

Mapping New England

Potential for Arts-Based Economic Development

Number of Arts-Based Businesses and Median Household Income, by County

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2007 Economic Census, there are 23,433 businesses—employing at least that many independent artists, writers, and performers—and 9,130 performing arts businesses nationwide.* New England is home to nearly 1,000 of these arts-based establishments. A high index of arts-based business establishments in a given location could signify the presence of a broader arts network. High indices of businesses in these two arts-based categories are found in major metropolitan areas such as Suffolk County, Massachusetts. A significant arts-based industry is also apparent in Providence County despite its relatively small size and moderate median household income.

