

Networking Session One: Training for Community-Engaged Arts

Session One took place on April 29, 2010 at Art Starts. The session started with a drawing activity, announcements from the Neighbourhood Arts Network and a round of introductions. We then split into two smaller groups to talk about various aspects of training and the field of community-engaged arts.



This document includes:

- A list of training programs/resources discussed (page 2)
- A list of organizations present (page 3)
- Notes from the small group discussions (pages 4-6)

Training Programs & Resources

Cyber Arts (secondary school program)

<http://www.cyberarts.ca/>

UBC Art Education Programs

<http://www.edcp.educ.ubc.ca/content/art-education>

York University, Community Arts Practice Certificate

<http://www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/programs/template.asp?id=613>

Art Starts: Mentorship & Training

<http://artstarts.net/programs/>

Jumblies: Art4All Essentials

<http://www.jumbliestheatre.org/news/arts4allessentials.html>

ArtReach: Resources and Tools

<http://www.artreachtoronto.ca/about.html>

Tropicana Community Services & Scarborough Youth Resource Centre

http://www.tropicanacommunity.org/what/what_main.html

http://www.tropicanacommunity.org/what/pdf/Program_Description_February_2010.pdf

Maytree: Foundation Training & Networking

<http://www.maytree.com/training>

CharityVillage Resources: Canadian Online Resources for Nonprofits

<http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/ires/ires19.asp>

HR Council For the Nonprofit Sector – The Non-profit Learning, Training and Development Index

http://www.hrcouncil.ca/hr-forum/home.cfm?login_action=badaccess&previous_url=/hr-forum/access.cfm

Learning Through the Arts

<http://www.ltta.ca/>

Artist Educator Skills Development Course (RCM & OAC)

<http://www.arts.on.ca/Page2768.aspx>

City of Toronto Social Development Department workshops for non-profit agencies (contact Chris Brillinger)

<http://www.toronto.ca/divisions/sda.htm#cr>

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Organizations Present

Neighbourhood Arts Network
www.neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org

Toronto Arts Foundation
www.torontoartsfoundation.org

Toronto Public Libraries
<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/>

Art Starts
<http://artstarts.net/>

Toronto Arts Council
<http://www.torontoartscouncil.org/>

Creative Vocalization Studio
<http://www.honeynovick.com/>

UNITY Charity
<http://www.unitycharity.com/>

North York Community House
<http://www.nych.ca/>

Group Discussion

What is Community-Engaged Arts?

- Currently, we are at the intersection of a number of fields: marketing, social work, urban planning, arts management, social enterprise, arts education, community development, and more. It is still difficult to describe the field succinctly and clearly, but things are starting to crystallize. We are starting to define the needs of community-engaged arts, we are starting to see professional training programs.
- A definition of community art has to be part of a dialogue – it would have to be a fluid definition.
- Everyone is here because art has affected us in some way

Skill Sets Needed for Community-Engaged Work

- Group Facilitation
- Understanding boundaries
- Community artists need emotional skills as well as technical skills
- How to protect yourself emotionally
- How to support victims of trauma
- Marketing
- Must show commitment to work
- Communication skills
- Must have the ability to work with sensitivity and with commitment – skills which people don't get training.
- Need for info about creating partnerships, dealing with and planning partnerships, communication between organizations, how to convey organizational culture
- Mentorship – mentorship is a two-way process
- Adaptability
- Experience
- Deformalizing, unlearning
- Being able to make art doesn't necessarily make you a good teacher; great teachers don't necessarily have to be the best artists
- Opportunities to connect with organizations; Tropicana offers opportunities to gain experience and get involved, but may have strictly defined parameters for participation
- Dealing with *vicarious trauma* [see <http://www.headington-institute.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2648>] is a common issue for community artists and can be a major cause of burnout.

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- Youth who come up through a program and start to run programs themselves need training. This tends to happen organically. Maytree and ArtReach offer youth resources.
- Remember – every community is different, some are unsafe, some people are unable to express their emotions, some people's needs are greater
- Artists need to be supported in the field – with Art Starts there is always a site coordinator to deal with group dynamics and extra support, so that the artist can be an artist.
- Senior staff need training

Needs of the Field

- White Paper should be developed: What are the things I need to consider when being a community artist?
- Generally, newer workers are looking for very practical advice; more experienced workers are interested in fresh ideas.
- Organizations can ask their staff which issues come up frequently – eg, conflict resolution – and then provide internal training sessions on these issues. External resource people/experts can be brought in for this.
- White Paper needed for agencies on 'how to use a community artist'.
- Making time for training can be a challenge

Training and the Field

- Informal training is available through networking
- Training is a process which never ends
- Too many skill sets are required for just one person.
- A good training session helps to define things; it gives you real strategies you can walk away with – solutions that you can apply to the problems you face. You should feel like you have been left with resources
- Good training is very specific to the challenges or needs you are dealing with; very targeted.

What is Offered?

- There post-secondary programs for community arts, but not many in Canada
- York University's CAP program (part time program over three years) - part of Fine Arts and Environmental Studies: They provide hands on training –

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field work is important. Students become interns at organizations like Art Starts

- Art Education at UBC - a community arts focus option
- Jumblies offers training (Arts4All Essentials)
- Art Starts provides mentoring programs, hires assistants from the community
- Royal Conservatory Artist Educator program - applies art across the curriculum
- Other organizations offer a variety of workshops and classes.
- Charity Village offers some resources- but it's all online and you can't ask questions. Sometimes you need to talk things out with someone else.

Professionalization

- Professionalization can lead to recognition and funding
- Can help to provide a lasting record of projects
- Helps to 'ring a bell' with people – if the field is defined and professionalized, to some extent the public will better understand what it's all about
- Professionalization can also be fashionable – it can turn the field into a 'fad', to be used by others for their own ends.