

ARTS AND...COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ARTS AND...COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1). Explore Community Development and its core values

2). Examine arts-based national and city-wide development programs and projects that work with and benefit artists and non-artists alike, including a case study of Love Bank Park in STL, MO



3). Discuss inquiry processes to understand community needs and challenges

4). Strategies for cultivating multilevel partnerships that can grow community-engaged, cross-sector partnerships

Arts Experiences

The Arts Provide Meaning to Our Lives



81% believe the Arts are a “positive experience in the world”



73% believe the Arts give them “pure pleasure to experience and participate in”



69% believe the Arts “lift me beyond everyday experiences”

The Arts Unify our Communities

7 in 10 Americans believe the arts unify their communities, and 2 in 5 Americans have changed an opinion or perception based on an arts experience.



73% believe the arts help them understand other cultures better



72% believe that the arts unify us regardless of age, race, and ethnicity

The Arts Improve the Image and Identity of our Communities

The arts have a positive impact on communities with seven in ten Americans stating the arts improve not only the quality and livability of their community, but also the image and identity.



71% agree that the arts improve the image and identity of their communities



The Arts Industry is Good for the Economy and Supports Jobs

The arts are seen to have a positive impact on communities, with nearly seven in ten (68 percent) Americans stating the arts are good for the economy and supports jobs.



68% of Americans believe the arts industry is good for the economy and supports jobs



More Americans Today Believe

The arts help understand other cultures better, improve the image and identity of our communities, and unify Americans regardless of age, race, or ethnicity.

	2018	2015
The arts help me understand other cultures better	73%	62%
The arts improve the image and identity of my community	70%	60%
The arts unify us, regardless of age, race, ethnicity	72%	67%

What is Arts-Based Community Development?



Creative Solution-Building

“Arts-centered activity that contributes to the sustained advancement of human dignity, health, and or productivity of a community.”

--Bill Cleveland

Arts-Based Community Development: Mapping the Terrain

EDUCATE + INFORM us about ourselves and our world



**CITIZEN
ARTIST
STL**

Citizen Artist St. Louis
2017 Artist Advocacy Collective

Community Arts Training Institute
St. Louis, Missouri

INSPIRE + MOBILIZE individuals or groups



←-Damon Davis
All Hands on Deck
c.2014



Critical Mass for the Visual Arts:
Critical Conversations



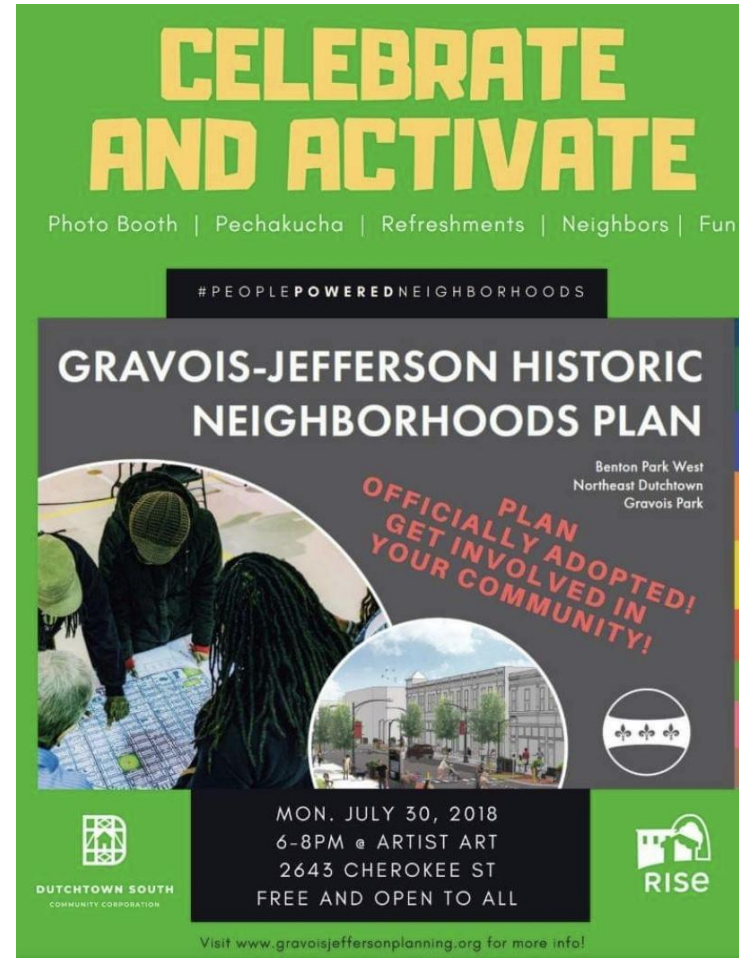
NURTURE + HEAL people and/or communities



