

Arts + Social Impact Explorer Fact Sheet

INFRASTRUCTURE

ARTS + HOUSING

OVERVIEW

Safe and affordable housing is a basic need that affects our health, access to education, and our access to security both financial and physical. Without it we can't thrive, and whether you're an artist or someone else in a community, the struggle to find housing that allows for the stability needed to be successful can be difficult and draining.

Artists play a critical role in the vibrancy and vitality of their neighborhood, community, and city. Neighborhoods where artists cluster often become cultural hubs, increasing the value of the surrounding neighborhood. Artmaking can provide innovative and unique ways of raising the profile of housing issues in a community and can be helpful in efforts to balance "gentrification" with "regeneration."

Activism around housing, as well as the planning, financial distribution, and communications needs of nonprofit organizations, local governments, and developers have all found solutions in arts-based interventions.

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IMPACT POINTS

20% RISE IN PROPERTY VALUES

Having a cultural organization in a community has been shown to increase nearby residential property values by up to 20 percent.¹

ARTS RAISE AWARENESS

A study in the United Kingdom found that 20 percent of people who engaged in participatory arts felt differently about their housing rights after participating.²

ARTS INSPIRES ACTION

The use of the arts to illustrate complicated issues can inspire 1,000s of people to take action who would not otherwise.³

CULTURE ANCHORS AND UNIFIES COMMUNITIES

A variety of research shows that common cultural history, whether hip hop, community murals, or immigrant heritage and craft, can provide unity in community dialogues about housing preservation that celebrates an area's unique culture and reflects the needs and values of all who live there.⁴

MORE ART = MORE VALUE

The more art, the more desirable a neighborhood is to live. A 10-year study found that an increased presence of art in neighborhoods was correlated with a faster-than-average increase in property values in those neighborhoods over that time period.⁵

EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE



National Fair Housing Alliance Poetry Slam, Washington, DC



This annual event brings together world-renowned spoken word artists from across the country to Slam for Justice, using their vibrant words and performance skills to compel communities to do more to ensure that our society lives up to its values.

image: NFHA 2017 Poetry Slam at Busboys and Poets.
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR1cT-TC3d8>>

ChopArt, Atlanta, GA



ChopArt uses the arts specifically to tackle issues of homelessness for middle and high school students. By creating performing arts workshops and community engagement among the homeless community, ChopArt seeks to offer alternatives and hope and to work toward housing security for those they serve. Malika Whitley, Founding and CEO talks about her journey.

<<http://go.ted.com/malikawhitley>>
<http://chopart.org/>

image: Youth perform at a ChopArt event. c ChopArt

Dorchester Art+Housing Collaborative, Chicago, IL



The Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative (DA+HC) is a rehabilitated public housing project, a block of 32 townhomes that provides housing for artists and community members with the intent of fostering dialogue and collaboration between both groups.

<http://dorchesterarthousing.com/>
info@dorchesterarthousing.com

image: Dorchester Art Center serves as the heart of the Dorchester Art+Housing Collaborative, Chicago, IL. Courtesy of The Rebuild Foundation; Brinshore Development LLC

Paducah Mainstreet Artist Relocation Program, Paducah, KY



Working at the intersection of artist housing and community development, this unique program offers empty or uninhabited property to artists for \$1. Artist residents, through a special financing arrangement, have invested more than \$30 million in restoring the community.

paducahmainstreet.org/artist-relocation-program.htm
tracy@paducahky.gov

image: An image of Vincent Van Gogh alerts artists looking for empty, fixable homes or vacant lots in Paducah, KY Photo Credit: Noah Adams/NPR

Write a House, Detroit, MI



Write a House aims to rebuild communities in Detroit, support the arts, redevelop housing, and provide jobs. It renovates empty homes and awards them to emerging writers chosen through a competitive judging process.

<http://www.writeahouse.com> interior
writeahouse@gmail.com

image from Write a House blog <<http://www.writeahouse.com/blog/were-talking-detroit-writing-and-point-of-view-in-palo-alto>>

top image: Once a vacant housing project, Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative <<http://dorchesterarthousing.com/>> is now a thriving family neighborhood. Courtesy of The Rebuild Foundation; Brinshore Development LLC

REFERENCES

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2. Matarasso, F. (1997). Use or Ornament? The Social Impact of Participation in the Arts [Electronic version]. Comedia. Retrieved 23 February 2018 from <http://www.culturenet.cz/res/data/004/000571.pdf>
3. Kendler, J. and E. Corr (2016). "How Artists and Environmental Activists Both Do Better Together." *Creativity Connects*. Retrieved 4 May 2018 from <https://www.arts.gov/partnerships/creativity-connects/report/how-artists-and-environmental-activists-both-do-better-together>.
4. "Arts Create Cultural Cohesion in Changing Communities." *How Housing Matters*. Retrieved 8 April 2018 from <https://howhousingmatters.org/articles/arts-create-cultural-cohesion-in-changing-communities/>
5. Seresinhe, C.I. et al. "Quantifying the link between art and property prices in urban neighbourhoods." *Royal Society Open Science* (27 April 2016). Retrieved 11 April 2018 from <http://rsos.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/3/4/160146>.

READING LIST

Exploring the Ways Arts and Culture Intersects with Housing: Emerging Practices and Implications for Further Action



This report is a field scan that outlines key goals or needs in the housing sector that arts and culture might address, a typology/framework for understanding how the arts might partner with the housing sector, barriers to partnership, and strategies to advance collaborations.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100637>

The State of the Nation's Housing 2017



Report from Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University reviews the state of housing across the United States.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100639>

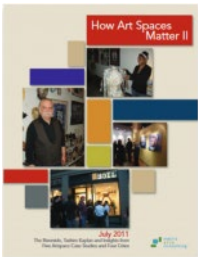
Arts and Culture in Urban or Regional Planning: A Review and Research Agenda



This overview of current and proposed future work around planning and community development offers a variety of ideas related to housing, property values, and neighborhood cohesion.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100777>

How Art Spaces Matter II



How Art Spaces Matter is a study of five affordable housing for artist developments built by Artspace across the country.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100634>



ORGANIZATIONS

National Fair Housing Alliance

The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) is the only national organization dedicated solely to ending discrimination in housing.

<http://www.nationalfairhousing.org>

Rebuild Foundation

Theaster Gates' Rebuild Foundation is a platform for art, cultural development, and neighborhood transformation.

<http://www.rebuild-foundation.org>

NeighborWorks America

NeighborWorks is a national organization with local affiliates that works around issues of affordable housing and community development, including a subset of work about how the arts can be used to address housing objectives.

<http://www.neighborworks.org>

ArtPlace America

ArtPlace is a creative placemaking hub that includes numerous key areas of focus.

<http://www.artplaceamerica.org>

Artspace

Artspace is a nonprofit that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable, appropriate places where artists and communities can intersect and live.

<http://www.artspace.org>

top image: image from Write a House blog <<http://www.writeahouse.com/blog/landscaping-101>>

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