

PHASE 4 REPORT

Maine-New Brunswick
Cultural Initiative Task Force
2015-2016

December 2016

New Brunswick
Nouveau Brunswick



Parking exit, Myrtle Beach 2013 – Neil Rough – Part of the 2016 UMMA Contemporary Currents exhibition



Contents

1 Introduction

2 Background

3 Summary

4 Projects and Events

2015 January meeting overview / Shivering Songs

2015 October meeting overview / Maine Photo Project

2015 Maine Arts Commission Cultural Plan

2015/2016 Two Nation Vacation

2015/2016 Saint John International Sculptural Symposium

2015/2016 Tides Institute updates

2016 Haystack Craft Conference

2016 Percent for Art Connections

2016 Maine Showcase Pilot, Contact East

2016 Maine International Conference on the Arts

2016 January meeting overview / NB College of Craft and Design

2016 September meeting overview/ UMMA Contemporary Currents

5 Other

2016 Idea Swap/ CINARS mention

2016 Recognition by National Association of State Arts Agencies

2015 Task Force one-sheet

2016 Task Force one-sheet

6 Conclusion

1. Introduction

This report is the fourth in a series of documents that highlights the progress of the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Task Force. It contains information about the cross-border collaborations, partnerships, and information-sharing that has resulted from the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick. This report highlights the period between 2014 and 2016 and is intended to reflect the spirit of cooperation, shared experiences, and collaborations that members of the Task Force have undertaken to support the arts and culture in both jurisdictions.

2. Background

A Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick was signed in July 2010 by the former Premier of New Brunswick, the Honorable Shawn Graham, and the former Governor of the State of Maine, Governor John Baldacci with the mandate to ***“Enhance the Mutual Benefits of Maine/New Brunswick Cultural Relations through the Establishment of a Maine/New Brunswick Cultural Initiative”***.

A Task Force was established with representatives from arts and cultural organizations in Maine and New Brunswick. This group is co-administered by representatives of the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture (then Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport) and the Maine Arts Commission. The initial goals of the Task Force were to undertake a series of tasks, namely to

examine ways to streamline border-crossing processes for artists, performers, and cultural institutions; to explore potential for enhancing exchange of cultural information; to explore the potential for collaborative cross-border cultural projects; to identify possible new and /or expanded cross-border business and/or cultural tourism opportunities; and to explore differences and similarities to the creative economy in Maine and New Brunswick so that successes may be mirrored.

The Phase I Report (December 2010), Phase 2 Report (October 2011), and Phase 3 Report (October 2014) encompass an overview of the status, priorities, and possibilities outlined in the original agreement. Each report identifies steps taken and tangible initiatives being considered or implemented.

3. Task Force Summary

The Maine New Brunswick Cultural Task Force continues to hold annual meetings, telephone meetings at six-week intervals, and occasional mid-term meetings, while pursuing the goals and objectives outlined in the original document. In addition, the group has supported a series of collaborative exchanges, joint projects, and initiatives that demonstrate successes of the ongoing work of the group.

Additional inclusiveness has taken the form of inviting **Task Force Advisors** to serve on an annual basis. These professionals are brought on-board for their particular expertise. They work with the Task Force on specific projects like bridging arts and tourism sectors or connecting cultures. They are not required to participate in all meetings and discussions, but when they do they are the focus of the agenda.

The in-person meetings have adopted the practice of **Artist Inclusion** by inviting a local artist to speak as part of the agenda. Since October 2015, this has brought a welcomed perspective to the proceedings. The guest artists have included Marty Pottenger and Justin Levesque from Maine and Brent Rourke and Neil Rough from New Brunswick.



Les dents du fer (Jaws of Iron), 2003
Anne-Marie Sirois
Part of the 2016 UMMA
Contemporary Currents exhibition

4. Projects and Events

In-person meetings by the Task Force are scheduled to coordinate with local events in order to broaden the group's understanding about cultural practices within the region. In some cases the Task Force works closely with the event and in others it is a way to introduce members to new people and experiences.

Key in-person meeting events for the report period include:

2015, January 22 - Fredericton - Government House (51 Woodstock Road), Shivering Songs Festival

2015, October 15 - Portland – Maine College of Art, the Maine Photo Project

2016, January 22 - Fredericton – New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, campus tour

2016, September 22 - Bangor – University of Maine Museum of Art, Contemporary Currents exhibition

Task Force projects range from endeavors that engage all members, to individual members working with other members on particular ventures, to members working individually or collectively with organizations to promote cultural exchange.



Shivering Songs Festival – Image from Tourism Fredericton

2015 January Meeting / Shivering Songs

The January 2015 Maine New Brunswick Task Force meeting took place at Government House (51 Woodstock Road) and coincided with the Shivering Songs Festival. The meeting was introduced by the Honorable Bill Fraser, Minister of NB Tourism, Heritage and Culture. The primary purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the Task Force with the Two Nation Vacation initiative and the work of the tourism offices in both regions.



