

FUNDY OR SOUND

Heather McHugh, March 2014
In honor of Dot and Harlan Gardner,
who do the work of love, and share
the wealth of it.

"Fundy or Sound," by Heather McHugh, American poet and MacArthur Fellow, on the U.S./Canada border theme (Passamaquoddy Bay to Puget Sound), commissioned by the Tides Institute and Museum of Art, Eastport, Maine, designed and printed by Andrew Steeves of Gaspereau Press, Kentville, Nova Scotia in an edition of 300 to be released Fall 2014.

Maine-New Brunswick
Memorandum of Understanding
on Cultural Initiative Task Force

October 2014

PHASE 3 REPORT

New Brunswick
Canada



This report is dedicated to the memory of David Umholtz (1943-2014), an artist whose life and career demonstrate that mutual understanding between countries can be enhanced through the arts.

Born and educated in Pennsylvania, David's career as an artist, master printer, teacher, mentor, and arts activist encompassed both Canada and the United States. He was a leader in encouraging the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick.



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Introduction

This report, the third in the series, highlights cross-border collaborations, partnerships and information-sharing on the culture and arts sectors in Maine and New Brunswick as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick that was signed in 2010.

Reflecting the spirit of cooperation, shared experiences and mutual appreciation that has grown and developed over the past three years, the members of the Maine-New Brunswick MOU Task Force have worked together to enhance and support development of the arts and culture in both jurisdictions.

Background

Establishment of the MOU and Task Force

The Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick was signed in July 2010 by the former Premier of New Brunswick, the Honourable Shawn Graham and the former Governor of the State of Maine, Governor John Baldacci with the mandate to “Enhance the Mutual Benefits of Maine/New Brunswick Cultural Relations through the Establishment of a Maine/New Brunswick Cultural Initiative”.

A Task Force was established with representatives from arts and cultural organizations in Maine and New Brunswick and administered by representatives of the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture (then Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport) and the Maine Arts Commission. The initial goals of the Task Force were to undertake a series of tasks, namely to examine ways to streamline border-crossing processes for artists, performers and cultural institutions; to explore potential for enhancing the exchange of cultural information; to explore the potential for collaborative cross-border cultural projects; to identify possible new and /or expanded cross-border business and/or cultural

tourism opportunities; and to explore differences and similarities to the creative economy in Maine and New Brunswick to assess how successes may be mirrored.

Both the Phase I Report (December 2010) and the Phase 2 Report (October 2011) encompass reviews of the status of priorities and possibilities outlined in the original agreement. The first two reports summarize work undertaken to identify common principles to guide increased cultural exchanges between Maine and New Brunswick. Each Report identifies steps taken during 2010 and 2011 and explores the tangible initiatives being considered or implemented following a year of cross-border cultural partnerships between Maine and New Brunswick.

Since then, the Task Force has continued its regular schedule of annual meetings, telephone meetings at six week intervals, and a special mid-term meeting (January 2014), while also pursuing the goals and objectives outlined in the original document. Even more important, a series of collaborative exchanges, joint projects and shared initiatives demonstrate the success of the collaboration and the ongoing work of the Task Force. These joint efforts are outlined in this document.

“
*Enhance the mutual
benefits of Maine/New
Brunswick cultural
relations through the
establishment of a
Maine/New Brunswick
Cultural Initiative.*”





New Brunswick / Maine Creative Residency Program, 2012

Organized by the New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb) and the Maine Arts Commission, Maine artist Shoshanna White took part in a residency at the Swallowtail Light in Grand Manan, New Brunswick during the summer of 2012, while New Brunswick artist Mathieu Léger participated in a residency at the Bakery Photographic Collective in Westbrook, Maine in the winter and spring of 2013. The artists reflected on the impact of the residency experience on their work and on the local and artistic communities in the two countries.



Shoshanna White | Undercurrent 5.26.14 – 7.6.14

Swallowtail Light House, Grand Manan, New Brunswick

www.shoshannahwhite.com

The Maine/New Brunswick Residency Program was an incredible gift which allowed me an unprecedented amount of time to create work in a breathtaking part of the world while connecting with a new community of people and a number of institutions. This program was pivotal in my development as an artist... In addition to connecting with a new community of friends, I was able to connect professionally with numerous people and institutions including the Grand Manan Art Gallery, the Grand Manan Museum, the NB Arts Board, The Swallowtail Keeper's Society, and Canadian artists as well as American artists with connections to Canada...

