approved.

3. Executive Director Update (3:33pm – 4:18pm)

- Asked new Board members to send bio & headshot.
- Committee and jury opportunities for board members. Ronnie Wilson (Creative Portland volunteer) sits on the PPAC. Update at April mtg.
- Staff Update: Jackie Weik is our PT outreach coordinator, promoting our app, soliciting engagement with hotels, delivering QR code stickers and “tents”.
- Sports (Athletic Arts) category added to app.
 - Mariners & Hearts of Pine committed so far as sponsors: \$2,500
 - Portland semi-pro teams will highlight their home game schedule each season.
- Bret Woodard spearheading social media posts.
 - 10K followers on Instagram
 - Other platforms growing too; 65%+ open rate for our newsletter (4500 subscribers)
 - Goal is to hire a full-time development & outreach person next year (2027) - Seeking modest but additional city investment.

- Board meetings are mostly virtual except for two in-person meetings:
 - June board meeting at CP HQ to vote on FY27 budget and workplan.
 - November in-person annual board meeting/vote officer slate
- Digital Board Handbook available to all board members.
- Signature program overview for new board members:
 - First Friday Art Walk
 - Creative Bus Shelter Initiative
 - Monday Morning Drop By
 - Biennial Arts & Culture Summit (September 22, 2026)

City Council Workshop

- Date: Monday, March 9, 2026. Agenda due the week before (March 2).
 - Dinah Minot, Herb Ivy, Kate Anker will attend. (*note: Clare Hannan attended in Herb's absence*)
 - Sam Hamilton, Tae Chong, and Greg Watson also to participate and attend.

Creative Portland Gallery

- On Friday, February 6, 2026 from 6–7pm, we will host an Artist Salon at Creative Portland to discuss the artists' art work and process
- Resistance Open Call is published. Applications are submitted through a Google form link on our Creative Portland Gallery page.
- Resistance exhibition:
 - April 30th, Resistance Artist Opening Reception
 - May 1, Resistance Public reception.

Newsletter

- “Look Who’s Talking” a new feature proposed for the Community News section of our newsletter to highlight testimonials from the community.

Artist Activation

- Artist Activation pilot program is underway.
- Artist Activation curatorial team met on Jan 26 and selected 7 initial art concepts.
- In discussion with real estate brokers, property owners, and managers in the Arts District to secure locations.
- Some potential locations:
 - Soakology and Chinese restaurant
 - Public Market in Monument Square
 - Reny’s
 - Free Street window (underneath Man & Oak)
- We hope to secure spaces by end of March, beginning of April
- Window “shadow box” artist sample shared .

- HEDD is implementing an art project as part of the approved vacancy ordinance (repro cling art on windows)
 - Different from Creative Portland’s Art Activation project which will include “shadow boxes” and possible live music and performing artists to activate spaces. CP to meet with downtown businesses in March to discuss potential ideas for arts activation.

Fundraising

- NEA & NEH funds secured by Congress (207 Million).
- Grant applications for FY27:
 - NEA - Grants for Arts Projects (Part I submitted)
 - Maine Arts Commission - Creative Communities grant
 - Onion Foundation Grant - Arts Program Grant (Deadline March 11)
 - Maine Office of Tourism (MOT) - grant cycle to open soon.
- Target corporate sponsors vs smaller non-profits and artists.

4. Meet & Greet - Board Member Introductions (4:18pm – 4:52pm)

5. Board Business & Board Share (4:52pm – 5:02pm)

- EXCOM met to discuss a [letter of opposition](#) to the City of Portland’s Finance Committee to oppose the PILOT program. (Payment In Lieu of Taxes).
- On February 23, City Council will be discussing Agenda Item 223.
- No CP board meeting on March 4, 2026

Next Board Meeting: April 1, 2026 at 3:30pm.

Motion to Adjourn: Lee Hartman

Seconded by: Sam Hamilton

Unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:02pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Walks Tall Keith.

CREATIVE PORTLAND^{ME}

Growth & Metrics

Creative Portland: A Decade Overview of Civic Cultural Impact (2016–2026)

[Creative Portland](#), a 501(c)3 nonprofit & quasi-municipal organization, and [civic economic partner](#), operates as a nurturing hub for the arts community by promoting artists and highlighting opportunities, spotlighting cultural events on our social platforms, website & app, and by supporting creatives with fiscal sponsorships. [Creative Portland's promotional deck](#) features our mission, Board of Directors, signature program snapshots, and economic impact summaries.