There were presentations by Margie Mackenzie and Abbe Levin relating to the initiative, as well as presentations from Kevin Cormier the Director of Kings Landing Historical Village, Keith McAlpine the Director of NB College of Craft and Design, and Robert Landry from La commission du tourisme acadien du Canada atlantique.

Shivering Songs, is a midwinter celebration of songwriting and storytelling, and flagship partner of Fredericton's FROSTival. Shivering Songs hosts internationally renowned artists in rustic and historic spaces throughout Downtown Fredericton. In 2015 they invited the Task Force to experience the regional music festival. Originally conceived as a small folk music festival to celebrate the album release of local group *The Olympic Symphonium*, the festival has grown into a landmark cultural event that garners the attention of music and literary fans throughout Atlantic Canada and the Northeastern United States.

Primary venues include The Wilmot United Church, The Charlotte Street Arts Centre, and The Fredericton Boyce Farmers Market; with several secondary venues like the Capital Bar and Fredericton's Urban Almanac General Store.

38,500 jobs in Maine depend on Canada–U.S. trade

Canada is Maine's #1 customer

Total Canada–Maine goods trade: \$3.2 billion

Canadian government data 2015

2015: October Meeting / Maine Photo Project

The evening before the October 2015 meeting, Jennifer Hutchins of Creative Portland gave a walking tour of the Portland Arts District, primarily focusing on the Maine College of Art with the thought there may be connections to be made between MECA and the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design. Topics of discussion for the following meeting included cultural tourism, artist visa issues, addressing immigrant communities, and an overview of the Maine Photo Project by project collaborators.



Kerry Michaels, *Ferns and Hosta*
Maine Photo Project
Courtesy Art Gallery at the University of New England

The Maine Photo Project was a year-long celebration of photography in Maine throughout 2015. More than thirty participating museums, galleries, historical societies, and other non-profit cultural organizations offered public exhibitions and a variety of programs exploring the state's role as a magnet for photographers, both as a subject and as a unique place for introspection, discourse, and innovation. In addition to the exhibitions and public programs, a new history of photography in Maine exhibit catalogue was published.

Exhibition topics ranged from the international community of photographers active in the state, to iconic modernist photographers, to rare historical images from photography's earliest days. Many of the works on view came from the prestigious holdings of Maine's collecting institutions as well as from photographers who live, study and work in the state.

A public photography symposium was held October 15. Task Force members were invited to the events which took place after the annual Task Force meeting.



October 2015, Task Force meeting

Front

Laurie Hicks – U Manie Museum of Art
Jessica Skwire Routhier – Maine Photo Project
Julie Richard – Maine Arts Commission
Janic Godin - Société Nationale de l'Acadie

Back

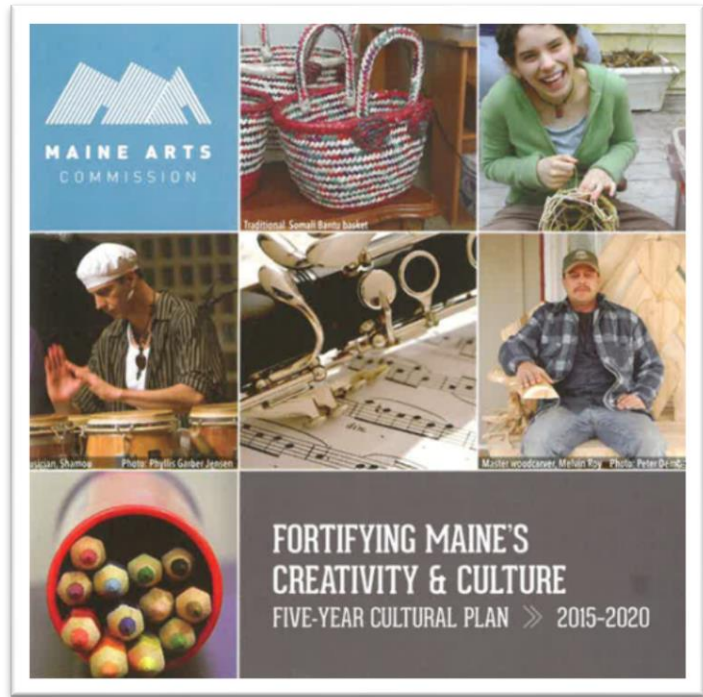
Mitch Thomas – Maine Franco American Center
Nathalie Dubois – NB Tourism, Heritage & Culture
Jennifer Hutchins - Creative Portland
Julie Horn - Maine Arts Commission
Darcy LeBlanc - Discover Saint John
Heather Sincavage - University of Presque Isle
Akoulina Connell - NB Arts Board (ArtsNB)
Angela Watson- Fredericton Tourism
Megan Mainwaring - New Brunswick Museum
Marty Pottenger – Maine Artist
Christine Lavoie - Société Nationale de l'Acadie
Hugh French – Tides Institute
Caroline Walker – NB Tourism, Heritage & Culture

**In 2015 there were 505,900
Maine tourists that visited
New Brunswick**

Canadian government data 2015

Maine Arts Commission Cultural Plan

In 2015 the Maine Arts Commission completed a five-year cultural plan (2015-2020). The Commission, along with the 113 leaders who served on the Steering Committee released a document to strengthen culture and creativity's impact on the state's livability and prosperity. At the plan's core is seeing that Maine's dynamic, creative opportunities are available to all residents and the nearly 20 million tourists who visit each year. Identified in this plan was the value of the connection between Maine and New Brunswick cultural sectors and how the ME-NB Task Force is important to the current and future good that occurs with this international relationship.



