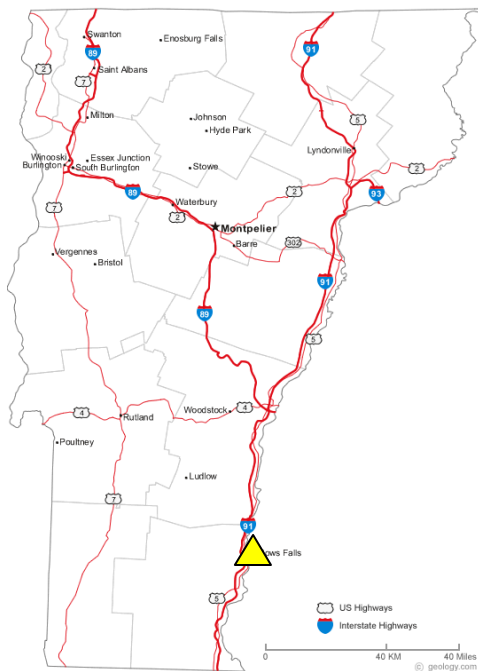


## Beyond Rural: Arts and Economic Development in VERY SMALL Towns

Wapato, WA (population 4,500) and Bellows Falls, VT (population 3,600) have used the arts to spark downtown revitalization and bring diverse residents, business people, and city officials together to illuminate each town's potential. These case studies will illustrate for other rural communities with limited resources how the arts can be used as a tool for economic development and community revitalization.

Presenters:

- **Bitsy Bidwell**, Community Arts Development Manager, Washington State Arts Commission
- **Brenda Diaz**, Student, Northwest Learning & Achievement Group, WA
- **Debra Manjarrez**, President, Wapato Chamber of Commerce, WA
- **Robert McBride**, Director, Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, VT
- **Barbara Peterson**, Co-Executive Director, Northwest Learning & Achievement Group, WA



Rockingham Arts and Museum Project RAMP  
7 Canal Street  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
802.463.3252  
[ramp@sover.net](mailto:ramp@sover.net)  
[www.ramp-vt.org](http://www.ramp-vt.org)  
Robert McBride, Exec. Director

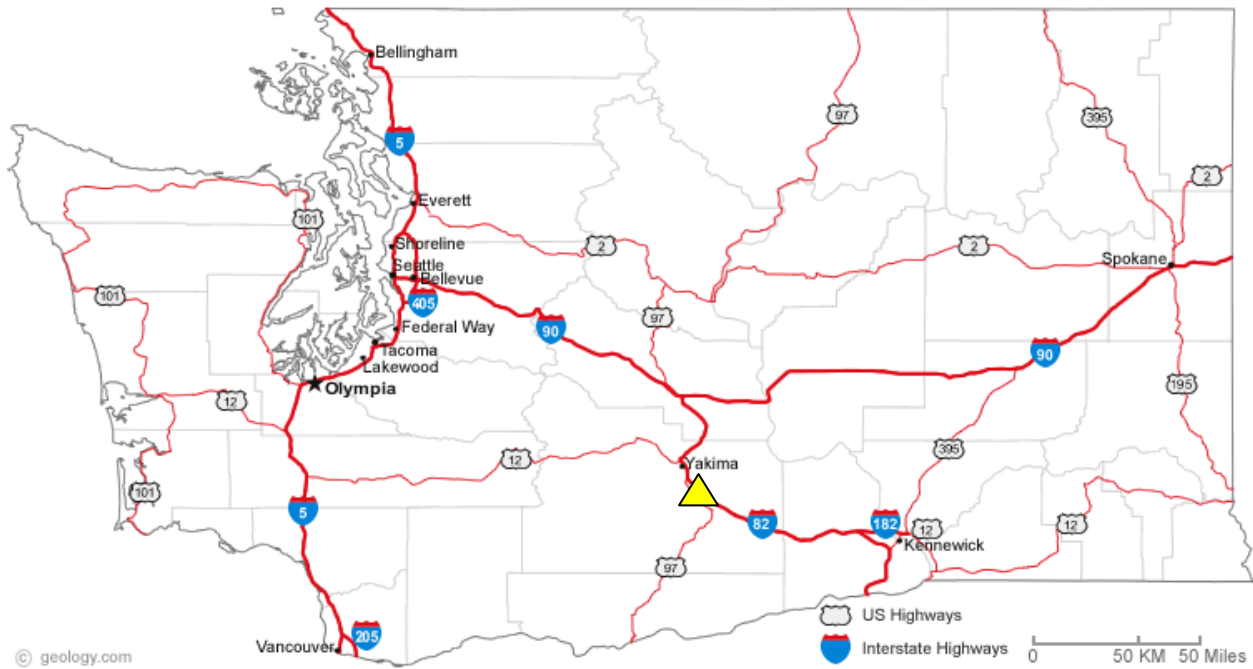
160 Miles x 120 Miles

VERMONT

Bellows Falls, VT Population 3165

Town Pop. Density 2286 per square mile

Windham County Pop. Density 55 per sq. mile (land area 789 sq. miles)



375 Miles x 225 miles

WASHINGTON

Wapato, WA Population 4582

Town Pop. Density 4725 people per sq. mile

Yakima County Pop. Density 55 per sq. mile  
(land area 4296 sq. miles)

Northwest Learning and Achievement  
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Barbara Peterson, Co-Executive Director

## RESOURCES

What is 'rural'? National Agricultural Library, Rural Information Center

[http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/what\\_is\\_rural.shtml](http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/what_is_rural.shtml)

What is 'frontier'? Rural Assistance Center

[http://www.raconline.org/info\\_guides/frontier/frontierfaq.php#definition](http://www.raconline.org/info_guides/frontier/frontierfaq.php#definition)

Creative City Network [www.creativecity.ca](http://www.creativecity.ca)

"Developing and Revitalizing Rural Communities Through Arts and Creativity"

<http://creativecommons.ca/images/stories/PDFs/CCNCRResearch/RuralResearch/rural-communities-arts-2009.pdf>

"Strengthening Rural Economies through the Arts" NGA Center for Best Practices

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/RURALARTS.pdf>

Community Arts Network [www.communityarts.net](http://www.communityarts.net)

Archives on Arts in Rural Communities

<http://www.communityarts.net/archivefiles/rural/index.php>

Americans for the Arts Rural and Small Communities Peer Group

[http://www.americansforthearts.org/networks/peer\\_groups/003.asp](http://www.americansforthearts.org/networks/peer_groups/003.asp)