Key Highlights and Growth of Organization

2016–2018: Leadership transition; arts center at 84 Free Street; [2018 Cultural Plan](#); [AEP5](#): **\$75 million** in nonprofit arts and culture expenditures.

2019–2020: [Hear Here](#) launched (**500 attendees, 30 artists**); [CP Gallery: All the Great Trees](#); [Artist Relief Fund](#) supporting **100 artists** + dozens of cultural organizations; [citywide arts messaging during the pandemic](#).

2021–2023: [Creative Bus Shelter Initiative \(9 installations\)](#); [Summer Stage Series](#); [AEP6](#): **\$85M** in expenditures, **1,877 jobs, \$2.6M** in local tax revenues; [Creative Portland App \(5,000 downloads\)](#).

2024: [Arts & Culture Summit \(200 attendees\)](#); [CP Gallery: Time & Temperature](#).

2025: [Hear Here 3](#); [Maine Music Weekend](#); [CP Gallery: Acceptance](#); [Arts District Banner Refresh](#).

2026: [Artist Activation Program](#); [CP Gallery: Resistance](#); [Arts & Culture Summit \(9/22\)](#).

Ongoing Impact

- **\$200K** City investment → **\$400K** program budget (includes in-kind contributions)
- App/Website adds a value of **\$500,000** equivalent in paid ads supporting **\$85M** arts expenditures
- [Community convener managing programs](#) to promote public health, social and economic impact
- [Monday Morning Drop By](#) (~**24 participants each month**)
- [Arts & Culture Summit \(200 attendees\)](#)
- Public Art initiatives including [Creative Bus Shelter installations](#) and [Armature Wall in Bayside](#)
- [First Friday Art Walk \(4,000 attendees](#) summer & winter months and **2,000** shoulder months)
- [Self-guided tours](#) on website & app ([public mural tour](#))
- [Free artist directory](#) spotlighting **400 artists**
- [Fiscal sponsorships](#) have included Maine Start-Up & Create Week, Portland Theater Festival, Maine Music Alliance, Indigo Arts Alliance, Arts at Greenwood, Batimbo United, 82 Parris

Digital Impact & Reach

- **67%** engagement/open rate (**4,500 subscribers**)
- **5,000+** app downloads (source: App Store Connect) | **180,000** website unique visitors/year
- **18,000** social media followers (10.5K Instagram + 8K Facebook) plus **~100K** views/month
- **600+** visual artists | **200+** performing artists (hired and paid to showcase in public)

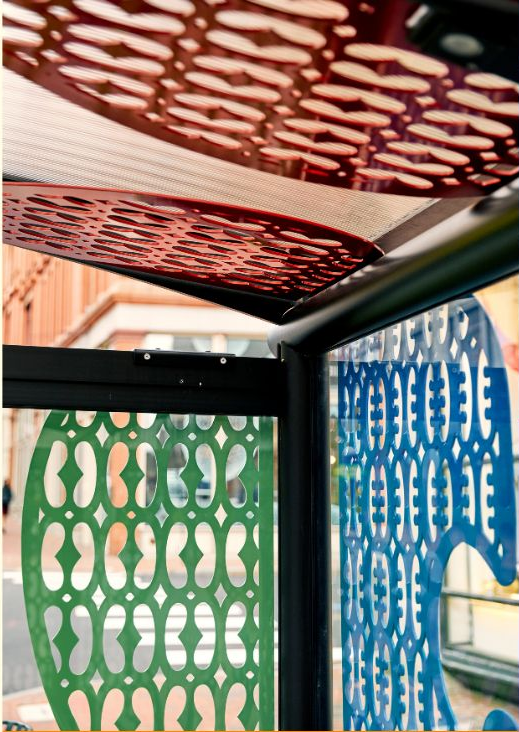
[Press Articles](#)

Partnerships

These private and nonprofit organizations partner with Creative Portland, allowing growth through cash and in-kind contributions. We prioritize convening people and building relationships because connection drives everything. By bringing together artists, partners, and community stakeholders, we create a network where trust, collaboration, and opportunity can flourish.

