



**Community Foundation Arts, Culture and Creativity Initiative
Transcribed Post-It Notes from New Bedford community gatherings
June 6, 2017, at Groundworks! and June 21 at CVPA, Star Store Campus**

VISION – What does success look like?

Picture New Bedford as a thriving, diverse, multicultural center for arts and creativity. What would it be like?

- Empowering a diverse, sustainable, and independent arts community, by establishing a viable pathway to achieve this; and creating a sense of place, i.e., making New Bedford a City of the Future.
- Stimulate linking and celebrating New Bedford's unique local histories of Abolitionism, Whaling, and Textiles with creative storytelling and creative place-making that actively engage local and regional youth and families, sharing and connecting their family legacies as part of the new arts and public spaces.
- A universal sense of entitlement to arts and culture venues, programs, and events fostered by a plethora of opportunities for people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, to express their culture and feel validated pride regardless of financial resources.
- A city where it is easy for new ideas to launch, flourish, and thrive. Easier to launch a non-profit org.
- A more connected arts community: connect generations (young and old); connect schools with arts groups; connect ethnicities with arts.
- "I have a problem with this question. We already ARE a 'thriving, diverse, multicultural center for the arts & creativity.' This is current reality!"
- To cultivate and proudly promote a destination that ignites life and energy through the arts, entertainment, and culture.
- A pulsing, interactive community that welcomes and encourages participation in arts and culture. (2)
- NB "culture" is a collective set of experiences and stories – known and celebrated by all (in and outside of NB).
- NB is colorfully and culturally committed to the expressive and creative arts.
- NB is an art Mecca with art events/ program every day/night that are reflective of different cultures, generations, and stories of New Bedford. (3)
- A cohesive vision amongst all stakeholders in the community where partnership between public and private entities is at the core of the creative economy
- Arts spread throughout the city – music, theater, public art, culture. (4) "whatever we do, focus broadly, with 'hubs' in North and South Ends, not just downtown.
- New Bedford is a center for innovation and problem solving at a community level. Non-profit collaboration, with city and corporations too.
- NB is a network with a dense and vibrant center and community of creatives who work, share, show, and perform their art in New Bedford.
- Create a culture that is tolerant of risk.
- An aquarium (the size of the Whaling Museum) that shows the culture of the communities where fish are/were taken – how they are protected, what is in the waters of Buzzards Bay, what groups of fish move through seasonally, and what we need to do /celebrate/to keep the ocean safe.
- A significant segment of the vibrant, growing and inclusive arts activities more clearly aligns with supporting historical preservation, including the range of cultural communities from which present-day New Bedford evolved (e.g., recording stories, practicing traditional art forms).

- I foresee a hub for industry through creativity. Turning art into an economy. Building a culture almost derivative of the Renaissance, where we encourage creativity.
- New Bedford as a city celebrating past, present and future with the arts and architecture.
- Aim high! Promote arts at the highest level (2)
- Change the image of the city by being a leader in saving the whales, promoting and supporting the fishing industry, and a world class fish market. Fish farms.
- “I want families to see NB as a destination to move to. I want a community on the cutting edge with new technology. I want a rich arts/culture component to education in the area. I want students to be measured not just by math/English/ science test scores but performance-based assessments, including arts and culture.”
- Cultural/arts centers in North and South End, giving better access to various cultural groups.
- Development of more culturally rich venues like the Seamen’s Bethel/Mariner’s home, and the Nathan and Polly Johnson House.
- More architectural presentation and re-use of great buildings of NB.
- Community centers in different neighborhoods. E.g. Use libraries as cultural centers, with bus service connecting all – culture shuttle.
- A cultural center that accommodates the diversity of the city. (2)
- Major Arts and Cultural Museum (e.g., reuse of factory building) that showcases art from the world New Bedford once traveled and the many cultures that participated in its growth and development
- Develop a Convention Center in the former Methodist Church on Elm Street – could serve as a multicultural educational center where children can learn about their own culture and how it has evolved in the city,
- Tons of public spaces with one big public market in vacant copper foundry; (next to Whale’s Tooth station)
- A center for art focused on sustainability, our relationship with the environment, especially the ocean.
- Public market where artists can sell their products; musicians can perform; farm produce; cheap place to sell or buy – local; indoor /outdoor. (like Pike’s in Seattle, or Torpedo Factory in Alexandria)
- Permanent harborside concert venue.
- Full restoration of the Z, including the ballroom.
- NB has public space for artistic presentation – to allow artists to show their work or for kids to perform (e.g. a nonprofit gallery/performance space
- Open public art space where ALL members of our community feel welcome to contribute.
- Re-establish community centers (ethnic?) around the city – the old theaters and social clubs as facilitators of the creative communities.
- “Open” public markets, accenting the cultural context – food, art, music, dance.
- Zeiterion theater as a focal point of a downtown arts district including UMD- CVPA, Purchase St and Spring Street area. (2)
- Pocket parks as well as indoor and outdoor spaces are available for discussions and informal gatherings.
- Use Fort Taber for “Shakespeare by the Bay” (like Fort Adams in Newport, and Fort Knox in Maine.
- Community kitchen where diverse cultures can create delicious ethnic food.
- Bigger farmers market
- Studios with open access to artists’ art. Live/work space for emerging and established artists with shared gallery space, across the city. (3)
- Maker spaces throughout the city to encourage participation (2)
- Arts Entrepreneurship Center to help bring skills and arts to market.
- A great and memorable railroad station – one that speaks to New Bedford’s past as a gateway to the future. A beautiful and welcoming space.
- A center where artists can collaborate on projects for the use and benefit of the entire community, with local cultural and industrial themes.
- Art center with residential facility for visiting artists who would provide courses.

