

IntermissionDC Kickoff Event

DC Cultural Plan

July 20, 2016

Key Takeaways

Hosted by the DC Office of Planning
Martin Luther King Library
901 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

OVERHEARD AT INTERMISSIONDC

Quotes from participants

"I didn't know OP could have an event this engaging!"

"No 'art desert.' These should be opportunities for people to connect to art near where they live"

"DC needs to export its culture."

"It needs to be easier for artists to locate vacant spaces in buildings throughout the city to use as potential exhibition or performance spaces."

"Development and culture should be integrated. Create space for artists."

"There should be more public art and arts exchanges happening in the Metro."

"DC government can make it difficult to be spontaneous."

"Arts can be part of the solution, not just a cute thing to dress up a street, don't silo the industry"

INTERMISSIONDC

A community event on DC, culture, and planning

ATTENDANCE: Over 500 people, representing a mix of community members across the district ranging from artists, arts administrators, and politicians, to students and families.

WHAT: The event was organized as a series of facilitated activity sessions. Attendees could circulate through the following stations:

- What's in a space?
- Equity Atlas – Digital
- Equity Atlas- Analog
- Collaboration Lounge
- All the City is a Stage
- Switchboard
- The Salon

SO WHAT? At each station, over 60 trained facilitators from HR&A advisors, bcWorkshop, and the Office of Planning guided participants to think about and share:

- How they defined culture
- Where they go to experience culture
- What kind of spaces support culture
- What they'd like to see more of
- What they'd like to see less of
- How they think culture can be made more successful in DC

ACTIVITY STATION TAKEAWAYS

Each station used different activities to provoke conversation around culture in the District.
A range of ideas emerged.

Equity Atlas-Analog/Digital

- Affordable art, production, and gallery space across the city
- More cultural resources and venues in Wards 7 and 8

What's in a Space?

- Permanent and accessible spaces for practice, production and performance
- Affordable production and living artist space
- Collaborative and community-based space
- Informal spaces for cultural production and performance
- Access to technology

The Salon

- Spoken word and poetry as a force for social change
- More investment in youth arts education
- Affordable housing

Collaboration Lounge

- Simplified live music restrictions and permitting process
- Networking events to forge partnerships and build relationships (especially between for-profit and nonprofit organizations)
- Improved outreach and relationships with city agencies

All the city is a stage

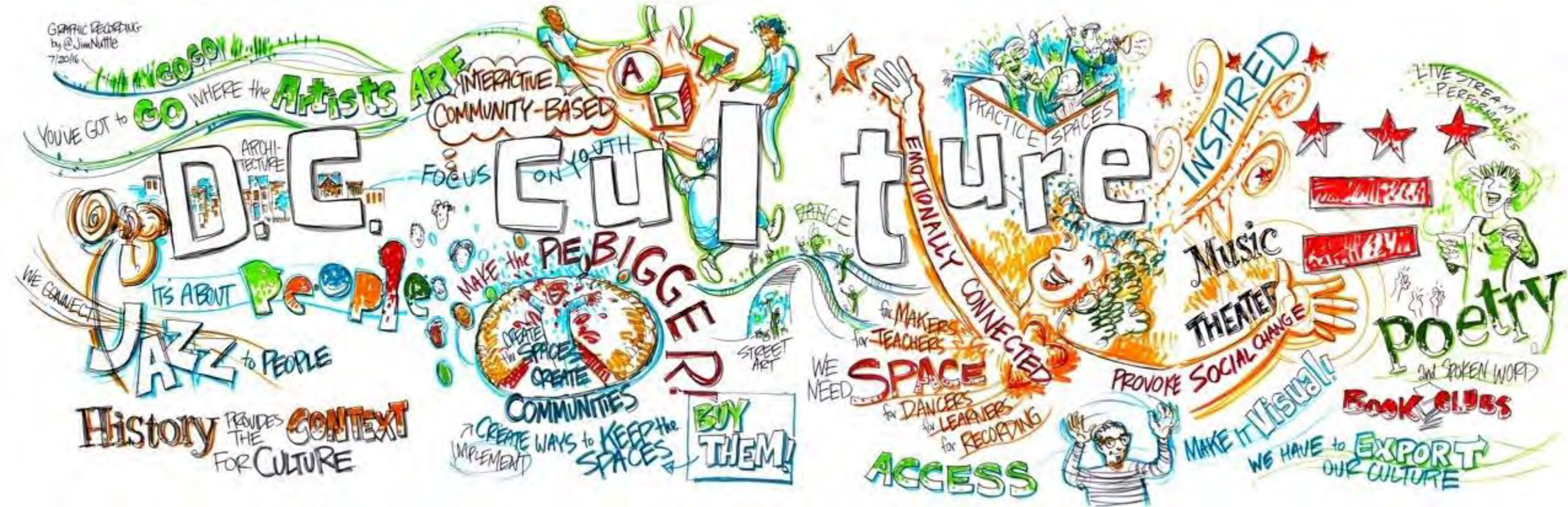
- Mixed-use space nonprofit for nonprofit and for-profit organizations
- Affordable housing and live/work spaces
- Integrated arts and transportation planning
- Art in green spaces and businesses

Switchboard

- Preservation of local/neighborhood DC culture in the face of rapid demographic change
- Promoting the history and local culture of the District to new residents and tourists
- Access to youth arts education organizations

WHAT'S IN A SPACE?

An artistic exercise to discuss spatial needs



WHAT'S IN A SPACE?