3 Form	Justin Alford	Portland Public Library
Akakpo & Co.	Maine Academy of Modern Music	Portland Sea Dogs
American Aluminum & Steel	Maine Art Collective	Portland Symphony Orchestra
Apothadion Theater	Maine Arts Commission	Press Hotel
Bayside Bowl	Maine Association of Nonprofits	Regional Chamber of Commerce
BPM Drum Festival	Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition	Resurgam Festival
Coffee By Design	Maine Mariners	Reveler Development
Cove Street Arts	Maine Music Alliance	Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Crewe Foundation	Maine Public	Running With Scissors
Curry Printing	Maine Trust for Local News	Side x Side
David E. Shaw	Mayo Street Arts	SPACE
Factory 3	MECA&D	Speedwell Gallery
Fathom Companies	Mechanics' Hall	State Theatre
Friends of Kotschmar Organ	One Longfellow Square	TempoART
Good Theater	Onion Foundation	The Canopy
GP METRO	Palaver Strings	The Francis
GPCOG	Portland Downtown	The Hill Arts
Greenhut Gallery	Portland House of Music	The Telling Room
Greg Boulos	Portland Industrial Coating	Townsquare Media
Headlight AV	Portland Media Center	Transformit
Hearts of Pine	Portland Museum of Art	USM Crewe Center
Hogfish	Portland Ovations	Visit Portland
Ikirenga Cy'Intore	Portland Pie	WMPG

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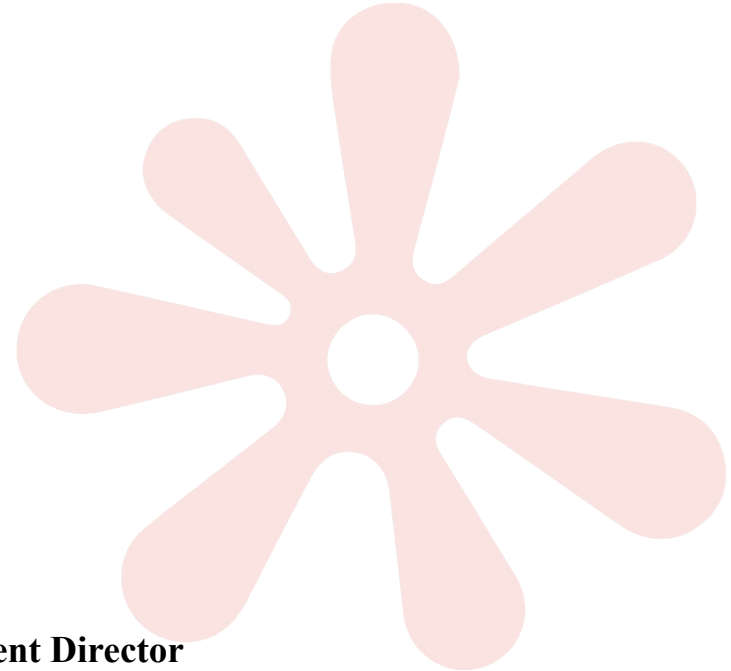
CREATIVE PORTLAND^{ME}



Creative Portland's mission is to support the creative economy through the arts by providing essential resources, fostering partnerships, and promoting our city's artistic talents and cultural assets.

Creative Portland's Board of Directors

Kate Anker (Immediate Past President) - **Running with Scissors**
Mike Bove - **Southern Maine Community College**
David Brenerman - **Former Mayor and Retired City Councilor**
Haj Carr - **Trueline**
Tae Chong - **Furniture Friends, Former Portland City Councilor**
Heidi Dikeman - **Portland Museum of Art**
Gib Foltz (Treasurer) - **One River CPA**
Elyse Grams - **Maine College of Art & Design**
Sampson Hamilton - **Verrill Dana**
Lindsay Hancock - **Artist & Grant Writer**
Clare E. Hannan (Vice President) - **Former CFO at Maine Public**
Lee Hartman - **University of Southern Maine**
Herb Ivy (President) - **Townsquare Media**
Zsofia McMullin - **Writer**
Dinah Minot (Assistant Secretary) - **Creative Portland**
Daniel Minter - Artist, **Indigo Arts Alliance**
Dave Page - **Visit Portland**
Councilor Regina Phillips (Ex Officio) - **Portland City Councilor**
Matt Schwach (Secretary) - **Retired Marketing Executive**
Greg Watson (Ex Officio) - **Housing & Economic Development Department Director**





First Friday Art Walk

CREATIVE PORTLAND^{ME}

CREATIVE PORTLAND^{ME}

2024 ARTS & CULTURE SUMMIT

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mechanics' Hall
519 Congress St, Portland

