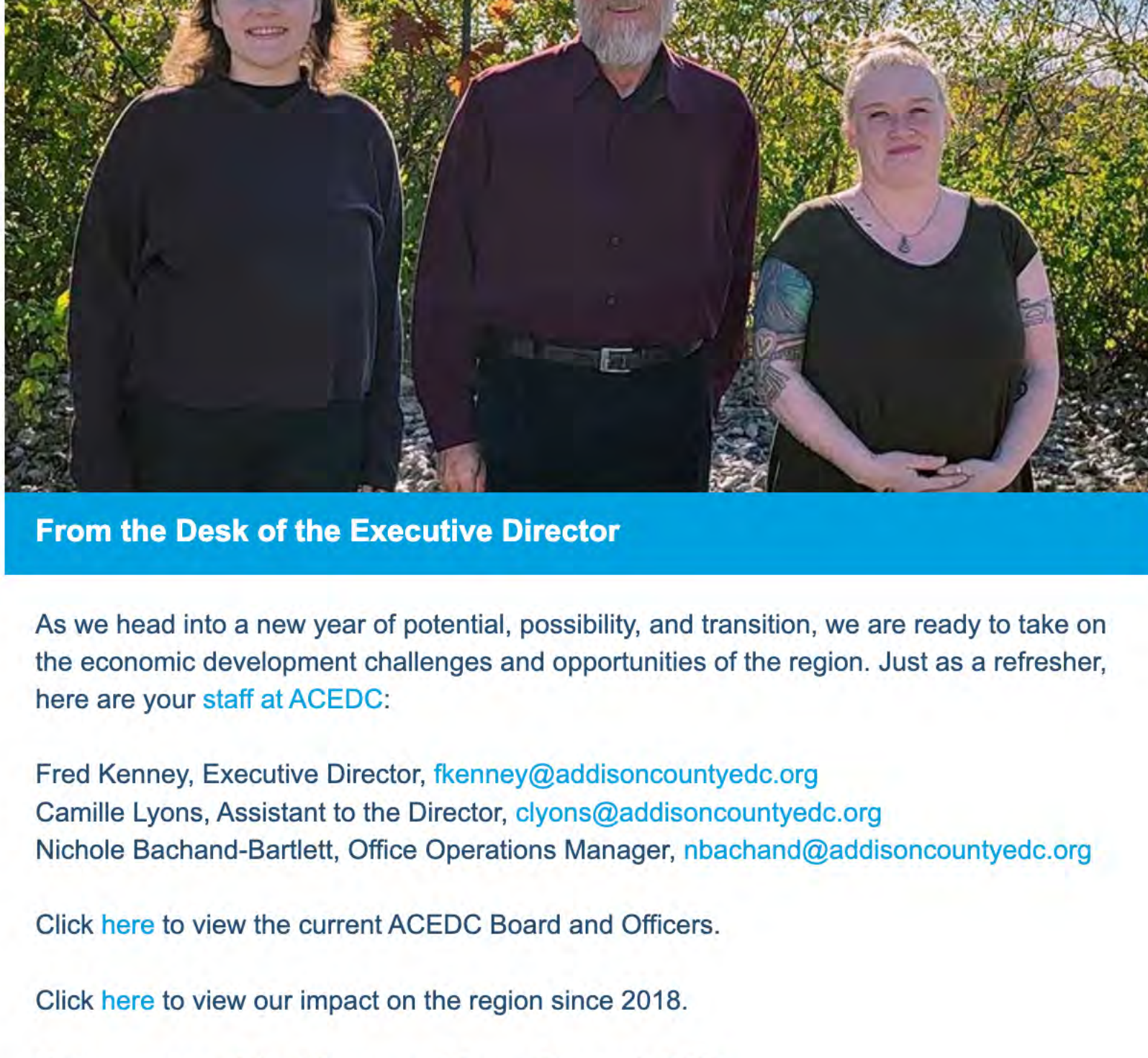




Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter!