- Small movie theater downtown, like Cable Car
- A center for youth arts in the Trinity Church on County Street (similar to COCA in St. Louis)
- We need to tell an international story. NB was the city that lit the world; created trade relations with the world; promoted commerce and brought individuals from around the world, including the first Japanese man in the US (John Manjiro).
- The beauty of New Bedford is that it is a great mix of the local, the national, and the international. How do we continue to tap into each of these... (Bring Tadao Ando to NB.)?
- More integration of recent immigrant populations. By removing barriers and fear that lead to self-segregation: curating shows, AHA themes that celebrate & showcase arts from these cultures; more representation of visiting artists from the cultures at the Z, NBAM, etc.
- To see all cultural groups communicating and sharing their ideas intellectually.
- An even stronger outreach to new cultures as well as existing cultures so that their voices are clearly visible in the arts and culture of 'mainstream' downtown, not just in the North and South Ends.
- Cultural diversity through arts – increasing social interaction through open thinking, inspired by the arts. Highlight diversity through increase in cultural experiences – festivals, installations, other celebrations. (3)
- A mix of businesses and people of all ages and interests.
- Arts are representative of the city's ethnic diversity and cultural landscape. A unique cultural attraction based on its place in the history and development of the USA. (3)
- Cultural connections through the Parks
- Reflectedness in programs – coming out for each other's cultures.
- Always something for all ages and varied interests. A place to learn, experience, and explore.
- New Bedford provides a range of art, culture opportunities in neighborhoods throughout the city.
- With targeted opportunities for children, young adults, etc. – various age group and assorted interests. (2)
- Accessible/inclusive arts venues that are walkable and provide a large number of options/ choices that satisfy not only different likes/preferences, but also expose people to concepts/mediums/histories that they might not be aware of or that they would not "normally" focus on. (2)
- New Bedford is a community that embraces differences by telling stories of its past and using the schools to help young people take pride in themselves and their community by learning from their past.
- Small cultural events to connect diverse communities
- Cultural equity (2)
- Diverse live music.
- More acceptance of artists that are not 'local'.
- Thriving performance and art celebrating diverse heritage.
- Coordinated effort amongst arts and cultural institutions to present exhibits and programs that connect with the local community and attract donors from a diverse base. Coordination with schools to involve students in art and culture in NB through these programs and exhibits.
- More cross cultural events and gatherings to broaden and educate people about the culture and community that already exists, but need more support in order to thrive.
- Immigrants involved in arts and music. More multicultural groups and gatherings
- Workshops for creativity – especially for women to share and express themselves.
- Lots of diversity – kids, students, older folks, etc. (2)
- More people of many ethnic origins walking about – like SF and NYC
- Merging the division between culture and ethnicities
- Art that represents the different ethnicities of the city.
- Develop conferences that bring artists from diverse communities to NB to engage in cultural conversations/exhibitions.
- Exchanges of exhibitions with other artists/groups – international

- More on African cultures and traditions, representative of African whalemens and where they came from. Artifacts; impact on New Bedford's development; showcase toolmakers, craftsmen, and others.
- More artists of color being commissioned to do work in New Bedford.
- Inclusive activities where individuals with developmental delays can "share" the arts with typically developed folks.
- Bring diverse cultural activities to downtown, not just in North and South Ends (2)
- Multidisciplinary, experimental art and performance.
- Dance becomes a totally accepted art form by all NB audiences.
- De-centralized events
- Culturally relevant public art!
- More local music festivals and events like Battles of the Bands. Easier liquor licensing for events.
- A big international festival held once a year at Fort Taber, hosted by the Cape Verdean Association of New Bedford (CVANB) in partnership with other NB organizations
- Arts festival on the waterfront that incorporates all cultures, generations, schools, and communities.
- Public art that is representative of the community.
- Place-making efforts in the public realm
- More murals, more pop ups; make art in the streets; more public art.
- Public art by international and local artists.
- More street activities on a regular basis.
- More public art throughout NB (4). Community members taking part in creating installations in each neighborhood.
- Incorporate public art into new construction and development projects.
- Public art – murals, statuary, tradition, modern, ethnic
- The history of NB is celebrated in public art – identifying geography; highlighting architecture.
- Involve graffiti artists to make and maintain murals (see Mural Project in Philadelphia).
- More contemporary art – visual, performance, public art, etc. (2)
- Big, bold public art in a variety of media that reflects and celebrates in real-time New Bedford's current and historical connections to the rest of the globe. (Examples from Paris, Copenhagen. Media including light, sound. Works can range from very small to very large, from inexpensive to lavish. Could involve images like "sundials" and "compasses". Not more harpoons.)
- Annual climate change awareness art project – public sculpture that helps local population consider personal action to combat climate change.
- Year-round art along the waterfront to entice people to visit the waterfront.
- More downtown arts activity with streets closed to traffic (2)
- A gathering place for people to share new art ideas, innovation across demographics.
- Mentoring for young artists to prepare them for the large world of art.
- Public schools as public art hubs.
- Creative economy job training in areas that are NB's strengths: boat building/marine trades; community performing arts; textiles; new technologies; writing and poetry.
- Integrate arts programming into the NB public schools so that we can cultivate our own artists who feel that it is a viable means of uplift that would allow them to stay local and/or express themselves, to diversify the arts scene, increase accessibility, and ensure longevity.
- Build on tradition and great craftsmanship in NB. Consider an "academy" to train experts in cabinet-making, stone carving. (Charleston has one.)
- STEAM in place of STEM in schools. Add ART. Strong art curriculum in the schools (2)
- Pilot an arts school for the region, with outside backing
- Cultivate artists through school system. Get greater school involvement.
- Have school-based talent scouts for kids – "no talent should go unrecognized!"

