THE CEDARS UNION

The Cedars Union is a non-profit arts organization located in Dallas, Texas that provides affordable studio spaces, resources, and professional development opportunities for artists. With a focus on community building and education, The Cedars Union strives to create a welcoming and supportive environment for artists of all levels and disciplines. By offering access to state-of-the-art facilities and innovative programming, The Cedars Union is dedicated to fostering the growth and success of emerging and established artists in the region.

IMPACT POINTS

91% meet new people through the arts.

9 out of 10 arts participants report meeting new people and making new friends through their arts experiences.

In 75% of communities, the arrival of new arts organizations correlates with reduced income disparity.

From 2000-2010, more than 75% of diverse, low-income, and highly disadvantaged neighborhoods with new arts organizations saw reductions in income disparity.

80% of people explore new places for the arts.

Arts participation crosses barriers of social class and ethnicity. A Philadelphia study showed that 80% of participants traveled to another neighborhood to take part in arts activities.

9 out of 10 say the arts increase their connection to community.

New friends and connections are a primary positive outcome of arts participation and help to reduce social isolation. In the UK, 91% of participants reported making new friends by participating in arts activities.

Arts participation unites generations, reduces fear, and empowers citizens.

Arts participation has a positive effect on social cohesion by bringing generations together, encouraging partnerships and intercultural understanding, reducing fear of crime, and fostering organizational skills. People report feeling more in control of their lives and more activated as citizens.

The arts increase a person’s desire to participate in improving their community.

Following engagement in the arts, 63% of participants indicated that they had become more aware of, and more interested in remedying, local challenges.
EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE

ACTIVATING VACANCY DOWNTOWN DALLAS II

Dallas

Building on lessons learned through the first iteration of the Activating Vacancy Downtown Dallas project, Pegasus Plaza on 1500 Main Street will be the site of a temporarily installed infrastructure to foster social cohesion.

SOUTHEAST HOUSTON ARTS INITIATIVE

Houston
The Southeast Houston Arts Initiative was formed to transform its community through improvements to the physical environment by cultural expression projects. The four guiding principles were personal and environmental health, cultural history, urban

ARTIST RELIEF PROJECT

Austin

Artist Relief Project is an initiative to provide support to artists, musicians, performers, and creatives who have been impacted by the circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis. We owe the success of this endeavor to the support of the greater community

COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMS

Austin

Our Community Arts Engagement initiatives serve families in the Austin area by providing all-ages arts, music, and cultural programs for kids, parents, and caretakers to enjoy together. Our programs are a fun way for people to become more actively

READING LIST

Culture Builds Community Evaluation Report

Mark J. Stern and Susan C. Seifert

Publication Year: 2001

This evaluation report from the Culture Builds Communities Project reviews a four-year comprehensive community grant program. The goals of this program were to both increase
participation in the arts... Show More and to foster community building through the arts and

Show Less


Americans for the Arts, 2017
Publication Year: 2018

This is a one pager of quick facts about the number of artists employed in the United States compiled from research by the Americans for the Arts Research and Policy... Show More Department.

Show Less

Neighborhood Diversity, Economic Health, and the Role of the Arts

Foster, Nicole; Grodach, Carl; and Murdoch III, James, Volume 38, Issue 5

Using data from the Cultural Data Project, the authors determine where newly established New York City arts organizations locate in terms of neighborhood racial, income, and industry diversity.

ORGANIZATIONS

DOWNTOWN DALLAS INC.

OUR TOWN/HOW TO DO CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

The program supports creative placemaking projects that help transform communities through strategies that incorporate arts, culture, and design. The program also offers creative placemaking resources.

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