An artistic exercise to discuss spatial needs

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Increase the permanent and accessible spaces for practice, production and performance (esp. for fashion design and small theatre companies) across the District
- Increase the affordable production and living artist spaces
- Increased access to collaborative and community-based spaces
- Access to informal public spaces for cultural production and performance
- Access to technology (ie. maker spaces, digital fabrication)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Panels from exercise
- Facilitator and staff notes

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Textile and fashion arts
- Black box theatre spaces (>100 seats)
- Venues east of the Anacostia River
- Affordability
- Collaborative space and incubators
- Cultural production in outdoor public space
- Access to technology (ie. maker spaces, digital fabrication)
- Use of city-owned space (such as rec centers and schools)
- Metro-accessibility
- Co-location with business and public space
- Preservation of historic and local culture
- Special event permitting and noise ordinance
- Temporary and flexible space
- Literary arts

EQUITY ATLAS

An interactive mapping exercise of cultural assets and participation



EQUITY ATLAS

An interactive mapping exercise of cultural assets and participation

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Increase affordable art, production, and gallery space across the city
- Increase the number of cultural resources and venues in Wards 7 and 8
- People who live within the District and outside the District have different needs/desires of culture

DOCUMENTATION:

- 61 origins (homes)
- 158 destinations (cultural venues)
- Facilitator and staff notes

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Notable places of culture within and outside of the District
- Influence of transit on choice
- Density of organizations
- Density of green space
- Access to underserved areas
- Equitable resources across wards
- Different needs of District residents and metro-area residents
- Lack of cultural resources east of the Anacostia River
- Definition of a cultural “stage”
- Mapping of routes to destinations

COLLABORATION LOUNGE

A discussion on collaborative cultural work featuring “Crossing the Street” curators



COLLABORATION LOUNGE

A discussion on collaborative cultural work, featuring “Crossing the Street” curators

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Increase networking events that forge partnerships and build relationships
- Transparent live music restrictions and permitting process
- Improve outreach and relationships with city agencies

DOCUMENTATION:

- Facilitator and staff notes

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- “Crossing the Street” initiative
- Special event permitting process
- Benefit of facilitated discussions
- Tools of partnership
- Inclusion of engagement in grants
- Outreach (strengths and challenges)
- Connecting arts and the economy
- Urban agriculture
- Incubator space
- Nontraditional network/collaborative events
- Funding - Is there enough? Where is it?
- Opportunities to collaborate
- Next steps in cultural planning process

ALL THE CITY IS A STAGE

A tactile “build your own block” exercise



ALL THE CITY IS A STAGE

A tactile “build your own block” exercise

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Increase mixed use space available for thriving for-profit and nonprofit art organizations
- Provide affordable housing and live/work spaces
- Integration of the arts into transportation planning
- Integration of arts, commercial, and green spaces

DOCUMENTATION:

- Photos
- Marking flags
- Facilitator and staff notes

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Affordable live-work, production, and performance space
- Integration of green space with mixed use space
- Concept of “art deserts”
- Need for collaborative incubator space
- Access to green/public space
- Arts districts
- Informal meeting space
- Use of public infrastructure for art, music and culture
- Broaden the concept of art institutions (beyond museums)
- Cultural arts communities (without geography and digital)
- Transportation influences access
- Arts and culture as the source of community
- Utilize buildings during off-peak hours
- Neighborhood connections

SWITCHBOARD

An open-ended “cultural diary” to record personal definitions of culture and envision DC’s future



SWITCHBOARD

An open-ended “cultural diary” to record personal definitions of culture and envision DC’s future

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Reveal and promote the history and local culture of the District to new residents and tourists
- Preserve local/neighborhood DC culture in the face of rapid demographic change
- Increase access to youth arts education organizations across the District

DOCUMENTATION:

- Video/audio recordings
- Staff notes

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Afro-Trinidadian culture
- Changing demographics in neighborhoods
- Public murals/street art movement
- Dupont Underground
- U-Street jazz culture
- Affordable and accessible spaces (such as public library)
- Power of arts and culture to shape neighborhoods
- Role of park service
- Economics of culture
- Culture as a factor in quality of life
- African American culture, go-go, “chocolate city”
- Nightlife
- Storytelling
- Fashion design space
- Public safety
- Neighborhood arts education programs
- Dance and music scene

THE SALON

Facilitated discussion on various topics



THE SALON

Facilitated discussion on various topics

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Focused investment in spoken word and poetry (reflects the identity/unique character of DC)
- Increased investment in youth arts education (in schools and in arts organizations)
- Affordable housing

DOCUMENTATION:

- Staff notes

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- What is culture?
- How do you identify with culture?
- What is DC culture?
- How can we build DC culture?
- How do we preserve DC culture? What should be preserved?
- How do you play a role in DC culture?
- Activities of culture
- Affordability
- What is threatened?
- Equitable access to the arts
- Role of technology in arts and culture
- Web platform/app for all cultural events
- Integration of arts in transit
- Local media networks
- Arts education

MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED PHRASES

Across all stations, space and connectivity were top of mind.

