



Art-Speak

State of the Arts 2013

Mayor Spear, members of the City Council, and City Manager Bohenko:

I am pleased to present the Annual State of the Arts report, representing Art-Speak, Portsmouth's Arts and Cultural Commission.

First, I'd like to introduce the current members of the Art-Speak board: Robin Albert, Cathy Sununu, Anna Woods, Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf, Larry McCullough, Alan Gold and I'm Nancy Pearson.

Second, we—with the Portsmouth arts and cultural community—want to thank the City for its continued support of Art-Speak.

We are proud to be part of a community that recognizes how important the arts and culture are to our quality of life and economic health.

So let's look at some of the value added to the City via our arts and cultural organizations.

1. **Prescott Park Arts Festival** has actively sought collaborations that benefit both the participating organizations and the community. Over the last 5 years, the festival has formed partnerships with 22 organizations, resulting in 10 new programs (many that are now annual offerings), and attracted an additional 75,000 people to the festival. They are also undertaking \$1.1 million in improvements to the site, park and performance area, including \$200,000 from the City for the new Pavilion building and public bathrooms.
2. **Discover Portsmouth** visitation tripled in 2012 to 22,000
3. **The NH Film Festival** continued to grow in stature and in economic impact with increased audience attendance and direct spending on hotels, venue rentals and

Created with



nitro PDF[®]
professional
download the free trial online at nitropdf.com/professional
download the free trial online at nitropdf.com/professional

catered events, and indirect spending from audiences citywide. It was also named to 2013 Movie Magazine list of Top 50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee.

4. Vintage Christmas trolley ridership grew in 2012 over previous years.
5. **The Portsmouth Athenaeum** has significantly increased its membership and greatly expanded its offering of public exhibitions, lectures, and concerts. Over the past decade, the institution has invested considerable resources in cataloging its entire collection into a fully searchable, relational database.
6. Last, but certainly not least, **Strawbery Banke** reports record attendance (76,628) with an 8.5% increase in paid attendance. Using the Art-Speak Arts & Economic Prosperity IV statistics, they an estimated economic impact of \$2.4 million on the Portsmouth/Seacoast area. Starwbery Banke also hosted the July 4th Naturalization Ceremony with Governor John Lynch as well as the HOSTORIC September 7 visit of President Obama, Vice President Biden, Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden (worth an estimated \$2.8 million in earned media value).

However, this is not a sum-total of our cultural happenings.

1. Art-Speak planned and rolled out three successful community events and raised \$4,000 to administer the Arts & Economic Prosperity economic impact study on behalf of the City. The events brought together members of the cultural, business and arts communities. They were:
 - The presentation of the study findings at a Chamber Breakfast with Randy Cohen from Americans for the Arts.
 - The presentation of the study findings at a Rotary Luncheon with Randy Cohen
 - A workshop for nonprofit arts and culture organizations with Randy Cohen
2. This year, Art-Speak created an RFP process in order to facilitate the administrative duties of the Percent for Art Ordinance as it pertains to the construction of the new middle school and other public buildings. Art-Speak members sat on the JBC committee and Art-Speak is the primary administrator for all the artists submissions. When the project was in jeopardy, Art-Speak launched a successful advocacy alert to the community to demonstrate to the city, the wide-spread support for this project.

Created with

3. A few weeks ago, Art-Speak unveiled a clean, modern, responsive website which is user-friendly on any device; laptop, tablet or smart phone. I hope you check it out, Art dash Speak dot org.
4. Art-Speak has been selected to present a workshop for the Creative Communities Exchange Conference hosted by the New England Foundation for the Arts in Portland, ME, this Thursday and Friday.
5. Our Public Art Committee finalized the guidelines for all future public art projects and donations made to the city and hired an intern to photograph and catalogue Portsmouth's public art to begin the process of having a mobile walking tour ready for our website.
6. And finally, with last year's revisioning of Art-Speak and it's role in the community, Art-Speak revised the job description for our part-time employee. Emma Pearson, no relation to me, will join us at the start of the new fiscal year as the first Director of Art-Speak. Emma brings with her experience in public relations, branding and administrative management and will be an impressive ambassador for Art-Speak and the City.

In summary, the State of the Arts in Portsmouth is on track.

That does not mean that arts and cultural organizations don't face difficulties or that they don't need our support.

We, and all the arts and cultural organizations, are grateful for the City's support of the Arts—and of Art-Speak and we are convinced that with our continued partnerships, the state of the arts in Portsmouth will continue to be part of the New Hampshire advantage.

Thank you.

Created with

