



Highlands Creative Economy Council
Monthly Meeting
May 25th, 2023, at 10 am
[Link to recording](#)

Thursday, May 25th at 10 am (ZOOM)

Minutes:

- Eastern updates
 - [Upcoming Agricultural Trainings](#) – Stockmanship and Stewardship, June 16 8:00-4:00 pm; [Meat Processors HACCP Training](#) - July 12 & 13
 - To enroll in agricultural trainings please email, aginnovation@easternwv.edu & if you have specific questions feel free to email megan.webb@easternwv.edu
 - [Farm to Table Diner](#) - June 28 at Misty Mountain Event Barn
 - [Potomac Highlands Producers](#) boxes available
 - More info on grantwriting course coming soon
- AFNHA updates
 - Welcome to our new Board members Robert Burns and Rexana McCourt. Thanks to everyone who attended our annual Stakeholder Meeting.
 - [Grant Program](#) – We will be accepting applications for \$1,000-\$20,000 asks with 100% match (cash or in-kind). We invite applicants to begin work on proposals now. Formal application portal will to be open in mid-June for sub-grant applications to be due in mid-July. Project timeline is 1 year from Sept 2023 – Sept 2024.
 - Will not be allowed to grant or sub-grant to for-profit businesses. We are glad to help organizations with applications if you are not familiar with the grant process. Please reach out with questions.
 - [America 250 in the Appalachian Forest](#) – will commemorate the semiquincentennial of the founding of America through sharing the stories of the people, communities, and places that have shaped our region.
 - Partners are encouraged to participate through: Submission of stories for the AFNHA America250 blog; Developing projects to tell your America250 story.
 - Tourism Summit – Planned for early August in western Maryland. The main meeting will be either Wednesday, August 2nd or Thursday, 3rd.
 - [Job openings](#) –
 - Programs Manager to coordinate programs such as visitor surveys, Pollinator Initiative and other AmeriCorps Projects; Administrative Manager; Executive

Director to replace Phyllis, ideally with development experience or familiarity with NHAs. Also looking for AmeriCorps Members.

- Featured Discussion - Future of HCE
 - Please take our preliminary survey [HERE](#). What do we want to see in the program going forward, particularly what we might want to include in our next grant application to the Benedum Foundation? We want your feedback and suggestions!
 - Additional trainings could include - Could include public speaking, history and ecology, etc.
 - Fam tours – Would we want familiarization tours for “front-line” tourism staff to learn about attractions beyond their own community?
- Attendee Discussion / Extended Networking –
 - Tracy McCoy (Summersville CVB) - Coming up in Nicholas County we have the 3rd Mountain Made Makers Market on June 2nd & 3rd at the Summersville Lake Retreat, Summersville Community Yard Sale and Craft Show at the Summersville Arena & Conference Center, and the WV Hellbender Hootenanny, a motorsports ride that benefits graduating seniors across Nicholas County. More info at www.summersvillecvb.com
 - Amber Higgins (Barbour Co. Development Authority) - Blue & Grey Reunion will be June 1-4. Growing music scene thanks to open mics at Molly’s Ice Cream (every Wednesday), jams at Mountaintop Music Shop, and summer concert series Thursdays at Courthouse. Belington Sweet Treats Festival June 24.
 - Robert Johnson – Music Fridays in Richwood starting in June, and Summersville has live music weekends in the summer.
 - Sam Felton (Town of Marlinton) - Marlinton does First Friday music and events at Discovery Junction Stage. Everyone is welcome.
 - Alexandria Fliegel (Webster County CVB) – This weekend is the southeastern championship Woodchopping Festival.
 - Robert Johnson - Specifically targeted for members associated with the forest industry, there will be a Forestry Forum on June 6 at the Arena and Conference Center in Summersville. Send me email if You have interest at: atcsco@gmail.com
- Save The Date! The next meeting is **June 22nd, 2023**, at 10 AM on Zoom.
 - Zoom Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86099367281>

This will be an open discussion; everyone is welcome.

Can grant program cover film expenses? Does the film fit our themes/mission/organization?
Would the costs covered be for a for-profit business?