BUILD + IMPROVE community capacity and/or infrastructure



MISSION: Great Rivers Greenway makes the St. Louis region a more vibrant place to live, work and play by developing a network of greenways.



Two most critical contributors to success:

CLEAR ARTISTIC
FOCUS

+

HIGH QUALITY OF
ARTISTS INVOLVED



Community Development Values

- 1). Development is collaborative and people-centered; not problem focused but solution-oriented
- 2). Enriches the lives of communities beyond beautification and artmaking
- 3). Crosses borders to build relationships across spaces
- 4). Honors people and place; both their lived experiences and their vision for the future
- 5). Disrupts oppressive systems and directly supports positive socioeconomic change
- 6). Equity is shown in action; works with those already community-embedded
- 7). Opportunity for advancement in policy, work-force and small-business development, urban planning and land-use, transportation, housing, education, and others.

Principles to Advance Equity through Arts and Culture

- Engage communities of color, artists, and their cultural institutions in governance and planning for communities of opportunity
- Target capital investments in cultural amenities in communities of color and low-income communities
- Ensure work, commissions, contracts, and economic activities include artists and cultural institutions of color in design, creation, and implementation of cultural efforts
- Improve health and quality of life outcomes of underserved communities of color by embedding relevant arts and cultural strategies to achieve health and wellbeing, including efforts to mitigate trauma.





Invests in projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core.

Our Town grant applications require a partnership between a local government and an arts organization.

ARTPLACE

- ArtPlace describes itself as a “collaboration among a number of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions that works to position arts and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities.”
- It currently lists as partners 8 federal agencies, 15 foundations, and 6 financial institutions. Among the partners are the Ford, Rockefeller, Surdna, and Kresge foundations, and Bank of America, Citi, and Chase.



Support organizations (arts and community development) and projects that;

- Advance innovative and creative approaches to community development that lead to inclusionary practices and policies, and
- Use creative strategies to foster resident's agency, social cohesion and narrative change

“We seek to cluster organizations (arts, community development and other nonprofits) and Creative Placemaking activities into cohorts and initiatives. We focus where there is the greatest promise for this kind of sector-specific work – initiatives that create the greatest opportunity for deep cross-team work within the foundation and collaborative work across foundations; that have existing, mature support infrastructure; and that demonstrate particularly well-formed Creative Placemaking practices.”



ELIZA HOWELL
PARK 2019





“Community effort to reinvigorate Eliza Howell Park as a valuable and experiential gathering place for residents.”

--Sidewalk Detroit

Creating Community-Led Outcomes



Los Angeles Dept. of Cultural Affairs Los
Angeles Dept. of Transportation

Creative Catalyst
Artist-In-Residence
--Alan Nakawaga--

“Vision Zero is a citywide strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities by 2015”

