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Creative America

I spent four years working on the Creative America Project which was about making creativity a national value and trigger for public policy and political engagement. I wanted (and still want) artists and creative professionals to lead in the public sector, including running for local office. Hundreds of people around the country thought this was a good idea. We ran three pilot all-day organizer/candidate training programs. About one hundred people attended those sessions and many were profoundly moved by the experience. I tried to make the project a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization – the kind where your contributions are tax-deductible. But after four years, our application to the IRS has not been acted on and so the organization dissolved. I believe the idea is sound and the activities contemplated perfectly acceptable for a nonprofit (if you're curious, check out the work of the **conservative Leadership Institute**). My profound thanks to all Board, Advisory Council and dozens of volunteers and contributors. A special shout out to the folks at **YourPlanB** who designed the CAP logo and web site.

Homepage

Who We Are

What We Believe

What is Creativity?

Creativity At Risk

Press

Calling all artists, cultural workers and creative professionals! Tom has worked to bring resources, respect and opportunity to the arts and cultural sectors for decades. Now he asks YOUR support for his election. **Please join the Facebook "Arts for Tresser" Group here.**

Read the book "America Needs You! Why You Should Become a Creativity Champion" America needs her artists, cultural workers and creative professionals to lead in the public sector! This book makes the case for creativity as a national value and the basis for a winning politics and explains why creative professionals have what it takes to lead and run for local public office. You're already a leader! Believe it.

Purchase the book from Lulu.com
Download the text for free!

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CREATIVITY AT RISK

Bill of Rights Needs Defending



The [Bill of Rights Defense Committee](#) promotes and organizes a diverse, effective, national grassroots movement to restore and protect civil rights and liberties guaranteed to all U.S. residents by the Bill of Rights. Our purpose is to educate people about the significance of those rights in our lives; to encourage widespread participation, and to cultivate and share the organizing tools and strategies needed for people to convert their concern, outrage, and fear into debate and action to restore Bill of Rights protections.

Big City Students Suck at Science

A least half of eighth graders tested in science failed to demonstrate even a basic understanding of the subject in 9 of 10 major cities, and fourth graders, the only other group tested, fared little better, according to results released Wednesday. The outcome of those tests, part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, often called the nation's report card, showed that student performance in urban public schools was not only poor but also far short of science scores in the nation as a whole. Read the full sad story online at [the New York Times](#).

Religious Tolerance + Politics

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Press

Creative America Project Seeks to Make Artists Heard

CHICAGO ARTISTS' COALITION



-Anna Poplawska, [CAC Newsletter](#) - July 2005

The day concluded with small groups forming campaign teams for a city council race. Participants took on roles of campaign manager, finance director, field organizer and candidate. They fashioned campaigns and had to include the subject of creativity in their campaigns as well as creative elements. Here Sonia Marissa Goldstein, a musician and filmmaker, makes her stump speech on education and local economic development.



Creativity is merely the ability to look at the same thing as everybody else, but to see something different. It's something that everybody has, but it also needs to be nurtured by a society, in order to reach its full potential as a social and economic asset. This is the message of [Chicago-based](#)

We Do Presentations & Training

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We Do Presentations & Training

We Do Presentations and Training Sessions

Can you help bring the Creative America Project to your city? We're looking for allies who can help us set up a residency at a university, do a speech at an arts or civic organization, do a workshop at a conference or retreat, or offer our full-day training program. Email Tom Tresser at tom@creativeamerica.us.

"The Politics of Creativity - A Call to Service"

This is a 90-minute presentation that blends lecture with elements of performance, audience participation and leadership development.

- Opening performance of jazz/fand or spoken word
- Shared reading of Declaration of Independence
- Role of creativity in the life of America - its heritage, economy and future
- The numbers behind the political case for creativity as a winning issue
- Case study of one organization that has succeeded in policy and politics by attacking public funding of the arts
- Recap of threats to American creativity - including erosion of church-state barrier, attacks on public education, religious screening of scientific education and research, low literacy rates, lack of access to higher education and engineering careers, freedom of expression restrictions
- Why creative professionals make excellent public leaders
- "Are You A Leader?" asset inventory exercise with member of audience
- Audience open mike - "What does a Creative America Means to Me" (optional)
- Call to service
- Creativity fight song

Comments from attendees

Upcoming Programs

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Upcoming Programs

Be the First to Read New Book - "Win With Creativity!"



