

BEYOND THE BUILDING: PERFORMING ARTS AND TRANSFORMING PLACE

Morning Small Group Breakout Sessions: Questions 1-3

Events

- Thinking about our work in terms of creative placemaking can be limiting because it's not just about geography
- Question of art as "temporary" - aren't all performing arts ephemeral?
- Experience - are we trying to engage around experience in our activities?
- We're not always just talking about organizations, but also project-based groups and institutions
- Community engagement and building and their relevance
- 1 - Can we articulate why the work is important?
- 2 - Can placemaking actually mean gentrification, intentional or not?
- 3 - Can we rid of the word temporary, instead talking about continuum?
- Think about events, including Woodstock, as temporary events that have a lasting impact
- "Transformation" - does it have a negative connotation? We're not just talking about spaces, but also people

Mission/Place

- Began with marginalization of work in organizations, ex. starting as a grant-funded pilot and not being integrated.
- How do you make a project become institutionalized after the grant is gone?
- Question of shared power and shared resources - specifically artists and how are they "at the table?"
- Artists voices directly versus heard through mediators
- Artists are often freelance, making their living through project-based work. Need to make sure there's an equitable approach to a placemaking effort
- Example of Houston Opera in deciding what their civic responsibility is, what kind of cultural resource they can be
- Being "allergic" to the word "outreach" - Ask how are you collaborating, what is a healthy collaborative relationship?
- Not embedded in mission, but embedded in values
- Relationship of social media/digital world related to the live performance experience
- Definition of communities - it's much more than geography; placemaking can be about how different kinds of communities (ideas, activities, etc) are built

Language

- Authenticity and what it means - requires reciprocity, listening, esp. when working with communities

- Authenticity is a process of call and response - who is doing what? If it's only within the institution then it's not authentic. It has to happen between two entities that are engaging in a process together. Must understand how power and equity relate to that.
- Institutions need to be open and accessible for change
- Authenticity is about relationships and also about what presence an institution or artist brings forward
- Authenticity also needs to make sure the budget is behind the values
- Language must be chosen carefully, and be flexible
- In talking about creative placemaking, it needs a definition, outcomes, and simple examples
- Who is this language for? Is there a different language for different groups?
- How does this fit into our mission, and is it embedded throughout?
- Is this work taking place on stage? Not always - i.e. Opera company using makeup with kids around Halloween time, not related to anything being performed
- Where is the social justice aspect?
- Discussion about the role of the Academy
- Organizations still need to produce what they normally produce and believe in the community value of that
- Can't forget who isn't at the table today - representing a lot of voices that aren't present
- Talked about "ancillary" - don't want to devalue events that are not the mainstage event