- Engage youth through internships, volunteering, etc.
- Arts education opportunities and apprenticeships in the schools. Like “Studio in a School” in New York City. Taught by local artists in all genres – visual, performing, music (2)
- Mentorships/internships – connecting with artists and the arts economy, after school and out of school. Portfolio-building. Teach about the business end of art. (2)
- Systematic work with kids, not episodic – start young.
- New Bedford is leading our school kids to better understand music and creativity in our lives.
- Public Schools have full involvement in music and performing arts and are fully funded.
- New Bedford is a community that embraces differences by telling stories of its past and using the schools to help young people take pride in themselves and their community by learning from their p Anchor institutions that incubate beginning “creatives” and help them grow (mentorship)
- Support for teachers - both schools and private.
- Community school for performing and visual arts, anchored by existing organizations already in NB (i.e. The Z)
- More involvement of schools – less testing and controlling, more education and inspiration.
- Youth Entrepreneur Academy [mentorship]
- Artist in Residence programs [mentorship] in schools (2)
- The opportunity to have any and all youth partake in knowledge of the arts. The optimism of our youth to embrace the arts and give positive feedback in the advancement of arts in our community.
- Artists books at libraries. Artist lectures at libraries.
- Literature as a thread through art experiences to build vocabulary and learning opportunities.
- Residents and businesses take “ownership” of schools and invest in their success; see them as a distribution channel for arts and culture.
- Better collaboration between all youth organizations in the arts. Shared space. Better recruitment (marketing) to economically disadvantaged families.
- More focused targeting of youth culture/movement i.e., ICA Boston’s Teen Council
- Creating more platforms for social engagement to activate the city in a conversation of social practice. How does art change the way we look at the world? Our city? Our neighbors? Igniting connection and ownership of place.
- Tourism office to attract outsiders.
- Arts and business community work together on creative events.
- Safe, tons of stuff going on, getting information out to people.
- New Bedford is “branded” and recognized as an artistic and creative community.
- Promote ourselves outward to the world – think of the city as world class.
- Grassroots effort to reach people internally and externally with message of arts and culture
- NB is a destination where artists from nearby cities, across the nation, and around the world, come for residencies to have a reprieve from their daily environments and contribute artistic energy while also learning from what New Bedford is.
- Easily used sharing platforms for publicity, financial support, recruiting participants and collaborators.
- Arts resources and events known to and comfortably accessed by all residents and by regional and national visitors.
- Pride in NB as a uniquely diverse, talented, energetic community would spread to the general public.
- Tell our NB stories more effectively, on more platforms. E.g., our public radio neighbors – WCAI – have the best portal for young broadcasters in the nation!
- Artist residencies draw artists from Boston/NY for short-term stays to escape the overwhelming intensity of those cities.
- Welcome Center to connect residents and visitors to NB’s cultural and artistic treasures.
- More awareness and better signage outside of artists studios in factories. Factories more welcoming to visitors.
- Better connect artists studios (like Hatch Street) with national arts buyers.
- Downtown needs to be an accurate “megaphone” of NB to the region.