Creative America lead organizer, Tom Tresser has written a book based on his work for the project - ["Win With Creativity! Why and How Creative Professionals Should Run for Local Office"](#)

You can have an advance copy transmitted directly to your local Kinko's copy Center. Just use the PayPal service and make a (non tax-deductable) donation of at least \$15.00 and tell us what is the street address of your local Kinko's.

The Creative America Project is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization seeking to inspire and equip creative leaders to take active roles in civic life. We do not support, endorse or oppose candidates or proposed legislation. The Creative America Project does not discriminate with respect to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or partisan affiliation. The Creative America Project has an open admission policy and all programs are open to the public.

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Past Programs

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Past Programs

"The Politics of Creativity - A Call to Service"

COLLEGE for Creative STUDIES

Tom was at the [College for Creative Studies](#) in Detroit on February 1. "I would like to commend Mr. Tresser for his work with the Creative America Project. Mr. Tresser shows an uncommon dedication to civil service, public policy and political leadership. His presentation was well thought out and extremely educational. He was able to not only engage the student body at the College for Creative Studies but provided new and meaningful information on civic responsibility and engagement. On a very practical basis, Mr. Tresser shows students how politics affects them as citizens and as artists and he demonstrates an immense amount of knowledge regarding U.S. history and contemporary politics and public policy. I encourage any organization that wishes to become more civically engaged in their community or would like to learn more about the realm of contemporary politics and civic engagement to host the Creative America Project and Tom Tresser." - Daniel Long, Student Programming Coordinator

Arthide New Jersey



Tom was in New Jersey on Wednesday, December 7th at the annual meeting of [Arthide New Jersey](#). "Thank you for motivating this group of arts advocates who need to move to the next level of civic involvement. Your presentation is a 'wake up call' for those who believe they are already doing all they can to make a difference, and helped them realize that with not too much additional effort they can assume leadership positions in the public sector and be even more effective agents for change!" - Ann Marie Miller, Executive Director, Arthide

New Jersey

Midwest Arts Conference

Web Links

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Web Links

Here are links to organizations and online resources that deal with creativity and civic action.

If there is a link you want to share, please email Tom@CreativeAmerica.us.

Our Allies

- [Center for Smart Communities www.smartcommunities.org](#)
- [The World Foundation for Smart Communities](#) is a nonprofit educational organization founded to promote the concept and facilitate the implementation of "smart communities" - communities using information technology as a catalyst for transforming life and work to meet the challenge of the new millennium.
- [Center for the Study of Art & Community www.artandcommunity.com](#)
- The Center for the Study of Art & Community believes the time is ripe for creative pioneers. The building of learning communities and organizations must be undertaken by citizens and institutions with enormous energy and imagination.
- [Newtown Magazine www.newtownmagazine.net](#)
- Online magazine of the Creative Economy - including a column on the Creative Economy, links to Creative Economy initiatives around the U.S.
- [Smart City Radio www.smartcityradio.com/smartcityradio](#)
- Smart City Radio is a weekly, four-long public radio talk show that takes an in-depth look at urban life, the people, places, ideas and trends shaping cities. Host Carol Coletta talks with national and

[Our Allies](#)

- [The Creative Class and the Creative Economy](#)
- [Arts and Social Change](#)
- [Delany Democracy](#)
- [Elected Officials](#)
- [Major Political Parties](#)
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- [Founding America Documents](#)

Online Community

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Creative America Project
4 registered members

[Login](#) [Register Your Free Account \(Required\)](#) [Search](#) [Help](#) [Find Communities](#) [Need help logging in?](#)

Welcome to the Creative America Project online community! We're about inspiring and training creative professionals to run for local office in 2006 and beyond.

[Make a Contribution](#) [View Contributions](#)
We currently have \$0.00 in our chest.

You can use this space for a personal message about Community Chest. Just go to the My Community tab in your Control Center, click the Manage Community Chest button, and you will see the message space at the bottom of the page (in the Optional Custom Message box). Enter your text, click Apply Display Options, and you are done.