As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Enjoy,  
ACEDC



### From the Desk of the Executive Director

As we head into a new year of potential, possibility, and transition, we are ready to take on the economic development challenges and opportunities of the region. Just as a refresher, here are your [staff at ACEDC](#):

Fred Kenney, Executive Director, [fkenny@addisoncountyedc.org](mailto:fkenny@addisoncountyedc.org)  
Camille Lyons, Assistant to the Director, [clions@addisoncountyedc.org](mailto:clions@addisoncountyedc.org)  
Nichole Bachand-Bartlett, Office Operations Manager, [nbachand@addisoncountyedc.org](mailto:nbachand@addisoncountyedc.org)

Click [here](#) to view the current ACEDC Board and Officers.

Click [here](#) to view our impact on the region since 2018.

Here are some of the things we will be working on in 2025:

- **Executive Director Transition:** Fred Kenney will be stepping down on June 30, 2025. The ACEDC Hiring Committee has begun interviewing candidates and hopes to have a new Executive Director on board in time for several months of overlap.
- **Business Expansion, Relocation, and Recruitment:** ACEDC will continue outreach to entrepreneurs, business owners, community officials, and property owners to provide assistance, advance the growth of businesses in our region, recruit new businesses, and provide relocation services.
- **Business Education:** Partnering with the Addison County Chamber, we'll offer another series of monthly business education webinars and in-person workshops, open to our members. [Click here for the schedule.](#)
- **Legislative Session:** Monitoring, testifying, and providing information from our region and business community to the Vermont Legislature. With the abundance of federal funding a thing of the past, the budget process will be very different this year. Priority issues are expected to include: Housing; Disaster recovery assistance and disaster resilience and preparedness; Property taxes and Education funding; and public safety. Let us know if there is an issue you are particularly interested in and members, watch for our weekly legislative updates.
- **Grant Applications and Administration:** We'll assist with application to the next rounds of Federal and State grants including USDA/Rural Development Rural Development Business Grants, Northern Border Regional Commission Grants, and Vermont Buildings and General Services "Building Community" grants, among others. And we'll continue to administer several grants already awarded and underway.
- **Project Development and Financing:** We'll continue to assist businesses and communities to develop and finance economic and community development projects with access to capital including grants, loans, and investors. This includes our Revolving Loan fund which has loaned over \$5 million for over 100 business development projects in Addison County.
- **Attracting new families and individuals to Addison County:** Partnering with the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, we're administering a GROW grant from the Vermont Department of Tourism to convince folks from out-of-state that Addison County is where they want to live, work, and play. The program will also work with new residents to make them feel welcome and ensure they become long-term residents.
- **Small Business Technical Assistance:** We provide assistance to small and medium-size businesses from start-up to growth stages. We are working to identify and fill regional gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- **Economic Development District:** In partnership with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, we are implementing the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, developing a regional economic development strategy for Addison County. We have applied to the US Economic Development Agency to get designated as an Economic Development District, which could direct additional federal funding to the region.

Stay tuned to our website, newsletter and social media as we work to advance economic and community development in Addison County during 2025!

### ACEDC News

#### ACEDC Wins \$34,447 in Economic Development Grants for Three Addison County Businesses

Governor Scott and Jennifer M.V. Fitch, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS), have notified the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) that they were awarded \$34,447 for three Addison County businesses through the [Building Communities Grant Program](#) for projects in Leicester, Middlebury, and Vergennes.



