The Arts and Kentucky: Catalyst for Economic Growth
The Kentucky Creative Industry
What is the Creative Industry?

The Kentucky creative industry includes all individuals and companies whose products and services originate in artistic, cultural, creative, authentic and/or aesthetic content.

Kentucky sculptor Julie Warren Conn, below, and her finished work, left.
The Kentucky creative industry collectively employs 108,498 people.

- Total of 60,504 direct jobs
- Additional 11,708 direct creative jobs in non-creative enterprises
- Total of 36,286 indirect jobs
Comparison of Creative Industry to Other Sectors

Number of Jobs

- Bioscience
- Accommodation
- Insurance
- Auto/Aircraft Mfg
- IT & Communications
- Trans. Distri. Logistics
- Higher Education
- Healthcare
- Retail Trade

Creative Industries have significantly more jobs compared to other sectors.
Creative Industry Earnings

- Creative industry represents 2.5 percent of Kentucky’s employment.
- Creative industry accounts for earnings of $1.9 billion.
- Average wage of a creative worker is $34,299.
Hitting the ground running
From Coal to Craft: Eastern Kentucky’s Changing Economy

04.18.18

Part 2 of a 4-part Forefront series examining eastern Kentucky’s transition away from a coal-centric economy.

Swiftly changing economic conditions, highly competitive trade growth, and a future relying on evolving technology, a transition is taking place in eastern Kentucky.

The decline of the coal industry and loss of thousands of mining jobs creates a need to reexamine a new economic direction for eastern Kentucky. One option is through “creative placemaking” in which partners from disparate sectors use arts and culture activities to strategically shape the character of a region or place.
For more information:
artscouncil.ky.gov