- Art integrated into planning and projects increasing public health (environmental and social), especially in blighted, low-income areas.
- A walkable and bikeable downtown area for not only millennials but families to enjoy both during the day and at night – where people feel safe.
- A locally driven district where community and support is a common engagement; restaurants, theatres, local food and retail markets, cafes; walkable distance, affordable, attainable.
- Great pleasant tree-shaded streets that have many cafes and restaurants serving wonderful local food that attract people from in town and from neighboring towns.
- Authenticity – preserve the working waterfront. Other city examples: New Orleans- diversity of arts and music; Providence – pride about city arts, especially theater, including Cable Car; Boston – ideas, innovation, libraries, museum; Portland – comfortable, sidewalks, walkability; Newport – clean, pride, money’s worth; South Beach – colorful, expressive; DC – transit, free stuff to do; Vineyard Haven. More nightlife and architectural presentation.
- Safe, tons of stuff going on, getting information out to people.
- Vibrant in a sense that all of New Bedford is walkable/bikeable, pedestrian friendly. Like Times Square or Boston Common – so many interesting things to see!
- An interesting walkable city.
- NB is a walkable city with art shows and artists; a melting pot that holds people en route to the islands; there is music in the streets; public art on the walks; great food.
- Harborwalk that connects South and North Ends and tells story of the city with interpretation (like Boston Harbor walk)
- NB has full storefronts, filled with galleries and people on the streets. (2)
- Vibrant, 24/7 downtown; coffee shops, pedestrian traffic, public spaces
- Lots of people shopping, browsing, eating, gallery-visiting
- Enhance the art and culture with much more natural beauty – flowers, landscaping, etc.
- A natural environment of shared beautiful outdoor spaces, inspiring community connections.
- New Bedford has lots of people interaction; good restaurants; good gathering places; things to see and do.
- The outside environment is safe and compelling for children to be outside – beautiful places to play
- Community gardens
- Food gardens make local, nutritious food available to all of the community
- Walking city with destinations and different ways to get there; green spaces; pocket parks that are linked in some fashion
- More green space near triple deckers; nice fences – no chain links. (Temple Landing is a model for affordable housing)
- NB has a rich economy of all the supporting and tangential good and services that support artistic production, located within a small, easily accessible district.
- Thoughtfully planned walking trails through neighborhoods with seating drinking fountains, measured distances, guideposts, parking. More historic waymarkers (not just the whaling); highlight monuments, including the smallest.
- The city needs to stay open after 5 PM.
- Create more attractive and pronounced Gateways to the city; and create neighborhood centers/squares. GO BOLD! (2)
- Engaged businesses - interactive employees (“I watch business people leave their offices and walk with their head down to their lunch destination and then back to their offices.”)
- More diverse eateries: real ethnic foods, not Americanized: Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian.
- More retail and galleries
- Not only art galleries, but a mix of businesses: grocery store, shoe store, ethnic gift and art stores (3)
- More support for the small shops, boutiques, galleries, etc.

- Vision: Empty nesters and millennials – especially hipsters - are everywhere!
- Security for all artists!
- More solar and wind.
- Connect artists spaces with bike path
- Artists can earn enough to focus full time on production and art.
- Tax free zone for artist's sales.
- Affordable rents for artists; nonprofit housing for artists – live/work space. (2)
- Johnny Cake Hill as a walking park area (similar to Williamsburg)
- Need transportation for after school programs.
- Community centers in different neighborhoods. E.g. Use libraries as cultural centers, with bus service connecting all – culture shuttle.
- Great access to transportation: boat/ferry to several places; train access to all places.
- Improved transportation to allow more citizens access to events, locations. (2)
- Open to artists – providing space
- Many free /low-cost offerings (2)
- More art and activities in the South End.
- North/South trolley connecting the neighborhoods to downtown.
- Arts, culture, and creativity are continuously and fiscally supported.
- Grants for individual artists: to create community project; to attend conferences; for professional development.
- Provide funding to artists to subsidize the cost of their artwork so that lower income people can buy art and support the artists.
- Provide support to the Cape Verdean Assoc. NB Cultural Center (\$\$ and People), to develop CV art.
- Continue to build cooperation among arts organizations and other community stakeholders (the port, the parks, etc.)
- City-wide (area-wide), professional back-office support for creators – accounting, marketing etc.
- Sharing resources
- Nonprofit incubators
- Nonprofits and organizations helping to supplement programs being cut at schools, police, healthcare, city services. They have history, background, experience, opportunities for funding.
- Make the writings of Thoreau, Melville, and Douglass present.
- A sustained attention to how NB can grow equitably so that gentrification in all its forms does not push out existing people and those drawn here because it is becoming a destination.
- Art in healthcare setting where art heals.
- Economically independent, where 90% of food is sourced locally.
- World class exhibitions and shows.
- Ship in large artwork to create amazing installations.
- The port provides a unique opportunity for creativity. Exploit the water feature of NB.
- Giving art more of a driving role, and less of an after-plan.
- Compared to the Providence International Arts Festival and Art Basel, New Bedford Seaport Cultural District could accomplish these types of festivals easily.
- Cannabis culture tours

CURRENT REALITY

*What is currently underway and going well in the arts, culture, and creativity scene in New Bedford?
In other words, what do you think has been successful, or what do you love?*