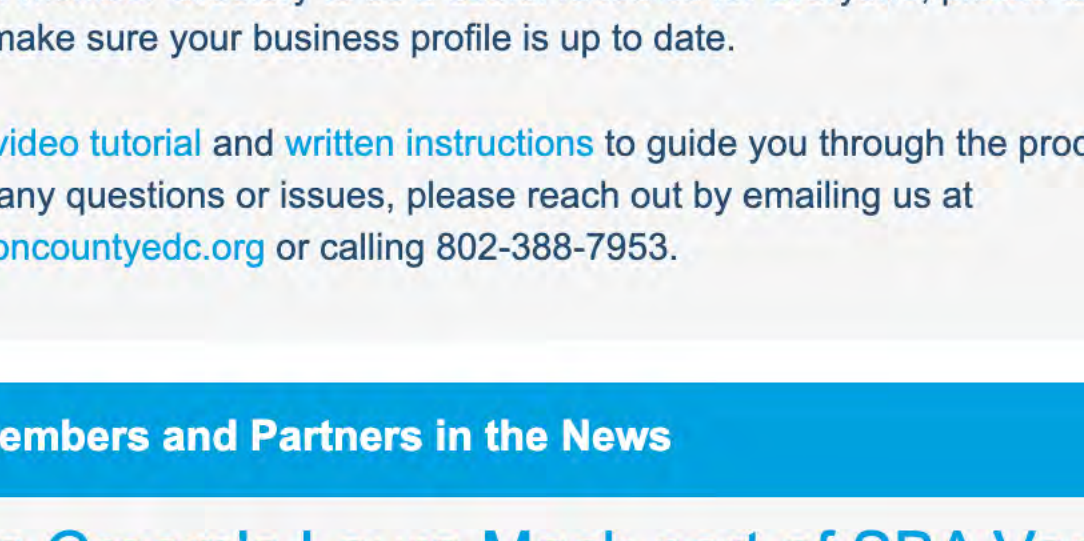
[Read More](#)

#### Addison County Legislative Delegation Tours Local Businesses



In December, ACEDC organized a tour of businesses for the incoming Addison County Legislative Delegation. Senator Ruth Hardy and Representatives Rob North, Matt Birong, and Peter Conlon participated. Over three days, the tour visited All Earth Renewables, Mechanical Advantage, Town Hall Theater, Foster Farm/Vermont Natural Ag Products, Collins Aerospace, Lulu Ice Cream, and Lost Lantern Whiskey.

#### ACEDC Wins \$4,000 Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund Grant



The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) announced its awardees for the fourth round of Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund (CCIF) grants. ACEDC received \$4,000, which will support the expertise and community organizing to advance several Thermal Energy Network projects in Middlebury. The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) also received \$4,000. They will use the money "to support a farmer-led network for climate resilience." The CCIF has awarded over \$285,000 to 92 local innovators to support community-led climate and energy projects.

[Read More](#)

### ACEDC Annual Meeting



The ACEDC Annual Meeting of the Membership took place on November 14, 2024 at the Middlebury Inn. Thanks to everyone who attended!

If you missed the 2024 Annual Meeting, or want to refer back to something, check out the [Annual Meeting webpage in the Member's Only section of our website.](#)

[Click here to access our FY2024 Annual Impact Report.](#)

### Is your ACEDC member profile up to date?

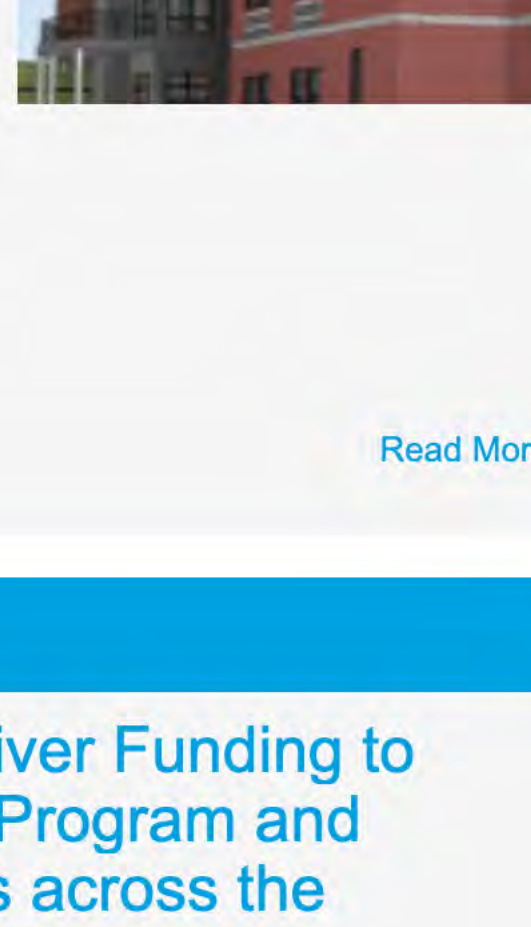
We want our member directory to be a useful resource for everyone; please take a few minutes to make sure your business profile is up to date.

