

**Fair Trade Means Fair Trade-
addressing fair treatment of artists and their work in the
Commonwealth and beyond**

1-2pm Panel Discussion (Great Hall)

Discussion about how to best ensure the fair treatment of artists of all disciplines and their work.

Confirmed Panelists: Jocelyn Jones, Deputy Chief of the Attorney General's Fair Labor Division; Helena Fruscio, Creative Economy Industry Director; Matt Wilson, Executive Director of MassCreative; Don Packer, President of Massachusetts Production Coalition (MPC); and Kelly Bennett, Exhibitions Curator/Program Coordinator Artist Fellowships, Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC).

Some of the topics/issues that might be covered:

1) During a statewide listening tour held by the Creative Economy Council this summer, artists of all disciplines often commented as to how they are often expected to perform/provide their work for free.

In fact it is clear that the arts and creative economy is based on and benefits from this practice. How do we change this wide held practice when many arts organizations are the ones who are expecting this?

Should we require any businesses/non profits that receive any type of state support to follow certain ethics/regulations on how they treat individuals/independent contractors and small businesses? (particularly for artists of all disciplines and teaching artists)

2) Many artists are self employed (and want to be to control their work and intellectual property) and there seems to be limited protections for this population. Are there any existing protections artists should know about? Is there legislation and/or regulations that could be done to make this population less vulnerable?

3) For those artists who are W-2ed for their services, but are not really employees per say - what protections/rights do they have? Should we require their "employers" to inform them of these protections/rights?

ie particularly for those who are adjunct professors for example. How many weeks do they have to work to qualify for unemployment? etc.

4) What is happening around the 2004 Independent Contractor law change and its impact on those who want to be self employed and/or retain all their rights to their IP?