During this residency, I was able to develop a new body of work which will continue well beyond my stay. I've since had an exhibition at the Grand Manan Art Gallery and have two additional exhibitions lined up to show this growing series. Recently, I accepted a three week residency on a tall ship to the Arctic Circle in 2014 from the International Territory of Svalberg which would not have been possible without the Maine-New Brunswick Residency Fund. ~ Shoshanna White



*Mathieu Léger, Discussing Acadian Exile and Kingdom with Longfellow
Action (Performance @ 43° 39' 11" N / 70° 16' 01" W)
Dimension and duration variable, 02013*

Mathieu Léger | Methodologies for Tourists - Maine

Bakery Photographic Collective, Westbrook, Maine

zarbes.blogspot.ca/p/mft.html

First, I would like to state that Artist Residencies provide undisturbed time to observe, research, and create new bodies of work, while disrupting the stability of an artist's comfort level enough to see anew and refocus. Residencies provide networking opportunities for future exchanges and new partnerships that promote a continuous evolution of one's art practice. The artist engages local communities on multiple levels while in residence. This, in turn, provides the artist with new critical discourses upon returning to their own community.

The artist residency at Bakery Photographic Collective, made possible by the New Brunswick Arts Board's New Brunswick/Maine Creative Residency Program, was a pivotal moment for my work. The residency provided me with time to explore the relationship between my performance research and my photographic practice in the context of cultural territories and identities... The networking opportunities derived from this residency will continue to fuel projects over time. I still keep regular contact with colleagues from Maine and have been discussing other cultural opportunities for the future. I cannot overstate the benefits associated with artist residencies for my career... Artists are some of the best ambassadors for any nation. ~ Mathieu Léger



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Vorti scope: Camera Obscura, June 2013

In June 2013, the *Camera Obscura* project created by New Brunswick artist Greg Charlton was installed in downtown Eastport, Maine as part of a public art exhibition sponsored by the Tides Institute and Museum of Art and with support from the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. In Eastport, visitors could walk into the *Camera Obscura* structure and see the rotating projected image of surrounding buildings and the nearby waters and islands of Passamaquoddy Bay. During the summer of 2012, *Vorti scope: Camera Obscura* was installed near the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton, NB.

Vorti scope: Camera Obscura by Greg Charlton being installed in Eastport, Maine in May 2013.



Hugh French, Executive Director of the Tides Institute presents the Institute's new studio space in Eastport to members of the Task Force in September 2013. Photo by Gilles Bourque

Annual Task Force meeting Eastport, Maine, September 2013

On September 19, 2013, members of the Maine-NB MOU Task Force met at the Tides Institute and Museum of Art in Eastport, Maine to discuss topics of mutual concern. Three subject areas were explored: enhancing information exchange, enhancing culture, and communications.

With both jurisdictions seeing the need for aggregate information to be circulated on both sides of the border and more work required to enhance information exchanges, the national Cultural Data Project (Maine) and the Culture Satellite Account project (New Brunswick) were discussed. Both projects are gathering accurate statistical data at detailed levels from many jurisdictions to examine, for example, the impact of culture, and economic development and communities.

Discussion also included the Maine Arts Commission's recent MOU with their Department of Education, a positive step to establish a high profile for culture within education. Collaborations and stronger relationships between First Nations and communities were highlighted with both jurisdictions looking to establish networks between leaders and communities.

Maine International Conference on the Arts (MICA), *Strengthen The Core*, October 2014



Organized by the Maine Arts Commission and presented at the University of Maine in Orono from October 24 to 26, 2013, the Maine International Conference on the Arts, *Strengthen The Core*, brought together visual and performing artists, arts and cultural administrators, and educators from the New England States as well as from the Maritimes to share ideas and creativity.

The conference brought together professionals in the fields of community development, cultural connectivity and the arts, and offered development sessions, networking opportunities, artist showcases, and cross discipline collaboration opportunities.

Partners who collaborated with the Maine Arts Commission, the Collins Center for the Arts and the Atlantic Presenters Association

of Canada included Bangor Arts, LA Arts, and Creative Portland, as well as representatives from the North Atlantic Blues Festival, the KahBang Festival, Dispatch Magazine, the Portland Music Foundation, Olin Arts Center and the Maine Department of Education.

