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## **Art Technology New England brings together four digital arts communities to provide resources, foster connections, build the creative economy**

### **New project is a collaboration of Boston Cyberarts and Axiom Center**

Boston, MA – Artists, high-tech businesses, educators, and nonprofit organizations who are working at the intersection of art and technology are invited to join **Art Technology New England (ATNE)**, a new initiative being launched in December by **Boston Cyberarts** and the **Axiom Center for New and Experimental Media**. ATNE is intended to foster connections between four distinct groups:

- Multimedia and digital artists.
- Academic institutions that train digital artists.
- Nonprofit organizations who support the digital arts.
- Businesses that either generate new creative technologies or use those technologies to create digital arts and entertainment.

ATNE will provide a variety of services to this sector, including resource sharing, a forum for interaction and networking, opportunities for learning and collaboration, workforce development and human resource assistance, and avenues for advocacy and community building. Among the specific programs will be a Job Board, Internship Placement Program, a Digital Art Lending Program, Artist Residencies at high-tech companies, and an array of professional development workshops.

“This important sector of the creative economy in Massachusetts is fueled by these four key communities,” said **George Fifield, Founder and Director of Boston Cyberarts**. “But until now, there has not been a single entity that represents them and connects the participants to each other.” In addition to the professional and commercial opportunities, ATNE will provide social opportunities for the members, including a private social networking site and member-only events such as an Art/Science Speed Dating event that took place in October. Individual membership in ATNE is \$60 per year, or \$45 for students; organizational memberships are also available, and are based on organization size.

ATNE will officially launch on December 12 with **Spark: A Gala Celebration**, taking place at Massachusetts College of Art and Design’s Pozen Center, 621 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, and hosted in conjunction with Eventworks at MassArt’s Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM). The evening will include a one-night-only exhibition of digital art, live performances, a silent auction, creative costume prizes, a test-tube champagne toast, and demonstration of a device that prints in caramel on latte foam.

“We’re very excited about Spark,” said **Heidi Kayser, Director of Axiom** and organizer of the event. “This will be the first official gathering of people who are interested in the ATNE initiative. It will give people an opportunity to get to know each other, and to see the range and variety of people involved in the Boston area’s creative economy.”

Start-up funding for ATNE was provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Adams Arts Fund, a program that invests in cultural economic development projects across the state.

More information about ATNE and Spark is at [www.atne.org](http://www.atne.org),

## **About the Principals**

*The **Axiom Center for New and Experimental Media** is the premiere organization in the Boston area dedicated exclusively to showcasing emerging and established artists working in new media. Founded in 2004, Axiom's mission is to encourage and support experimentation in the arts through exhibitions, education, resources, and collaboration. [www.axiomart.org](http://www.axiomart.org).*

***Boston Cyberarts** is dedicated to the presentation and exploration of artists working with new technologies in all art forms, including both visual and performing arts, film, video, electronic literature, public art, and web art. Among the organization's many programs is the biennial Boston Cyberarts Festival, founded in 1999, a collaborative effort that takes place at dozens of museums, galleries, performing spaces, educational institutions, and public spaces throughout the Boston area. [www.bostoncyberarts.org](http://www.bostoncyberarts.org).*