**mixed use and
live/work space**

**cross-pollination of
people and ideas**

**affordable production
space and housing**

in person connections

**informal public
gathering spaces**

metro beautification

parks and open space

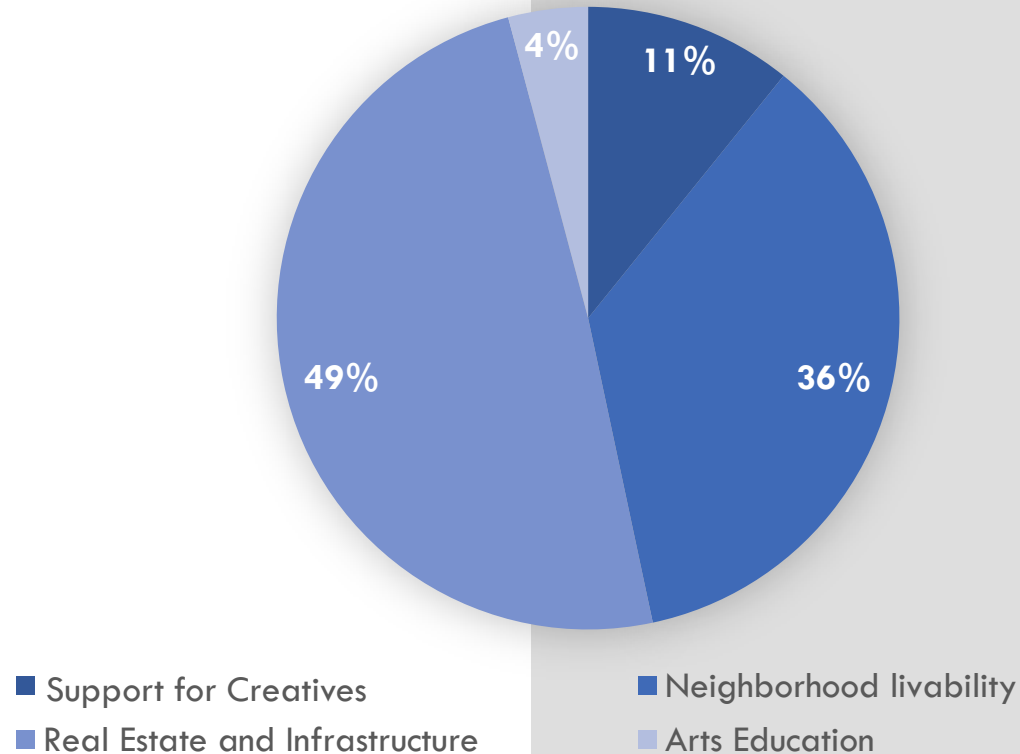
PRINCIPAL TAKEAWAYS

Key areas of importance emerged.

Percentage of Responses

~420 impressions

Share of impressions by key themes



PRINCIPAL TAKEAWAYS

Key areas of importance emerged.

Infrastructure and Real Estate



214 impressions

Most comments on real estate and infrastructure were concerned with the city and neighborhood scale:

- Share/flex studio spaces and collectives
- Affordable production space and housing
- Flexible public open areas
- Accessible transportation to arts venues

Support for Creatives



47 impressions

Most comments on professional development were concerned with the city scale:

- Seed money for artists
- Artist professional networking
- Incentives for artists to work with the community

Neighborhood Livability



156 impressions

Most comments on neighborhood livability were concerned with the city and neighborhood scale:

- Integrating the arts into local businesses
- Safety
- Pop up street events
- DC heritage self-awareness and preservation

Arts Education



18 impressions

Most comments on arts education were concerned with the city scale:

- Youth exposure to culture
- Arts organization ambassadors
- Mixed learning spaces

DC CULTURAL PLAN



Community Conversation Summary

Southeast Quadrant: October 4, 2016

Anacostia Art Center, 1231 Good Hope Road

*Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership
with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities*



OVERHEARD IN SOUTHEAST DC

Quotes from participants

“How do we educate and inform new residents in the city about the rich history and cultural opportunities as a means of preserving culture?”

“There needs to be more money invested directly in artists and real estate for artists. The massive gentrification in DC displaces people and erases culture”

“Arts can be an afterthought in real estate development and other activities, where art should in fact be embedded from the beginning”

“I’d like to see more historical presentation of the arts, of Anacostia, of go-go”

“A community that acknowledges local music and artists as serious economic and cultural drivers”

“Can we create incentives for corporations to support artists?”

“Use DC artists to do interior design, art, and furniture for new development”

SE Quadrant Community Conversation

on the DC Cultural Plan

ATTENDANCE: Approximately **40 participants**, representing a mix of community members across the District, including residents, individual creatives, members of arts and humanities organizations, students and District officials.

WHAT: In partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Office of Planning led facilitated group conversations on issues related to cultural development, preservation, production, expression, and consumption.

Through an event-wide “Aspiration Station” for big ideas and facilitated small group discussions, participants shared their reflections on the challenges they currently experience related to culture in the District, and provided their ideas and solutions to address these concerns.

SO WHAT? At each station, trained facilitators from the Office of Planning, the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, key stakeholder organizations, and HR&A advisors and bcWORKSHOP led participants in a conversation about:

- **DC Culture:** What is DC’s cultural identity, and how can we strengthen access to that culture?
- **Cultural Space:** How can more sustainable performance, production and creative living space be created across the District?
- **Partnerships:** How do partnerships support culture, and how can existing and new partnerships in the District be supported?
- **Cultural Entrepreneurship:** What is needed to support and expand cultural entrepreneurship?

THE ASPIRATION STATION

What's your "big idea" for culture?



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

More affordable and equitable living space for artists

Co-working and production space for creatives that meet industry-specific needs

A diverse and inclusive engagement process

CULTURAL IDENTITY

What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC's cultural identity?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: DC CULTURE IS...

- “YOU!”
- “The ‘heart’”
- “Music and go-go”
- “History is whatever happened before you came”

CULTURAL IDENTITY

What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC's cultural identity?

KEY CONCERNS

- Perceived lack of **respect for local, grassroots, or “homegrown” culture**
- **Weak arts education and youth programming** in the District
- **Maintaining the District's heritage** as the city grows and socio-economic demographics change
- Lack of investment in **spaces where local artists and bands can showcase their work**

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Involve creatives** in District decision-making about culture and **showcase local talent**
- **Youth incubator spaces** to support the next generation of local creatives
- Granular level **data to provide a more comprehensive understanding** of the value and needs of arts, culture, and the humanities
- Resource development (such as internships, residencies, seminars, mentoring, and professional development) to **build capacity**

CULTURAL SPACE

What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHERE DO YOU EXPERIENCE CULTURE?

- Public transit
- Metro platforms
- Sidewalks
- Bars and restaurants
- Windows
- Streets
- Recreation centers
- Houses of worship

CULTURAL SPACE

What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

KEY CONCERNS

- **Affordability** of live, performance and production space that is reliable for the long-term
- **Lack of awareness of available space** that meets specific creative needs
- **Bureaucratic barriers** to accessing and using public/District-owned space for cultural activity

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Database that links space owners and space seekers**, with specific information on the space itself, amenities, and available materials
- **Partnerships** with private, public, and nonprofit entities **to create an integrated approach to creating cultural space**
- Create a barter system to share **collaborative spaces**
- **District support** for both long-term (permanent) and temporary space for cultural activity

PARTNERSHIPS

How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT DO PARTNERSHIPS MEAN TO YOU?