Artists and administrators from New Brunswick who presented or showcased at the conference included Jean Surette, Music/Musique NB; Jessica Rhaye and her Band; Tim Yerxa, Fredericton Playhouse and President of the Atlantic Presenters Association; Angela Watson, City of Fredericton; and New Brunswick artist Greg Charlton.



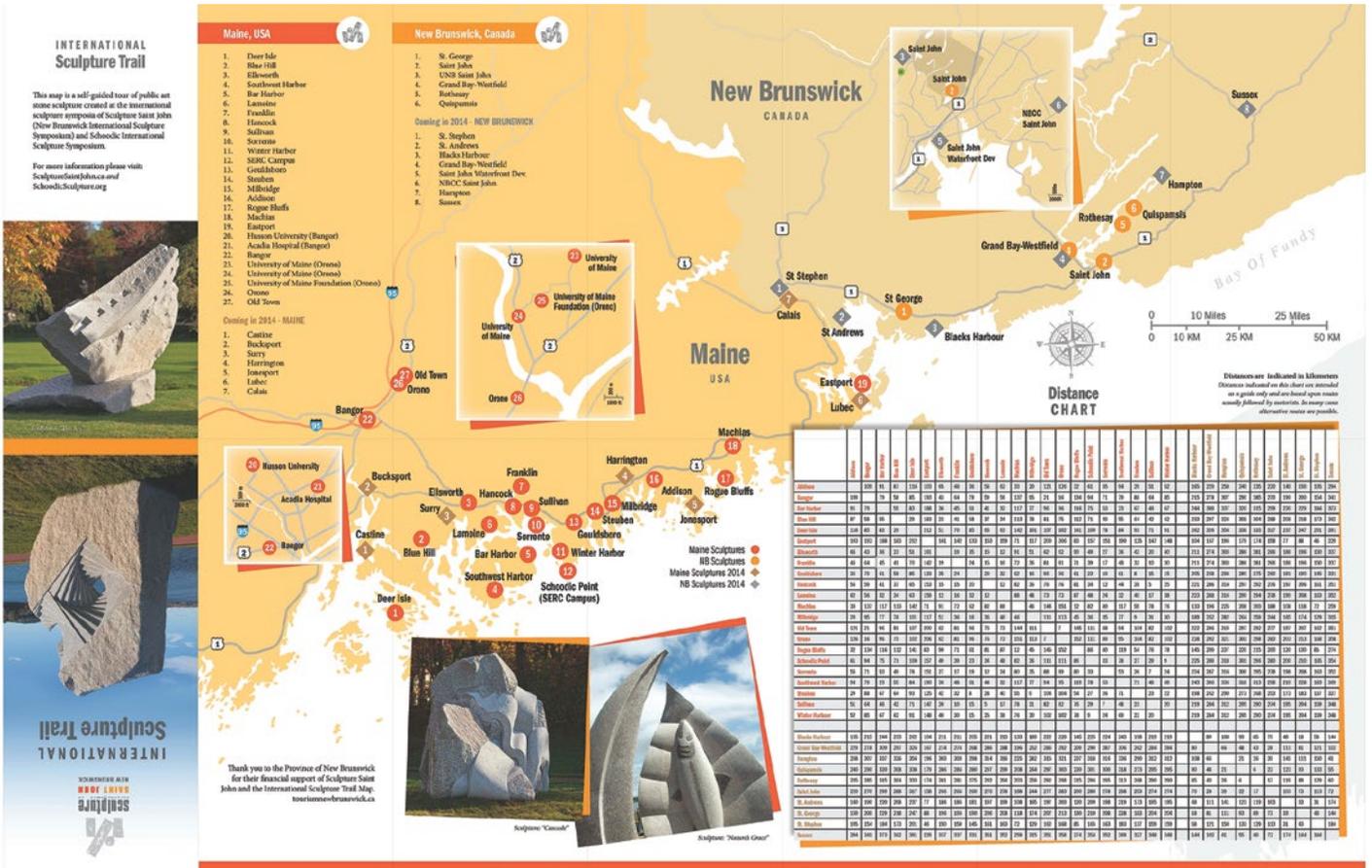


Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium and Saint John International Sculptural Symposium

