

THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION IN ARIZONA

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, many people lost their jobs. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enacted the **NEW DEAL** to help the country recover from the stock market crash and all the financial hardship that followed. Two of the federal programs created under the New Deal to help people find jobs were the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). These programs created employment for many Americans from 1935 to 1943.



In Arizona the WPA and CCC worked on many projects: building schools, roads, dams, National Parks and Monuments; creating art for the public; and preserving folklore, songs and stories for future generations.

Visit **THE LIVING NEW DEAL'S** website to see many of the projects the WPA and CCC worked on in Arizona.

❖ Did any WPA or CCC projects take place near your home? Which ones?

❖ Many projects the WPA and CCC worked on improved infrastructure in Arizona. What does infrastructure mean? What are some examples of projects that improved or created infrastructure in Arizona?

❖ Many CCC projects focused on building or improving National Parks and Monuments. Which Parks and Monuments in Arizona did CCC workers build or improve?



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❖ Which WPA Project would you want to work for?

❖ The WPA also employed artists from various disciplines in the following programs:

- **FEDERAL ART PROJECT**
- **FEDERAL MUSIC PROJECT**
- **FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT**
- **FEDERAL THEATER PROJECT**
- **FEDERAL DANCE PROJECT**
- **HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY**

❖ **PHILIP C. CURTIS** was an artist during the Great Depression. The WPA sent him to Phoenix, Arizona to start the Phoenix Art Center (now the **PHOENIX ART MUSEUM**). Research Philip C. Curtis. What were some of his favorite subjects to paint? What style of art did Curtis often paint?

❖ Do some research on the **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS'S** website and find an example or two of art that was created by artists employed by the WPA in the 1930s or 1940s.

Further Research

If you're interested in this topic, visit the Arizona State Archives' **DIGITAL ARIZONA LIBRARY (DAZL)** to read historic letters (primary sources) from Governor Moeur about the work the WPA and CCC did in Arizona.



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