



STATE OF MAINE  
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JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

Ms. Jean Maginnis  
Executive Director  
Maine Center for Creativity  
7 Custom House Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Jean:

It has been brought to my attention that the Maine Center for Creativity is announcing its call for entries to its international design competition — *Art All Around*<sup>TM</sup>. Painting 16 oil tanks at Sprague Energy Corporation's South Portland tank farm is certainly an ambitious public art project. Aesthetically improving this industrial landscape will serve as a unique symbol of Maine's creative culture and thriving arts industries for visitors arriving to Portland by sea, land or air.

Given the challenges of attracting new business and jobs for Maine it is critical we realize the importance of growing Maine's creative economy — especially as more of our traditional industries are disappearing. Today, businesses in the state's creative sector are thriving and represent a significant economic growth opportunity for us. In fact, more than 63,000 Maine residents are currently employed in the creative sector which provides about 10 percent of all Maine's wages.

I want to thank the Maine Center for Creativity, Sprague Energy Corp., the countless volunteers and many businesses and state and local officials that have collaborated in support of this initiative. Your combined efforts have helped to raise awareness of the strength and value of Maine's creative economy as a growth sector for our state and keep the creative economy at the forefront of the state's economic growth discussion.

It is wonderful to have an organization like the Maine Center for Creativity in our State. Please keep me informed of new developments and do not hesitate to contact my office if we can assist you in your efforts.

Best regards,

  
John Baldacci  
Governor



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