Maine visits by Canadians: 1,124,000

Maine vacation spending by Canadians: \$398 million

Canadian government data 2015

Two Nation Vacation

In 2013 regional tourism offices began to discuss ways to create awareness, increase incremental visitation, and reciprocate marketing efforts while building on the allure of an international trip closer to home. Both NB and Maine committed \$125,000 and jointly signed a four-year cooperation agreement (2014 to 2018) totaling a one million dollar investment to build and deliver a campaign.

The goal of attracting visitors from Boston, NY, and Philadelphia to Downeast Maine and New Brunswick and encouraging existing visitors to stay longer was identified. Focus group research revealed the internationalization of the experience makes it appealing – the draw being the cultural contrast between point of origin and point of destination.

The marketing focus of the Two Nation Vacation is to:

1. Develop and implement an integrated marketing campaign
2. Build on the activities, tools, and assets that connect the region
3. Engage the industry through cuisine, attractions, and hospitality
4. Integrate cross border initiatives already in place (ME-NB Cultural Task Force)

For point 2 and 4 of the marketing focus, the ME-NB Cultural Task Force invited members of regional tourism offices to serve in an advisory capacity for the 2015 meetings. This inclusion allowed sharing of information relating to new/ongoing events as well as strategies relating to audience/visitor engagement.



Bay of Fundy Image courtesy of NB Office of Tourism



Sources: Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium, Sculpture Saint John

International Sculpture Trail

From 2007 to 2015 the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium brought together a small group of sculptors from around the world to Winter Harbour, Maine. They spent upwards of six weeks in an artist-in-residency program creating original large-scale sculptures using Maine granite. The symposium provided a stipend, materials and technical support to each artist, in a communal working space open to the public. The Maine symposium resulted in 27 sculptures being placed throughout communities in the Down East region that reached up to the New Brunswick border.

In 2012 the Saint John International Sculpture Symposium in Saint John, New Brunswick began. Modeled on the Schoodic Symposium, and with assistance from Schoodic Director Jesse Salisbury, the Saint John International Sculpture Symposium began placing granite sculptures in communities around Southwestern New Brunswick. A second symposium took place in Saint John, NB in August 2014 and a successful third event happened in 2016.

Over \$21,388,500 is spent annually by Mainers visiting New Brunswick

Canadian government data 2015

The Tides Institute and Museum of Art

The Tides Institute & Museum of Art (TIMA) acts as both cultural catalyst and cultural anchor for the eastern coast of Maine with strong links to neighboring Canada and ties to the broader world. New cultural works are fostered and created through a range of special projects and partnerships and through TIMA's artist residency program that attracts artists from throughout the U.S. and

across the world. TIMA has built the most significant wide ranging cultural collections that reflect this cross border region with wider global connections — from art to architecture, from furniture to fisheries. TIMA's exhibitions, outreach programs and regional revitalization efforts embody this perspective as well. Through its cross border cultural initiatives (such as

Artsipelago) and memberships (such as with the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Task Force), TIMA works to strengthen cultural ties within the international Passamaquoddy Bay region, between Maine and New Brunswick, New England and Atlantic Canada and the wider world.



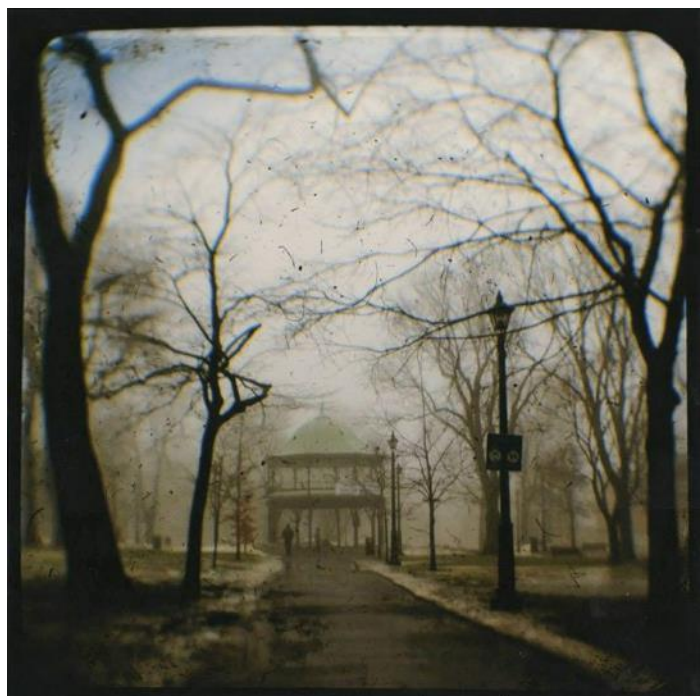
“Sardinia” installation by New Brunswick artist, Janice Wright Cheney, at TIMA’s 1819 Free Will North Church Project.

