



# New Hampshire Department of CULTURAL RESOURCES

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Shelly Angers, N.H. Department of Cultural Resources  
(603) 271-3136  
[shelly.angers@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:shelly.angers@dcr.nh.gov)  
Twitter: @NHCulture

## N.H. traditional artist featured in Native New England Now exhibit

Whitefield, N.H., artist Rhonda Besaw, known widely for the artistry of her traditional Wabenaki beadwork, has been selected as one of several Native American artists to be featured in the exhibit portion of the program Native New England Now: Celebrating Six Years of NEFA's Native Arts.

NEFA, the New England Foundation for the Arts, is partnering with the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center for Native New England Now, which celebrates the artistic vitality of the region's Native American communities by showcasing Native American artists working across a range of media. The artists included in the exhibit have all received Native Arts grants from NEFA in the past.

As a member of the N.H. State Council on the Arts' Traditional Arts & Folklife Listing, Besaw has worked with schools and community groups throughout the state, teaching about Wabenaki beadwork and culture. Wabenaki refers to a confederation of five indigenous Native American tribes originally populating New England, parts of Quebec and the Maritimes of Canada.

Besaw is a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen as well as a member of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire and the Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network. Her website, [rhondabesaw.com](http://rhondabesaw.com), showcases her artistry while explaining its history and cultural significance.

Native New England Now runs from Oct. 5, 2013, through Jan. 4, 2014, at the Mashantucket Gallery and Atrium in Mashantucket, Conn. In addition to the exhibit, programming includes a full day of professional development session for artists on Oct. 5, a gourd bowl workshop for families on Oct. 12 and a conversation on Native



New England contemporary art about Nov. 16.

For more information about Native New England Now, visit [nefa.org](http://nefa.org).

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts is a division of the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources. It began in 1965 with legislation designed “to insure that the role of the arts in the life of our communities will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in the education and welfare of our citizens.” Funding for programs is provided through state appropriations, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Conservation License Plate fund. Learn more about the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at [www.nh.gov/nharts](http://www.nh.gov/nharts).

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