- AHA! (17) – Fun well-programmed, diverse, well-publicized, well-attended, caters to residents and tourists. Collaborative nature of AHA activities draws in others.
- Zeiterion (14)
- NB Symphony (4) – performances and partnering with schools
- Whaling Museum (5)
- New Bedford Art Museum / Art Mobile (4)
- ColoColo Gallery
- Hatch Street Studios (2)
- Gallery X (2)
- WHALe (2)
- Co-Creative Center underway
- Love the Ave. (2)
- Great arts and cultural organizations
- U Mass Star Store campus- College of Visual and Performing Arts (6)
- Bristol Community College downtown
- Fishing Heritage Center (2)
- The Free Public Library's art and history collections are resources for schools etc. Utilize these better; develop programming
- Cultural and educational partnerships with all levels of educational entities.
- Growing partnerships between major cultural organizations in the city leading to richer opportunities for cultural experiences.
- Church choirs
- TL6 Gallery
- Hippo
- Buttonwood Park Zoo (2)
- Portuguese Museum (Madeiran)
- Ropeworks
- Mill buildings
- The Baker!
- Green Market
- North End and South End events
- Reggae on the beach
- Ethnic and other festivals (6)
- Cape Verdean festival
- Dia do Portugal
- Viva Portugal
- Feast of the Blessed Sacrament /Madeira Feast (3)
- Large and increasing number of events downtown
- Half-marathon and 5k races.
- Seaport Art Walk (2), because this public art show hires local and surrounding artists on a very small budget
- Festival Theatre producing one musical with 7 performances. Should be 3 musicals between June-August.
- Amazing exhibitions and programs considering limited resources.
- More and more going on (but not good central calendar or publicity)

- 3rd Eye open and other free events (like AHA) that make arts accessible to individuals (particularly young, low-income, people of color) who might otherwise feel unwelcome in closed-off, more expensive venues like museums and private galleries. These events introduce the public to these artists so that they can become curious about/comfortable in the seemingly more exclusive places.
- Lunar Teeth (quarterly performance – art open mic - at Ropeworks, on solstices and equinoxes)
- Open Studios (2)
- Jazz Fest (3)
- Folk Festival (3)
- 50's Night
- Live music/bar scene
- Pop-ups like Yarn Bombing downtown
- Music in Custom House Square in the summer (2)
- Street buskers
- Art Walk
- Library programs
- The city has significantly developed since I was born in the city 30 years ago. We have public spaces, venues, and programs/events that attract many different groups of people. We do not take as much pride as tourists do. We should recognize our growth and know we need to continue moving forward to increase our vision of expansion.
- Downtown revitalization: [great places to eat; brew pubs; nice shops; new hotel coming.] (6)
- Coastal ambiance; excellent harbor for recreational yachts, small craft and fishing industry and its history (3)
- Love seeing people walking around downtown during events such as AHA and Z shows.
- Preservation of historic buildings and NB history. (2)
- Waterfront is starting to blossom as a place for arts and culture. (2)
- Beautiful harbor and beaches – need to take full advantage of these spaces.
- Haskell Park
- Parks
- Easy place to live.
- Unique city.
- Small city feel.
- Quiet (this can be a challenge as well as an asset)
- The authenticity of the city and the working waterfront (2)
- Walking the streets can be informative and recreational
- Downtown and the North End rock for public art and beautification
- Segmented communities/neighborhoods within large city with vibrant downtown.
- Centralized creative space; cohesive, thriving downtown (3) (now need to move it up and over; expand uptown)
- Outstanding program of tree planting
- Beautiful architecture throughout the city (2)
- Affordable
- Great and affordable cultural food/restaurant options (and need more!) (5)
- NB has become a hub for local artists – a great vehicle especially for our youth.
- Street art (2)
- Murals - at the beach, in neighborhood (2)
- Coffee shops
- Proliferation of galleries
- Diversified city – excellent ethnic mix of people; diverse neighborhood with great character (5)
- Merging ethnicities and cultures with art scene – creative culture (3) “I love that we are becoming proud of our diversity.”
- Love the diverse, joyous experiences downtown and the ethnic festivals around the city.

- Affirm the incredibly rich historical legacy that is here. (Don't fall into the ahistorical orientation that prevails in our society.) At a later time, art historians will recognize that continuity from then to now.
- The great number of diverse cultural celebrations invites our common citizens to become aware of, and appreciate, the best of 'strangely different' groups.
- There's a lot of exciting stuff going on and scrappy creatives making things work, BUT there is a fear of collaboration due to a sense of competition that stifles creativity
- Don Wilkinson, art critic
- Committed and caring citizens
- Ripe with potential - energy, excitement, pride, vision
- Younger people (20s, 30s) are becoming a driving creative force; engaged young entrepreneurs (4)
- Great artist community – huge resource for the economy (4)
- Growing number of arts outlets (places to play music, show art, etc.)
- Good, affordable studio and housing access for artists (2)
- NB is always moving...never stagnant...always alive...ready, willing and able to learn, share and grow. Keeping a positive outlook.
- Entrepreneurial history.
- Tradition of visionary history (2)
- Linkages between art/culture organizations and the public schools.
- The use of social media is encompassing the whole city into one. Our branding and outreach work within the city as well as internationally. (2)
- Public art: Tom Bobs murals and Ryan McFee (2)
- Excellent resources with room to grow
- Allison Wells.

