

# Arts + Social Impact Explorer Fact Sheet

## ARTS + AGRICULTURE & FOOD

### IMPACT POINTS

#### CULTURE + FOOD = HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Research shows that a healthy food tourism movement develops and sustains regional identities, encourage agricultural diversification, enhances environmental awareness, and increase the social and cultural benefits associated with connection to traditional heritage.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE PRESENCE OF PUBLIC ART ENCOURAGES MORE LOCAL GARDENING

In Seattle, community gardens with significant public artworks tend to be larger gardens with more members and to have at least one annual community celebration.<sup>4</sup>

#### ARTS COMBINED WITH GARDENS EXPAND STUDENT'S LEARNING

Gardens help students expand their art knowledge and appreciation. Students use thing they grow in the garden as subjects for their art work or they may create things for the garden such at root view boxes, solar dryers, or rain gauges expanding their knowledge about gardens through art.<sup>2</sup>

#### CENTERING CREATIVITY IN AGRICULTURE MEANS MORE INNOVATION

The growing “creative agriculture” movement, which unifies agriculture and the creative arts, can increase innovation, integration with community, and satisfaction with agricultural projects.<sup>5</sup>

#### GARDENS IMPROVE STUDENT NUTRITION

When children grow their own food, they are motivated to eat healthier by eating the things they helped grow. The process of planting their own seeds, watching them grow into plants, preparing the grown food, and eventually eating it can give students a new and sustainable perspective on healthy eating habits.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE ARTS STRENGTHEN THE LINES BETWEEN FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

The integration of arts and creative processes in thinking about food production and consumption stimulates the generation of new partnerships, ideas, and products.<sup>6</sup>

### OVERVIEW

The line between the arts, culinary arts, food, and agriculture can be blurry at times—a sign of how much creativity sits at the center of how, when, and where we produce, prepare, and consume the food that sustains us. Movements like Slow Food, Creative Agriculture, and ongoing efforts to tackle and dismantle food deserts and increase food equity all benefit from the infusion of arts, culture, and creativity.

The web of growers, packagers, preparers, and consumers that exists in American communities today are linked together. Food—its display and cooking—can be an artist’s statement, and artists over centuries have used food to comment on politics, economy, and society. Even the way crops are set up and the care with which plants are raised not only for taste, but for beauty, and the specific connections that come when we enjoy a common meal all speak of the centrality of creativity in the enterprise.

The arts build awareness of our world by helping us visualize our relationship to the plants, animals, and other human beings that make our lives possible—and the food web is no exception.

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# EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE

## Art About Agriculture, Corvallis, OR



Art About Agriculture, at the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University, encourages artists to investigate agriculture and natural resources themes for creating artworks.

<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/art-about-agriculture/mission>

**image:** Donna B. Trent, Gig Harbor, WA. *Winter Wheat Growing*. Photo by Peter Krupp. Courtesy of Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences

## Wormfarm, Reedsburg, WI



Wormfarm brings together farming, ecology, and the arts to rekindle the cultural and enhance the economic possibilities of its region by weaving the arts through rituals of planting and harvest.

[wormfarminstitute.org/about-the-wormfarm](http://wormfarminstitute.org/about-the-wormfarm)  
[donna@wormfarminstitute.org](mailto:donna@wormfarminstitute.org)

**image:** Roadside Culture Stand. Created by Oxbow Studios for Wormfarm at Food for Thought Festival, Madison, WI, 2015

## Walkkill River School, Montgomery, NY



The Walkkill River School has programs that mutually benefit farmers and artists. The programs have showed increased trust and interest between the local artists and farmers, increased foot traffic on farms, and an increase in spending between the two groups.

[arts.gov/exploring-our-town/arts-and-agriculture-transforming-orange-county](http://arts.gov/exploring-our-town/arts-and-agriculture-transforming-orange-county)  
[walkkillriverschool@gmail.com](mailto:walkkillriverschool@gmail.com)

**image:** Dennis Fanton demonstrates for a plein air group at Phillies Bridge Farm, Gardner, 2014. Courtesy of Walkkill River School

## Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit, Hopkins, MI



The Jijak Foundation, which exists to preserve, perpetuate, and share the rich history, culture, arts, and living traditions of the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians, convened the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit and engaged participants to learn about both traditional foods and modern production practices through a range of workshops and hands-on learning and sharing opportunities.