ONION
FOUNDATION



SP:CE



2024 ARTS & CULTURE SUMMIT

A CONVENING OF ARTS COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS & LEADERS

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

ONION
FOUNDATION

CREATIVE
PORTLAND^{ME}

MORNING SESSION at Mechanics' Hall Ballroom | 9:00 - 12:30 pm

8:30 - 9:00 am Coffee Reception & books by Maine authors for sale from Back Cove Books in Mechanics' Hall Library

9 - 9:30	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS		
Herb Ivy & Dinah Minot - Creative Portland Summit Hosts Portland Mayor Mark Dion Lyra Legawiec, 2024 Maine Poetry Out Loud State Champion			
9:30 - 10:30 am	10:30 - 11:30 am	11:30 - 12:30 pm	
<p>REPORT CARD - STATE OF THE ARTS IN MAINE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinah Minot - Creative Portland • Bob Keyes - Maine Arts Commission • Tae Chong - Maine State Chamber • Greg Watson - HEDD, City of Portland • Lauren Wayne - State Theatre <p><small>(Anita Stewart, Portland Stage, Emma Wilson, Portland Art Gallery, Marcia Minter - Indigo Arts Alliance)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics' Hall</p>	<p>PUBLIC ART INITIATIVES IN PORTLAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Watson - Reveler Dev. / Port Property • Alison Hildreth - Artist • Sean King - Portland Public Art Committee • Ashley Page - Artist & Indigo Arts Alliance • Chris Thompson - Thompson's Point <p><small>(Rick Schneider, Maine Public, Emily Read, OLS, Jessica Maize, TempoART, Popsy Moulton, Artist)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics' Hall</p>	<p>ARTS COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herb Ivy - Townsquare Media • Aimsel Ponti - Portland Press Herald • Rob Caldwell - 207 Host • Jessica Lockhart - WMFG, USM radio • Dinah Minot - Creative Portland <p><small>(Creative Portland App & AR Demo)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics' Hall</p>	

LUNCH & NETWORKING at CREATIVE PORTLAND | 12:30-1:30 pm

Cultural Alliance of Maine, Portland Media Center, Running with Scissors, PortTIX, Visit Portland, Portland Theater Festival, Portland AV, The Hill Arts, and more

AFTERNOON SESSION | 1:30 - 4:30 pm

1:30 - 2:30 pm	2:30 - 3:30 pm	3:30 - 4:30 pm
<p>FUNDING RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES for Arts & Culture Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Hausmann - Maine Arts Commission • Katie Howard - Maine Community Foundation • Glenn Cummings - Glickman Lauder • Elizabeth Jones - Portland Museum of Art • Moderator: Mollie Cashwell - Cultural Alliance <p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics' Hall</p>	<p>VENUE SPACES <i>How to secure rehearsal & maker spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Bannon - Mayo Street Arts Center • Annie Leahy - Mechanics' Hall • Julia Kirby - The Hill Arts • Developers TBA • Moderator: Kelsey Halliday Johnson - SPACE <p style="text-align: center;">SPACE</p>	<p>INCLUSIVE PRACTICES/DEI PROGRAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn LaRoche - Maine Jewish Museum • Gia Drew - Equality Maine • Aimee Petrin - Portland Ovarions • Lisa Jones - Black Travel Maine • Moderator: City Councilor Regina Phillips <p style="text-align: center;">SPACE</p>
<p>FUNDING RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES for Artists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eli Cabañas - Maine Arts Commission • Nancy Martin - HEDD, City of Portland • Kelsey Halliday Johnson - SPACE • Gibson Fay-LeBlanc - MWPA • Maya French - Palaver Strings • Moderator: Sara Juli - Artist/Grant Consultant <p style="text-align: center;">SPACE</p>	<p>STAYING IN MAINE <i>Artist Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanne Joy - Nonprofit Consultant • Kelly Hrenko - University of Southern Maine • Beth Wilbur Van Mierlo - Side X Side • Tinan Melissa Hue - Office of Econ. Opportunity • Moderator: Kate Anker - Running With Scissors <p><small>(Nick Schroeder, SPACE)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics' Hall</p>	<p>STIMULATING & REINVIGORATING BUSINESS in Portland's Arts District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casey Oakes - Portland Ovarions • Annie Leahy - Mechanics' Hall • Carolyn Nishon - Portland Symphony • Developer/Realtor TBA • Moderator: Cary Tyson - Portland Downtown <p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics' Hall</p>