Since 2007, the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium has brought together a small group of sculptors from around the world to Winter Harbour, Maine, where they spend upwards of six weeks in an artist in residency program creating original large scale sculptures using Maine granite. The six-week symposium provides a stipend, materials and technical support to each artist, in a communal working space open to the public. The finished works are part of a collection that spreads throughout the region. The project is supported through donations from the local communities, general fundraising, grants, and in kind support. <http://schoodicsculpture.org/>

Modelled on the Schoodic Symposium, the Saint John International Sculpture Symposium in Saint John, New Brunswick began in 2011 with 6 sculptors, 5 international and one from New Brunswick, with a second edition that took place in Saint John, NB in August 2014. www.sculpturesaintjohn.com

With four symposia resulting in 27 sculptures in Maine and 12 sculptures in New Brunswick, the two organizations are developing an International Sculpture Trail which will celebrate the sculptures and communities on both sides of the border (below).





Nature's Grace by Jim Boyd of Hampton, New Brunswick was installed at Sutherland Overlook Park, Eastport, Maine in December 2011 as part of the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium.



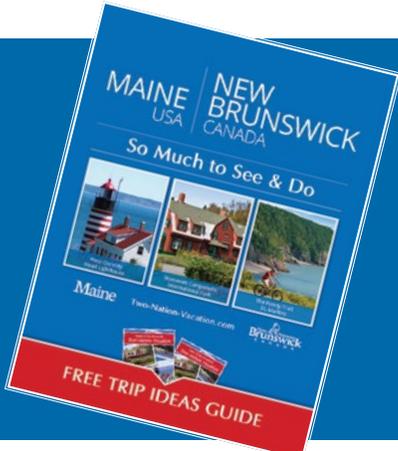


January 2014 Maine-New Brunswick Task Force Meeting, Fredericton, NB

Members of the Maine New Brunswick MOU Task Force and special guests who met in Fredericton, NB in January 2014 to review initiatives included (L to R): Kate Wallace, Executive Director, ArtsLink NB; Nathalie Dubois, Director, Cultural Development Branch, NB Tourism Heritage and Culture (THC); Martine Aubé, Deputy Director, AAAPNB; Justine Korosil, NB Arts Board; Julie Richard, Executive Director, Maine Arts Commission; Kerstin Gilg, Director of Media and Performing Arts, Maine Arts Commission; Bill Hicks, Director, Heritage Branch (THC); Michel Bérubé, Program Officer, Cultural Development Branch (THC); Marco Morency, Assistant Executive Director, SNA; Sandra Jamieson, Assistant Director, Cultural Development Branch (THC); Caroline Walker, Program Officer, Cultural Development Branch (THC), and Christine Lavoie, Cultural Export Manager, Stratégie de promotion des artistes acadiens sur la scène internationale (SPAASI), SNA. Missing from photo are Akoulina Connell, Vanessa Moeller, Jane Fullerton and Hugh French. Photo by Hugh French

Two Nation Vacation - New Brunswick and Maine

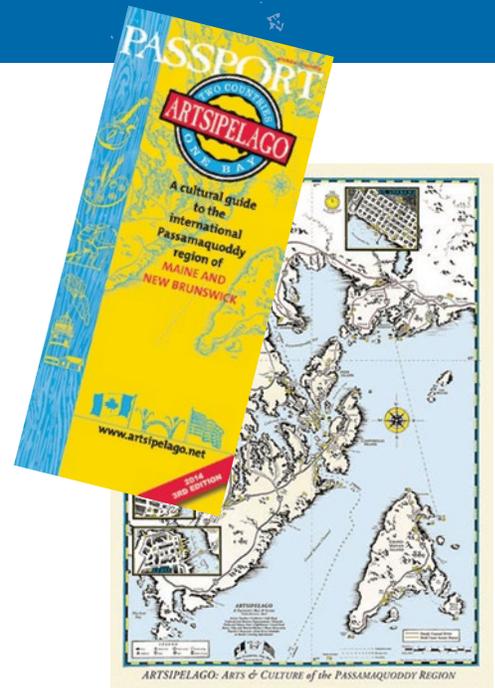
The Two Nation Vacation, a publication highlighting vacation opportunities that was initiated in 2013, is continuing its momentum through collaborations between the State of Maine and New Brunswick's Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.
www.two-nation-vacation.com