Team Building
Find Corporate Team Building Solutions Now. Start Here.
www.CorporateTeamBuilding@icloud.net

Corporate Team Building
Islands, leadership, ropes course Thompson Island, Boston Harbor
www.culvart@comcast.net



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JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
Our current newsletter tool is at Yahoo Groups (groups.yahoo.com/group/creativeamerica)

Please join by signing up with **Yahoo! Groups**
to receive periodic updates and more information about the Creative America project.

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Women's Campaign School at Yale



The **Women's Campaign School at Yale University** is a non-partisan, non-issues based political training program for women candidates and campaign staff, women already holding elective office, or in political jobs who want to take the next step. WCS Yale is one of the few places left on earth where women from across the U.S. and around the world can gather to become completely immersed in the political leadership process, regardless of political or cultural differences. Learn about their [July 2007 training session](#)...

Environmental Film Festival - Green Popcorn?



15th Annual Environmental Film Festival
Thursday March 15th - Sunday March 25th, 2007

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Comments: Nice Web, congratulations. Just one comment: most of the links mention

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Contact Us

It takes a village to create a better village -- we need YOUR help!

- I'd like to contribute to the Creative America Project using a check.
- I'd like to help organize and spread the word - please contact me.
- I'd like to organize an event to support the Creative America Project.
- I'd like to contribute graphics arts or other services
- I'm interested in being a deputy registrar to register people to vote

Name

Title

Organization

Phone Number

Vision Statements



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Vision Statements

Here are links to Vision Statements Submitted to us:

Creativity and Civics

A Creative Vision for America, by Sondra Myers (CODE 25)
File Type: Word
File Size: 30KB
Summary: Creative citizenship is our day job! Whatever else we do professionally and personally, we must be active, proactive and reactive as citizens of a democracy.

"Three Numbers for a Creative America", by Tom Tresser (CODE 11)
File Type: Text (includes images for illustration)
File Size: 165KB
Summary: We measure what matters. If you want to know what we value - follow the money. Allocating \$1 billion for the National Endowment for the Arts, targeting a 100% adult literacy rate for 2010, and mandating a Living Minimum Wage of \$8.20/hour would lift us all up and set us on a path to a Creative America.

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Creativity and Education

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Frequently Asked Questions



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 The Fine of the Creative Class <small>Richard Florida</small> Best Price \$5.29 <small>or Buy New \$10.95</small> Buy Amazon.com <small>Please Information</small>	 Defining a Nation <small>Russell Baker, Ed.</small> Best Price \$0.95 <small>or Buy New \$4.00</small> Buy Amazon.com <small>Please Information</small>	 Creativity@40 <small>Carrie Siskind, L.</small> Best Price \$0.99 <small>or Buy New \$21.95</small> Buy Amazon.com <small>Please Information</small>
 Creative Minds <small>Howard Gardner</small>	 Out of Our Minds <small>Ivan Robinson</small>	 Harvard Business Review <small>85.8e.8800...</small>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What makes Creative America different from existing arts service organizations, such as Americans for the Arts?

A: AFA does not do politics. They have traditionally only engaged in advocacy and research - plus other services to the field. We are focused on getting creatives to run for office. We are incorporating as a 501(c)(3) - a traditional nonprofit legal status in order to raise the money to subsidize our training sessions. These sessions will be advertised to the creative community, but we will not turn people away. We'll charge a low price \$50 - \$100, to make the sessions affordable. We'll incorporate a separate entity, most likely a 527, which will be able to directly support candidates who come out of our training sessions. On the way to these goals we'll produce nontraditional political events that mix entertainment, education and training.

Q: What is unique about Creative America's mission that will give it a distinctive voice in national/state/city dialogue?

A: We want to inject creativity into the national public policy debate. When candidates run for office in the future, we want them to have a platform on creativity just as they now have on crime, the environment and education. We want creative professionals to support such candidates and to hold them accountable - just as environmental groups demand candidates to take progressive, thoughtful positions on the environment and then support them for delivering on their positions or work to defeat them when they don't. Most importantly, we will be developing a political training capacity to motivate and equip creative professionals to run for public office.

Q: When you use the word CREATIVITY is it synonymous with ARTISTIC?

A: Creativity is broader than the arts - see Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences - [http://www.howardgardner.com/creativity.html](#) Artistic ability has been on several of these

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