“Not just organizations”

“Some arts cultural groups are more informal and may not sign up or ‘show up’”

“Culture as a set of daily life experiences; creativity is a key part of everyday life”

PARTNERSHIPS

How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?

KEY CONCERNS

- Use of **exclusive language and limited definitions** of culture may exclude some
- **Individual actors have difficulty** forming or accessing opportunities for partnerships
- Access to **funding** for partnerships
- **Regulation** of public spaces (like sidewalks, street corners and the Metro) **limits how and where cultural production can occur**
- **Arts are undervalued** as part of an integrated system

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Support partnership opportunities for **community organizations** that know their communities best to support broader cultural access
- Policies and incentives to **encourage investment and corporate responsibility in the arts**
- Reduce barriers to **arts programming and education in all schools**
- **Provide resources to support partnerships** (e.g. networks to identify partnerships, funding for new ventures, and easy access to public space)

CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How can we better support cultural businesses during start-up, production, programming, presentation and participation?



ICE BREAKER: WHAT IS CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP?

- Apparel/retail
- Personal branding/storytelling
- Video
- Filmmaker
- Humanities
- Public art
- Education
- Curator
- Creative economy
- Media

CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How can we better support cultural businesses during start-up, production, programming, presentation and participation?

KEY CONCERNS

- Need support for **capacity and operations building**
- **Grant funding processes need to be streamlined**
- **Knowledge/role of panelists selecting grantees**

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Create an industry-specific creative incubator hub** to support the needs of emerging and start-up artists
- Identify more diverse **methods of disseminating grant information**
- **Use a case ID** that tracks creative endeavors between agencies with notes and specific points of contact
- **Modify criteria and training for grant panelists**

MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED...

Across all conversations, some topics were top of mind



MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED...

Key themes emerged during conversations

Accessibility of public processes and resources

62 mentions

- Use of government-owned property (including schools and recreation centers)
- Interagency collaboration
- Dissemination of grant information and process for selection
- Inclusion of creatives in decision-making
- Navigating District processes can be difficult, time-consuming, and expensive

Public Funding

61 mentions

- Lack of support for youth opportunities and arts education
- Need for resources to support creative capacity building
- Investment in spaces for up-and-coming artists

Barriers to Participation

47 mentions

- Affordability for live and work space
- Definitions of culture and language used in grant and planning processes
- Arts education and youth programming
- Engaging individual artists

Community-based approach

43 mentions

- Acknowledgement of and investment in local creatives
- Collaboration with real estate developers to support or showcase local culture
- Elevate local heritage and cultural identity
- Encourage federal cultural institutions to partner with and foster local cultural activities



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@DCCulturalPlan #DCCulturalPlan #IntermissionDC

Artist: James Bullough, Addison Karl. Title: Shh
Credit Line: DC Department of Public Works, MuralSDC
Program

DC CULTURAL PLAN



Community Conversation Summary

Southwest Quadrant: October 11, 2016

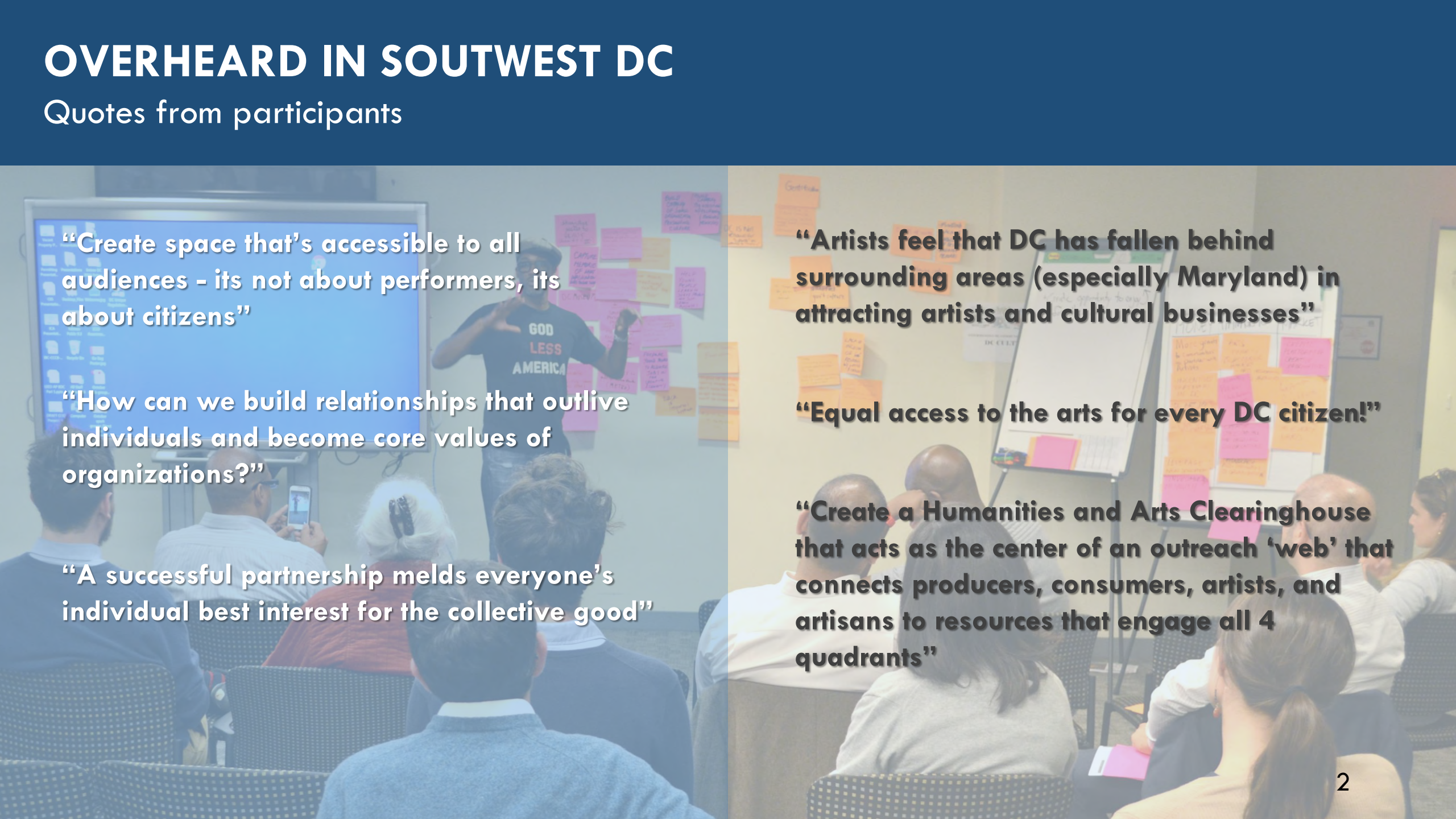
Department of Regulatory and Consumer Affairs, 1100 4th Street SW

*Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership
with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities*



OVERHEARD IN SOUTHWEST DC

Quotes from participants

A man wearing a black t-shirt with the text "GOD LESS AMERICA" is standing and gesturing while presenting to a group of people seated in a room. The room has a large screen on the left and a wall covered in numerous colorful sticky notes. The audience is seen from behind, seated in rows of chairs.

“Create space that’s accessible to all audiences - its not about performers, its about citizens”

“How can we build relationships that outlive individuals and become core values of organizations?”

“A successful partnership melds everyone’s individual best interest for the collective good”

“Artists feel that DC has fallen behind surrounding areas (especially Maryland) in attracting artists and cultural businesses”

“Equal access to the arts for every DC citizen!”

“Create a Humanities and Arts Clearinghouse that acts as the center of an outreach ‘web’ that connects producers, consumers, artists, and artisans to resources that engage all 4 quadrants”

SW Quadrant Community Conversation

on the DC Cultural Plan

ATTENDANCE: Approximately **45 participants**, representing a mix of community members across the District, including residents, individual creatives, members of arts and humanities organizations, students and District officials.

WHAT: In partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Office of Planning led facilitated group conversations on issues related to cultural development, preservation, production, expression, and consumption.

Through an event-wide “Aspiration Station” for big ideas and facilitated small group discussions, participants shared their reflections on the challenges they currently experience related to culture in the District, and provided their ideas and solutions to address these concerns.

SO WHAT? At each station, trained facilitators from the Office of Planning, the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, key stakeholder organizations, and HR&A advisors and bcWORKSHOP led participants in a conversation about:

- **DC Culture:** What is DC’s cultural identity, and how can we strengthen access to that culture?
- **Cultural Space:** How can more sustainable performance, production and creative living space be created across the District?
- **Partnerships:** How do partnerships support culture, and how can existing and new partnerships in the District be supported?
- **Cultural Entrepreneurship:** What is needed to support and expand cultural entrepreneurship?

THE ASPIRATION STATION

What's your "big idea" for culture?

**ASPIRATION
STATION!** *#dcculturalplan*
#intermissionDC
Tell us your BIG IDEAS

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

Equal access to the arts for every DC citizen

Equitable access to culture across the District and interaction between Wards

Use public schools and other city-owned venues for cultural production and performance

More busking opportunities

CULTURAL IDENTITY

What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC's cultural identity?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: HOW DO YOU DEFINE DC'S CULTURAL IDENTITY?

- "Stories of people outside of the National Mall"
- "Food!"
- "Mish-Mash"
- "Diverse"
- "Music"
- "Residents vs. Tourists"
- "Gumbo"
- "Expensive"

CULTURAL IDENTITY

What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC's cultural identity?

KEY CONCERNS

- Maintaining DC's **heritage** as neighborhood **demographics change**
- A **transient resident population**
- Rising cost of living
- **Affordability** of arts venues
- **Knowledge of opportunities** in DC's neighborhoods
- Ensuring widespread **knowledge of local history and heritage**

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Expand educational opportunities about local DC culture** such as:
 - Neighborhood-based walking tours
 - Expansion of the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
 - Integrating local DC culture and heritage into school programming
 - Facilitate access to embassies
- **Affordable housing policy/incentives** including caps on Area Median Income levels and property taxes
- **Inclusion of creatives** in solution-generation for non-arts city challenges

CULTURAL SPACE

What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHERE DO YOU EXPERIENCE CULTURE?

- Theaters
- Schools
- Venues
- Bars and restaurants
- Public spaces
- Streets

CULTURAL SPACE

What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

KEY CONCERNS

- **Maintenance of existing** performance and production **space** in changing markets
- Creation of **flexible and multi-use spaces** that provide for the range of uses needed by creatives
- **Underutilization of existing public space** and community organization space
- **Affordability** of live and work space
- Current **inclusionary zoning definition for arts uses**

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Creation of a database** that breaks down qualities of spaces available and their cost
- **Incentives for developers** to include the arts in new development
- **Coordination and collaboration** between DCPS, recreation centers, houses of worship, and other community spaces to make them accessible by creatives
- **Include creatives** in regulation and policy formulation

PARTNERSHIPS

How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT ARE PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES?

- Young Playwrights Theatre partnership with Insight Out in Detroit, MI
- SxSW WeDC House
- THEARC
- GW Graduate Program in Film Studies partnership with schools
- Corporate sponsorship of arts programming in public schools
- Partnership with bus rental companies to provide transportation for students to arts programming

PARTNERSHIPS

How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?