Fredericton, New Brunswick-based artist, Janice Wright Cheney, was artist-in-residence at the Tides Institute & Museum of Art's (TIMA) StudioWorks Artist-in-Residence Program during June, 2016. While in residence she created a large scale, multi-media installation for TIMA's 1819 Free Will North Church Project Space called "Sardinia". Also for six weeks during the summer of 2016, Rosamunde Bordo, a recent graduate of Concordia University in Montreal, was one of two TIMA North Atlantic Interns. Rosamunde's family is from Grand Manan, New Brunswick.

In 2016, New Brunswick photographer, Thaddeus Holownia, and New Brunswick architect, John Leroux, continued with the seventh year of their ongoing architecture, landscape and community study of Eastport, Maine. John Leroux is based in Fredericton, New Brunswick and Thaddeus Holownia is long time chair of the Fine Arts Department at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. Nearly 1,000 large format photographs have been taken of interiors and exteriors of buildings, wider landscape and seascape views, and portraits of trees. A publication and exhibition is planned for late 2017, early 2018.

From mid-July, 2015 to mid-August, 2015, TIMA organized and displayed an exhibition, "Framing the Atlantic: Contemporary Photographers of the Northeast Coast," that included photographs portraying Maine to Newfoundland by both Canadian and American photographers. Exhibited photographs ranged from documentary photographs of Saint John, New Brunswick in the 1960s to outports of Newfoundland to the blueberry barrens of coastal Maine. The exhibition was part of the Maine state-wide, year-long Maine Photo Project.

Photographers included: Leslie Bowman (Maine); Candace Cochrane (Massachusetts); Lisa Tyson Ennis (Maine); Adam Graham (Nova Scotia); Thaddeus Holownia (New Brunswick); Ian MacEachern (Ontario); and David Stess (New York).



Kings Square, Saint John, New Brunswick by Adam Graham. Part of the TIMA exhibition in 2015, "Framing the Atlantic: Contemporary Photographers of the Northeast Coast."

In 2015, TIMA commissioned a limited edition broadside and letterpress printed publication of a poem, "Sound as Fundy, Fundy as Sound," by one of America's leading contemporary poets, Heather McHugh. Born of Canadian parents, McHugh's poem has a transcontinental U.S./Canada perspective from Puget Sound to the Bay of Fundy. Andrew Steeves of Gaspereau Press in Kentville, Nova Scotia designed and printed the poster.

Haystack Craft Conference Connection

Haystack is an internationally recognized Maine school that offers summer workshops in blacksmithing, clay, fiber, glass, graphics, metal, and wood arts. The 2016 Haystack Summer Conference took place from July 10-14 in Deer Isle Maine. The event featured presenters, who came from a variety of creative disciplines in art, design, architecture, and writing. The focus was on how professionals think through craft and how the creative processes, audiences, and materials inform the work that is made. A meeting on July 12 brought together craft leaders from Maine and New Brunswick to discuss ideas surrounding cross-border craft and culture exchanges.

Sadie Bliss

Executive Director of ME Craft Association

Paul Sacaridiz

Director of Haystack Mountain School

Alison Murphy

Executive Director of NB Crafts Council

Harriet Taylor

Dean at NB College of Craft and Design

Julie Horn

Visual Arts Director at the Arts Commission



An important part of the July 12th discussion noted the need to provide more inclusive approaches for aboriginal students within the organization enrollment structures at both Haystack and NB College of Craft and Design. Both Paul Sacaridiz and Harriet Taylor agreed that looking into Haystack offering scholarships to NBCCD aboriginal students could be of great value to each organization.

Percent for Art Collaboration

The New Brunswick departments of Transportation, Education, and Tourism, Heritage and Culture began a pilot program to test the feasibility of a public art program. Focusing on creating ties with Public Art projects through increased employment opportunities for artists, one NB Francophone school of 1000 students and one NB Anglophone school of 600 students were selected in the preliminary phase.

Leading to this has been the inclusion of New Brunswick administrators to the Maine State Percent for Art program and Maine administrators consulting on best practices for the NB undertaking. New Brunswick administrators also attend the meetings for the Corinth Maine Percent for Art selection process in 2016.

Maine Showcase Pilot

The Maine Arts Commission, working with the Atlantic Presenters Association of Canada, launched a pilot program to support Maine performing artists wishing to showcase at Canadian conferences. The September 22-25, 2016 Contact East Conference held in Saint John New Brunswick was the pilot event. The Maine Arts Commission offered to cover the application fee of the first ten Maine artists or groups interested in showcasing. Artists accepted to the conference were then able to apply for additional travel support.



