

Creative enterprises and individuals contribute significantly to local and regional economies, fueling other sectors of the economy in unique ways. As applications of this creative economy concept have increased, it has become more difficult to identify the organizations and individuals that can accurately be considered part of this economic sector. Representatives from a leading organization in this arena, New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), will lead a dialogue and share experiences from a 30-year history of creative economy work. We'll talk about NEFA's recommended definition of the creative economy and how it can be applied to local efforts.

The creative economy encompasses creative nonprofits, businesses and professionals that together provide a significant contribution to local and regional economies by producing and distributing cultural goods and services.

NEFA's current creative economy work includes *The Creative Economy: A New Definition*, a research report with a special focus on refining the definitional framework used to collect creative economy data. Additionally, NEFA provides reports on the nonprofit component of the creative economy, and web-based tools such as CultureCount: New England's Cultural Database for use by cultural organizations, arts policy makers, economic development officials, and the general public in addition to the state arts agencies.

#### [\*The Creative Economy: A New Definition - November 2007\*](#)

This report includes a definition of cultural enterprise and cultural worker categories from widely available U.S. federal data sources; protocol for measuring these categories; data on cultural enterprise employment in each state of New England and data and demographics on cultural workers in each state of New England.

#### [Highlights from \*The Creative Economy: A New Definition\*](#)

#### [\*Creative Economy Research in New England: A Reexamination - March 2006\*](#)

This white paper examines the definition of the creative economy developed in the Creative Economy Initiative report: "The Role of Arts and Culture in New England's Economic Competitiveness," released in 2000 by NEFA, Mt. Auburn Associates and The New England Council, as well as subsequent approaches advanced in the U.S. and abroad.

[CultureCount](#), New England's Cultural Database ([www.culturecount.org](http://www.culturecount.org)), is NEFA's online resource for engaging New England's creative economy sector. This searchable, organization-level compilation of data is the only comprehensive and consistent data collection resource for New England's cultural nonprofits, businesses and professionals. Constantly being updated and expanded, CultureCount's local data supplements the federal data analyzed by NEFA in research reports on the creative sector and fits within the definitional structure outlined in *The Creative Economy: A New Definition*, 2007.