KEY CONCERNS

- **Inadequate funding** to support new collaboration
- **Underestimation of resources and time necessary** to make partnerships happen successfully
- **Long lead times and unclear process for partnering with the District** on performances, special events, and in public, city-owned spaces.
- Need for **capacity building** within under-resourced organizations

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Investment in new partnership opportunities** to test out methodologies and relationships
- Actively managed **networking tool** to connect people seeking partnerships with those who have funding and space
- Increase opportunities to partner with **Business Improvement Districts**
- Support **incubators and clearinghouses** to provide capacity-building and information so under-resourced organizations can **focus on innovative collaboration**

CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How can we better support cultural businesses during start-up, production, programming, presentation and participation?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: COULD YOU SHARE YOUR MOST RECENT CULTURAL EXPERIENCE?

- House shows
- Art All Night (across different neighborhoods)
- Private events
- Exploring southwest DC

CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How can we better support cultural businesses during start-up, production, programming, presentation and participation?

KEY CONCERNS

- **Trust between creatives/arts-based organizations and District government**
- **Access to information on available space resources**
- **Investment in youth opportunities and arts education**
- **Training and talent development**
- **Maintenance of cultural identity that reflects communities**
- **Cost of living and working in DC**

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Create an Arts Czar**
- **Create a tool for DC residents and creatives to access basic information** about housing, space, and new development in the District
- **Increase creative entrepreneurship** educational programming, especially for youth
- **Promote and export DC's culture** through expanded marketing and branding
- **Increase incentives to remain a producer in DC**

MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED...

Across all conversations, some topics were top of mind

A word cloud visualization of frequently mentioned topics. The words are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some words being larger and bolder than others. The background is split into two vertical panels: the left panel is white and the right panel is light gray. The words are in various shades of blue.

heritage

accessibility of public processes
and resources

DC's cultural identity

**performance or
production space**

affordable

public funding source

resource
sharing

collaboration

**information
sharing**

across disciplines

**community
approach**

MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED...

Key themes emerged during conversations

Collaboration across disciplines



58 mentions

- Use of government-owned property (including schools and recreation centers)
- Interagency collaboration
- Corporate social responsibility

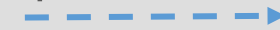
DC Brand



56 mentions

- Exporting DC's culture
- Youth cultural education to preserve local history and heritage
- Dichotomy between national and local culture

Performance or production space



71 mentions

- Maintenance of existing space
- Collaborations with agencies and community organizations to utilize space
- Affordability
- Flexible, collaborative and multi-use space

Information sharing



43 mentions

- Collaboration across disciplines to share resources
- Networking tool to connect with and establish partnerships
- Awareness of funding opportunities



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Artist: James Bullough, Addison Karl. Title: Shh
Credit Line: DC Department of Public Works, MuralSDC
Program



