

NY Breakfast for Arts and Culture - 12 22 16

Hosted by NYCT Grantees:

The Martin E. Segal Theatre Center (Graduate Center CUNY), The Field, Center for Arts Education, Smithsonian Museum for the American Indian, Gibney Dance, One Percent for Culture.

Location: Smithsonian Museum for the American Indian

Opening Remarks by John Haworth (video recording)

Survey Results:

The following survey was administered at five breakfast tables of about 7 people each. Approx. 40 guests total. 26 respondents. It is important to note that the questions elicited confusion around unpacking the idea of cultural work, administrative work, artistic work etc. and also around the notion of full time, part time, and wage earning for artists and cultural work (non administrative). The major takeaway being that it is important to unpack the 300,000 jobs claim made at the CreateNYC events. Results detailed below.

Do you work at an arts and culture based organization? (for the purposes of this survey, please include science and also cultural heritage organizations)

100% of those who answered, answered yes, and from the following questions, 100% yes all around.

Are you an artist or cultural worker?

100% yes

Are you an administrator or office employee?

100% yes

If yes to both do you feel you have a healthy balance in working hours/activities?

14 no, 6 yes, 6 neutral or no answer

If these do not apply to you, do you have enough art and culture in your life?

13 yes, 6 no, 7 neutral or no answer

Yes or no, what are the factors that either allow or don't allow for that to happen?

13 some combo of time/money/energy as why not, several that cite working at a cultural or as the reason they make it happen, one person cited good scheduling, and several cited having friends and access to tickets.

How many full time artists or cultural workers does your organization employ?

30, 20, 25, 1, 8, 0, 23, 30, 10-15, 28, 7, 300, 1, 8, 1, 5, 15, 0, 0, 5

How many part time?

20, 30, 15, 3, 4, 85, 44, 15, 10, 10, 4, 1000's, 0, 6, 0, 6, don't know, 0, 33, 4-6, 30-40 on per project

Does your organization have enough staff to fulfill its mission?

4 yes, 16 no, 6 neutral or no answer

How many artist or cultural workers do you know that make their full wages from their art or cultural practice?

30%, not many (some teaching artists), not many, a too small minority, 2 out of 2000, lots of admins but a few artists, not many perhaps 10, 60%, not enough, about 200, many but poverty levels, 25%, 5-10%, a lot but admin (not creators), hard to say 20? 200? (depending on how well I know them), not from their artistic practice, most have other full time jobs, many, couldn't survive without teaching, no answer from the rest

At the bottom of the survey was an open area for people to write their "big ideas." There are some repeats, but those are left in to include recognition of ideas with more traction at different tables. These are unorganized in order to be an unfiltered list of ideas, for people to

access and interweave and define into categories or not as seen useful.

- Unused space in schools used by artists for rehearsal and studio space, there is a model with the CUNY campus extra space being used for dance co. rehearsal space. Is there more use of CUNY spaces for artists? It was also noted that visual artists might not work due to concerns over hazards and materials and freight in and out.
- ArtsSpace and PS 109, ask Arts Space for some ideas to inform the cultural plan. Also the Manhattan Plaza project was referred to which allowed organized labor for the arts to occupy the apts.
- Examine the law created when affordable housing guidelines were set. We think that due to an internal squabble re lawyer on lawyer feud that occupations were struck from being an eligibility category (therefore no artists). Could this be reviewed and see if it is still the best reg and could artists be added (understood income requirements would still need to be met)?
- Worker Coops –city funded artists worker coops for industries and could the artists create coops. These groups are oriented about geographies (city council districts)
- Hold developers accountable for cultural space promises
- More umbrella organizations for support small orgs and individuals
- City organized artist resource center (online and in person)
- Connects artists to vacant spaces (corporate?)
- Offer incentive to organizations donating space
- Foster infrastructure sharing by smaller groups
- Pay artists to do their own admin
- New grant for budgets below 500k
- Subsidies for shop spaces
- Create or fund a new database of all performances in NYC (searchable by tourists)
- Provide incentives for CIG's to team up with smaller groups
- Find new ways to quantify cultural and economic impact of the arts
- Share discoveries of success on national level so they can be replicated or scaled
- Repeat this whole process in 5-10 years
- Learn and articulate how small groups and artists support mainstream culture through research and development (read study at brooklyncommune.org)
- Understand Baumel & Bowen study “performing Arts: The Economic Dilemma (1965)”
- Make CIG's create community advisory boards
- Create artist healthcare exchange
- Partnerships!
- Need for general spectators
- Create space/resources for R&D in arts and culture administration (presentations and engagements with other industries as they transform and innovate)
- Have other reps of other city agencies as active participants in these conversations
- Use under utilized school spaces, have artists upgrade them, keep them open for artists and audiences after hours
- Accessibility
- Funding/more
- More working between the organizations
- More open house weekends
- More jobs (real jobs/not short stints)