Contact East is Atlantic Canada's premiere performing arts booking conference, bringing together performing arts presenters and in-demand, tour-ready performing artists to showcase contemporary and classical music, dance, theatre, and youth-oriented programming. The physical comedy team of Michael Menes and Leland Faulkner in *SNAFU! Comedy* were offered a place in the Pitch Session and represented Maine at the event.

**In 2015 there were 841,500 visits to
New Brunswick from the United States**

Canadian government data 2015

Maine International Conference on the Arts

The Maine Arts Commission held the second Maine International Conference on Arts in Lewiston Maine on October 6 and 7, 2016. The mission of the conference was to bolster the resources available to artists, arts organizations, and community networks.

The conference brought together arts professionals in the fields of community development, cultural connectivity and the arts, and offered development sessions, networking opportunities, artist performances, and cross discipline collaboration opportunities. Primary partners who collaborated with the Maine Arts Commission were LA Arts, Museum LA, The Franco American Heritage Center, and The Bates Mill. Event sessions were focused around the five Cultural Plan priorities: arts investment, awareness, K-12 education, cultural tourism, and strengthening agency capacity.

Inclusion of New Brunswick delegates to this event was very important, especially in the forums relating to cultural equity, arts and tourism intersections, and models for developing strong community arts organizations. New Brunswick participants included Bryanne Thomas from The Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery, Julie Whitenect from ArtsLink NB, and Melanie Deveau from New Brunswick Department of Tourism Heritage and Culture.



Top: MICA postcard. **Middle:** Bourassa Dance Company. **Bottom:** Idea Lab panel discussion.

Contemporary Currents

The *Contemporary Currents* exhibit was the result of a partnership between the University of Maine Museum of Art, and the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage & Culture. New Brunswick has a dedicated history of supporting the professional development of artists and the majority of works featured in this exhibition were acquired for the NB collection as part of its long-standing Art Bank program.



Contemporary Currents: Nine New Brunswick Artists. This exhibit featured a diversity of creative approaches and genres—from representational to conceptual—by artists from throughout New Brunswick. Also varied was the wide range of media in the exhibition, including ceramic, photography, oil painting, assemblage, mixed media, sculpture, and printing processes. The works in *Contemporary Currents* underscore the pluralist nature of contemporary art across the globe. Like the briskly moving currents of

divergent thoughts winding through today's art world, these artists offered multiple points of view on the complex nature of contemporary artistic practice. Primary exhibitions sponsors included Machias Savings Bank and the Maine Arts Commission

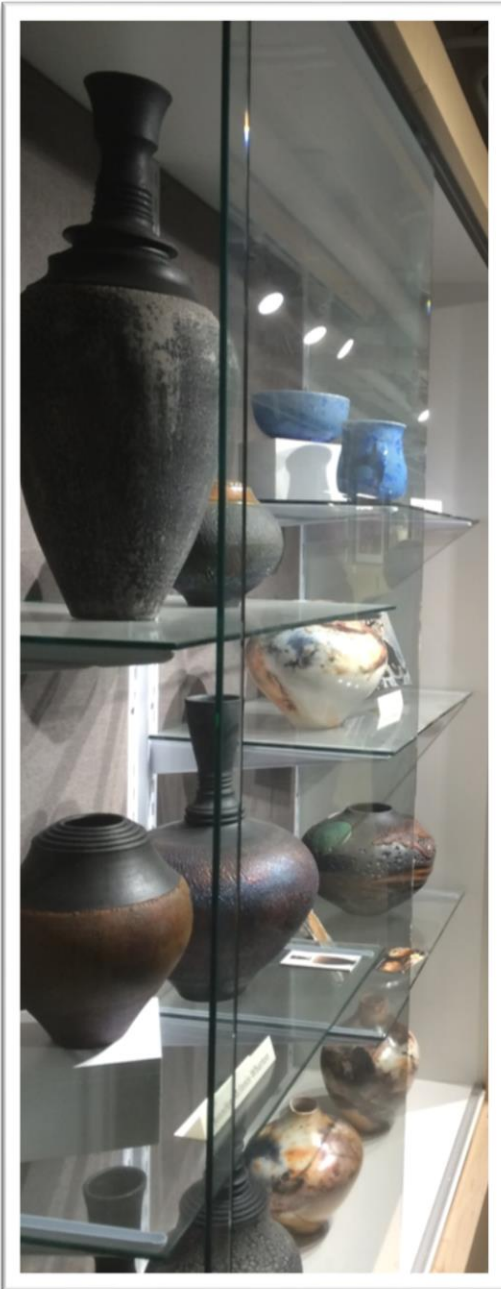
Featured artists include Erik Edson, Darren Emenau, Mathieu Léger, Neil Rough, Stephen Scott, Anne-Marie Sirois, Dan Steeves, Anna Torma and Istvan Zsako.



On a Silver Platter / Sur un plateau d'argent Mathieu Léger, Part of the 2016 UMMA *Contemporary Currents* exhibition

2016 January Meeting / NB College of Craft and Design

The January 2016 Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Task Force meeting took place on the campus of the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design and included a campus tour. The meeting featured guest speaker Brent Rourke, a woodcarver whose fine craft business is located in the rural community of Bloomfield NB. In this meeting it was decided to maintain a commitment with tourism and the Two Nation Vacation through 2016, but also to explore initiatives that could help connect Franco populations within the region and also improve networks between craft artists.