Current Challenges/Barriers

- Bricks & mortar entities get most of the funding.
- Organizations struggle financially – very insular philanthropy (3)
- Hard to start a new program
- Capacity is an issue for many organizations
- Fighting for the same dollars and volunteers
- Isolation of the arts community: No collaboration with schools, business, health, elder populations.
- Arts orgs. are balkanized; knowledge and opportunity not shared. (2)
- Fear of competition stymies collaboration; working in silos instead of together.
- Need to constantly seek funds and grants.
- Become more culturally inclusive. NB is primarily focused on 3 cultures: Portuguese, French, Cape Verdean. Need expansion to Asian, Spanish, Phoenecia (e.g. Lebanon), Africa, East Indian, Native American, African American. Restaurants, grocers, other shops
- Many of the art events are not reflective of different cultures.
- Inclusion is a huge challenge (racism/elitism]
- Too focused on the visual arts; performing arts come in a distant second
- Need more substantial presence of modern and contemporary art to honor those living and making art today (not just historic art, at library and whaling museum). This would create more opportunity for artists to stay in NB.
- Central American immigrants do not feel comfortable downtown.
- The schools are in deplorable shape, affecting the growth of the community. Strengthening other ways of learning via after school programs is the quickest way to improve knowledge.
- Lack of art/education in our schools, creating generation gap.

- Spotty arts connection for youth.
- Lack of structures and programs to develop youth leadership to drive neighborhood initiatives
- Arts and entertainment in the city is scattered and needs to be marketed better.
- People go to Whaling Museum and stay around it.
- Not enough marketing of arts and culture events in surrounding communities.
- New Bedford is a hidden gem – adjacent big cities (Boston, Providence) aren't aware of the changes that have already taken place.
- NB is a drive-by on the way to the Cape; the Z only gets 20% of its ticket sales from NB residents.
- Lack of coherent/comprehensive vision and plan. Organizations operate in silos.
- Division between NB and FR – how to create cohesiveness between the two.
- The New Bedford brand is tired: too focused on whaling. Look for additional inspiration.
- Display more art in community-based settings, with contextual link to help residents make connections with it.
- Need more PR, marketing, shared calendar.
- Lacking affordable housing for visual and performing artists in the downtown cultural area.
- Need more residential apartments downtown.
- Too many buildings are vacant due to exorbitant rents. Put them to good use. (2)
- Many small orgs and artists, but no shared facilities (e.g. small theater, practice rooms)
- Expensive venues
- Need more space for presentations, workshops.
- Need a small movie theater (like Cable Car in Providence) (2)
- Need a good small market downtown
- Not enough people downtown after dark. Fear of bus station?
- Not enough foot traffic for merchants to succeed.
- Artists struggling to be profitable
- Need residents and tourists to explore downtown. Make it safer. (2)
- Perception is not positive – people afraid, hear about muggings, thefts, drugs, bad behavior
- City is dirty, landscaping not kept up.
- Triple-deckers with no green space and ugly chain-link fences
- Shortage of residential space.
- Need more trees – an urban forest
- City needs to be more driver-friendly. Review and rearrange one-way streets – revisit parking meters for downtown locations.
- There is no parking area downtown for recreational vehicles
- Disconnect between neighborhoods – lack of transportation- lack of access for the arts for many, especially low-income households.
- Neighborhoods are isolated and not connected to the central city. (2)
- Few points of entry for professionals on career ladder.
- NB is relatively sprawling, lacking the density to foster more spontaneous community building,
- Cost of many events makes them unaffordable for many residents.
- Parking
- Stagnation; some projects “going backward”. Too much start and stop progress (2)
- Lost the Blues Festival - need to bring it back!
- AHA is over-rated. With the funding they get they can do more.
- Too self-serving
- OLD WHITE Decision Making
- Too many “usual suspects”
- Lack of point person/committee for public art projects across the city.

WHAT'S NEXT? – How do we get to the next level?

What initiatives/projects/resources would be most critical to making progress toward the vision of New Bedford as a place that is a thriving center of arts and creativity?

- Funding: more equal distribution of limited arts funding from city, state, private foundations
- Open up new sources of giving through grassroots philanthropy effort
- Local government should realize the need for full cultural funding -- and the enormous tourism potential in doing so.
- Better funding of non-profits to do the work, rather than the City. Leverage private philanthropy
- Funding for collaborative projects – start shifting mindset from competition to collaboration. “A rising tide lifts all boats.” (2)
- More grants, more mini-grants, matching grants.
- Operating support for nonprofits of all sizes. (4)
- Steady, pre-determined city investment in public art
- Run free community workshops: classes for the arts/organizers to grow, build, succeed.
- Salary support: small/mid-size groups need paid staff to flourish.
- Create sources of underwriting to subsidize arts in education and pathways to reinforce creativity via learning linked to STEAM careers in the regional economic investments in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Private investment in non-profit cultural institutions and organizations that are already providing quality programming and content.
- Investment in cultural “place-making” and cultural “landmarks.”
- Offer courses for artists to learn about running a business
- More grant \$\$ from MCC to help pay for field trips.
- Free marketing strategy training
- Capital facilities funding.
- Coordination among arts and community groups – meetings, online collaboration – to identify critical needs.
- Better public transportation (for ease and access) (5)
- Grow the AHA ethic – promoting free youth access and expanded youth programming in Arts, History, and Architecture to more youth in more settings.
- Hire an arts and culture liaison to interface between schools, communities, and cultural institutions.
- Established art centers – Whaling Museum, Art Museum, Gallery X – sponsor new artist competition; do student art presentations (the Met does this); have a Creation Night, where people come to the museum to learn about and copy art
- Mayor’s office to offer blanket insurance program available to develop vibrant pop-up events to enhance downtown or neighborhood activity.
- More arts organization providing free programming in the public schools to supplement underfunded arts programming and connect students to their work.
- Arts/culture council within city government. (2)
- More cohesiveness, inclusiveness between culture and ethnicities
- Bring culturally appropriate events, as a way of introducing folks to other types of art.
- Move the arts and culture initiatives out from the center to the North and South Ends
- Immigration reform needed so that those who are currently afraid can come out of the shadows and be able to engage.
- Become a sanctuary city
- Bring all the many ethnic groups into this conversation (2)
- Hire a city folklorist to broker culture (ethnic, occupational, religious, etc.)
- Hold a large-scale cultural festival

