

ARTS AND CULTURE: OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal: Ensure people across the Philadelphia region benefit from inclusive, diverse, and high-quality arts and culture experiences.

This Theory of Change outlines the connections among our three strategies and shared vision of success.

OUR STRATEGIES

Arts Presentation and Art Making

- Projects that create high-quality arts and culture experiences that are intentionally designed to engage and benefit a community or audience.
- Knowledge- and network-building work that strengthens and advocates for an arts and culture sector that is adept at using inclusive, equitable, community-informed programming practices.

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Arts Education

- High-quality, hands-on arts education programs designed to engage young people actively.
- Practitioner coaching and training to improve the quality of arts education.
- Knowledge- and network-building work that strengthens and advocates for high-quality arts education.

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Arts and Culture Hubs

- Multi-year general operating support for arts and culture organizations that play a meaningful cultural, social, and civic role in the region and/or their communities and have a long-standing or meaningful but still growing commitment to equity and inclusion.

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INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

For Young People and Adults

- Access to high-quality, inclusive, and relevant arts and culture experiences.
- Benefits such as:
 - » experiencing joy and beauty;
 - » affirming cultural or community identity;
 - » a deeper sense of belonging in the region;
 - » strengthened connections with others (including artists);
 - » a greater understanding of and appreciation for different cultural or community identities and experiences;
 - » creativity and art making skills and interests (*for youth*);
 - » social-emotional well-being and related skills (*for youth*);
 - » critical thinking capabilities (*for youth*).

For Practitioners

- Greater understanding of the communities and audiences that programs are designed to engage.
- Increased skills and knowledge that support inclusive, equitable, and community-/youth-informed programming practices in arts and culture and arts education.
- Strengthened governance and operations practices to support commitments to racial equity and economic inclusion.

For Sector

- Research, evaluation, and data that improve arts and culture programming for young people and adults.
- More relationships and networks for youth development and for communicating about the social impact of arts and culture.
- More Creative Communities funding for work that will benefit communities of color and economically vulnerable communities and/or for organizations led by people of color.

ULTIMATE OUTCOMES

- **Programming is abundant:** Organizations, artists, and arts education practitioners in the Philadelphia region consistently create programming that is accessible, welcoming, and relevant to the communities and youth they hope to engage.
- **Programming is inclusive:** Communities of color, economically vulnerable communities, and other historically marginalized groups feel that a wide range of high-quality arts and culture experiences and arts education programming is accessible, welcoming, and reflective of their identities, experiences, and interests.
- **People and communities benefit:** People across the Philadelphia region come together to build vibrant, creative, and just communities; youth lead full, active, and civically connected lives.
- **Arts and culture is essential:** Communities throughout the region see local arts and culture organizations as essential to their social, economic, and civic well-being; arts education is part of an ecosystem of support for the healthy development of the region's youth.
- **Funding is equitable:** More equitable funding for inclusive and high-quality arts and culture programming for young people and adults.