Guest speaker Laurie Gillis, Executive Director of Atlantic Presenters Association (APA), spoke about APA block-booking, network connections, professional development, relationship building, and the Contact East Conference that her organization coordinates.

Janic Godin, Executive Director of La Société Nationale de l'Acadie, spoke about the ways Acadian and Francophone youth were encouraged to be engaged and how this led to the establishment of a youth federation in Louisiana (based on the NB model that was also a success in NL, PEI and NS).

The Fédération des jeunes francophones du N-B (FJFNB) has experience with youth exchanges through Parks Canada and Canadian Heritage at historic sites. There is the potential for increased collaborations and sharing of knowledge at all levels, including between NB, Québec and France, as well as Louisiana. These networks could help build connections in Maine and New England.

Mitch Thomas of the Maine Franco Centre in Lewiston, Maine spoke about strengthening ties with the NB Francophone community through the Center's children's festival; and how programming events that include new immigrants from the Great Lakes region in Africa, as well as Quebec and the local Celtic community has been successful. He welcomed the opportunity to bring community members to NB for day trips.

2016 September Meeting / Contemporary Currents

The September 2016 Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Task Force meeting took place at Co-Space in Bangor Maine. It was held in conjunction with the opening reception for the Creative Currents exhibit at the University of Maine Museum of Art. The meeting featured guests Susan Pinet of the University of Maine Franco American Centre; George Kinghorn, Director/Curator, University of Maine Museum of Art; and Neil Rough, a New Brunswick artist.

Arts Policy discussed at this meeting included the Maine Art Commission's 2015-2020 Cultural Plan and priorities, including leveraging additional investment in the arts from the current amount of \$0.50 - 0.67/per capita to at least the national average of \$1.11 per capita. Nathalie Dubois spoke about New Brunswick's Cultural Policy 2015 and a budget increase of \$5M over three years to support implementation. The Premier's Status of the Artist Task Force which is currently studying the socioeconomic situation of NB professional artists will report in Winter 2017 on issues such as taxation affecting artists, copyright, work relations, and other topics.

Curator George Kinghorn, Director of the University of Maine Museum of Art spoke about the collaboration between the Museum and the NB Art Bank being a good fit for the two organizations.

Guests from the Franco-American Centre at the University of Maine spoke about the challenges for the Francophone community in Maine. The goal for the Centre is support for Franco Americans and ensuring space for Franco Americans into the future. Issues that were identified include the generational divide between French and non-French speakers, the threat of assimilation, cultural identity issues - including the fact that Franco Americans are not recognized as an entity of the population, and the ethnic reality of living in a minority experience without official/cultural recognition.



BACK: Lisa Michaud, Hugh French, Susan Pinet, Caroline Walker, Megan Mainwaring, Neil Rough, Julie Horn, Gillian Dykeman. **FRONT:** Gilles Arseneault, Tony Brinkley, Nathalie Dubois, Julie Richard.

5. Other Information

2016: Task Force was featured in National Assembly of State Arts Agencies November newsletter

“Since the 2010 launch of the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Initiative, the Maine Arts Commission (MAC) has worked to foster its goals of increasing cross-border business, cultural tourism and cultural exchange. Notably, MAC has supported the initiative’s Cultural Exchange Task Force, which consists of arts professionals from both sides of the U.S.-Canada border and has undertaken artist residences, exhibitions, performance tours and convenings. Additionally, MAC’s international arts webpage features a number of resources that facilitate relationships between artists, arts organizations, arts audiences and other cultural stakeholders based in the U.S. and Canada. Specifically, the page offers details on traveling to Maine, the location of U.S. customs offices and how to cross the U.S.-Canada border. It also addresses U.S. visa requirements for foreign artists working in the country, the steps in contracting performing artists from abroad and the process of withholding federal taxes applicable to their artist fees. Finally, MAC produced the 2016 Maine International Conference on the Arts, which included many Canadian delegates and focused on the intersections of creativity, industry, art, and innovation”.

Maine visits by Canadians: 1,124,000

Maine vacation spending by Canadians: \$398 million

Canadian government data 2015

Task Force Overview Documents

At the start of the calendar year, a Task Force Overview is created to provide information and structure for the pending meetings. This document is updated when necessary during the year as membership changes or meetings get rescheduled. Included are copies of overview documents created in January 2015 and January 2016.

2015 Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Initiative Taskforce Overview

Taskforce Mission

The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce was formed in 2010 as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cultural Relations between the state of Maine and the province of New Brunswick. The primary directive of the taskforce is to undertake five tasks outlined in the MOU.

- Examine any manner of simplifying and streamlining border-crossing processes for artists, performers, cultural institutions, and creative businesses.
- Explore the potential of enhancing the exchange of cultural information.
- Explore the potential for collaborative cross-border cultural projects.
- Identify possible new and/or expanded cross-border business and/or cultural tourism opportunities.
- Explore the differences and similarities between approaches to the creative economy and creative communities in Maine and New Brunswick to assess how successes may be mirrored.

