



The Greater Bristol Folk Arts & Culture Team Organizational Profiles & Team Members

- [Arts Alliance Mountain Empire \(AAM\)](#)

AAME is an arts council formed as a service organization for artists, arts organizations, and other cultural endeavors throughout the Mountain Empire. *A! Magazine* is a publication of AAME. It is the recipient of the Tennessee Governor's 2003 Award for Arts Leadership, a 2007 Pinnacle tourism award for the print edition and the e-mail digest, and three awards in 2009 from the Society of Professional Journalists, Tri-Cities Chapter.

Team member: Erika Barker

- [Appalachian Sustainable Development \(ASD\)](#)

Living Better. Locally. It's what drives ASD's commitment to propel its mission to build a thriving regional food and agriculture system that creates healthy communities, respects the planet, and cultivates profitable opportunities for Appalachians. Since 1995, ASD has been working in Central Appalachia, making a difference for the people who call the region home. What began as opportunities for struggling tobacco farmers to grow fruits and vegetables have become lasting solutions to regional challenges that impact economic development, workforce development, food access, health, and wellness.

Team member: Sylvia Crum

- [Birthplace of Country Music \(BCM\)](#)

The Birthplace of Country Music seeks to perpetuate, promote, and celebrate Bristol's rich musical heritage; to educate and engage audiences worldwide regarding the history, impact, and legacy of the 1927 Bristol Sessions from which we derive our name; and to create recognition, opportunities, and economic benefit for our local and regional communities. BCM has three branches: the Smithsonian-affiliated Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion music festival, and Radio Bristol.

Team members: Toni Doman, René Rodgers

- [Center for Cultural Vibrancy \(CCV\)](#)

CCV creates and cultivates opportunities for cultural connections that support living traditions and energize vibrant communities. We are creating a more empathetic world – where people respect and celebrate one another’s cultural expressions – through the sharing of traditional arts, customs, and lore that promote cultural exchange, understanding, and honor artistic mastery.

Team member: Jon Lohman

- [Create Appalachia](#)

By providing access to affordable co-working and business incubation space, professional development and entrepreneurship training, mentoring, and technical resources, we hope to mitigate the “brain drain” caused by the large number of skilled graduates that are currently leaving the region upon graduation due to the lack of highly-paid, skilled jobs.

Team member: Katie Hoffman

- [The Crooked Road: Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail](#)

The Crooked Road is a 330-mile driving trail through the mountains of Southwest Virginia that connects nine Major Venues and over 60 Affiliated Venues and Festivals that visitors can enjoy every day of the year. The Crooked Road: Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail is also a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization founded in 2004 whose mission is to support economic development in Southwest Virginia by promoting this region’s rich heritage of traditional music.

Team member: Carrie Beck

- [Virginia Folklife Program](#) at [Virginia Humanities](#)

For thirty-three years, the Virginia Folklife Program has worked to document, sustain, present, and support cultural traditions across the Commonwealth. State folklife programs were piloted at arts councils by the National Endowment for the Arts starting in 1974. In 1989, the Virginia Folklife Program was founded at Virginia Humanities, the state humanities council headquartered at the University of Virginia. The Virginia Folklife Program connects communities while honoring Virginia’s rich cultural heritage through educational events, media production, and its Apprenticeship Program.

Team members: Katy Clune, Pat Jarrett

- [Wayne C. Henderson School of Appalachian Arts](#)

The school is named for Wayne C. Henderson, a world renowned guitar instrumentalist and luthier from nearby Rugby, Virginia who has become an international ambassador for the music, heritage, and culture of our region of the Southern Appalachians.

Team member: Catherine Schrenker

- [William King Museum of Art \(WKMA\)](#)

William King Museum of Art is an ever-changing gallery and gathering space in the vibrant arts and cultural community of Abingdon, Virginia. Exhibitions range from contemporary art made right here in the Appalachian region to fine art from all around the world. WKMA is also home to the Betsy K. White Cultural Heritage Research Archive, one of the most thorough documentations of the rich decorative arts legacy of Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee in existence. This research is reflected in two cultural heritage galleries, which celebrate that legacy.

Team member: Betsy White

Independent Artists (Team Members)

- [geonovah davis](#)

Born and raised in the heart of Appalachia, geonovah davis is an artist who is fundamentally focused on giving back to their community. The Radical Rappin' Advocate derives inspiration from the mountains and the people within them.

- [Tyler Hughes](#)

Hailing from Big Stone Gap, Virginia, Tyler Hughes has been practicing Appalachia's musical and dance traditions for over a decade. A multi-instrumentalist, square dance caller and educator, Tyler's songs and tunes draw on his own family's history in the coal mines of Virginia to tell the stories of resilient people and places. He has performed on stages abroad and close to home including, the historic Carter Family Fold, JAZZ! at the Lincoln Center, and WSM's *Grand Ole Opry*.

