

# THE IMPACT OF THE ARTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## IMPACT POINTS

### **Arts-rich neighborhoods are the top 25% in terms of safety.**

Disadvantaged neighborhoods with high rates of arts participation consistently have the lowest rates of juvenile delinquency.

### **The arts instill community trust and cohesion.**

Arts participation in neighborhood arts projects helps to build trust, a key measurement of social capital and civic engagement. A Philadelphia study of the Porchlight project shows a substantial increase in social cohesion and trust in neighborhoods where murals were installed.

### **Neighborhoods with high arts participation are in the top 25% in terms of safety.**

Arts participation correlates with lower rates of juvenile delinquency and truancy. Disadvantaged neighborhoods that have the highest rates of arts participation consistently have among the lowest rates of juvenile delinquency incidents.

### **Cultural participants 50% more likely to be involved in other community activities.**

Cultural participation leads to wider community participation. One study showed that participants most involved in cultural activities were 50% more likely to be involved in other (non-arts) community activities.

### **Arts-rich communities have 18% less serious crime and 14% fewer reports of abuse and neglect.**

A NY study shows that lower-income neighborhoods with higher cultural assets show less child abuse and neglect investigations (14%), obesity (5%), and serious crime (18%). Kids from those communities also scored 18% higher in English Language Arts and Math exams than their peers.

### **Cultural participants are 2x as likely to volunteer.**

Volunteerism within a community is a sure sign of civic pride and engagement, which are crucial to livability. Research shows that arts participants are more than twice as likely to volunteer as those who do not participate in the arts--a trend that holds across artforms and regardless of demographics.

Tebes, J., Matlin, S., Hunter, B., Thompson, A., Prince, D., & Mohatt, N. (2016). Porch Light Program: Final Evaluation Report [Electronic version]. New Haven, CT: Yale University School of Medicine. Retrieved 28 February 2018 from <https://www.muralarts.org/program/porch-light/>

Stern, M. & Seifert, S. (2002, January). Culture Builds Community Evaluation: Summary Report [Electronic version]. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Social Impact of the Arts Project. Retrieved 27 February 2018 from

Seifert, S. & Stern, M. (2002, January 1). Culture Builds Communities, Evaluation: Summary Report [Electronic version]. IssueLab. Retrieved 17 February 2018 from <https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=s...>

Social Impact of the Arts Project. (2017, February). Culture and Social Wellbeing in New York City: Highlights of a two-year research project [Electronic version]. University of Pennsylvania. Retrieved 27 February 2018 from [repository.upenn.edu/siap\\_culture\\_nyc](https://repository.upenn.edu/siap_culture_nyc)

National Endowment for the Arts. (2007). The Arts and Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, Involved in Life [Electronic version]. Retrieved 16 February 2018 from <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/CivicEngagement.pdf>

## EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE



### YOUTH RESILIENCY INSTITUTE (YRI)

Baltimore

YRI offers mentoring, training, and development services to create civically engaged, cross-generational teams of community-based advocates who work toward forming stronger communities in Baltimore. One goal is to build the foundation for activism,



### PORCH LIGHT

Philadelphia

This joint collaboration between Mural Arts, the City of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health, and Intellectual Disability Services focuses on achieving universal health and wellness among Philadelphians through meaningful works of



## THE PORCH LIGHT PROGRAM

Philadelphia

The Proch Light Project is a collaboration between the City of Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities Services to create murals that focus specifically on mental health and



## THE HEALING PROJECT

San Francisco

Presented by Samora Pinderhughes & YBCA

This constellation of creative works explores the daily realities of violence, incarceration, detention, and policing in communities across the United States and highlights healing and care



## TRUST TRANSFER PROJECT

Springfield

TRUST TRANSFER PROJECT is a partnership between Community Music School of Springfield and Springfield Cultural Partnership, led by Program Director Vanessa Ford. This new initiative allows our local artists to lead in health messaging that will



## MURALS ON THE MOVE

Murals on the Move, presented by Chase, is a partnership of Mural Arts Philadelphia and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Philadelphia

As the summer months stretch ahead of us with continued social distancing, stay-at-home orders, and closed camps and public spaces, families are in desperate need of creative at-home programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. Murals on the Move, our

## READING LIST

### [Creative Placemaking](#)

Markusen, Ann and Gadwa, Anne Markusen, Ann and Gadwa, Anne

**Publication Year:** 2010

This white paper summarizes two decades of creative American placemaking, drawing on original economic research and case studies of pathbreaking initiatives in large and small cities, metropolitan to rural, as... [Show More](#)  well as published accounts. The case

[Show Less](#)

### [Philosophy, Art, and Religion: Understanding Faith and Creativity](#)

Gordon Graham Gordon Graham

'Gordon Graham's Philosophy, Art, and Religion has a claim to being the best book on art and religion published over the past several decades. The book's philosophical thought and

prose... [Show More](#)  are exceptional.' Nicholas Wolterstorff, Noah Porter Professor of

[Show Less](#)

## [Exploring the Ways Arts and Culture Intersect with Public Safety](#)

Caroline Ross Caroline Ross

One of a number of field scans conducted by ArtPlace, this paper summarizes research and best practices in the intersection of arts and public safety.

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

### [ARTOGETHER](#)

Organization that builds communities with refugees and immigrants that foster compassion, creativity and human connection.

### [FAITH ON VIEW](#)

Faith on View has gathered resources for those who are interested in the intersection of art and Christianity.

### [PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES \(PPS\)](#)

PPS is a nonprofit planning, design, and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



The Arts Impact Explorer was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Mellon

Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

## **LEARN MORE**

**[AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG/SOCIAL IMPACT](https://AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG/SOCIAL%20IMPACT)**

This fact sheet was developed as part of the **Arts + Social Impact Explorer**

