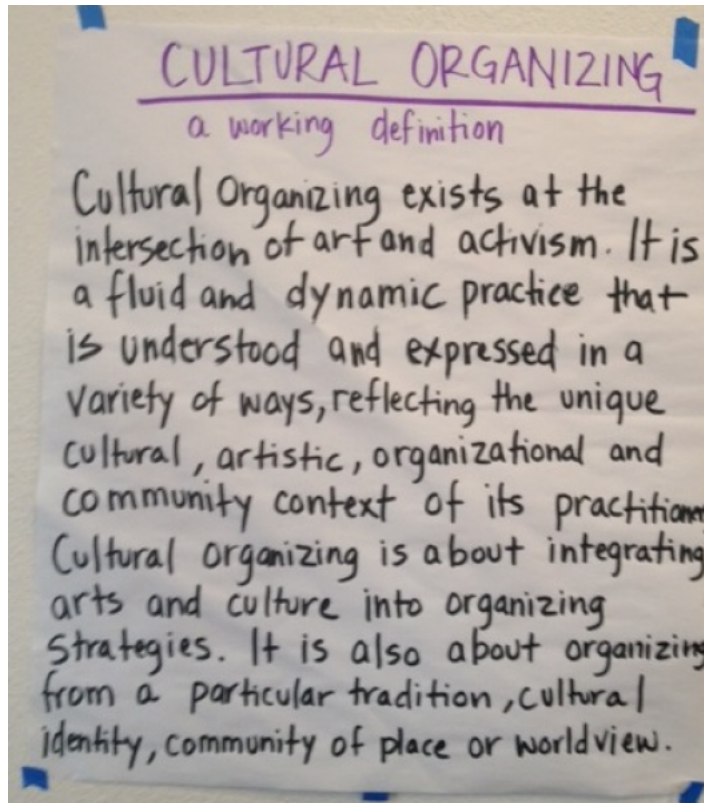


arts and democracy

Arts & Democracy builds the momentum of a growing movement that links arts and culture, participatory democracy, and social justice. We supp



Project author or developer:
arts and democracy

Where:
US / United States / New York

Website:
artsanddemocracy.org

Arts & Democracy supports the cross fertilization of culture, participatory democracy, and social justice. The Project grew out of the National Voice 2004 campaign that engaged groups committed to constituencies who are underrepresented in the American decision-making. Through a series of convenings we learned what has, and hasn't, been effective in building closer ties between arts and culture and sustained and strategic activism. Building on this knowledge we developed our program and decentralized network to creatively support transformative change.

Arts & Democracy puts arts and culture on agendas where it hasn't been before, connects artists, cultural organizers, and activists who wouldn't otherwise know each other, and creates the connective tissue and generative environment needed for cross sector collaboration to succeed. We share resources through our website (www.artsanddemocracy.org), newsletters, social media, and presentations highlighting creative work that furthers immigration reform, environmental justice, equitable development, participatory democracy, and human rights. Our Bridge Conversations bring to life the remarkable people who make change at the intersection of generations, cultures, sectors and geographies.

Arts & Democracy's cultural organizing workshops draw on our framework for building a robust practice where culture is fully integrated into organizing. Through experiential learning our urban planning course links arts, culture, and participatory planning. We also provide advice on an ongoing basis to artists and cultural organizations about community engagement and organizing, and to activists and policymakers about developing and implementing cultural strategies. And we bring them all together in our networking events, roundtables, and conference calls.

Our strategic partnerships connect community-based creative practice with policymaking and systemic change. With Service Employees International Union (SEIU) we are creating an artist in residency program to tell the stories of workers and their communities and provide a liberating experience of creation. With Participatory Budgeting, we are integrating arts and culture into a neighborhood-based process of participatory democracy across the city. We co-direct NOCD-NY, a citywide alliance seeking to revitalize New York City from the neighborhood up, that grew out of our series of Naturally Occurring Cultural District roundtables.

Arts & Democracy is a fiscally sponsored project of State Voices.

