Community Conversation Summary
Northwest Quadrant: October 18, 2016
GALA Hispanic Theater, 3333 14th Street NW

Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
“Use small and medium size institutions as vehicles for community access and conversation”

“The city should be helping current businesses and tenants stay where they are to help retain traditional black culture”

“Space is different for different artists and cultural organizers. It’s more than inside rooms, stages and parks. It’s spaces like sidewalks, alleyways, and the middle of the street”

“Mobile arts and cultural trucks with performers, art materials, resources and educators could be deployed into high traffic areas and parks in all eight wards”

“Include designated, committed, quality arts space in all Department of Parks and Recreation and library facilities going forward”

“It is important to find a middle ground for opposing perspectives to break down economic and social barriers”
NW Quadrant Community Conversation on the DC Cultural Plan

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 110 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

A clearinghouse with upcoming events, resources and networking information for creatives—an “IdeaPlex DC”

Improved access to public space for creative performance, production and expression

Increased support for affordable and accessible performance and production space
ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CULTURAL MEMORY?

- “Howard University children’s theatre”
- “9:30 Club”
- ”Watergate concerts”
- “Drumming circle”
- “AdMo music venues”
- “Go-go performances”
- “Spit Dat street performances”
- “Smithsonian”
CULTURAL IDENTITY
What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC’s cultural identity?

KEY CONCERNS
- Lack of **availability and affordability of space** for creative expression and experimentation
- Large, well-established organizations have disproportionate access to funding and resources
- The transitory nature of DC population perpetuates **lack of understanding of local history, culture and heritage**
- **Displacement** of African American residents, institutions and multi-cultural spaces

SOLUTION IDEAS
- Create a **center for arts innovation** to support creative experimentation and new work
- **Require developers** to include **artist studio/production space** in new development
- **Adapt impact metrics and portfolio requirements** to make grants accessible to small arts organizations
- **Engage youth and new residents** in conversations to discuss and learn about local history and heritage
- **Craft multi-disciplinary solutions** that also address affordable housing and arts education
CULTURAL SPACE
What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT CREATIVE SPACES WORK WELL IN THE DISTRICT?

- “Dance Place”
- “Fab Lab at MLK Library”
- “GALA Hispanic Theatre”
- “Woolly Mammoth”
- “Harmon Theatre”
CULTURAL SPACE
What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

KEY CONCERNS

- Affordability of housing and production space
- Difficult navigation of agency permitting processes
- Access to District and federal public space for performance and programming
- Loose definition of “arts space” in inclusionary zoning
- Lack of permanent performance and production space

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Create free, designated, quality arts space in all parks and libraries facilities
- Expand allowable uses in public spaces (like parking spaces) for creatives
- Develop clear, navigable government processes for accessing space, funding, and partnerships
- Differentiate types of arts uses specified in inclusionary zoning
- Include local arts community at the beginning and throughout development processes
PARTNERSHIPS
How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU ENVISION A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP?

- “Community”
- “Value added”
- “Equal”
- “Funding”
- “Variety”
- “Sharing resources”
- “Win-win”
- “Innovation”
- “Realistic expectations”
PARTNERSHIPS
How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?

KEY CONCERNS

- **Awareness of resources** for existing events and capacity building
- **Need for overhead funding** for new, individual organizations
- **Disconnect** between local DC organizations and federal institutions
- **Difficulty of partnering with public schools** and with other educational institutions

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Create online and physical places** where **networks** can be created, expertise utilized and ideas exchanged
- **Establish an Arts Trust Fund**
- **Partner with national organizations** to provide opportunities for **local pilot projects**
- **Institutionalize and prioritize arts and culture in schools**
- **Use local organizations dedicated to history and heritage** as **instructional vehicles in schools**
CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO GROW A START-UP CREATIVE BUSINESS?

- “Affordable work spaces”
- “Information and idea exchange”
- “Network of accountants and suppliers”
- “Mediation between residents and performance venues”
- “Tax and revenue information”
- “Funding outside of grants”
CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
How can we better support cultural businesses during start-up, production, programming, presentation and participation?

