



ARTPLACE

PolicyLink

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Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Spotlights the Transformative Power of Arts and Culture

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — A new issue of *Community Development Innovation Review*, “Transforming Community Development through Arts and Culture,” released today by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and co-edited with PolicyLink and ArtPlace America highlights how community development that infuses arts and cultural strategies helps residents reclaim community identity, strengthen cultural resilience, and build power—all key components of achieving equitable community development outcomes. This is the second collection of essays the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco has released dedicated to exploring different perspectives on the value of arts and culture in community development.

Read the full issue at: <https://sffed.us/sffedarts>

The issue features research and documentation from ArtPlace America’s Community Development Investments (CDI) program. The CDI program was a significant three-year investment of resources and technical assistance in six community development organizations who had not previously worked with the arts and culture sector. These investments have yielded valuable insights and lessons for a wide range of fields of practice, from affordable housing development to parks stewardship, from the social practice of art to youth development, from community organizing to public health. With new tools and ways of thinking, imagining, and acting, they have helped residents own and express the identity of their communities, build cultural resilience, and change the ways in which neighborhood planning is carried out.

CDI participants include:

- Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Anchorage, AK
- Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia, PA
- Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Jackson, MS
- Little Tokyo Service Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Slayton, MN
- Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, Zuni, NM

“Arts and culture free us to reimagine the ways that community development can address the structural barriers that keep people from reaching their full potential,” **says Laura Choi, community development research manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.** “This journal highlights the importance of arts and cultural strategies for authentically engaging communities and building partnerships to foster an inclusive economy.”

“Arts and culture play a really powerful role in creating community change in a way that our traditional disciplinary approaches do not,” **says Rip Rapson, president and CEO of the Kresge Foundation and chair of the Funders Council of ArtPlace America.** “The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco’s second journal issue

dedicated to creative placemaking represents another evolution in how we understand the role and value of these strategies in community planning and development.”

“Centering arts and culture within community development awakens us to what is already present in communities and amplifies resident voice and power,” **says Michael McAfee, president and CEO of PolicyLink.** “This journal issue provides a roadmap for leaders to show up with a new consciousness and a new way of authentically realizing the social change that residents have long desired.”

Leaders with a multitude of perspectives from inside the CDI initiative and from elsewhere in the fields of community development, social practice art, and creative placemaking (including authors from LISC, NeighborWorks, Enterprise Community Partners, the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations, National Endowment for the Arts, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Kresge Foundation, and more) round out the issue with perspectives and lessons on the practice, its support structures, funding, and policy.

Today’s Release Event and Livestream

A release event for the publication takes place today, November 13 at 3pm Pacific, hosted by the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (701 Mission Street), and celebrates the many ways arts can advance equitable and resilient communities. The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, PolicyLink, and ArtPlace America along with artists, community development practitioners, policymakers, financial institutions and funders will showcase key lessons and content, inspiring attendees to deepen their own understanding of what’s possible through this work. **The event will be livestreamed here: <https://twitter.com/sffed> and the program for the event can be found here: <http://sffed.us/artsprogram>**

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About the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco promotes low inflation, full employment and financial stability and serves the Twelfth Federal Reserve District, which includes the nine western states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington—plus American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Its community development team works with a wide range of organizations to create economic opportunity for lower income Americans by developing and connecting best practices and emerging ideas with organizations positioned to make meaningful change in communities. For more information, visit frbsf.org.

About ArtPlace America

ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is a collaboration of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions that exists to position arts and culture as a core sector of community planning and development. ArtPlace works to enlist artists as allies in planning and developing equitable, healthy, and sustainable communities. For more information, visit artplaceamerica.org.

About PolicyLink

PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by Lifting Up What Works®. For more information, visit policylink.org.