



TOOLS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS

The following list of projects was generated by visits to five cities in September, 1990 by Thomas Tresser as part of the research for establishing the Center for Cultural Policy and Advocacy. The research trips were funded by a grant from the John D. Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The purpose of the research was to discover and catalog projects that artists had undertaken themselves in order to empower themselves or to provide some ongoing benefit, as well as to look at the range of funding models that were being operated by government and private agencies on behalf of the arts.

I. ARTIST'S COOPERATIVES

Artist owned buildings containing live-work space.

- 249 A Street Project, Boston
- Brickbottom Artists Building, Sommerville
- 11 other projects in Massachusetts

II. ARTS DISTRICTS

City sponsored incentives for private developers to build or rehab performance or other space for arts users- either on long term lease or discounted purchase.

- Midtown Cultural District Plan, Boston Redevelopment Authority
- Downtown Arts District, D.C. Downtown Partnership & D.C. Commission for the Arts & Humanities
- Proposed Chicago South Loop Arts District, Chicago Central Area Committee
- Harris & Selwyn Theater Development, City of Chicago Planning Department & The Goodman Theatre
- Cleveland Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland Development Authority & Playhouse Square Foundation

III. ARTS ENDOWMENTS

City or county created funding streams for the arts.

- Los Angeles Endowment for the Arts, funded by tapping 1% of city public works budget, 1% of the hotel tax & 1% of new commercial & residential projects over \$500,000

IV. UNITED ARTS COALITIONS

Organizations which unite an arts community across disciplines for a city or region.

- Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
- Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington
- San Diego Arts & Cultural Coalition (informal at present)

V. LOCAL ARTS ADVOCACY

Groups which are undertaking organizing and action around specific issues to change public policy.

- National Campaign for Freedom of Expression has allied chapters, "Coalitions for Freedom of Expression," in the following cities: Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Baltimore, Minneapolis, Rochester, Winston-Salem, Philadelphia, Seattle
- League of Chicago Theatres

VI. LINKAGES TO CITIZEN ACTION EFFORTS

Organizations formed to impact public policy in non-arts arenas but whose tactics & resources could be used in arts empowerment.

- Midwest Academy, Chicago - training for community organizers
- Citizen Action, Washington, DC - nationwide network of 29 state organizations, 80 offices, over 2 million members, budget \$20 million- does door-to-door canvassing & telephone campaigns around progressive issues & electoral politics (reaches 20,000 families every night!)
- Illinois Public Action Council, Chicago - Illinois affiliate of Citizen Action
- People for the American Way, Washington, DC - 275,000 members, protects constitutional liberties, a long time opponent of Religious Right. Focuses on preserving independent judiciary, protecting public education, fighting for civil rights
- Common Cause and Ralph Nader's Public Citizen are also active in these areas.

VII. ARTS & POLITICS

Groups of artists and arts workers organized to endorse & support elections of progressive, pro—arts candidates.

- San Francisco Democratic Arts Club
- New York Independent Democratic Arts Club (in formation)
- Alliance of Arts Advocates, Washington DC -national arts PAC
- Pro Arts, Dallas -state wide arts PAC
- Long Beach, CA coalition to defeat Rep. Dana Rohrabacher
- Candidates Forums — public meetings where candidates address issues of concern to the arts community (no endorsements given):
- Evanston Arts Alliance; California Confederation of the Arts; Alliance for the Arts, NYC

VIII. HOTEL/MOTEL TAX

Many jurisdictions use some portion of the tax collected on hotel & motel bills to support the arts & tourism promotion activities. Detailed comparisons are needed, but San Francisco must rank as one of the strongest funders of the arts using this source. Their "Grants for the Arts" program gave \$8.1 million to the arts (for direct support, for a major ethnic festival, and for an Arts Space Initiative) in 1989-90. This represents a per capita direct support for the arts of \$10.81 from this one source as compared to Chicago's \$0.43 in 1989 from all sources.

IX. ARTS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Arts groups whose mission is to affect social change, alliances which place arts groups in a larger, organized effort to effect public policy.

- American Festival Project, Kentucky - devises residency collaborations with neighborhoods, sends community organizers to prepare and elicit participation of local artists
- AppalShop, Whitesburg, KY - regional community development agency which uses media, spoken arts, crafts as cultural preservation & cultural empowerment tools
- Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Pittsburgh, PA – innovative community organization with wide range of cultural education, arts training and job training classes and enterprises
- El Teatro Campesino, SanJuan Bautista, CA
- Cornerstone Theater, Mclean, VA
- New College of California School of the Humanities, "Arts & Social Change" degreed training program
- Campaign for Philadelphia - organized by Institute for Civic Values, in advance of wide open Mayoral race, an in-depth look at all aspects of life of city by working groups & public policy conferences, will present transition recommendations
- California Budget Group - lobbyist for California Confederation of the Arts meets regularly with lobbyists for statewide human service organizations to present united front for spending on social & human needs
- Tax Equity Alliance of Massachusetts (TEAM) - Mass. Cultural Alliance is participating with statewide effort, led by Mass. AFL-CIO, for citizen education on need for progressive taxation & spending for social needs, also to defeat Question #3 on November ballot which would automatically slash state budget

X. UNITED FUND RAISING EFFORTS

In 1989 56 united arts fund raising organizations collected over \$76 million nationwide, including \$6.7 million from 29 workplace giving campaigns.

- Corporate Council for the Arts, Seattle - distributed \$1.2 million to arts groups (mostly the “majors”) from corporations

XI. INFORMATION IS POWER

- Economic Impact Studies of the Arts - done by Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, New York metro region
- ArtsFax, The Bay Area Partnership - comprehensive census and statistics on San Francisco area arts groups
- Archives for the Performing Arts, San Francisco - a non-profit group dedicated to collection, preservation, interpretation and presentation of the history of performing arts in S.F., publishes quarterly, “Encore,” in depth history & analysis of arts organizations and funders
- City budget analysis seminars - Alliance for the Arts, NYC

XII. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES IN THE ARTS

Coordinated efforts to register artists and arts workers to vote and coalition-building with local voter registration organizations.

- League of Chicago Theatres

XIII. MISC

- Mayor’s Arts Liaison, San Francisco - appointed by Mayor, cabinet level roving trouble shooter, arts advocate, policy adviser

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