Youth and Arts Education Conversation Summary

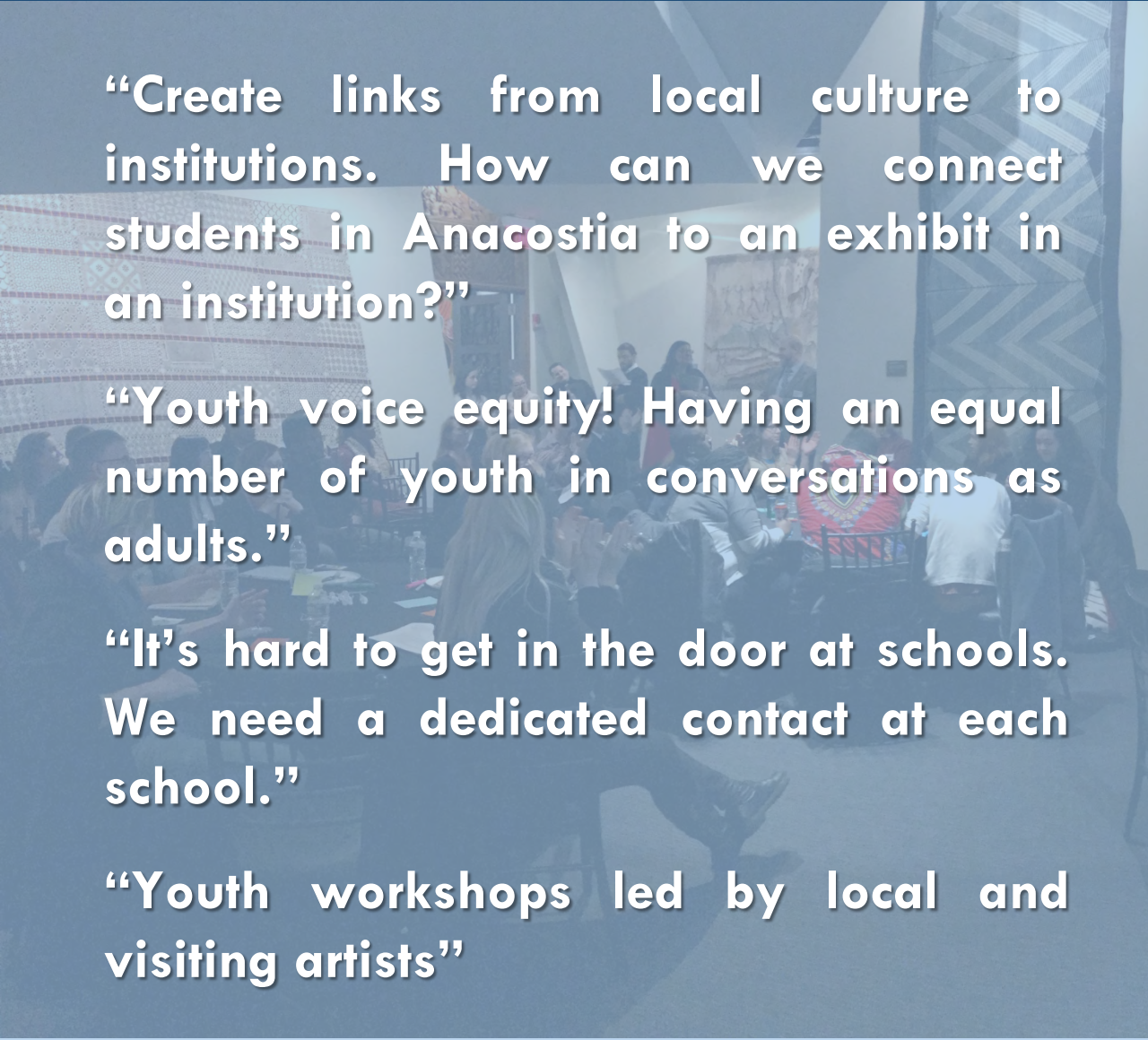
December 15, 2016

Kennedy Center, 2700 F Street NW

*Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership
with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities*

OVERHEARD IN THE KENNEDY CENTER

Quotes from participants

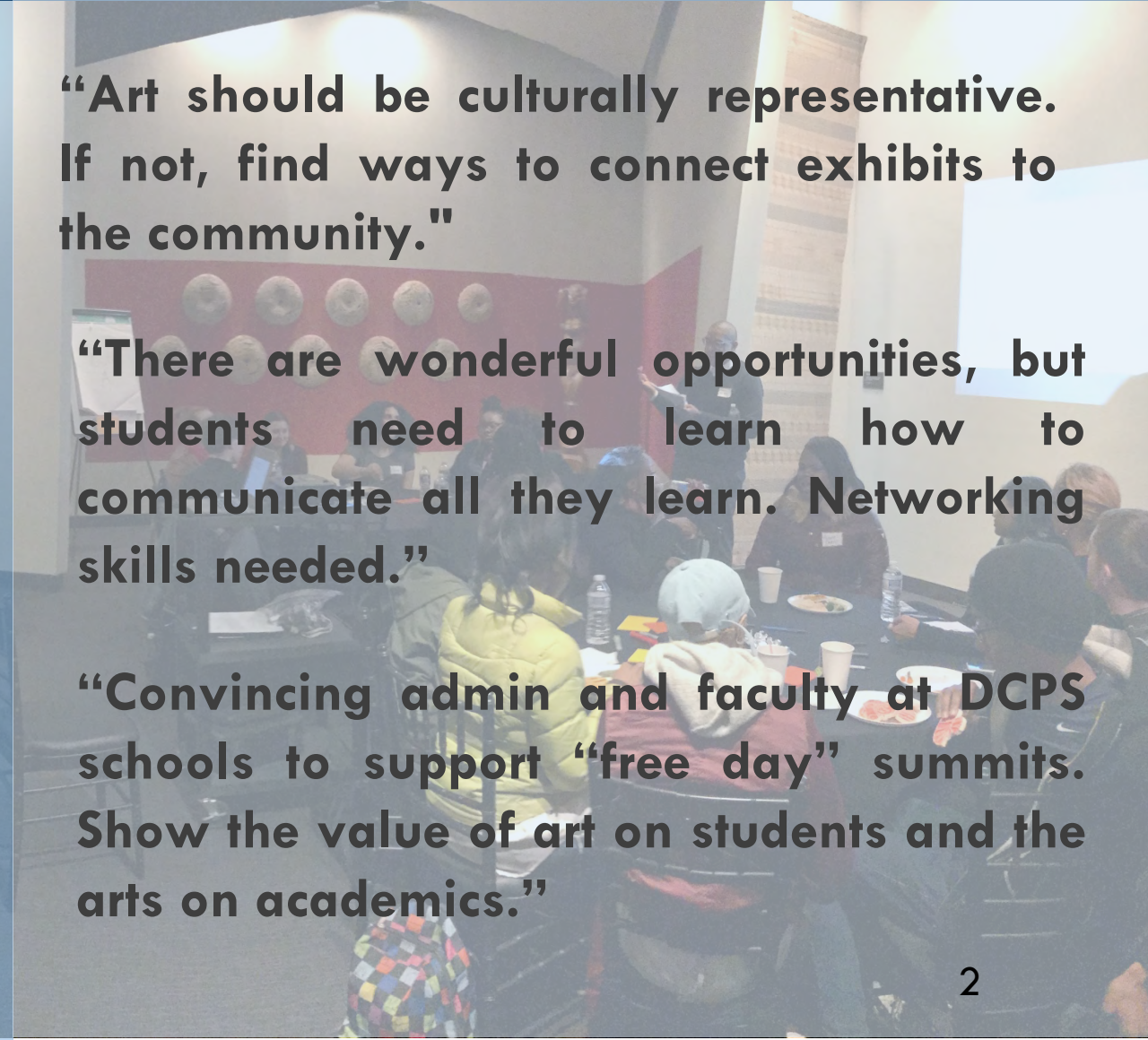


“Create links from local culture to institutions. How can we connect students in Anacostia to an exhibit in an institution?”

“Youth voice equity! Having an equal number of youth in conversations as adults.”

“It’s hard to get in the door at schools. We need a dedicated contact at each school.”

“Youth workshops led by local and visiting artists”



“Art should be culturally representative. If not, find ways to connect exhibits to the community.”

“There are wonderful opportunities, but students need to learn how to communicate all they learn. Networking skills needed.”

“Convincing admin and faculty at DCPS schools to support “free day” summits. Show the value of art on students and the arts on academics.”

Arts Education Community Conversation

on the DC Cultural Plan

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 55 people, representing youth and educators from across the District attended this convening. Youth and educators represent work in a variety of creative disciplines in the visual and performing arts.

WHAT: After hosting four community conversations across the District, the Office of Planning in partnership with the DC Arts and Education Collaborative held a meeting to assess and build upon concerns and strategies heard, specifically related to youth and arts education.