<https://iacgreatlakes.com/tag/jijak/>  
[kevin.finney@gtl-nsn.gov](mailto:kevin.finney@gtl-nsn.gov)

**image:** Participants at the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit learn about soil health and preparation

## CREATE: The Community Meal, St. Paul, MN



CREATE: The Community Meal, commissioned from Seitu Jones by Public Art Saint Paul, aimed to lower barriers to making healthy food choices by gathering 2,000 people at a 1/2-mile-long table in the middle of Saint Paul's Victoria Street for a civic dinner table conversation about food access, food justice, and healthy eating.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/public-art-network/public-art-year-in-review-database/create-the-community-meal>  
[colleen@publicartstpaul.org](mailto:colleen@publicartstpaul.org)

**image:** Community gathers for a meal of food and conversation about food access, food for justice, and healthy eating. Photo by Andy King

**top image:** Chefs at Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit their own dishes, reflect the regional cuisines from their home regions

### REFERENCES

1. Sally Everett & Cara Aitchison (2010) The Role of Food Tourism in Sustaining Regional Identity: A Case Study of Cornwall, South West England, *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 16:2, 150-167, DOI: 10.2167/jost696.0 <https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100895>
2. Hughes, L., DiClaudio, D., Savoca, L. Learning Through the Garden: Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS1211. Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. <https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100894>

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# READING LIST

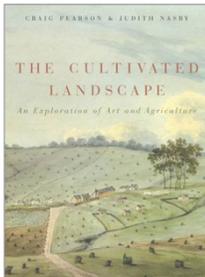
## agriCULTURE



The City of Seattle commissioned this plan to investigate and propose ways in which art can reinforce the activities of people who engage in urban farming.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100902>

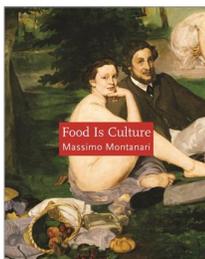
## The Cultivated Landscape



This book discusses the evolution of how agriculture is considered, its use of the land and impact on the landscape, and how landscape has been portrayed historically in art.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100903>

## Food Is Culture



Food Is Culture explores the innovative premise that everything having to do with food—its capture, cultivation, preparation, and consumption—represents a cultural act.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100896>

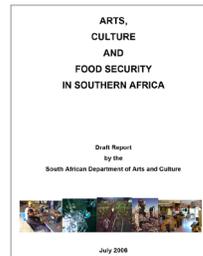
## Food and Museums



This book explores the relationship between museums and food, with analyses from cultural historians, anthropologists, neuroscientists, and food studies scholars.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100897>

## Arts, Culture, and Food Security in Southern Africa



International and regional studies have highlighted the integral relationship between culture and sustainable development. This can be extended into the relationship of arts and culture and food security. This paper explores these concepts, with a particular focus on food issues in Southern Africa.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100899>

top image: Community member shake hands at CREATE: The Community Table. Photo by Andy King.

REFERENCES continued

3. Hughes, L., DiClaudio, D., Savoca, L. Learning Through the Garden: Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS1211. Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. <https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100894>

4. Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Kistler, Nicole (2013). agriculture: A Plan for Cultivating Arts and Culture in Seattle's Urban Agriculture Sites. Retrieved 26 January 2018 at <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Arts/Downloads/Arts-Plans/agriCULTURE.pdf>

5. Xuesong, X, et al (2013). Planning of Creative Agricultural Part in Tashang Village, Bazhou City, Hebei Province. Journal of Landscape Research (2013), 5(1-2): 19-22, 25. Retrieved 14 May 2018 from <http://homedocbox.com/Landscaping/73252280-Planning-of-creative-agricultural-park-in-tashang-village-bazhou-city-hebei-province-xi-xuesong-1-yu-xiao-2-pan-kening-2-gao-zhengmin-2.html>.

6. Lee, A. and G. Wall. "Food Clusters: Toward a Creative Rural Economy." Martin Prosperity Institute. 6. Retrieved 14 May 2018 from [http://martinprosperity.org/papers/Lee%20\(2012\)%20Food%20Clusters-formatted-V2.pdf](http://martinprosperity.org/papers/Lee%20(2012)%20Food%20Clusters-formatted-V2.pdf).



# ORGANIZATIONS

## Farm Aid

Farm Aid raises awareness about the loss of family farms and fundraises to keep farm families on the land.

[farmaid.org](http://farmaid.org)

## National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA, within the US Department of Agriculture, ensures scientific discoveries reach the people who can use them and partners with the Land-Grant University System and community partners to provide research, education, and extension programs.

[nifa.usda.gov](http://nifa.usda.gov)

## Southern Foodways Alliance

SFA documents, studies, and explores the diverse food cultures of the changing American South.

[southernfoodways.org/](http://southernfoodways.org/)

## Rural Policy Research Institute

The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) provides unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. RUPRI's aim is to spur public dialog and help policymakers understand the rural impacts of public policies and programs.

<http://www.rupri.org/>

## Rural Advancement Foundation International

RAFI cultivates markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms.

[rafiusa.org](http://rafiusa.org)

top image: Community gathers for a meal of food and conversation about food access, food for justice, and healthy eating. Photo by Andy King

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



The Arts & Social 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.

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[AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG/SOCIALIMPACT](http://AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG/SOCIALIMPACT)

Americans for the Arts developed this Fact Sheet as part of the Arts + Social Impact Explorer.