HAPPY HOUR at SPACE | 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Mechanics' Hall - 519 Congress Street | Creative Portland - 514 Free Street | SPACE - 538 Congress Street



Cultural App

5,200 Downloads (March '26)

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CREATIVE **PORTLAND**

EXPLORE PORTLAND'S ARTS & MUSIC SCENE



WWW.CREATIVEPORTLAND.COM

DOWNLOAD THE CREATIVE PORTLAND APP

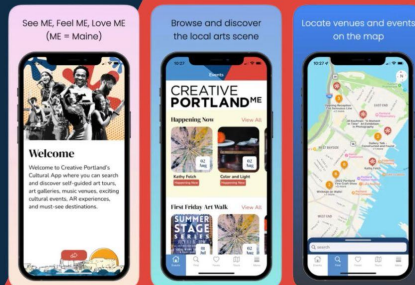


Discover what's happening now in local music, theater, art galleries, self-guided mural tours and more!

Browse the map!
Join the First Friday Art Walk every month on Congress Street, free for all ages from 5-8pm.



Download the app at the Apple Store to access the vibrant arts scene 24/7. Plan ahead and favorite your local events.



CP Art Gallery





Monday Morning Drop By

First Monday of every month



Public Art Initiatives

Creative Bus Shelters

CREATIVEPORTLAND^{ME}





Voted 2022 **BEST BUS STOP IN THE USA** by Ebenezer Akakpo

Hope & Friendship at Mechanics' Hall (519 Congress St)

CREATIVE BUS SHELTER INITIATIVE



Nine creative bus shelters, five created by immigrants, have been installed on and off the peninsula. The [Creative Bus Shelter project](#) strengthens communities by engaging local artists and arts administrators, in partnership with transit providers, and in collaboration with the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, for positive social impact and systems change. The goals are to encourage multi-modal transportation, increase ridership, and to promote awareness and social acceptance through art installations that utilize bus shelters as the canvas for public art on the theme of celebrating diversity and inclusion.







FIRST FRIDAY
Summer
Stage Series

WITH PERFORMANCES BY
Batimbo United
JUST MILK, ARYANA SMITH
AND JUNIPER GINGER
IN
MONUMENT SQUARE

SEPTEMBER 3, 5-8PM
CREATIVE PORTLAND **FREE ALL AGES EVENT**

FIRST FRIDAY
SUMMER
STAGE
SERIES

OCTOBER 1 | 5 - 8PM
ALL AGES FREE EVENT IN MONUMENT SQUARE
MAINE MARIMBA
FEATURING
ANGELIKAH FAHRAH
CILLA BONNIE
ASSASI

CREATIVE PORTLAND **Arts** *

FIRST FRIDAY
SUMMER
STAGE
SERIES

JULY 1 | 5 - 8PM
ALL AGES FREE EVENT IN MONUMENT SQUARE
IDEAL MAINE SOCIAL AID
& SANCTUARY BAND
LATIDO
SUZIE ASSAM
MOTHER EARTH FREEDOM BAND

CREATIVE PORTLAND **SP.CE** *

FIRST FRIDAY
SUMMER
STAGE
SERIES

AUG 5 | 5 - 8PM
ALL AGES FREE CONCERT IN MONUMENT SQUARE
FAKI-FANFARE KIMBANQUISTE
NAVY
MBANZA NIENGUSSO AND
KAYLEE KAZADI
HADITH BANI-ADAM