Taskforce Operations

The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce will meet annually to confirm membership and to discuss initiatives within the following guidelines:

- There will be no more than twenty and no fewer than six members serving on the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce.
- There must be at least three representatives from Maine and three representatives from New Brunswick serving on the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce at all times.
- The Task Force membership may be supplemented by additional representatives from each jurisdiction to help address a particular Task Force focus. Generally these representatives will participate for a year*.
- The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce shall create an annual report of Task Force activities, to be produced by the two jurisdictions on a rotating basis.
- The Task Force will meet in person at least once a year and remotely on a regular basis (every 6 -8 weeks). Hosting of remote and in-person meetings will be shared between the two jurisdictions on a rotating basis.

Taskforce Membership and Schedule for 2015

Unless otherwise agreed upon, meetings for 2015 will take place remotely at 9am (Eastern Standard Time) 10:00 am (Atlantic Standard Time) every six – 8 weeks.

January 22	In-person annual meeting
February 26	Conference call
April 16	Conference call
May 28	Conference call
July 09	Conference call
August 20	Conference call
October 01	Conference call
November 12	Conference call
December 24	Cancelled

	Member	Organization		Location	Email
Maine Members 2015	Julie Richard	Maine Arts Commission	Government	Augusta	julie.richard@maine.gov
	Kerstin Gilg	Maine Arts Commission	Government	Augusta	kerstin.gilg@maine.gov
	Hugh French	Tides Institute	Museum	Eastport	hrench@tidesinstitute.org
	Julie Horn	Maine Arts Commission	Government	Augusta	julie.horn@maine.gov
	Paul Benjamin	North Atlantic Blues Festival	Music Festival	Rockland	bluesman@midcoast.com
	Jennifer Hutchins	Live Work Portland	Service Org	Portland	jennifer@creativeportland.com
	Heather Sincavage	University of Maine Presque Isle	University	Presque Isle	heather.sincavage@umpl.edu
	John Hutchinson	Eaton Peabody	Law	Augusta	jhutchinson@eatonpeabody.com
Scott Mohler	One Longfellow Square	Venue	Portland	scott@one-longfellow-square.com	
New Brunswick Members 2015 *2015-16*	Nathalie Dubois Caroline Walker *Jane Matthews-Clark	Arts and Cultural Industries, Tourism, Heritage and Culture	Government	Fredericton	Nathalie.dubois@gnb.ca Caroline.Walker@gnb.ca Jane.Matthews-Clark@gnb.ca
	Akoulina Connell	NB Arts Board (ArtsNB)	Service Org	Fredericton	execdir@nbartsnb.ca
	Christine Lavoie	Société Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA)	Service Org	Dieppe	christine.lavoie@sna.ca
	Marco Morency	Société Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA)	Service Org	Dieppe	Marco.morency@sna.ca
	Megan Mainwaring Jane Fullerton	New Brunswick Museum	Museum	Saint John	Jane.Fullerton@nbm-mnb.ca megan.mainwaring@nbm-mnb.ca
	Jean-Pierre Caissie	Association acadienne des artistes professionnels du N-B (AAAPNB)	Service Org	Moncton	Jeanpierre.caissie@aaapnb.ca
	Kate Wallace	ArtslinkNB	Service Org	Saint John	katewallace@artslinknb.com
	Guy Tremblay Bill Hicks	Heritage Branch, Tourism, Heritage and Culture	Government	Fredericton	Guy.tremblay@gnb.ca Bill.Hicks@gnb.ca
	*Margaret MacKenzie	Sales & Advertising Tourism, Heritage and Culture	Government		margaret.mackenzie@gnb.ca

2016 Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Initiative Taskforce Overview

Taskforce Mission

The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce was formed in 2010 as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cultural Relations between the state of Maine and the province of New Brunswick. The primary directive of the taskforce is to undertake five tasks outlined in the MOU.

- Examine any manner of simplifying and streamlining border-crossing processes for artists, performers, cultural institutions, and creative businesses.
- Explore the potential of enhancing the exchange of cultural information.
- Explore the potential for collaborative cross-border cultural projects.
- Identify possible new and/or expanded cross-border business and/or cultural tourism opportunities.
- Explore the differences and similarities between approaches to the creative economy and creative communities in Maine and New Brunswick and assess how successes may be mirrored.

Taskforce Operations

The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce will meet annually to confirm membership and to discuss initiatives within the following guidelines:

- There will be no more than twenty and no fewer than six members serving on the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce.
- There must be at least three representatives from Maine and three representatives from New Brunswick serving on the Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce at all times.
- The Task Force membership may be supplemented by additional representatives from each jurisdiction to help address a particular Task Force focus. Generally these representatives will participate for a year and be given the title of *Advisor*.
- The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Taskforce shall create an annual report of Task Force activities, to be produced by the two jurisdictions on a rotating basis.
- The Task Force will meet in person at least once a year and remotely on a regular basis (every 6 to 8 weeks). Hosting of remote and in-person meetings will be shared between the two jurisdictions on a rotating basis.

