



Worcester County Economic Development

100 Pearl Street, Suite B | Snow Hill MD 21863 | (410) 632-2144 | www.ChooseMarylandsCoast.org

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

PROGRAM

Maryland's Arts & Entertainment Districts are unique destinations, attracting audiences, artists, arts organizations, and other creative enterprises to geographically designated areas. Each reflects the traditions and evolving culture of its community.

DESCRIPTION

Maryland's Coast is home to two A&E districts with a concentration of cultural venues and arts activities: Berlin and Snow Hill. The program stimulates revitalization and business development, attracts residents and visitors, and builds the tax base. The designation offers incentives to artists, arts organizations and creative businesses:

- Artist Income Tax Subtraction Modification
- Property Tax Incentives
- Admissions & Amusement Tax Exemption

PURPOSE

Strategies supported by the A&E Districts program include:

- Creating accessible and unique arts destinations
- Leveraging the state's regional identities, natural resources, and heritage
- Facilitating dynamic arts experiences that engage community and attract visitors
- Enabling artists of all disciplines to live, work, and prosper
- Investing in the power of place

A&E PROFILE

Ann Coates, Owner, Bishop's Stock, Snow Hill A&E District

Since 2003, Worcester-County native Ann Coates has owned and operated one of the region's most highly acclaimed art galleries. Bishop's Stock - named for ancestor Henry Bishop who settled in Maryland in the 1640's - has been an anchor tenant of Snow Hill's A&E district. The light-filled space invites visitors to browse their collections and watch artists at work. Recognizing her customer's affinity for fine art and good wine, Ann expanded the gallery in 2010 to include a wine shop. From magnificent oil paintings and sculpture to woven wearable art, jewelry and hand-painted cards, the gallery represents both nationally renowned and emerging artists.

Jeffrey Auxer Designs, Blown Glass Gallery & Studio, Berlin A&E District

Inspired by an elective course in glassblowing while studying business at Salisbury University, Jeffrey Auxer today fuses his passions for art and commerce at his eponymous studio. He chose to open his gallery and atelier in Berlin's A&E district in 2009 after learning about the benefits the designation offered working artists. In addition to offering glass blowing classes, Jeff designs and fabricates his exquisite glass chandeliers and artworks for commercial properties and private collections.

ELIGIBILITY

Artist Income Tax Subtraction Modification

A *qualified residing artist* who lives in Maryland and sells *artistic work* in any of the 25 A&E Districts throughout the State is eligible for the income tax subtraction modification on income derived from their in-district sales (for performing artists, this includes income derived from performances in a district; for all "qualified residing artists", this includes internet sales originating in a district.)

- "Qualifying residing artist" means an individual who owns or rents residential real property in the State; conducts a business in any arts and entertainment district; and derives income from the sale or performance within any arts and entertainment district of an artistic work that the individual wrote, composed, or executed, either alone or with others, in any arts and entertainment district.
- "Artistic work" means original and creative work that is created, written, composed, or executed in one of these categories: A book or other writing; play or play performance; musical composition or performance; painting or other picture; sculpture; traditional or fine crafts; creation of a film or acting; creation of a dance or dance performance; creation of original jewelry, clothing, or design.
- "Arts and entertainment enterprise" means a for-profit or nonprofit entity dedicated to visual or performing arts.

CONTACTS

For more information on opportunities in Worcester's two A&E Districts, contact:

Berlin A&E
Ivy Wells
ivwells@berlinmd.gov
(410) 629-1722

Snow Hill A&E
Jere Johnson
jjohnson@snowhillmd.com
(443) 366-6909