KEY CONCERNS

- Noise regulations
- Lengthy, unclear and difficult **public processes**
- Access to **non-grant funding sources**
- **Lack of connection** with others starting a new creative business venture
- **Difficulty sustaining and expanding** new organizations and/or businesses

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Mediation** between residents and performance venues
- **Designated and centralized points of contact** for public funding and processes
- Online and in-person **industry-specific networking opportunities**
- **Partnerships with private sector** to establish sustainable arts funding
Most Frequently Mentioned...
Across all conversations, some topics were top of mind:

- Community approach
- Information sharing
- Mixed use development
- Networking
- Access to public processes and resources
- Collaboration across disciplines
- Performance or production space
- Public funding source
- Flexible or multi-use space
- Leverage existing assets
Performance or production space

- Need for more permanent and sustainable spaces
- Inadequate incentives for flexible or multi-use production space in new development
- Need to better leverage existing government-owned property (including schools, recreation centers and federal property)
- Need for transparent processes and agency liaisons to support creative entrepreneurs through agency systems
- Difficulty accessing District-owned and national public assets
- Inclusion of artists in decision-making

Accessibility of public processes and resources

- Use of partnerships to promote cultural awareness and local history and heritage
- District support for hyper-local culture
- Rapidly changing demographics
- Affordability
- Youth education

Community approach

- Policy incentives or requirements for inclusion of arts organizations in new development
- Increase support for smaller, local organizations
- Modify grant requirements and impact measurements to promote inclusion of smaller organizations

Public funding sources

- Need for more permanent and sustainable spaces
- Inadequate incentives for flexible or multi-use production space in new development
- Difficulty accessing District-owned and national public assets
- Inclusion of artists in decision-making

Most frequently mentioned:

- Performance or production space (116 mentions)
- Accessibility of public processes and resources (101 mentions)

14

Key themes and ideas emerged during conversations
Community Conversation Summary
Northeast Quadrant: October 25, 2016
Department of Employment Services, 4058 Minnesota Avenue

Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
“Space is power.”

“The gap between ‘Washington’ and ‘DC’ seems to manifest itself in legal structures like permits and licenses.”

“Small and mid-sized performance groups actually desire and thrive in shared/collaborative spaces. Larger spaces that contain multiple performance spaces are vital…

“Design in active collaboration with artists and communities represented at the table.”

“We need more locations like Atlantic Plumbing or Monroe Building around DC where startups can open a storefront with small overhead.”

“We need graduated permit fees for small businesses who might not be able to afford permits.”
ATTENDANCE: Approximately 90 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 shared production and performance space in Ward 7 and East of the River

Prioritize youth arts education programming

Support the local community’s heritage in cultural development
ICE BREAKER QUESTION: HOW DO YOU DEFINE DC’S CULTURAL IDENTITY?

- “Rich”
- “Diverse”
- “Blackness”
- “Independent”
- “Resilience”
- “Spontaneity”
- “Food – Mambo sauce”
- “Collaborative”
- “Music evolution”
CULTURAL IDENTITY
What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC’s cultural identity?

KEY CONCERNS
- Local DC heritage and culture are not supported in an official capacity by institutions
- Lack of support for youth arts education and programming
- Affordability of creative production space
- Displacement of long-term residents and local artists

SOLUTION IDEAS
- Create policies requiring all government agencies to present a platform for the arts, culture and humanities
- Develop intergenerational projects that pair new and old residents in preserving community history (e.g. oral history)
- Require private developers to include affordable housing in every new development project
CULTURAL SPACE
What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: WHAT CREATIVE SPACES CURRENTLY WORK WELL IN THE DISTRICT?

- “WeWork coworking spaces”
- “H Street Corridor”
- “Atlas Performing Arts Center”
- “Flashpoint”
- “GALA Theatre”
- “Latin American Youth Center”
- “O Street Studios”
- “THEARC”
CULTURAL SPACE
What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

KEY CONCERNS
- Limited investment in Ward 7 cultural production and performance spaces
- Underutilization of existing assets (e.g. schools, vacant buildings)
- Knowledge of available space for practice/rehearsal, production and performance
- Permitting processes are lengthy and difficult to navigate
- Lack of affordable and permanent performance and production space

SOLUTION IDEAS
- Diversify investment geographically, especially from the Commission on the Arts and Humanities to include organizations spread across the District
- Use existing spaces in Ward 7, such as Fletcher Johnson Elementary School, as a cultural center
- Create a streamlined and transparent permitting processes
- Create a development database to inform available spaces for creatives
- Establish protections for current renters of valuable real estate
PARTNERSHIPS

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

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF PARTNERSHIPS?

- “Relationships that have the potential to continue”
- “Tangible benefits for all”
- “Partnerships as learning opportunities”
- “Willingness to accept new ideas and give/get respect”
- “Grassroots”
- “Digital engagement and collaboration”
PARTNERSHIPS
How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?