We have a [video tutorial](#) and [written instructions](#) to guide you through the process. If you have any questions or issues, please reach out by emailing us at [info@addisoncountyedc.org](mailto:info@addisoncountyedc.org) or calling 802-388-7953.

### ACEDC Members and Partners in the News

#### lu-lu Ice Cream's Laura Mack part of SBA Vermont T.H.R.I.V.E. Program Class of 2024

A group of 11 Vermont business owners, including Laura Mack, owner of lu-lu Ice Cream in Vergennes, completed the SBA's T.H.R.I.V.E. program and celebrated their six-month journey with a graduation at SBA Vermont's District Office in Williston, T.H.R.I.V.E. *Emerging Leaders Reimagined* provides entrepreneurship education and training for executives of small, poised-for-growth companies. During the six-month program, participants acquire MBA-equivalent knowledge, amplify their leadership skills, and build relationships with a community of business peers, advisors, and experts.



[Read More](#)

#### Addison County Alignment & Repair Opens in New Haven, VT



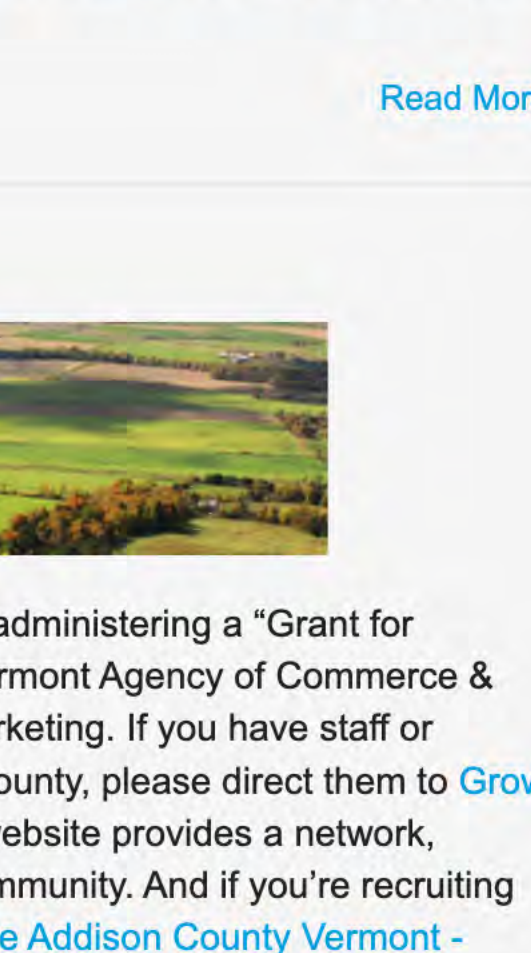
Addison County Alignment & Repair opened its doors with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, October 21st.

ACAR is owned by ACEDC member Steve and Lisa Dupoise, who also own and operate County Tire Center in Middlebury. ACEDC was a lender to the project.

[Read More](#)

#### Nora Ganley-Roper part of VermontBiz Vermont's Rising Stars Class of 2024

Congratulations to Lost Lantern co-founder Nora Ganley-Roper, who was named as one of Vermont's Rising Stars Class of 2024 by VT Business Magazine, which recognizes outstanding young leaders for their contributions to the Vermont economy and their community.



[Read More](#)

### Community News

#### Furniture Available for Addison County Small Businesses and Non-profits

ACEDC member National Bank of Middlebury is once again generously offering office furniture to the Addison County business and non-profit community. As renovations proceed, the furniture will be available for pick-up at the main NBM branch (30 Main Street, Middlebury) on a first come, first served basis.

Keep an eye out for emails from us regarding specific items and availability.

#### Addison County towns named in top 10 list



*Travel & Leisure Magazine* published an article titled, "10 Best Small Towns in Vermont, According to Locals" and named Bristol, Middlebury, and Vergennes in the list.