- Outreach to communities, with marketing materials translated. Engage bilingual persons to run some of the work and start programs.
- Programs that directly engage recent immigrant communities.
- More multi-lingual resources (2)
- Translate public and private signage into languages that celebrate NB/s diversity and global connections
- Transportation for school children to important cultural events, as well as to parks and beaches. (2)
- Commission graffiti artists to create more murals (similar to the Brooklyn cityscape) to make youth feel as though the arts scene is highlighting their forms of expression and illustrating that pursuing your passion can be a viable occupation.
- More alternative education opportunities
- Grow the AHA ethic – promoting free youth access and expanded youth programming in Arts, History, and Architecture to more youth in more settings.
- Art as an educational platform; more art exposure for the young; more focus on inclusion of youth in broader range of arts activities. (5)
- Build a quality educational system beginning with pre-school that encourages learning local history and culture through the arts.
- Add vocational schools with apprenticeship programs
- More apprenticeship programs like the Whaling Museum’s
- Affordable art lessons for adults
- More outdoor free events
- Libraries become resources for self-guided education about art.
- Expanded and diversified definition of “the Arts” – multifunctional (2)
- Subsidize “exposure” for the young and young adults (e.g. \$5 tix for under 18 and 1 adult, like High 5 tix in NYC; Jacobs Pillow 30 Something program)
- Bring students to arts centers regularly – making academic connections so that students see real world applications. Students will then hopefully bring their parents back. (2)
- Mentorship programs for young artists.
- Vocational arts training in public schools (STEAM) (2)
- Arts in pre-school
- Create program for young artists (similar to McCoy Recreational Center)
- Do think tank work that incorporates voices of all businesses, economic classes, and ethnicities to create strategic plans for arts and creative industries in New Bedford; what would benefit the community. (To get more voices, collaborate with YMCA, public libraries, schools, senior centers, faith-based groups, community/ethnic markets). (4)
- Coaching and opportunities for arts entrepreneurs: “art trucks” (like food trucks); pottery/painting studios
- Support for digital media arts initiatives that: 1. integrate marginalized groups; 2. address our changing climate; and 3. better harness our mixed public/private lives. This could take the form of groups such as Dream Out Loud, 3rd Eye, a world class film festival that combines local and global hub.
- City-wide programming weekend of arts, culture activities – free and open to all city residents. Mini/neighborhood AHA! With pop-up activity (3)
- Murals of high caliber that express different views by their variety. E.g., have “More Murals Month” – 30 days, 30 locations, 30 artists, 30 murals.
- Hold a Tattoo Festival
- Improve tolerance for risk as it relates to contemporary art – music in the street – Shakespeare in the Park – nontraditional art.
- Have art/architecture/design competition - similar to MoMA PS1 (which exhibits the most experimental contemporary art)

