

MAY 8, 2024 - Creative District Convening:
BREAK-OUT: Economic Development

Having a productive working relationship with your local **Economic Development** entities is critical. Here are just a few reasons why:

- Shared goals (to bolster economic vitality & support/attract business—large and small)
- Access to local statistics (demographics, trends, traffic counts, aggregate sales tax collections, etc.)
- Access to resources and expertise
- Local business connections and active support with elected officials
- Advanced knowledge of local economic activity
- Grant referrals and letters of support for grants and in some cases—access to some funding

Add more here:

What Economic Development is looking for is a Creative District:

- Clear Vision and Mission
- Aligned goals and strategies (an extension of their efforts)
- Ability to operate like a business (business/strategic plan, annual budget, buttoned up financial reporting)
- Operational execution (the ability to execute as a trusted partner)
- Metrics you can provide, such as: number of events, venues, member artists, or public art installations & placemaking activities, estimated visitorship, creative industry jobs, etc.) Track data year-over-year.
- Anecdotes about your successes—a good story goes along way!

Add more here:

Ideas for Collaboration

- Participate in their strategy sessions and allow a representative to participate in yours as well
- Invite a representative to join your board
- Hold joint community events (to demonstrate your partnership)

Add more here:

Three things you want to do with your Economic Development partners:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

REMEMEBER—Your WINS are their WINS, too—share the spotlight and credit!