

# **Commission to Study the Economic Impact of Arts and Culture in NH**

## **Executive Summary**

Broadly defined, the culture of a state reflects the common activities, places, traditions and beliefs of the people who live there; it's the shared way of life that we pass from one generation to the next. We also use the term culture more specifically, to refer to people and places involved with the arts, history, humanities, writing and other creative pursuits. Used this way, culture encompasses performing, visual, fine and applied arts; crafts; music; architecture; film and digital media; humanities; historic preservation; literature; folklife; libraries, and more.

In New Hampshire, our culture is as varied as the state's geography and people, from the covered bridges and traditional music of our past, to the avant-garde performances and the technological resources of today and tomorrow. The New Hampshire cultural community spans the public, non-profit and private sectors, driven by individuals, organizations, businesses, libraries, industries, and education and public institutions. It creates communities worth living in, provides outstanding educational opportunities, attracts businesses looking for engaged workforces, and defines what makes New Hampshire "New Hampshire."

The importance of arts and culture is described in state law. NH RSA 21-K, recognizing "the essential nature of pursuits which broaden our minds and spirits and preserve our history and culture for future generations," established the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources as a unit of state government. The State Library, the Council on the Arts, the Division of Historical Resources and the Film & Television Office together form "a single, strong, visible cultural agency" with "equal status with other major departments of state government."

The full report can be found on the downloads page at:

**NH Creates - <https://nharts.org/>**