- Promote image of NB as a safe city (too many from nearby towns and even NB residents avoid downtown/the city because of perception of lack of safety) (2)
- Get surrounding town to engage in NB on regular basis
- Tabletop tent cards at restaurants, listing upcoming events in town (This week in NB: concerts; plays; etc.; Upcoming weeks...)
- Familiarization (“fam”) tours
- Put signs outside the Whaling Museum, on William and Union streets to direct people up the hill to the Art Museum, RJD, etc.
- Amped up tourism budget to attract visitors
- Improve communications through better use of technology and social media (5)
- Dedicated community calendar that arts and cultural organizations can refer to when planning events that appeal to the community and activate the donor base. (2) Have it in all languages.
- Arts resource center. Have a centralized clearinghouse of places/parks/ environments for the arts, and then use same to communicate broadly. (5)
- Facebook Cultural Page (like New Bedford Guide). Arts-focused web page: “What 2 do 2night”; electronic billboards with up-to-date events at major intersections; flyers in city bills (water/taxes etc.)
- Arts and culture kiosks in all neighborhoods – include art to draw interest at the kiosks; have info on activities.
- Utilize libraries and school system to expand communication network outward toward underserved citizens.
- Encourage downtown institutions to participate in satellite activities in other parts of New Bedford.
- Create List Servs for communications (2)
- Create a comprehensive directory of private and public agencies, listing the following: name, status (public, nonprofit), mission (type), those served, funding sources, contact info, restrictions, affiliations.
- Recognize and promote the positive in NB: affordable housing with water access; historic buildings ripe for rehabilitation; beaches and parks (add pavilions).
- Survey audiences.
- A centralized source to supplement the Standard-Times.
- Have one channel that celebrates and promotes art events, activities, and exhibits on SouthCoast.
- Highlight excellence in the community to combat negative self-image of locals, which creates negative public image outside NB (3)
- Increase street signage that will also identify different neighborhoods
- A magazine or publication similar to the Phoenix of Providence (2)
- Get more coverage in Boston and Providence media to increase awareness and visitation.
- Give everyone who comes to half-marathon and 5k races a flier on New Bedford.
- City-run public relations campaign for arts food, and culture in NB.
- Bring art collectors to the city to buy more art. More coordination to draw-in consumers (2)
- Outburst marketing – all at once - reaching all age groups.
- Change the disconnect of media outlets in order to promote the arts to areas that would otherwise not have the opportunity to be accessed. (2)
- Get into the churches and expose congregations to art.
- Outreach to youth organizations and community groups.
- Billboards (velator) with splash marketing info design toward art and culture.
- Build a rest area/tourism center on I195 to attract people traveling to the Cape.
- Seasonal focused vibrancy – in summer NB is the place to be.
- Outdoor map of NB that visitors can reference.
- Too many “best kept secrets” and “hidden gems” – need training and platform for marketing and communications, to reach the people in the community, regionally, and nationally
- Connect artists/dance/music/theater groups with businesses that would benefit from a display/performance.

- Encourage more businesses to stay open on Sunday
- Upper leadership should mandate arts in schools. Campaign on the value of students volunteering/ interning. Educate about the “business” of creative economy and making money with a career in the arts. Arts leaders should serve as the face of the arts – enthusiasm over complacency.
- Identify and exploit NB’s unique geography
- Utilize libraries and school system to expand communication network outward toward underserved citizens.
- Food/arts tours that stop at art studios and other cultural/creative venues.
- Choose one small grassroots, self-funding project that can signal community buy-in (e.g. plant a certain type of flower throughout the city).
- Fund a prize for the most striking design reimagining the exterior of a triple decker.
- Conduct a poll of favorite works of public art.
- Create an artists’ residency program in an existing, abandoned or under-utilized warehouse.
- Retrofit existing building to create a marketplace overlooking the water.
- Hazelwood Park – improve resources for families, e.g., add pavilions (2)
- Have cultural centers outside of downtown.
- Have centers that cater to small/mid-size projects/productions to allow community groups to thrive without having to own space.
- Develop a cultural music center and community performing arts center for smaller non-profits.
- Cape Verdean Cultural Center (in former Strand Theater building, North End) (2)
- A permanent outdoor performance space (or one in each major park). Space that has talent facilities, green space, easy parking (i.e., Hatch Shell, Greatwoods-style stage with harbor as backdrop. (2)
- Fishing museum on the water like the one in Nova Scotia.
- Does YMCA have potential to become a true community center, through a capital campaign/renovation?
- Support and promote House of Music
- Create Center for Youth Art, with performance space, in Trinity Church (County Street) (4) [includes commercial kitchen, gym, and parking]
- Hold city hearing on the development of a convention center at Methodist Church on Elm St.
- Micro-units for millennials in the downtown to support their participation in the creative economy
- Food and kitchen incubator for the community
- Late-night non-alcoholic options like a tea lounge with poetry open mic
- Public bathrooms – open, clean, accessible
- Think of landscape as art – great parks make great cities.
- More public trash barrels (North End).
- Create Downtown Mall – personal cars will be gone in 10 years.
- Better street lighting – safer lighting means more walking.
- Rail trail, bike paths, free recreation
- High-end electric vehicle charging station, with at least 8 chargers (ask Tesla)
- Update Acushnet Ave. storefronts
- Community policing. Safe streets (2)
- Downtown housing for artists, millennials, etc. to add to vibrancy in area.
- Anti-liter campaign – clean up Exit 15 to Route 18.
- No empty storefronts downtown (2)
- Improve the schools (no one will come if they can’t put their children in a good school system) (2)
- Have a high school dedicated to arts. (2)
- Better coordination with city on pop-ups (2)
- Develop project that uses the arts to make the city more attractive, e.g., on city buses; parks; bus stop kiosks designed by artists (like Providence, near RISD)
- Diverse installations with different mediums at parks.

- Become a cannabis center – medical, growing, education, the business of..., revenue generator
- Play up connection to natural history and horticulture (e.g., landscape design of Charles Eliot, etc.)
- Combine agendas of arts and coastal ecology for projects that are uniquely New Bedford
- Bridge the gap between the professional maritime community and the arts community
- Recognize stable, unchanging resources and connect.
- Term limits at publicly funded art organizations to ensure fresh, diverse energy
- Love the Ave is on the right track – keep it going!
- Trip to City Museum in St Louis with local artists.
- End parking requirement for new businesses
- Re-establish connection to the ocean (emphasize through education)
- Add strong ocean-protection programs in the schools
- Engage BCC and UMD