

Report from the ARTS DESTINATION COMMITTEE

Rutland's **Creative Economy Project** has been focusing on strengthening the aspects of our local economy that hinge upon creativity and cultural uniqueness. The Creative Economy Initiative began in 2005 as a vision of the Rutland Area Art Alliance—a group that believes strongly in the importance of arts within the community.

Over the past year, **the Committee to Promote Rutland Area as an Arts Destination** (or **Arts Destination Committee**) has made consistent progress in showcasing area arts and culture as well as building strong partnerships between local arts organizations and area business. Our efforts to promote coordination, collaboration and consolidation of resources are in direct response to the community's input from the early Creative Economy Forums. Accomplishments include the following;

- Thanks to the Rutland Herald, **InVite**, a weekly section highlighting regional arts and entertainment events, debuted in May 2006. This debut section helped promote Open Studio Weekend and **InVite** continues today to highlight and educate about the region's cultural offerings. We appreciate the Rutland Herald's partnering with us in recognizing the need to showcase the arts in the Rutland area.
- The Chaffee Art Center recently incorporated Crossroads Arts Councils' rich 35 year history and programming into their organization. This melding created a stronger, more diverse organization. As one, the Chaffee now offers dynamic cultural and fine arts events, as well as a broad spectrum of arts in education programming.
- **Arts Alive!**— a new collaborative initiative— brings Rutland to life one Friday of every month. Venues often feature live music, refreshments, and the chance to meet local artists. Also, many downtown merchants stay open during **Arts Alive!** On Friday, February 23rd, **Arts Alive!** will feature gallery openings and arts events at the Chaffee Art Center, the Brick Box at the Paramount, and the Rutland Free Library.

The Arts Destination Committee's current project is the development of an arts based website. The website, hosted by the Rutland Herald, will feature a "living" inventory of area arts organizations, arts in education programs, and an up to date calendar of events.

For more information or to find out how to get involved, contact Arts Destination Committee Chair Patricia Kreitzer at 786-6996 or via email at the Creative Economy address at rutlandcreative@yahoo.com