CREATIVE PORTLAND **Arts** *

FIRST FRIDAY
SUMMER
STAGE
SERIES

SEP 2 | 5 - 8PM
ALL AGES FREE CONCERT IN MONUMENT SQUARE
FAKI-FANFARE KIMBANQUISTE
NAMORY KEITA
ASSASI
HADITH BANI-ADAM

CREATIVE PORTLAND **Arts** *

FIRST FRIDAY
SUMMER
STAGE
SERIES

OCT 7 | 5 - 8PM
ALL AGES FREE CONCERT IN MONUMENT SQUARE
WITH STUDENT BANDS FROM
MAINE ACADEMY
OF MODERN MUSIC

CREATIVE PORTLAND **Arts** *

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



SUMMER STAGE SERIES
ALL AGES FREE CONCERT IN MONUMENT SQUARE

KEVCOAST LIVE MUSIC
FRIDAY
LITTLE OSO JULY 7
& GUMPARKER 5-8PM

CREATIVE PORTLAND **SP.CE**

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



SUMMER STAGE SERIES
ALL AGES FREE CONCERT IN MONUMENT SQUARE

TRASHTON N' THEE BANDITS LIVE MUSIC
PEACH HAT AUG. 4 | 5-8PM
S.C.O.B.Y.
JOJO

CREATIVE PORTLAND **Arts** *

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



SUMMER STAGE SERIES
ALL AGES FREE CONCERT IN MONUMENT SQUARE

LIVE MUSIC | **OCTOBER 6** | 5-8PM
Featuring students from
MAINE ACADEMY OF MODERN MUSIC

CREATIVE PORTLAND **Arts** *

SUMMER STAGE SERIES



The Economic and Social Impact of
 Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences in
City of Portland, ME

Direct Economic Activity	Organizations	Audiences	Total Expenditures
Total Industry Expenditures (FY2022)	\$58,217,085	\$27,753,428	\$85,970,513

Economic Impact of Spending by Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences

Total Economic Impacts (includes direct, indirect, and induced impacts)	Organizations	Audiences	Total Impacts
Employment (Jobs)	1,519	353	1,872
Personal Income Paid to Residents	\$59,440,383	\$16,137,384	\$75,577,767
Local Tax Revenue (city and county)	\$1,598,719	\$1,088,898	\$2,687,617
State Tax Revenue	\$2,745,409	\$1,398,051	\$4,143,460
Federal Tax Revenue	\$11,205,491	\$2,684,326	\$13,889,817

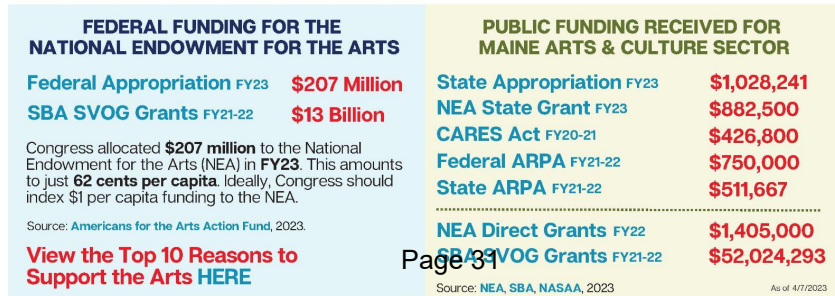
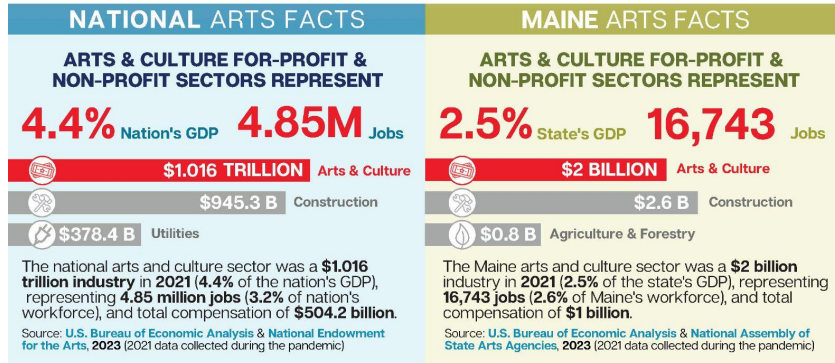
Event-Related Spending by Arts and Culture Audiences Totaled \$27.8 million

Attendance to Arts and Culture Events	Local ¹ Attendees	Nonlocal ¹ Attendees	All Attendees
Total Attendance to In-Person Events	493,381	231,114	724,495
Percentage of Total Attendance	68.1%	31.9%	100.0%
Average Per Person, Per Event Expenditure	\$29.27	\$57.60	\$38.29
Total Event-Related Expenditures	\$14,441,263	\$13,312,165	\$27,753,428

Nonprofit Arts and Culture Audiences Spend an Average of \$38.29 Per Person, Per Event