Two Countries/One Bay Art Studio Tour

Artsipelago: Two Countries/One Bay cultural guide booklet (2014), a cross-nation studio tour is helping to transform border communities along the Bay of Fundy. www.artsiipelago.net

Initiated, organized and sponsored by the Tides Institute & Museum of Art, Two Countries/One Bay Art Studio Tour is the fifth annual cross-border artist studio tour. Supporters include the Maine Office of Tourism, Tourism New Brunswick, and the Maine Arts Commission. The Tides Institute, a key cultural institution in the Passamaquoddy Bay area, is also responsible for creating the Culture Pass Network and the cultural guide booklet *Artsipelago: Two Countries / One Bay*. For more information, visit www.twocountriesart.com



Eastport Maine Architecture

Celebrated New Brunswick photographer Thaddeus Holownia and New Brunswick architectural historian John Leroux have been supported through a project organized by the Tides Institute and Museum of Art to research and visually record the architectural history of Eastport, Maine with the publication of a guidebook in the near future.

In its role as a cultural resource and catalyst working with a range of partners on both sides of the U.S./Canada border, the Tides Institute focuses on cultural collections, exhibitions, new works, and public and educational programming.



Eastport, Maine Streetscape, 2013
by Thaddeus Holownia



Eastport, Maine Streetscape, 2013 by Thaddeus Holownia



Crossroads International Celtic Festival, Maine, September 2013

A trade mission showcase was organized by La Stratégie de promotion des artistes acadiens sur la scène internationale (SPAASI), a program of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie, featuring Franco-American and Acadian culture at Crossroads International Celtic Festival in September 2013. The festival, supported by the Maine Arts Commission, takes place annually in various communities throughout Western Maine and highlights the international music industry. Crossroads 2013 featured a special collaboration between New Brunswick and Maine, as well as performances by musicians from both countries. For more information about SPAASI, visit: <http://acadie-export.ca>

Songs Without Borders/Chansons au-delà des frontières - Congrès Mondial Acadien/World Acadian Congress, August 17 and 18, 2014

Demonstrating the spirit of commitment and collaboration of the CMA/WAC 2014 and reflecting the international cultural vitality of the host regions of Aroostook, Maine (United States), Témiscouata, Québec, and Madawaska County, New Brunswick, the Maine Arts Commission and the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture jointly presented *Songs Without Borders*, a songwriting circle of professional artists from both countries at a special event during the Congress.

New Brunswick artists Danny Boudreau and Caroline Savoie, along with Maine artists Denny Breau and Josée Vachon performed at l'Université de Moncton's Multimédia Pavillon in Edmundston on August 17th and at the University of Maine's Fox Auditorium in Fort Kent, Maine on August 18th. The four musicians participated in a cabaret-style event where they shared and exchanged personal stories about song-writing and performing with animator Sylvie Martin of Edmundston, NB.



Photo by Julie Horn

(L to R) Melissa Thibodeau, Musique/Music NB; Jean Surette, Musique/Music NB; Julie Richard, Director, Maine Arts Commission; Danny Boudreau, musician; Caroline Savoie, musician; Sophie Martin, Animator/Host; Josie Vachon, musician; Denny Breau, musician; Nathalie Dubois Director, NB Tourism, Heritage and Culture; Caroline Walker, Program Officer, NB Tourism, Heritage and Culture; and Kerstin Gilg, Program Officer, Maine Arts Commission.

Conclusion

As outlined briefly in this report, the members of the Maine-New Brunswick MOU Task Force continue to work together to successfully enhance and support development of the arts and culture in both jurisdictions.

Through presentation of Songs Without Borders during the Congrès mondial Acadien/ World Acadian Congress 2014, the Task Force demonstrated its ability to support cultural development in an international context by highlighting professional artists from both jurisdictions. The success of this special joint initiative illustrates the effectiveness of the Task Force and augurs well for future initiatives.

Through engagement, cooperation and sharing of information and expertise, the Task Force and stakeholders on both sides of the border contribute to increasing cultural development in Maine and New Brunswick, thereby enhancing “the mutual benefits of Maine/ New Brunswick cultural relations.”

