

Arts and Entertainment, Economic Development Strategy

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Mr. Bleinberger created an initial economic development strategy for this Berkshire community based on cultural arts and entertainment in the early 2000s. This effort followed the closure of a General Electric manufacturing plant that devastated the local economy and created a void in the funding for non-profit arts and other organizations. The strategy focused on attracting private sector investment in the downtown, unification of competing arts organizations, arts-based use of existing vacant spaces and buildings, and other pragmatic steps.

Over the years, Pittsfield has developed its non-profit cultural arts base, as well as attracted for-profit art galleries, and fostered restaurant and entertainment venue that have contributed to the revitalization of North St. and the greater downtown area. A strong event schedule has also developed, which has capitalized on support from other Berkshire festivals and public attractions.



Today, downtown Pittsfield is a vibrant destination for those interested in the arts, as well as those attracted to live entertainment, dining options, specialty retail shops and various points of historic interest.