



Highlands Creative Economy Council
Monthly Meeting
July 27th, 2023, at 10 am
[Link to recording](#)

Thursday, July 27th at 10 am (ZOOM)

Agenda:

- Welcome!
- Eastern updates
 - [Drone Training](#) August 3 & 4, Eastern Campus
 - [Lodging Panel](#) August 3: “How to step up your accessibility in the hospitality industry
 - Solar technician training: 6 week hybrid course beginning August 22
 - Robert Johnson (AFNHA) – There is a large solar array coming to reclaimed mining property in Nicholas County in 2025.
 - [Intro to Grant Writing & Management](#), Sept 5-14
 - [Advanced Grant Writing & Management](#) training, October 10-26
 - Agritourism brochure now available [online](#)
 - Email Megan.webb@easternwv.edu with questions or email WorkforceED@easternwv.edu to enroll
- AFNHA updates
 - Tourism Summit - Thursday, August 3rd
 - View agenda or presenter information [HERE](#)
 - Appalachian Forest Grant Program
 - Applications due July 31. More info [HERE](#)
 - Benedum Outcomes Survey coming soon
- Guest Speakers - Creative Economy mini-grant recipients
 - Tina Ladd - Hampshire County CVB (cometohampshire@gmail.com)
 - The Potomac Highlands Sportsman & Outdoor Show was designed to serve the local community as well as attract tourists. There was a lack of large outdoor shows in the area during that time of year. Attendance was over 1,786. Spent \$1,178 on facebook ads with a reach of 90,000. Facebook page gained over 1,000 followers. Created an [digital guide](#) with almost 3,000 opens.
 - [Link to slideshow](#)

- Adam Rossi - Greenbrier Valley Theatre (development@gvtheatre.org)
 - “Mountain Home Christmas” was an original production celebrating Christmas in Appalachia. Held 13 performances in Lewisburg and other communities. Over 1800 total patrons. Drew on 15 stories from the state archives, and 50 overall stories. Included 13 original arrangements.
 - [Link to slideshow](#)
- Attendee Discussion / Extended Networking –
 - Amber Higgins (Barbour Co Development Authority) - volunteers needed for Lurchfest on 8/5. email ahiggins.bceda@gmail.com or call/text (304)470-0042
 - Alex Fliegel (Webster County CVB) – Webster Springs is hosting Music in the Court Square. Jerry Run Theater has live music Fridays and Saturdays. Now taking donations for Woodchopping & Timber Heritage Museum. Holly River Festival, and Bergoo Bash are all taking place Labor Day weekend.
 - Robert Johnson - Cherry River Festival starts this weekend for a weeks-long celebration. The CRF has been running since its inception during 1937. Cherry River Festival is a Richwood, Nicholas County event.
- Save The Date! The next meeting is **September 28, 2023**, at 10 AM on Zoom.
 - Pre-register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlftuCrqDwoEtUiPmr9BT63MnKUky9DJGRD>

This will be an open discussion; everyone is welcome.