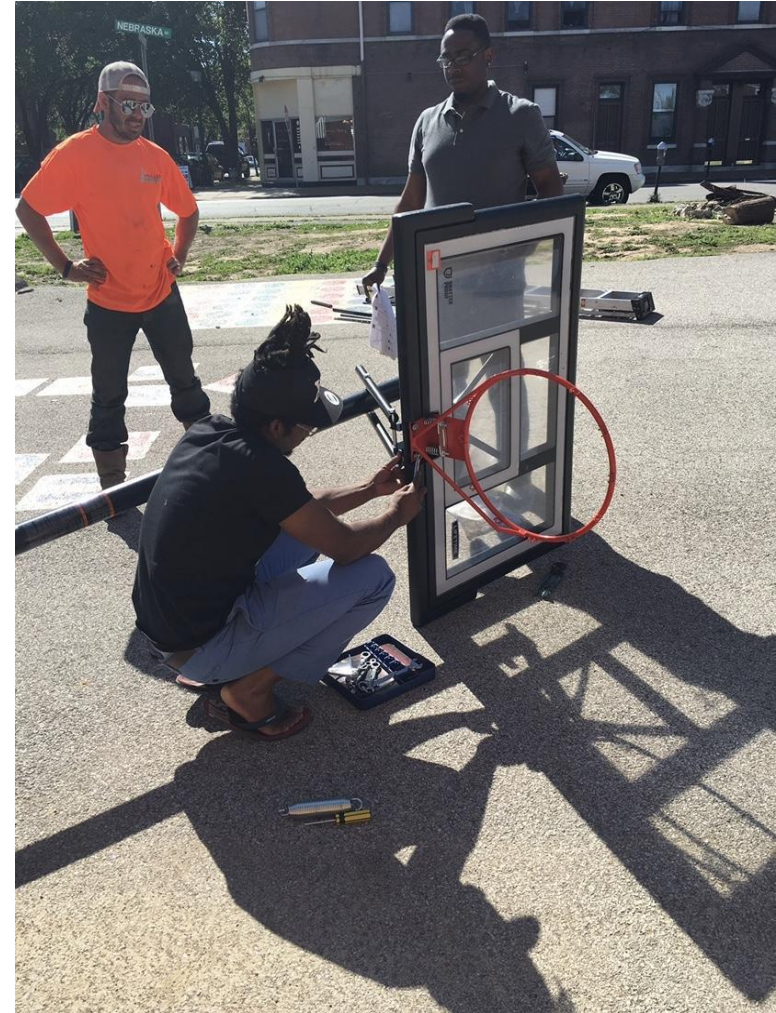




Love Bank Park
Cherokee Street
St. Louis, Missouri



Community Caregiving -- William Porter



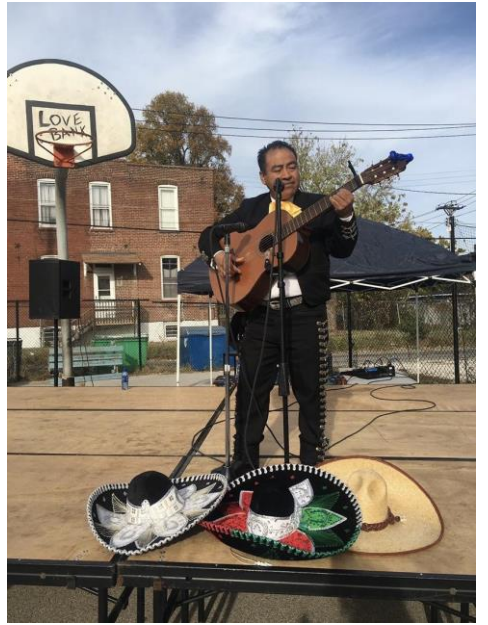


Community Youth-led and Group Centered



Youth Art Camps, Community
Block Parties, Gathering
Spaces for Holidays and
Celebrations