Taskforce Membership and Schedule for 2016

Unless otherwise agreed upon, conference call meetings will take place at 9am (Eastern Standard Time) 10:00 am (Atlantic Standard Time) at 6 week intervals.

- **January 22** – Meeting in Fredericton with a focus on NB School of Craft and Design.
- **July 20** – Meeting in Madawaska/Edmundston with a focus on border communities, Franco populations, and Maine Arts Commission board.
- **October TBD** - Meeting in conjunction with the Maine International Conference on the Arts.

January 22	In-person (Fredericton)
February 4	Canceled
March 17	Conference call
April 28	Conference call
June 09	Conference call
July 20	In-person (near border)
September 01	Conference call
September 22	Delegation (Saint John)
October (6-7 or 13-14)	In-person (Lewiston)
November 11	Delegation (Moncton)

Other meeting opportunities include a September 22 delegation at the Contact East conference and (Saint John) and a November 11 delegation at the Francofête en Acadie (Moncton).

**Task Force on Cultural Initiative
Groupe de travail sur les initiatives culturelles
2016 MEMBRES / MEMBERS 2016**

	Member	Organization		Location	Email
2016 Maine Members/ Membres du Maine	Julie Richard	Maine Arts Commission	Government	Augusta	julie.richard@maine.gov
	Kerstin Glig	Maine Arts Commission	Government	Augusta	kerstin.glig@maine.gov
	Hugh French	Tides Institute	Museum	Eastport	hfrench@tidesinstitute.org
	Julie Horn	Maine Arts Commission	Government	Augusta	julie.horn@maine.gov
	Paul Benjamin	North Atlantic Blues Festival	Music Festival	Rockland	bluesman@midcoast.com
	Jennifer Hutchins	Creative Portland	Service Org	Portland	jennifer@creativeportland.com
	Heather Sincavage	University of Maine Presque Isle	University	Presque Isle	heather.sincavage@umpl.edu

2016 New Brunswick Members/ Membres du N.B.	Nathalie Dubois	Arts and Cultural Industries, Tourism, Heritage and Culture	Government	Fredericton	Nathalie.dubois@qnb.ca
	Caroline Walker Michel Bérubé	Arts and Cultural Industries, Tourism, Heritage and Culture	Government	Fredericton	Caroline.Walker@qnb.ca Michel.Berube@qnb.ca
	Joss Richer	NB Arts Board (ArtsNB)	Public Arts Funder	Fredericton	execdirgen@artsnb.ca
	Christine Lavoie	Société Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA)	Service Org	Dieppe	christine.lavoie@snacadie.org
	Janic Godin	Société Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA)	Service Org	Dieppe	janic.godin@snacadie.org
	Megan Mainwaring Jane Fullerton	New Brunswick Museum	Museum	Saint John	Jane.Fullerton@nbm-mnb.ca megan.mainwaring@nbm-mnb.ca
	Jean-Pierre Caissie	Association acadienne des artistes professionnels du N-B (AAAPNB)	Service Org	Moncton	Jeanpierre.caissie@aaapnb.ca
	Gillian Dykeman	ArtslinkNB	Service Org	Saint John	Gillian@artslinknb.com
	Guy Tremblay Bill Hicks	Heritage Branch, Tourism, Heritage and Culture	Government	Fredericton	Guy.Tremblay@qnb.ca Bill.Hicks@qnb.ca

2016 Taskforce Advisors/ Consultants	Rose Arsenault	Media Relations (THC)	Government	Fredericton	Rose.Arsenault@qnb.ca
	Margaret MacKenzie	Sales & Advertising (THC)	Government	Fredericton	margaret.mackenzie@qnb.ca
	Jane Matthews-Clark	Arts and Cultural Industries (THC)	Government	Fredericton	Jane.Matthews-Clark@qnb.ca
	Carolann Ouellette	Maine Office of Tourism	Government	Augusta	carolann.ouellette@maine.gov
	Abbe Levin	Acadian Archives UMFK	University	Fort Kent	lise.m.pelletier@maine.edu
	Lise Pelletier				
Mitch Thomas	Franco-American Center	Service Org	Lewiston	mthomas@francocenter.org	

6. Conclusion

The Maine-New Brunswick Cultural Task Force continued to be a valuable asset in developing arts and culture for both jurisdictions through 2015 and 2016.

Connectivity between the Franco creative populations of the region continues to be difficult, however very positive connections with tourism entities and between craft leaders were highlights within this timeframe. The University of Maine Museum of Art/ NB ArtBank exhibit Contemporary Currents (September to December) ended 2016 on a high note.

The Task Force and stakeholders on both sides of the border continue to contribute to the development of cultural networks in Maine and New Brunswick. These networks continue to strengthen and are assisted by the Task Force being a reliable representative for the arts, as part in the culture sector, and as part of ongoing international discussions.