Category of Event-Related Expenditure	Local ¹ Attendees	Nonlocal ¹ Attendees	All Attendees
Food and Drink	\$22.35	\$27.67	\$24.04
Retail Shopping	\$2.12	\$5.85	\$3.31
Overnight Lodging (one night only)	\$0.18	\$12.71	\$4.17
Local Transportation	\$2.43	\$6.98	\$3.88
Clothing and Accessories	\$0.76	\$0.23	\$0.59
Groceries and Supplies	\$0.65	\$3.24	\$1.48
Childcare	\$0.30	\$0.03	\$0.21
Other/Miscellaneous	\$0.48	\$0.89	\$0.61
Overall Average Per Person, Per Event	\$29.27	\$57.60	\$38.29

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN MAINE



Portland's Local Economy Report for FY2025 (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025)

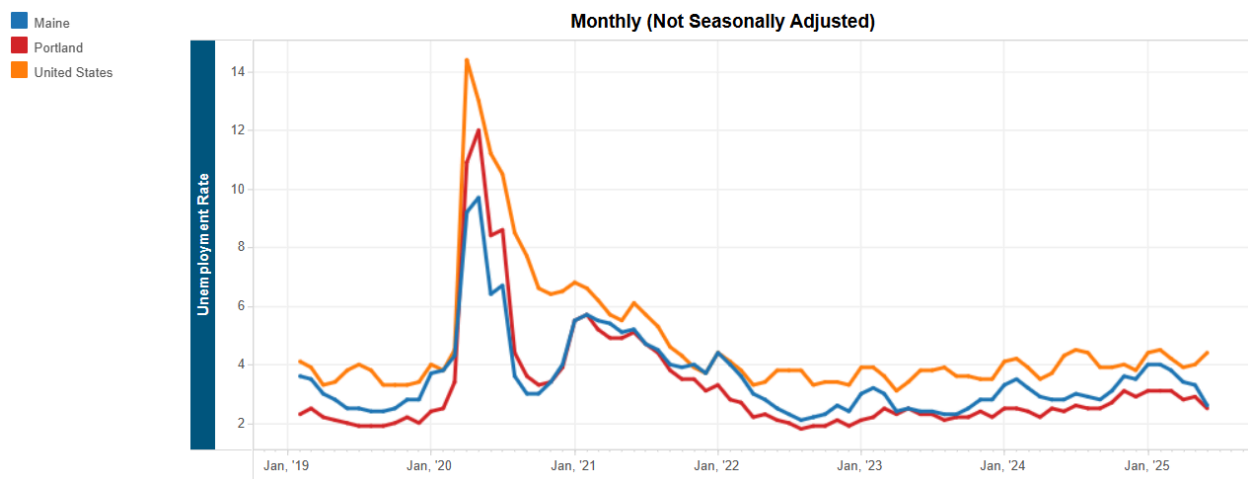
Overview

Portland, the most populous city in the state of Maine and the seat of Cumberland County, features a diversity of economic sectors. It is the major center in Northern New England for commerce, finance, arts and entertainment, food and beverage, life sciences, information technology, higher education, and tourism. Portland's working waterfront supports a vibrant and active marine economy. Mixed use office, retail, residential and commercial districts as well as marine and industrial areas provide wide-ranging development opportunities and remain ongoing priorities for the future. The City's taxable valuation breakdown shows that Portland has a healthy real estate tax base ratio at 37% commercial/industrial and 63% residential. For FY25, the total value of taxable property in Portland is \$15.1 billion, which generates \$227 million in property tax revenue. Small businesses are the backbone of the City's economy and employment: more than three-quarters of Portland's businesses have less than ten employees, while less than 10% have 50 or more.

Population Demographics

With a population of just over 68,000, Portland is the hub of a Metropolitan Statistical Area of about 550,000 people. A city of growing diversity, more than 10% of the population was born in a country other than the United States. Of the population aged 25 and older, 61% have obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher. While Maine's median age of 45 is the highest in the country, Portland's median age is 37. (U.S. Census data)

Unemployment: Portland has a labor force of approximately 43,000 people, with an unemployment rate of 2.5%



(Source: Maine Department of Labor)

New Residents: Traditionally, the City has attracted new residents from all over the country and around the world, including entrepreneurs. The impact of the pandemic on remote work has led to an even larger influx of new residents. This past year, Portland was ranked as the fifth best city in the US to find a job, according to WalletHub. Portland's continued integration of immigrants is crucial for maintaining and diversifying the labor pool, especially given the state of Maine's broader demographic challenge of an aging population.

