How Culture Can Engage Communities & Support Place Based Networks

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What is Fourth Arts Block?
Values & Approach

- Asset based
- Inclusive and equitable view of culture
- Cross sector
- Placemaking & belonging
- Continuity of effort
Innovative Cultural Uses of Urban Space Can:

- Reinforce community identity
- Enliven public spaces
- Celebrate cultural traditions
- Express free speech
- Reclaim public space
Spectrum of Cultural Uses of Urban Spaces

- One time/limited performances in parks, plazas or streets
- Temporary art installations and murals on public & private property
- Short-term studios, residencies and partnerships in public & private buildings
- Long-term leases or transfer of public property to arts & community groups
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Opportunities

- Economics as a driver for cultural reuse efforts
- Creative expression as a transformative force in the reuse of public outdoor space
- Underused space as a canvas for creativity
- Transforming scarcity into abundance
- Creativity spurred by limitation
Ingredients for Success

- Recognize and utilize community assets
- Develop and sustain crosscutting partnerships and collaborations
- Build a broad go-to network of allies
- Engage the local community
- Be low impact and low maintenance
Challenges

- Navigating complicated public laws and bureaucracy
- Negotiating permissions with owners
- Matching project, partners, and context
- Being nimble and ready to act if opportunities arise
- Finding funding for unexpected artmaking
- Making sure value lasts beyond temporary projects
Questions to consider

- What is needed to develop and sustain equitable community partnerships?
- What are examples of the alliances, networks, and cross sector partnerships that have supported this work in your communities?
- Who’s benefitting from creative placemaking efforts?
- Who’s driving the vision forward? How are different voices included in leading the discussion and vision?
- If you are not the actual on-the-ground leadership, what role does your organization play?
- How can intermediaries and/or policymakers effectively support community based cultural leadership?
- How would you answer to the question of gentrification: how can we navigate the power dynamics and how they work in the context of low-income communities?
Now its your turn!

- Who do you want to engage?
- What are the barriers and how can you address them?
- What are the opportunities and how can you build on them?
- Who are your allies and possible partners?
- What could be an effective means of engagement?
- What’s worked and not worked in the past?