

TRORC's EDA Award to Support Region's Creative Sector

Note from TRORC staff project lead and VT Creative Network 3CVT Zone Agent, Kim Gilbert (kgilbert@trorc.org)

TRORC applied for and received a \$276,000 award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This is a grant providing funds to TRORC to implement a work plan that will benefit the region's creative sector. TRORC will use these funds to do a creative sector marketing project, provide professional workshops/trainings to creatives, and plan/facilitate multiple cross-sector collaboration events/meetings. The overall goal of this project is to provide opportunities for networking, business development, and marketing resources to help members of our region's creative sector recover through the pandemic.

3CVT is the name of our region's Zone of the Vermont Creative Network, and TRORC has been the leader of this group since 2017. See the group's website here <https://www.ecvedd.org/3cvt/>. 3CVT has formed a work plan based on priorities identified by our work with creatives over the years. However, 3CVT as a group is not a formal organization and cannot access these federal funds from the EDA. TRORC staff does have experience with these types of grants, so we put in an application based on the 3CVT workplan and have been awarded the funding to carry out the identified tasks.

See our press release announcing the award here: <https://www.trorc.org/trorc-receives-eda-funds-to-assist-the-creative-sector-recover-from-covid-19/>

This project outline is based on years of input from artists/creatives around the region and the thoughtful direction of our 3CVT Steering Committee (comprised of individual artists, representatives of organizations, and others). We are so happy for the opportunity to finally put the workplan into action thanks to this funding from the EDA.

This project applies to all towns in the East Central Vermont Economic Development District (ECVEDD). ECVEDD towns include Andover, Baltimore, Bethel, Bradford, Braintree, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Cavendish, Chelsea, Chester, Corinth, Fairlee, Granville, Hancock, Hartford, Hartland, Ludlow, Newbury, Norwich, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Springfield, Stockbridge, Strafford, Thetford, Topsham, Tunbridge, Vershire, Weathersfield, West Fairlee, West Windsor, Windsor, and Woodstock.

Funds are not passing through TRORC. Grants are available to artists and organizations through the state Arts Council (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants>). Additional COVID-relief grants are available through the state's Agency of Commerce and Community Development (<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>).