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## What's Happening

Have you been wondering what's been happening with the Realize Maine Network? We've been extremely busy this year and here's your chance to get updated on what's happened and what we're working on across the state with Realize Maine and the network's regional groups.

## Our New Website

In February, the Realize Maine Network launched their new website. Our newly designed site will help you to connect with our regional groups, check out what events are happening in the state and find out more information about the network. Check out our new website at [www.realizemaine.org](http://www.realizemaine.org).

## Maine Young Professionals Exchange

The Realize Maine Network along with **Momentum Aroostook** and **Fusion Bangor** held a Young Professionals Exchange in May at the University of Maine at Orono. The focus of the exchange was to discuss fostering in-migration and encouraging community engagement. This conference was a great opportunity to discuss ways to attract young people to work and live in our state. We are looking forward to other regional groups hosting future exchanges. If you would like to read more about this event, please check out the following articles:

[Bangor Daily News](#)

[WABI TV5](#)

## Juice 3.0

Mark your calendar for November 4th and 5th – it is time for Juice 3.0, Maine's Creative Economy Conference. Juice is designed to generate energy, to be a conductor of ideas and action. The theme of this year's conference is 'Celebrating Risk.' During Juice you will discuss, debate and decide on action plans to fuel Maine's future. Whether you are an

innovator, artist, entrepreneur, community developer, industry leaders or policy maker, please join us. There will be amazing keynote speakers, panels, workshops, a \$150,000 business plan Pitch Competition, a Film Contest and Pecha Kucha. To register or for more information on Juice, go to [www.juiceconference.org](http://www.juiceconference.org).

## Grant Summary

In December 2010, Realize announced the regional groups that were the recipients of \$30,000 in shared grant money to be used for project or planning and capacity projects. We're very excited to share with you what the regional groups have been working on over the past several months with their grant money.

- **Fusion Bangor** received funds for membership and group expansion. They are engaging and recruiting members from college populations and surrounding rural communities through a series of focus groups, events, and a recruitment plan. Fusion also received funds to start a Pecha Kucha program in Bangor. This worldwide sensation offers a fun and creative way for individuals and entrepreneurs to meet, network and show their work in public.
- **Midcoast Magnet** received funds for their Juice Box networking program. A Juice Box is full of the energy and expertise as the Juice Conference but is wrapped up in a smaller package. These very fun networking and informational events are focused on entrepreneurs, technology and the arts.
- **Propel** (Portland) received money to help with their annual Entreverge awards ceremony in May. This successful event identifies, honors and supports entrepreneurs and businesses in the Portland region and provides them with networking, financial, technical, marketing support and a brightly colored guitar! To read more about this event and the winners of the 2011 Entreverge awards [click here](#).
- **KV Connect** (Waterville) received funds for a leadership development program. A series of seminars and leadership outings were designed to give young people the skills to serve effectively on community non-profit boards of directors. They also received money to do market research and membership development. Focus groups were held with area young people to better determine interests to help implement programs and activities.
- **YPLAA** (Lewiston/Auburn) was awarded money for their Culture Crawl Series. This exciting program offers young people the opportunity to learn about the cultural assets and history of the downtown and is followed by networking at a local establishment. These crawls will include tours of the mills and canals as well as architectural history of downtown buildings.
- **Cynergy** (Augusta) received money to help fund an Olympic- sized outdoor sand volleyball court that is being constructed at the Buker Community Center in Augusta. Community members are excited to start a new league that will play

throughout the summer and fall.

## Leadership Update

For the past two years the Realize Maine Network was very fortunate to be led by an enthusiastic and visionary leader, [Johann Sabbath](#). Johann was recently awarded the Yellow Light Breen Visionary award from the Maine Development Foundation. Due to his plans to travel away from Maine, he has resigned as chair. We would like to thank Johann for all his work with the Realize Maine Network and wish him well in his new endeavor.

We would like to welcome our new chair, [Nicole Desjardins](#). Nicole has served on the Realize steering committee for four years and is a past chair for the KV Connect steering committee. She is the Director of Sales at the Hampton Inn in Waterville. We are very excited to have her as our new chair.



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