[Read More](#)

#### \$500,000 CDS Grant Officially Awarded to Friends of the Vergennes Opera House All Access Project

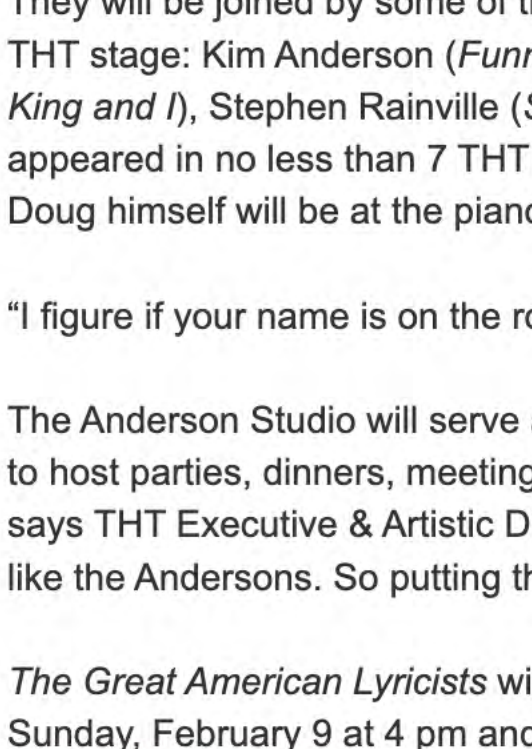
The Friends of the Vergennes Opera House (FVOH) have received official notice of a Congressionally Directed Funding grant of \$500,000 for the [All Access Project](#). This grant comes to the FVOH via the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The All Access Project includes the creation of an elevator tower, on the southwest side of city hall, transforming the alleyway into an inviting courtyard to provide access to the tower, and creating ADA access for both the stage and dressing room areas in the second-floor theater space.



[Read More](#)

### Resources for Businesses & Municipalities

#### President Biden Signs Law to Deliver Funding to SBA to Reopen its Disaster Loan Program and Support Recovery in Communities across the Country



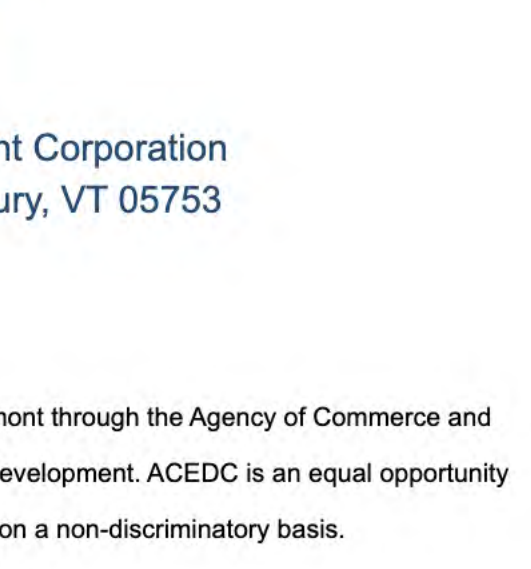
**SBA can now confirm loan offers to over 21,000 qualified disaster loan applicants waiting for financial assistance to recover**

As of Oct. 15, 2024, the program had exhausted its funding, preventing the SBA from issuing a number of new loan offers. Despite the funding lapse, the SBA continued to accept and process disaster loan applications, queuing approved applications for funding once additional resources became available. Applications continue to remain open for recently declared disasters and the SBA encourages those impacted to learn more about what is available in their community and apply today for disaster loans at [lending.sba.gov](https://lending.sba.gov).

[Read More](#)

#### Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Trade Show Assistance Grant

Is your Vermont agriculture, food, or forestry businesses looking to expand into new markets? The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' [Trade Show Assistance Grant](#) might be able to help! These matching grants provide businesses with funds to exhibit and sell their Vermont products at trade shows targeting out-of-state, wholesale buyers.