Downtown

Portland’s dense, walkable downtown and urban core greatly contribute to the City’s reputation as a livable, vibrant center for innovation, arts and culture, dining, shopping, and entertainment which attracts visitors and residents alike.



The commercial real estate market continues to see a strong post-pandemic recovery. The Boulos Company provides an annual overview of the commercial real estate market, and in its 2025 office market outlook observed that unlike suburban markets, downtown Portland did not face substantial unoccupied spaces to backfill over the past year.

Downtown Office Vacancy Rates, 2019-2024
(Source: The Boulos Company)

Creative Economy

Sustaining the arts community and promoting the cultural life of Portland are key economic development initiatives. Portland has over 150 arts and cultural organizations that contribute to the City’s creative lifestyle and vibrancy. The arts are an economic engine powering the creative economy, and are pivotal for workforce recruitment and retention. The American Economic Prosperity Study concluded in October 2023, finding that Portland’s nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$86 million in economic activity in 2022. That economic activity – \$58.2 million in spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and \$27.8 million in event-related spending by their audiences – supported 1,872 jobs and generated \$20.7 million in local, state, and federal government revenue.

Creative Portland supports the cultural life of the City with projects, programs and resources including showcases such as Hear Here at Merrill Auditorium to highlight, nurture and support local artists and the local arts ecosystem, a robust website listing opportunities and resources, a Monthly Arts Update newsletter, a cultural app, called the Creative Portland app, that offers 24/7 listings designed to increase access to the arts, the First Friday Art Walk, a biennial arts & culture summit, a fiscal sponsorship program, a Creative Portland Gallery annual art exhibition, a community open house called Monday Morning Drop By, and public art installations on bus shelters. Attendance at Merrill Auditorium in FY25 saw 130 events with 148,000 in attendance.

Hospitality Industry

Food and Beverage

Over the years, Portland's reputation as a culinary destination has continued to grow and bring the City extraordinary accolades. In 2025, the Portland food and drink sector is thriving with many restaurants offering outdoor dining, a trend which began as a pandemic adaptation and

proved immensely popular. In addition to its booming restaurant industry, the City is home to a robust craft beer, distilling and wine-making industry. Each year, establishments located in Portland feature prominently in the James Beard Award nominations. Portland semifinalists in 2025 were Gross Confection Bar, Coffee By Design, The Jewel Box, Mr. Tuna, and Leeward. In August of 2025, Travel and Leisure Magazine declared, “Portland, Maine, Is One of the Best Food Cities In the U.S.,” highlighting how the city “went from being a great little food town to one of America’s finest places to eat.”

Tourism and Hotel Development

The number of visitors to the State of Maine fell for the third year in a row in 2024, a trend recently exacerbated by tariffs and a steep drop in Canadian tourists. Despite the drop, spending by tourists in Maine increased, especially in and around Portland. The 2024 Economic Impact and Visitor Tracking Study completed by Downs & St. Germain Research for the period December 2023 through November 2024 indicates that the Greater Portland and Casco Bay region attracted 2.8 million visitors in 2024, down 3.8% from 2023. These visitors spent more than \$1.7 billion in direct spending on accommodations, transportation, groceries, restaurants, shopping, entertainment, and other expenses. The economic impact of that direct spending generated approximately \$2.9 billion in economic impact to Greater Portland and Casco Bay’s economy, an increase of 5.2% from the previous year.

The tourism and hospitality sector, while vibrant, faces some challenges. Hotel development in Portland is projected to slow down, partly due to a six-month moratorium, which may redirect developers to neighboring cities. The 148-room hotel at Thompson’s Point is expected to open in 2026. The former M&T Bank building at 465 Congress Street will be developed by Fathom Companies into a hotel with a speakeasy in the vault, adding vibrancy and activity to the Monument Square area. Fathom Companies has developed several other hotels in historic buildings in Portland, such as the Press Hotel.

In 2023, the Portland City Council approved the establishment of Maine’s first Tourism Development District under the Maine State Development District Law. Modeled after the Portland Downtown District, the Portland Tourism Development District (PTDD) allows the City to levy an assessment on non-seasonal lodging properties within the City with more than 40 rooms. The district recently completed its first full year of operations, generating total assessments of \$1,432,052 for the district. The city retains 10% and the remaining revenue is sent to Visit Portland to focus on marketing the city for continued growth and development of Portland's Tourism sector.

