



**Remarks by National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu
Hong Kong Arts Development Council Leadership Roundtable
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
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INTRODUCTION

非常感谢能被邀请来到这里。

Fēicháng gǎnxiè néng bèi yāoqǐng lái dào zhèlǐ,
Thank you very much for inviting me here today.

我也非常荣幸能与在座的各位同行一起参加这次会议。

Wǒ yě fēicháng róngxìng néng yǔ zàizuò de gèwèi tóngháng yīqǐ cānjiā zhè cì huìyì.
I am honored to be here with my prestigious colleagues.

我叫朱楚贞。

Wǒ jiào Zhū Chǔzhēn.
My name is Jane Chu.

我是美国国家艺术赞助基金会的主席。

Wǒ shì měiguó guójiā yìshù zànzhù jījīn huì de zhǔxí,
My job as the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

我们的工作来支持和促进各艺术门类在美国各地的蓬勃发展。

Wǒmen de gōngzuò shì lái zhīchí hé cùjìn gè yìshù ménlèi zài měiguó gèdì de péngbó fāzhǎn,
is to help the arts to thrive in communities throughout the United States,

同时，我们对其他国家的艺术项目也会给予一定的支持。

Tóngshí, wǒmen duì qítā guójiā de yìshù xiàngmù yě huì jǐyǔ yīdìng de zhīchí.
and we also support some arts projects that are international connections to other countries.

我是美国人，但我的父母是中国人。

Wǒ shì Měiguó rén, dàn wǒ de fùmǔ shì Zhōngguó rén.
I am American, but my parents are Chinese.

我爸爸是山东平度人，妈妈是青岛人。

Wǒ bàba shì Shāndōng Píngdù rén, māma shì Qīngdǎo rén.
My father is from the Shangdong Province, Pingdu; my mother is from Qingdao.

我妈妈很年轻的时候就搬到了香港生活。

Wǒ māmā hěn niánqīng de shíhòu jiù bāndàole Xiānggǎng shēnghuó,

When she was a young adult, my mother lived in this beautiful country of Hong Kong.

香港是个非常美丽的地方，我们都很爱香港。

Xiānggǎng shìge fēicháng měilì de dìfāng, wǒmen dōu hěn ài Xiānggǎng.

Hong Kong is a very beautiful place. We all love Hong Kong very much.

ABOUT THE NEA

The National Endowment for the Arts supports the arts in many ways. We make financial grants to arts programs throughout the United States; and also to more than 450 translations of literature from 82 other countries and 69 languages, as well as grants to support students, educators, and audience members who could not buy their own tickets. The National Endowment for the Arts grants support programs in communities across the nation, from: arts programs in music, dance, theater, visual arts, museums, opera, creative writing, poetry, and design; to featuring the top artists in jazz and folk and traditional arts; financial grants for the arts in schools, concert halls, and on radio and TV, as well as grants to support arts projects for people with disabilities. Over the past five decades, the National Endowment for the Arts has made more than 147,000 grants, totaling \$5 Billion dollars, in 16,000 communities across the United States.

CREATIVITY CONNECTS

But today, I want to talk about one way we make financial grants, through a program called ***Creativity Connects***. We are beginning to see many people in the U.S. who include the arts in non-arts projects. For example:

- In **Gainesville, Florida**: For a moment, you might think you're in the wrong place if you're admitted to the hospital there. Musicians stroll through the emergency trauma unit, performing soothing music. Patients in the intensive care unit work with artists to draw and paint. This hospital believes that there's a relationship between medicine and art that can provide therapeutic qualities beyond just medicine alone. And surgeons noted that those arts patients who underwent a surgical procedure were calmer, and had a propensity to heal faster.
- In **Fargo, North Dakota**, artists are working with the local government to create a public art space that is connected to a city stormwater basin.
- In **Houston, Texas**, artists came into a very poor neighborhood and painted, displayed their artwork, and helped transform rundown places to live into a clean and positive neighborhood for low-income single mothers and their children.
- In **New York City at Carnegie Hall**: artists work with teenage mothers to compose lullabies for their newborn babies, and this has encouraged a strong bond of love when the parent sings their lullaby to the baby.
- In **New Orleans, Louisiana**: People who walk into *Lusher School* in New Orleans can find all 1,600 students, kindergarten through 12th grade participating in the arts, as the school core curriculum is based upon integrating the arts into all subjects, in order to learn both art

skills and engage in critical thinking. Second graders learn about place value in mathematics by analyzing Kandinsky paintings. All 3rd graders take violin lessons. 4th through 6th graders learn about the solar system through dance. By the time they reach high school, Lusher School students choose an arts discipline (creative writing, dance, drama, music, media arts, visual arts). The results of an arts-based education are proving to be valuable at Lusher School. Lusher high school graduation rates (95%-98%) are much higher than the national average. Lusher graduates go on to become engineers, scientists, athletes, as well as artists. The students and alumni win awards, exhibit their art from Chicago to New York, all across the United States.

