

BBER REPORT: BUILDING ON THE PAST, FACING THE FUTURE: RENEWING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Source: UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER). 2014¹

The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) commissioned report, *Building on the Past, Facing the Future: Renewing the Creative Economy*, quantifies the current economic impact of arts and cultural industries in New Mexico and identifies challenges and key opportunities.

The study, conducted by the UNM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), reveals a \$5.6 billion impact on the state's economy and challenges business, government and non-profit sectors to harness strengths and address key shortfalls to fully realize economic potential.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 7. Support the implementation of the Fine Arts Education Act (5.4 Arts and Cultural Education Engagement, p. 182-183)

State officials should implement strategies to ensure the application of the 2003 Fine Arts Education Act (FAEA) in elementary schools. Specifically, the Public Education Department should create a professional staff with specific responsibility for the administration of the fine arts program. This staff should:

- Ensure that school districts and charter schools that receive FAEA funding demonstrate compliance with the program budgetary guidelines.
- Offer more opportunities, easier access and incentives for engaging in fine arts education training and networking for fine arts educators and administrators, and those involved in the assessment of arts programs.
- Expand FAEA to middle and high school students.

Recommendation 8. Develop culturally relevant curriculum and inter-cultural teaching strategies (p. 184)

We recommend that the Department of Cultural Affairs work with the Public Education Department (PED) and Higher Education Department (HED) to better prepare educators to teach in New Mexico's culturally diverse classrooms. It must be acknowledged that this issue is beyond the scope of the present study and the bounds of DCA's administrative responsibilities. However, this was a reoccurring theme in interviewing artists and cultural workers in New Mexico and should be addressed. Initiatives may include:

- Teacher training programs, including workshops, to develop a better understanding of cultural norms among New Mexico's populations. These workshops may assist teachers in understanding the cultural perceptions that effect student learning.
- Support of teachers in guiding inter-cultural dialog, including the use of cultural narratives that arise in the classroom to facilitate discussion and understanding.
- Promotion of community-engagement programs linked educational curriculum to demonstrate the relevance of academic work and to encourage cultural dialog.
- Development of curriculum based upon local history and culture that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards

¹ <http://www.newmexicoculture.org/about/cultures-impact>