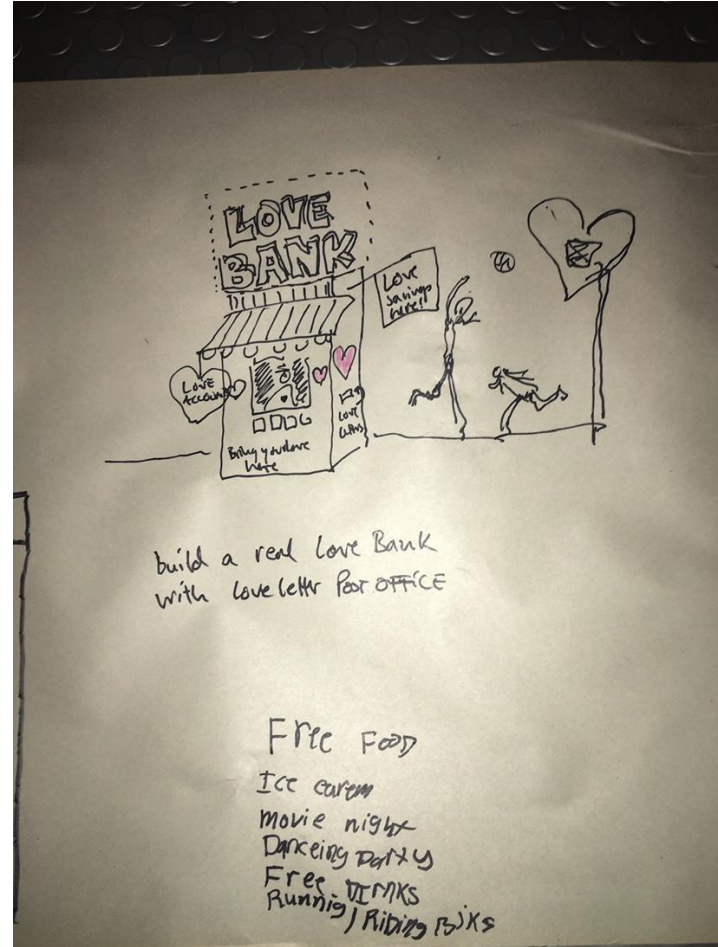


Spacebuster: Engagement Collaboration with The Pulitzer Arts Foundation





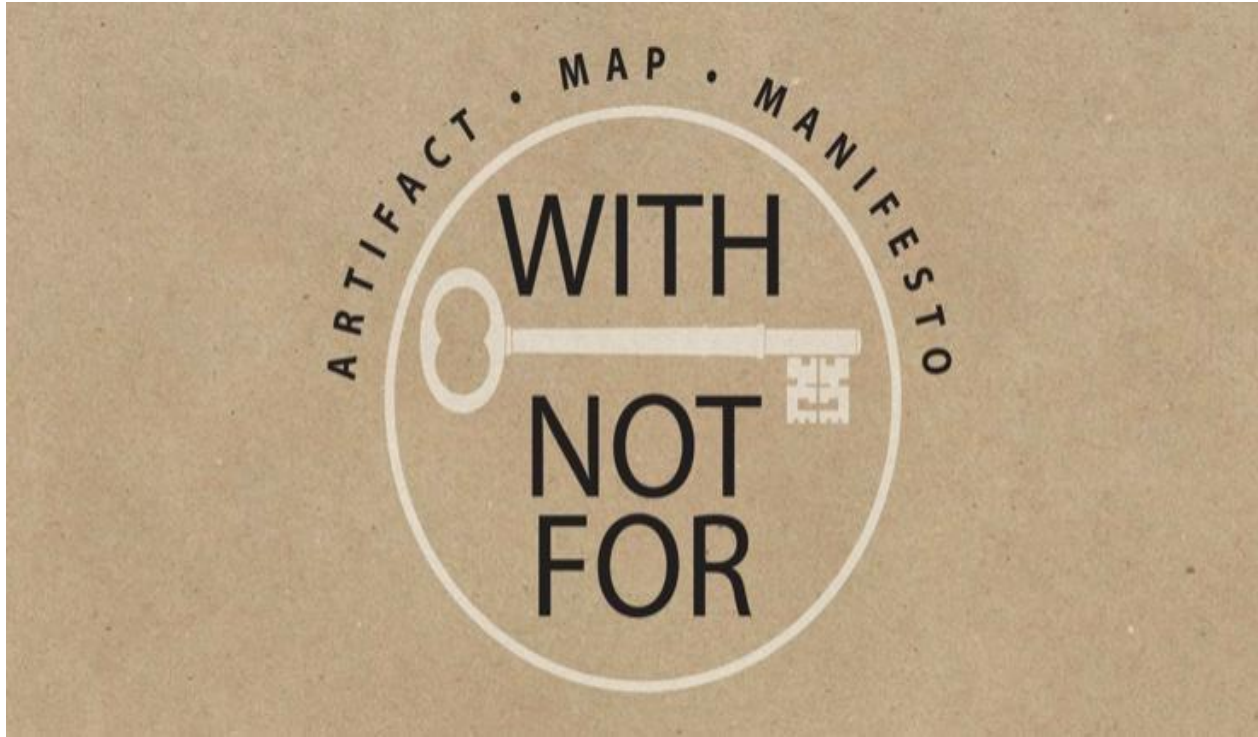
Arts-based community engagement and inquiry



