



DELAWARE
ARTS
ALLIANCE

State of CREATE: One Year of Momentum Across Delaware's Creative Economy



Image © Emir Lake

The Creative Economy Advancement & Tourism Expansion (CREATE) Plan engages Delawareans in shaping a shared vision for a thriving, inclusive, and interconnected creative economy. Developed by the Delaware Arts Alliance with input from over 600 residents from all walks of life, the CREATE Plan is the first of its kind in the nation and offers 25 actionable recommendations. Since its unveiling in summer 2024, the plan's impact is already beginning to take shape across the state.

See highlights from the first year of the CREATE Plan and share your story of progress in Delaware's creative economy: [DELAWAREARTSALLIANCE.ORG/STATEOFCREATE](https://delawareartsalliance.org/stateofcreate)



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Progress on the CREATE Plan can come from anywhere. State leaders, local governments, arts organizations, and individual artists all have a role to play in advancing Delaware's creative economy.

Legislators Advance Arts Policy and Funding

The General Assembly's Arts and Culture Caucus is turning recommendations into action. Working with DAA and advocates, this bipartisan group has helped secure increased state funding for the arts and advanced policy exploring creative career pathways.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendations 13 and 17

New Employment Model Provides Artists Fair Pay

OperaDelaware introduced a new salaried artist model, offering a stable income, health benefits, and housing support. The program, which has drawn national attention, is expanding performances and community outreach while showing how artists can be treated as professionals.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendation 7

State Explores Creative Career Pathways for Students

Senate Concurrent Resolution 109 is an important first step toward better connecting career and technical education and the arts in Delaware schools. The state is laying groundwork for a stronger workforce and keeping young talent in Delaware through better pathways to jobs in the creative economy.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendations 16 and 17

Legend:

- State Government
- Local Government
- Arts Organizations and Artists
- Schools

New Exhibition Highlights Legacy of Artist Workers

The Delaware Art Museum is preparing *Citizen Artist*, an exhibition that honors the legacy of artist workers in America. From the New Deal to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, a U.S. Department of Labor workforce development program, the show highlights how public investment has sustained creative careers, lessons that remain urgent today.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendation 5 and 7

Investment and Partnerships Create New Arts Opportunities

Through initiatives like Creative Aging and CreatiVeterans, Delaware Division of the Arts is showing how investment and cross-sector partnerships strengthen Delaware's creative economy. These programs support veterans and older adults, expand access statewide, and create new opportunities for teaching artists.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendation 13

Arts and Tourism Thrive, Especially in Sussex County

Arts organizations like Freeman Arts Pavilion and Clear Space Theatre are proving Delaware is more than a beach destination. Their work is attracting visitors from across the country, fueling tourism, and enriching community life year-round.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendations 9, 10, and 11

Public Arts Commission Launched in New Castle County

New Castle County has launched its first Public Arts Commission, fueled by dedicated revenue generated (1% of county capital projects.) The commission is driving revenue for the creative sector, strengthening cultural tourism, and fostering a stronger sense of community identity.

Advances CREATE Plan Recommendations 10 and 12

Explore the Updated Asset Map

The CREATE Plan's interactive online asset map has been enhanced with American Community Survey data that now show creative assets in relation to household income, education, race, and transportation routes. These additions make it an even stronger resource for identifying opportunities and fostering collaboration statewide.

View the map: DELAWAREARTSALLIANCE.ORG/ASSETMAP

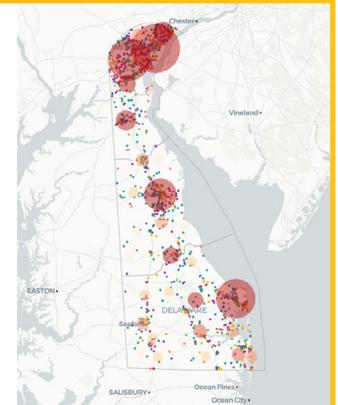


Image © Emir Lake



LEARN MORE

Explore these stories of progress from across Delaware in more depth, including video interviews with involved leaders.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Help DAA communicate other progress and impact underway.

GET INVOLVED

Help the CREATE Plan continue moving from vision to reality.

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