KEY CONCERNS

- Measuring and communicating the value of arts and culture to the private sector
- Lack of awareness about partnership and funding opportunities
- Engagement of local communities in decision-making related to arts and culture

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Create standard metrics for cultural health and establish a common language to engage both creatives and the private sector
- Host more intentional networking events for creatives to meet one another (e.g. happy hours and “speed dating”)
- Share resources, opportunities, and connections through a clearinghouse of information for creatives
- Create community task forces to advise outside organizations on local cultural programming and production
CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
How can we better support cultural businesses during start-up, production, programming, presentation and participation?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: CAN YOU SHARE A MEMORABLE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE?

- “Howard’s Homecoming”
- ”Attending a Junk Yard Band (go-go) show at Holy Comforter”
- “Storytelling from parents”
- “…event at the Zanzibar in 2007”
- ”ballet class at Therrell Smith School of Dance”
- “Petworth band and show playing on Petworth Rec Center rooftop”
- “Capital Fringe Festival”
- “Howard University Gallery of Art”
- “…a lot, a lot, a lot of museums”
- “A street party”
CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

KEY CONCERNS

- Expensive, challenging and lengthy permitting process
- Access to individuals, organizations and funders that support arts and culture
- Lack of attention to local culture in marketing and publicity of the District
- Knowledge of tools and methods to support new cultural endeavors

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Create an income-based payment system for permitting
- Create Mentorship program matching CEOs and founders of successful organizations with creative start ups
- Create an app or database that connects individual artists with organizations that produce and fund cultural programming
- Generate cultural marketing that highlights local, neighborhood history for residents and visitors
- Provide expanded technical assistance to creatives
Across all conversations, some topics were top of mind.

- Accessibility of public processes and resources
- Barriers to participation
- Collaboration across disciplines
- Performance or production space
- Community approach
- Heritage
- Public funding sources
- Private funding
- Cultural identity
- Information sharing
Job Title

Key themes and ideas emerged during conversations

Collaboration across disciplines
- Support for partnerships between local arts organizations and the private sector
- Requirements and incentives for the inclusion of arts and cultural space in new development
- Online tools and events that can connect participants in the creative sector

Community approach
- Engagement between developers and the existing community
- Local hiring of Washingtonians in cultural organizations and development
- Equitable distribution of funding and cultural programming across the District, especially East of the River

Cultural identity
- Marketing and expression of hyper-local/neighborhood culture
- Heritage projects that connect new and old residents
- DC music
- Respect for and elevation of existing residents’ culture

Accessibility of public processes and resources
- Permitting processes that are lengthy, difficult to navigate and expensive
- Inclusive engagement processes in decision-making with cultural implications
- Official representation of the arts community in planning and policymaking
Artist: James Bulloug, Addison Karl. Title: Shh
Credit Line: DC Department of Public Works, MuralsDC Program
Arts Action DC Conversation Summary

November 15, 2016

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater

Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
OVERHEARD AT ENGAGEMENT WITH ARTS ACTION DC
Quotes from participants

“We need grants or other accessible funding sources for the maintenance of facilities”

“DC needs to advertise the wealth of culture we possess beyond the National Mall in order to bring in tourists and drive business and cultural growth”

“We must ensure that locals and strong neighborhood identities are a part of the brand that is built”

“DC provides tax abatements and other incentives to foster a digital industry. It should treat arts and culture as an industry”

“We need a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act for artist entrepreneurs”

“Non-profit property owners are exempt from paying property taxes. Why not extend that exemption to landlords who lease long-term to non-profits?”
Arts Action Community Conversations on the DC Cultural Plan

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 150 participants, representing a mix of Arts Action members from a wide range of arts and humanities organizations, as well as District officials.

WHAT: After hosting four community conversations across the District, the Office of Planning in partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) held a meeting with Arts Action DC member organizations to assess and build upon concerns and strategies documented to date.

Key takeaways from the past four Community Conversations were shared with attendees to foster these discussions.

SO WHAT? At each conversation, trained facilitators from the DC Office of Planning, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, HR&A advisors and bcWORKSHOP led participants in a discussion 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?
CULTURAL IDENTITY

What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC’s cultural identity?
CULTURAL IDENTITY
What does DC culture mean to you? How do we define DC’s cultural identity?