- In **Boston, Massachusetts:** the Mayor of Boston wants the arts to be connected to other parts of people's lives; so he created a high-level cabinet member of his government to include the arts in housing for low-income residents; in new construction; in the police department; in the transportation department; and in the public health department.
- In **Los Angeles, California:** Movie Actor Tim Robbins brings theater performances to prisons, where those who are incarcerated learn acting skills and act in plays. At the same time, they cultivate skills in non-violent communication, social skills, self-esteem, and creativity. It used to be that for every 10 people who were released from prison, 4 of them would commit another crime and return to prison. But now, the prisons with the theater productions have reduced the recidivism rate to 0%. And prison guards noted a kinder and more humane interaction with those incarcerated who participated in the theater productions.
- In **Tacoma, Washington:** There is an arts program to teach creation of sculptures made from glass, to military soldiers who suffer from physical and psychological wounds of war. The art form of glassblowing is challenging, risky, complex, and precise, and the creation process keeps the soldiers focused and engaged. Service members who have participated in Hot Shop Heroes have said that the program has awakened their creativity and fostered imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and healing.
- In **Milwaukee, Wisconsin:** There is an arts organization that engages older adults with memory loss by encouraging them to imagine stories, poems and songs to create live performances and visual/sound installations. Artists and trained nursing home staff work with residents in Wisconsin nursing homes to create and record original stories. The objective is to replace the pressure to remember with the freedom to imagine, through the arts. Residents are energized, and caregivers are amazed by the depth of the stories, noting that there's so much more substance and depth inside the resident than just memory loss.
- In **Whitesburg, Kentucky:** One of the economically poorest regions of the United States, nearly 25% of all people living there are in deep poverty. But an arts organization there is creating movies and videos. It has a community radio station, an art gallery, it teaches people how to make string instruments; it creates theater productions. And these arts programs have helped to stimulate the economy by bringing jobs to a region that has very few jobs. Now, more than \$1.5 million comes back to the local economy through salaries and arts programs.

In **12 military sites across the United States**, the National Endowment for the Arts uses art therapists to work with our military service members and veterans who have traumatic brain-injury conditions. And the results have been very effective. So many service members who participated in these programs acknowledged improvements: They saw an association between get to create through this arts program and managing their stress; their memory was more enhanced; they could communicate more clearly; and they could manage their physical pain better. Family members and caregivers also noticed significant and positive changes in their loved one: 100% of the caregivers said that they experienced positive results in the service members who participated in the creative arts therapies program. One wife whose husband received treatment noted that the arts therapies also healed the family disruption. And the medical clinicians noted that the arts programs were non-invasive to the patients. They did not have to undergo surgery; instead they participated in an arts program which was therapeutic.

CONCLUSION

I hope that these examples of arts programs in the United States show that the arts are valuable for everyone. We do not believe that the arts only belong to some people, but not others. We are committed to finding ways for every individual, from child to grandparent and everyone in between, has an opportunity to find their creative voice through the arts; and live in a community where creativity can thrive. This is important because the arts instill our lives with value, and connection; creativity and innovation. They make our world a richer and more rewarding place to be.

When we travel to communities where people are talking about how the economy base has started to become stronger and stable because of the presence of arts projects, we know that we've entered a space where people feel enlivened, and they want to be there. And when we hear our military service members who have been affected by post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury say that because they get to create through this arts program, they can now manage their stress, their memory is more enhanced, they can communicate more clearly, and they can manage their physical pain better, we believe that the arts have allowed them to tap into the meaning and value of their own lives, which were always there, but may have been buried during times of combat. Or when youth who come from households with fewer opportunities participate in the arts and then performing academically on a more even playing field with other students in the class, we believe that the arts have provided opportunities to transcend the use of linear, everyday words, and touch something deeper and far more meaningful, making their lives worthwhile. And at the same time, those meaningful everyday moments have sparked more economic vitality, and provided more opportunities to heal those invisible wounds of war. They've evened the playing field for diverse cultures to communicate with each other, and empowered students to want to learn. They've encouraged businesses and other organizations to make creativity a key component for hiring, in order to help them meet their objectives.

Art for art's sake. Art lets us discover, appreciate, and enjoy the beauty of our lives. Art can also have a positive impact on every aspect of our lives. It all counts. I am grateful to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for giving me this opportunity to attend this meeting. And congratulations to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for your good work in helping the arts to thrive in Hong Kong.

Thank you.