- Incentives for idnyc
- Culture = community
- Community reps to help spread word
- Corporate support like Citibank and citibike
- Create culture fund by nyc stakeholders
- Culture tax on corporations, chains, retail, plastic bags, soda, hotels, because culture is why people come here
- Stronger leadership from DCA
- Position arts as a leader in equity and diversity, example for other industries (not there yet)
- Programs that support artist orientation and introduction to NYC culture
- Support for teacher education
- Support for field trips for students/adults
- Coalition for advertising
- Programs to create board diversity
- Programs to create board to board relationships
- More funding to Lincoln center education so more teaching candidates will have access to teaching artists as models for integration of the arts in education
- Overhead support to go along with capital projects
- Larger grants to smaller companies
- Advocate arts as essential to democracy
- Smaller arts orgs into larger arts buildings
- More individual artist grants by DCA
- Position community organizing as a deep part of arts and culture work
- Sectorwide evaluation of pipeline and fellowships
- Get rid of grants gateway CDP (dataArts)
- Get artists and students in the room for advocacy
- Shared space initiatives
- Set/mandate fees and wages for freelance artists and designers
- Start a center for arts and culture equity modeled after center for health equity
- Challenge foundations to contribute a collective nut to the city
- Arts asset mapping
- Artist affordable living space, work live space in new developments
- Gen op funding increases
- Mentorship between large and small orgs
- 3 year admin grant to small companies
- Speak out from NYC to a national scale, set NYC as model to get to, leader for other cities, not just in having arts in service to other missions, but also for arts and culture's sake
- CIG's to create community boards
- Not enough wine
- Better communications, more meetings like this
- Clear and prioritized objectives turned into actionable items delegated to responsible and committed people
- Educate the general public about benefits of the arts for stability, resilience and future development of society. Tax money better spent on arts than on bullets and missiles
- Transfer of development rights, theatre sub distric program expansion to include all

development rights sales because all neighborhoods benefit from arts and culture

Questions:

- How will artists get health care if ACA is overhauled? Could coops help there?
- What are the possible partnerships with MOYA that could benefit artists?
- How can NYC's/Queens status as a sanctuary help artists?
- How can Boro President's offices help artists?
- How can we best track artists assets, could each Comm Board do an asset map, the CB in Lower east Side (3?) has this survey / inventory program going. ?
- How do we work as artists in the face the current administrations policies?
- What will happen with NEA?

Guest List:

Marietta Saravia-Shore, Associate Professor, Early Childhood and Childhood Education, Lehman

Visual Arts Coordinator, Shawna Salmon snug harbor

Lisa Levy Director of Advocacy and Engagement CAE

Bryan E. Glover Life Coach Arts Producer

Jan Hanvik Cross The Bridge

Lane Harwell Dance NYC

Rachel Y. DeGuzman President and CEO 21st Century Arts

Henryk Behnke Vice President, External Affairs & Advancement Staten Island Museum

Thomas Walker Archive Director The Living Theatre

Elissa Cohen, Deputy Director at the Museum of Jewish Heritage

Frank Kuzler filmmaker DecadesOut

Geaner M. Parks Wildlife Conservation Society

DAISY RODRÍGUEZ AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Paul Nagle

Susan Lacerte, Executive Director Queens Botanical Garden

Stephanie Ehrlich, Director of Development. Queens Botanical Garden

Carl Goodman, Executive Director of the Museum of the Moving Image

Jennifer McGregor, Director of Arts & Senior Curator Wave Hill

Randall Bourscheidt

David Strauss Queens Museum

Laura Raicovich Queens Museum

Jenny Dixon Director The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum

David Freudenthal Carnegie Hall

Ana Chireno Director of Community and Government Affairs El Museo del Barrio

James Harris Director of Government and Community Affairs Brooklyn Botanic Garden

David Diamond La Mama

Cindy Rosenthal Hofstra

Alison Fleminger University Settlement

Edward Einhorn Artistic Director Untitled Theater Company No. 61

Terry Greiss Director Irondale

Madelyn Chapman Castillo Theater

Nick Benacerraf The Assembly
Geoffrey Jackson Scott Peoplmovr.