



DATE: October 1, 2019

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**The Betterment Fund Says “YES” To Snow Pond Center for the Arts
in Support of a Comprehensive Community & Economic Development Planning Project
for the Belgrade Lakes Region**

Sidney, ME -Snow Pond Center for the Arts is extremely proud to announce that it has received support from the Betterment Fund to the tune of \$18,000, in support of a Comprehensive Community and Economic Development Planning Project for the towns of Belgrade, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney. Partners of the project also include; GrowSmart Maine, RSU18, Kennebec Valley Tourism Council, MaineGeneral Health System, the Kennebec Chamber of Commerce, The Kennebec Valley Arts Association, the Maine Farm Bureau, Seven, 7 Lakes Alliance, FirstPark Commerce and Technology Center, The Belgrade Lakes Business Group, and State Sen. Matt Pouillot, R-District 15.

This comprehensive project will focus on essential foundational assets that create sustainable prosperity, by leveraging all of the unique assets of the Belgrade Lakes Region. Examples include educational and cultural resources, quality housing to attract/retain residents, and land use/conservation, along with the preservation of farmland, natural habitats, and recreational areas. This plan also includes branding and communications for the region. Promotion of the arts, education, tourism, and recreation will attract more visitors who will witness a vibrant region, thereby promoting in-migration. “This plan is meant to inspire investor confidence, establish regional priorities, and attract and retain younger families, tradespeople, professionals, and farmers to this magnificent area, making it a place they want to live, work and play,” noted John Wiggin, Executive Director of Snow Pond.

“Snow Pond will serve as the lead organization and catalyst for getting this project started and will provide administrative support and meeting and event space as needed by the group. We are all incredibly grateful to The Betterment Fund for their support as this project will spur economic development for the entire region,” said Christa Johnson, Snow Pond’s Director of Development.”

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