

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VERMONT ARTISTS COME TOGETHER ONLINE
TO SHARE STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND CHANGE**

MONTPELIER, Vt.—The [Community Engagement Lab](https://www.communityengagementlab.org)—a Montpelier-based non-profit dedicated to using creative projects to help build stronger communities — is convening artists from across the state to participate in a virtual story circle designed to strengthen their ties to each other and reveal creative solutions to shared challenges created by the pandemic.

Many artists are feeling isolated and distraught over the wholesale cancellation of programs and income that is their way of life, according to Paul Gambill, Executive Director of the Community Engagement Lab.

“Artists, teaching artists, and arts administrators all over Vermont have seen their livelihoods extinguished in the matter of a few days,” Gambill said. The virtual story circle is a way to bring Vermont artists together to share ideas for navigating the changes during this unprecedented time.

Story circles are used as a way to share experiences and ideas in a facilitated, small- group setting. What makes this story circle event unique is that it will convene dozens of artists from across Vermont into a single video conference call. The video conferencing technology allows for small groups to then “break out” into virtual rooms for the story circle experience to unfold.

Eric Booth, the Community Engagement Lab’s engagement director, said that he has often seen how story circles can surface creative solutions to big challenges. “The collective creativity of a story circle experience like this one shouldn’t be underestimated,” said Booth.

The Artist Story Circle will take place Monday, April 6, at 4-5:30, on the video conferencing platform Zoom. All artists, teaching artists, arts administrators and friends of the arts are invited to participate. The event is free, and registration is required.

Visit [CommunityEngagementLab.org](https://www.CommunityEngagementLab.org) to register and receive instructions for accessing the Zoom video conference call.

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The Vermont-based [Community Engagement Lab](https://www.communityengagementlab.org) provides leadership to bring people of all ages together in projects that activate their creativity to imagine and build stronger, more thriving communities. The Lab supports creative school/community partnerships across the state through programs such as the [Vermont Creative Schools Initiative](https://www.vermontcreativeschools.org) and the [Vermont Teaching Artist Academy](https://www.vermontteachingartistacademy.org).

Photo available up on request.