[Read More](#)

#### Court Injunction Temporarily Blocks Beneficial Ownership Information Filing Requirements



On December 3, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issued a nationwide preliminary injunction halting the enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) and its related Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) filing requirements. This order temporarily suspends the obligation for nonprofits and other reporting entities to file BOI reports with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

[Read More](#)

### Imagine Addison County



ACEDC and Addison County Chamber of Commerce are administering a "Grant for Relocation Outreach Work (GROW)," a program of the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development, Department of Tourism and Marketing. If you have staff or otherwise know folks who are new residents to Addison County, please direct them to [Grow Here - Addison County Chamber of Commerce, VT](#). The website provides a network, events and activities designed to welcome them to the community. And if you're recruiting from out-of-state to fill positions, be sure to include [Imagine Addison County Vermont - Addison County Chamber of Commerce, VT](#) in your information to prospects for access to relocation information and support.

[Read More](#)

### Available Commercial Properties in Addison County

Looking for Space to Start, Expand, or Relocate Your Business?  
[Visit our Website for current property listings](#)

### ACEDC Events

#### 2025 ACCoI/ACEDC Webinar-Workshop Schedule

Our 2025 webinar schedule is posted on our website - check out the great topics & presenters we're offering this year and save the dates! More details will become available as we get closer to the webinar dates.



[Visit the ACEDC Events Calendar for more information](#)

### Community Events

[Visit our Community Events Calendar for more events](#)

### Employment, Training and Education Opportunities

[Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities](#)

#### Job Fairs

Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

#### Weekly VT DoL Virtual Workshops

- Resume Writing Workshop - Mondays at 9am
- Regional Employment Connections - Mondays at 1pm
- Interviewing Skills - Tuesdays at 9am
- Re-Employment Strategies - Wednesdays at 9am
- Resume Writing Workshop - Wednesdays at 1pm
- Interviewing Skills - Fridays at 1pm

### Highlighted Partner: Town Hall Theater

#### GRAND OPENING OF NEW TOWN HALL THEATER STUDIO A Sparkling Cabaret Launches the Doug and Debby Anderson Studio

After 28 years of restoring and reviving Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, Doug and Debby Anderson are getting a lasting honor: their names on the first room to open in the new THT expansion.

"It's a stunning room," says Doug, "with floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over Otter Creek and all of downtown. It's humbling to think that our names will be over the door."

The Anderson Studio will be the first space in the new building to open to the public. Other rooms will open as soon as they are completed, including a dedicated education space that will open in March. A festive grand opening of the entire building is scheduled for June.

Doug and Debby have reserved for themselves the first performance in the new studio, which will be a cabaret they're calling *The Great American Lyricists*, featuring their favorite songs from Broadway and the American Songbook.

They will be joined by some of their favorite performers, all of whom have starred on the THT stage: Kim Anderson (*Funny Girl*), Bill Bickford (*The Music Man*), Mindy Bickford (*The King and I*), Stephen Rainville (*Smokey Joe's Cafe*), and Nathaniel Rothrock, who appeared in no less than 7 THT productions when he was a student at Middlebury College. Doug himself will be at the piano, and he has a warning for the audience: he might sing.

"I figure if your name is on the room you can pretty much do whatever you like," Doug said.

The Anderson Studio will serve as a rehearsal and performance space but is also equipped to host parties, dinners, meetings and receptions. "There isn't a room like it in Middlebury," says THT Executive & Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell, "and there's no one in Middlebury quite like the Andersons. So putting their name on the room makes perfect sense."

*The Great American Lyricists* will be presented on Saturday, February 8 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, February 9 at 4 pm and 7:30 pm. Doors will open one hour in advance to give audience members a chance to tour of the entire complex. For tickets go to [townhalltheater.org](https://townhalltheater.org), call 802.382.9222, or visit the THT Box Office (Mon-Sat, Noon-5 pm.)

#### Stay up to date between newsletters by visiting our News Feed, the ACEDC events and Business Community Calendar webpages, and following us on social media!



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(802) 388 - 7953

[Email](#)  
[Website](#)

ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Loan programs are made possible by USDA/Rural Development. ACEDC is an equal opportunity service provider and lender, with all services and funds available on a non-discriminatory basis.