Interorganizational Collaboration





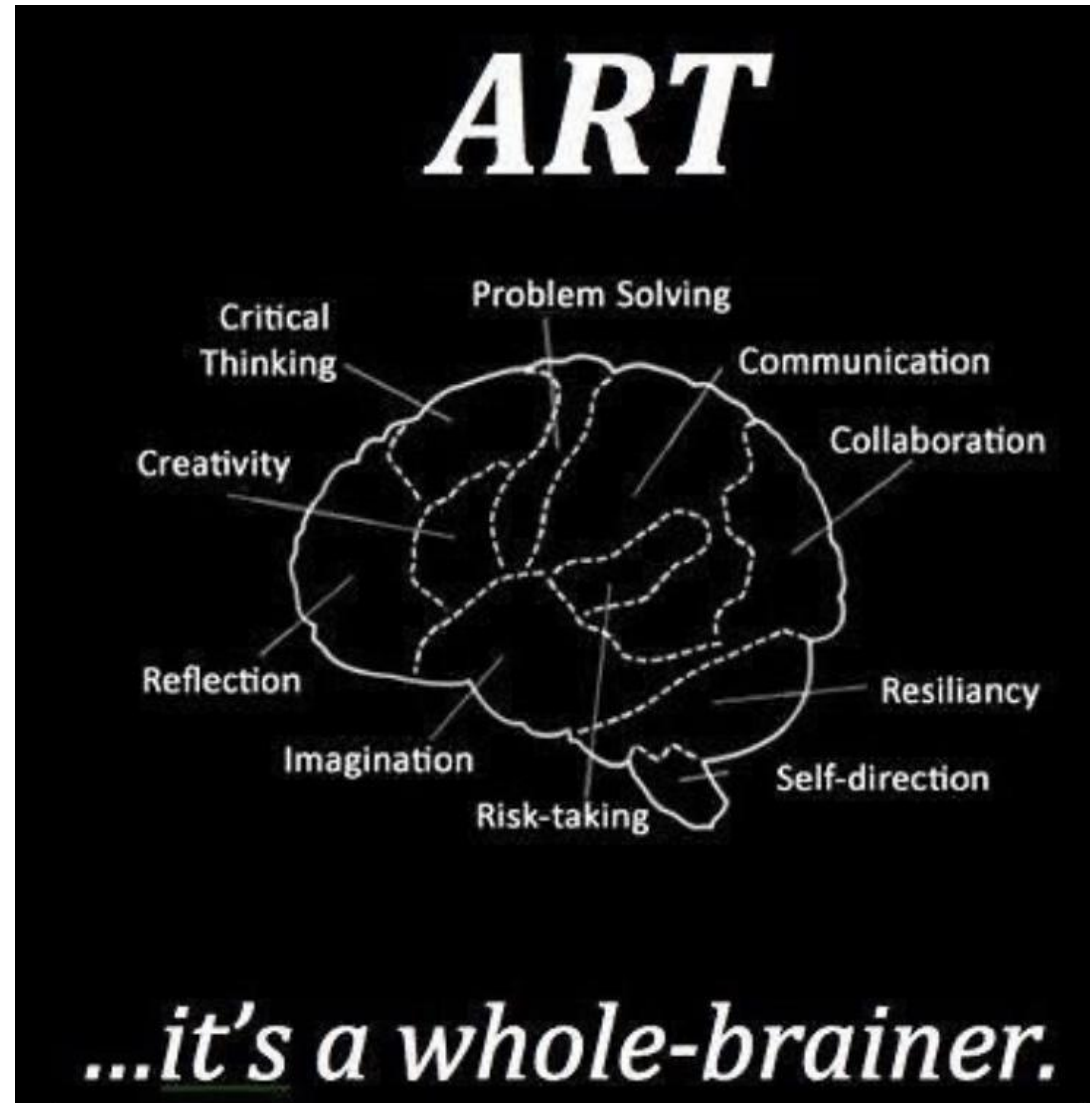


We build WITH community, not FOR.

When we are already part of a community, there is no need for “OUTreach.”



Artists at the table *from the beginning...*





Entering + Exiting:

Invitation, Observation, Permissions

Partnerships + Collaborations:

Equity and Power Dynamics

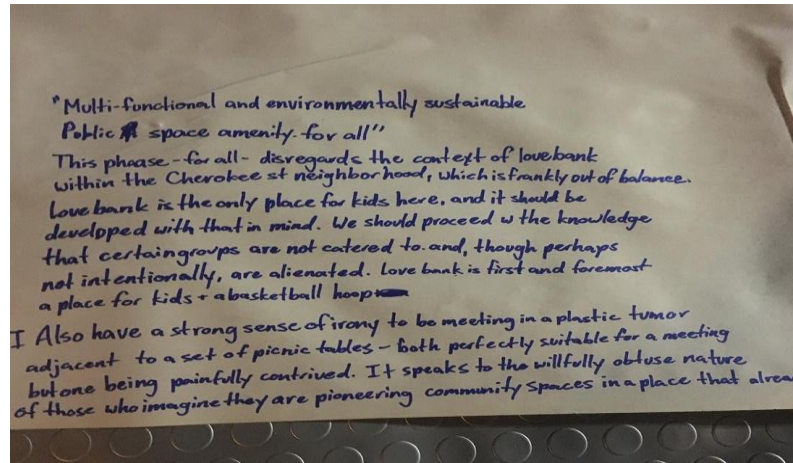
Honoring Histories:

Story-keeping and Documentation



INQUIRY

is a multidimensional information-gathering process that requires time, creativity, and a high level of commitment. To truly understand the depth and breadth of a communities' needs and challenges, a long-term investment in the process is required.



- community conversation
- participatory art-making activities that presence a specific theme
- direct interviews and recording oral histories
- story circles
- play
- digital and social media-based, participant created
- volunteerism and conversation



WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

Educators, Mentors, and Youth

Elders and Caregivers

Artists and Local Arts Agencies

Board Members, Commissioners, Civic Leaders and
Elected Officials

Government Agencies, Financial Institutions, Small
Businesses

Nonprofits, CDC's, Cultural and Arts Institutions, Service
Organizations

Faith Groups and Neighborhood Associations



Deepen Our Understandings:

- Ordinances and municipal policies
- Community values and traditions
- Level of cultural competency
- How socioeconomic, political, and cultural values intersect in the community in which we are working
- Shared assets and resourcing beyond “money”

“You have a responsibility to live in this world. Your responsibility is not just to yourself. You are connected to everyone...”
“You are interconnected to everyone, because the world doesn’t work without everyone.... Everything worthwhile is done with other people...”

--Mariam Kaba, American Activist and Organizer---Founder of Project NIA