SO WHAT? At each conversation, trained facilitators from the Office of Planning, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, DC Arts and Education Collaborative, HR&A advisors and bcWORKSHOP led participants in a discussion addressing the specific challenges experienced in arts education and potential strategies to address them.

Participants were separated into **four breakout groups: two composed of youth** from the across the District and **two composed of arts organization members and educators.**

Youth Group A

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?



ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CULTURAL MEMORY?

- "Air and Space Museum"
- "Smithsonian Castle"
- "U Street Music Hall"
- "The Kennedy Center"
- "The Jefferson Memorial"

Youth Group A

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?

KEY CONCERNS:

- **Perception/stigma** that teenagers are disruptive
- **Unwillingness to address difficult issues** students are facing in the classroom
- Arts are **not prioritized** in school, especially in STEM programs
- **Cost and time** prohibit student access to the arts
- Ensuring **youth voice equity**, so that youth are provided an equal opportunity to participate in conversations affecting them

SOLUTION IDEAS:

- **Host “free days” or 24-hour hack-a-thons at schools** where students can use the visual and performing arts to address difficult conversations
- **Better incorporate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) into curriculums** to connect science, math and the humanities to the arts through **professional development programs for teachers**
- **Plan arts programs with students** to ensure accessibility, interest and attendance
- Bring **affordable beginner and intermediate** arts programs to **neighborhoods** (ex. local Boys and Girls Clubs, partnerships between schools, and summer camps)

Youth Group B

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: HOW DO YOU DEFINE DC'S CULTURE?

- "President/government"
- "Go-go music"
- "Dreads"
- "Lingo/slang"
- "Dancing"
- "Style of dressing"



Youth Group B

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?

KEY CONCERNS:

- **Lack of funding for arts programs in schools**, requiring some parents in under-resourced schools to write funding grants for student programs and materials
- Existing in-school programs **focus on assignment submission** rather than innovation and creative production
- **Lack of student interest** in existing in-school, arts programs
- Absence of **theatre and music programs** in some DCPS schools
- **Difficulty accessing information** about youth arts opportunities
- **Lack of arts programs East of the River**

SOLUTION IDEAS:

- Provide **resources to support and create new visual and performing arts programs** in DCPS, particularly in Southeast DC
- **Create architecture, modeling, and graphic design programs for students** with **continuous education options** after an introductory course
- **Incorporate the arts into other subjects** taught in the classroom and **creatively break up class sessions** (ex. with guest teachers)
- **Create mentoring programs** with local artists and entrepreneurs
- **Create more rehearsal and performance spaces**, especially in low-income neighborhoods

Educators Group A

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?



Educators Group A

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?

KEY CONCERNS:

- **Limited financial resources** to support arts organizations working with youth
- **Inequitable** geographic distribution of arts programs and resources
- **Current programming at institutional venues and museums** can **exclude** local audiences
- **Difficulty for arts organizations attempting to partner with DCPS**
- **Overburdened educators** that may not have the capacity or skills to integrate the arts into other disciplines
- **Financial burden** of arts programs on low-income parents and families

SOLUTION IDEAS:

- **Create a free, public, central youth arts center**
- **Invest in professional development programs for students** (mentoring, internships, portfolio development, communication skills, networking)
- **Institutional programming** that is **culturally relevant and representative** to diverse audiences
- **DCPS resource coordinator** to demonstrate and facilitate **arts connection to other disciplines**
- **Expand DCPS government curriculum** to include local heritage and culture
- **Shared communication list** of points of contact for partnerships at every school

Educators Group B

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?



Educators Group B

What is the most critical issue holding youth back? How can we address these issues?

KEY CONCERNS:

- **Lack of financial support** for youth arts organizations
- **Active engagement of youth** during in-school arts programs
- **Youth navigation of and access to public transit**
- **Uneven staff capacity** to integrate arts into curriculum
- **Challenges of retaining talented arts educators** in the field
- **Difficulty navigating DCPS policies** to partner with schools

SOLUTION IDEAS:

- **Provide financial incentives for youth** to participate in arts education and professional development programs
- **Increased support for youth professional development** (internships, scholarships, housing stipends, mentoring)
- **Map reading and making workshops** to encourage public transit use
- **“Even the playing field”** by valuing art in the same way other subjects are prioritized
- **Centralize the school curriculum** to facilitate partnerships with arts organizations across schools
- **Designated DCPS staff** to facilitate partnerships between DCPS and arts organizations

MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

Across all conversations, some topics were brought up on repeated occasions

collaboration across disciplines

barriers to participation

affordable

accessibility of public
processes and resources

community
approach

youth
opportunities

heritage

capacity building

cultural identity

public funding source

arts education

talent development

MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

Key themes emerged among the most-discussed topics

Youth opportunities



154 mentions

Key comments related to youth opportunities addressed:

- Need for professional development and skill building programs
- Desire for creation of a central arts center
- Better support for partnerships between arts organizations and DCPS
- Inclusion of youth in arts program development

Community approach



87 mentions

Key comments related to community approach were concerned with:

- Inclusion of youth voice in decision-making
- Equitable access to arts programs and resources across the District
- Culturally representative content in local institutions
- More neighborhood-based arts spaces and programs

Arts education

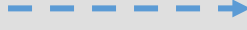


148 mentions

Key comments related to arts education in the District were concerned with:

- Youth desire for mentors and/or partnerships with arts organizations
- STEAM: the integration of arts education with other subjects
- Staff capacity concerns
- Need for additional funding and support of DCPS partnerships

Barriers to participation



77 mentions

Key comments related to barriers to participation included:

- Access to existing arts programs outside of school being limited by time and costs
- Need for diverse and inclusive content at local arts and humanities institutions
- Difficulty navigating partnerships with DCPS
- Arts educator capacity



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Artist: James Bullough, Addison Karl. Title: Shh
Credit Line: DC Department of Public Works, MuralSDC
Program