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Local culture and heritage** are overshadowed by national arts, culture and programming
- **Lack of a brand/marketing tool** that groups and promotes diverse forms of cultural expression
- Diverse **community-based needs and existing initiatives** should be acknowledged
- **Arts and humanities education** is not currently an integral part of the DC Public Schools (DCPS) system

SOLUTION IDEAS

- **Dedicated, targeted cultural marketing** that highlights local, neighborhood history for residents and visitors
- Work with current residents to **strengthen institutional understanding of diverse neighborhood identities** and support local endeavors
- **DC government support of community-based initiatives**
- **Work alongside DCPS to provide equitable access** to arts and humanities education across the District
CULTURAL SPACE
What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?
CULTURAL SPACE
What types of spaces do you need to live, work and perform in the District?

KEY CHALLENGES

- Underuse of existing assets (ie. schools, DC public libraries, and vacant buildings and lots)
- Existing cultural spaces are too expensive for community groups to use due to liability insurance and rental fees
- Difficult and lengthy process to navigate permitting, especially for public spaces & libraries
- Lack of awareness of available space for practice, rehearsal, production, and performance
- Lack of affordable and permanent living, performance and production space

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Provide resources to maintain existing spaces
- Develop public use, free of charge City-owned art centers
- Create streamlined, timely and transparent permitting processes
- Require private developers to include affordable housing/arts space in every new development project
- Inventory private development to create a database of spaces available for creatives
- Provide tax incentives for property owners to include arts, culture and humanities spaces, including extending non-profit exemptions to rental tenants
PARTNERSHIPS
How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?
PARTNERSHIPS
How do we leverage partnerships to enhance cultural programming, participation and access?

KEY CHALLENGES

- Communicating the value of arts, culture and humanities to the private sector
- Lack of awareness about partnership and funding opportunities
- Lack of dialogue with and technical assistance from DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) after grants are distributed for non-grantee organizations
- Underuse of potential international partnerships

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Establish a common language to engage both creatives and the private sector
- Host more intentional networking events for creatives to meet one another (i.e. happy hours and “speed dating”)
- Share information, resources, technical assistance, opportunities, and connections through a database/clearinghouse of information for creatives
CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

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

KEY CHALLENGES

- Expensive, challenging and lengthy permitting processes
- **Affordability and access to space** for creative entrepreneurs
- Access to individuals, organizations and funders who support arts and culture
- Lack of attention to local culture in **marketing and publicity** of the District
- Neighborhood business development focuses on incoming residents rather than the existing community

SOLUTION IDEAS

- Create a **streamlined, timely and transparent permitting processes**
- Develop a **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act** for artist entrepreneurs
- Encourage developers to **partner with artists and cultural organizations**
- Identify culture as an **industry and economic development tool** through tax incentives
- **Dedicated, targeted cultural marketing** that highlights local, neighborhood history for residents and visitors
- **Funding and capacity building** for artists and organizations at **accessible locations and times**, with information specific to both non-profits and for-profits
MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

Across all conversations, some topics were top of mind

- Collaboration across disciplines
- Performance space
- Production space
- Resource sharing
- Private funding source
- Mixed-use development
- Leverage existing assets
- Accessibility of public processes and resources
- Barriers to partnership
- Public funding source
- Information sharing
### MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

Key themes emerged among the most-discussed topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance or production space</th>
<th>Information sharing</th>
<th>Accessibility of public processes and resources</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>109 mentions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Underuse of existing public and private assets</td>
<td>- Sharing resources, opportunities, and connections through a database / clearinghouse of information</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Need to maintain existing funding streams</td>
<td>- Creating networking events for arts, culture and humanities organizations and funding organizations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inaccessibility of public cultural spaces for small community groups due to high rental fees and liability insurance</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public funding source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84 mentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Providing more funding for small organizations</td>
<td>- Equitable access to public resources across the District (especially East of the river)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Use of tax incentives to support the arts, culture and the humanities</td>
<td>- Support for artists living in the DC Metro area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Requiring new development to include arts and cultural space through an “arts overlay”</td>
<td>- Lengthy and difficult to navigate permitting processes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Artist: James Bullough, Addison Karl. Title: Shh
Credit Line: DC Department of Public Works, MuralsDC program
Community Conversation Summary

Individual Artists and Cultural Producers Open House: March 9th, 2017

Hamiltonian Gallery, 1353 U Street NW

Hosted by the DC Office of Planning, in Partnership with The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities & The DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment
ASPIRATION STATION

Tell us your BIG ideas

The Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

More Housing + Venues

Thank you for Heaven this is good.

Affordable Art + Housing

DC Commission for the Arts & Humanities

Consortium for small artists

Funding for artists

Venues

More housing + venues

Artists + spaces

Awards + programs

Support + funding

NOMA is the best + A+ feat.

Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

The Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

Use Gray + artist for more support

Museums, arts + culture

Artists + spaces

Support + funding

NOMA is the best + A+ feat.

Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

The Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

The Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

Create an entity that helps artists to showcase work at affordable art fairs

The Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

The Uptown Arts Overlay Needs Support!

More Housing + Venues
OVERHEARD IN THE HAMILTONIAN GALLERY
Quotes from Participants

“I live in Eckington, the linkage with other community members is really important.”

“We need affordable housing at 30% AMI that is permanent.”

“Seek out good stories, African American stories, to prevent disenfranchisement.”

“Audience is an end product. Build up the community to build the audience.”

“Simplify the grant application process. Money has to flow.”

“Help artists come together to buy live/work space.”

“’Never be dark’ black box theatre management: We need a consortium location for small theaters with storage, rehearsal and performance space.”

“Create incentives for developers to retain existing cultural tenants.”
INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS OPEN HOUSE
on the DC Cultural Plan

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 90 individual artists, creative entrepreneurs, and humanities practitioners from across the District attended this open house. Individual artists, unaffiliated with an organization, have a unique perspective, set of goals and needs to be incorporated into the Cultural Plan.

WHAT: After hosting four community conversations across the District, the Office of Planning (OP) in partnership with the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) and Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) held a meeting to hear directly to individual artists, humanities practitioners, and creative entrepreneurs.

SO WHAT? At each conversation, agency directors from OP, DCCAH and OCTFME talked directly with attendees, while trained staff from from the Office of Planning, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, DC Arts and Education Collaborative, HR&A advisors and bcWORKSHOP transcribed notes on these conversations. These discussions sought to better understand the specific challenges experienced by individual artists and potential strategies to address them.

Participants engaged in three salon style conversations: Stage hosted by OP, Performer hosted by OCTFME, and Audience hosted by DCCAH.
STAGE

Does the District support your space needs?
How can cultural space promote collaboration?
STAGE IDEAS
Does the District support your space needs?
How can cultural space promote collaboration?

- Collaborative spaces that are “never dark”: Occupied seven days and nights a week with artists from a variety of disciplines
- **Rethink or consider public spaces**, such as alleys, as areas for production, expression and performance
- **Connect local artists with developers**
- **Create financial incentives** for developers/space owners to keep existing cultural tenants in new development projects
- A mechanism that connects owners of available space to those in need of performance or production space
PERFORMER
What specific information, resources, and tools do you need to pursue, produce, and present creative endeavors? What kind of partnerships do you need to be successful?
PERFORMER IDEAS
What specific information, resources, and tools do you need to pursue, produce, and present creative endeavors? What kind of partnerships do you need to be successful?

- Review and revise the zoning arts overlay to ensure equitable inclusion of arts space
- Create an institution dedicated to local visual artists and/or celebrate local identity in existing federal institutions
- A mechanism that connects owners of available space to those in need of performance or production space
- Hire an artist ambassador to act as a liason between local artists and businesses
- Create permanent, sustainable spaces that allow for artists to exist and mature in DC (production space, galleries to show and sell work, affordable housing)
AUDIENCE
How do you experience culture?
How do you engage your audience?
AUDIENCE IDEAS
How do you experience culture?
How do you engage your audience?

- Include a **local artist advisor** in all DC events and initiatives

- **Bolster the visual arts audience** by creating a DC Art Fair

- **Increase opportunities for paid work** for local artists by incentivizing and expanding marketing of local venues

- Facilitate collaborative artist purchases of live-work space

- As DC continues to change demographically, **preserve local cultural heritage** by focusing on **access and inclusion** in strategy development
MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

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

- community approach
- affordable public funding source
- accessibility of public processes and resources
- networking support for small businesses
- cultural identity
- heritage
- performance or production space
- affordable
- preservation
- barriers to production
- affordable
### MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED
Key themes emerged among the most-discussed topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community approach</th>
<th>Key comments related to community approach addressed:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 42 mentions         | - Inclusion of local artists and culture in federal institutions  
|                     | - Financial support/grants for local, “grassroots” organizations  
|                     | - Linkages between artists and local businesses  
|                     | - Connecting local artists to local space owners |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support for small businesses</th>
<th>Key comments related to support for small businesses were concerned with:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 27 mentions                  | - Build capacity and provide technical assistance for artists to start their own business  
|                              | - Financially incentivize local organizations to stay within the District  
|                              | - Connect local artists to local developers |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public funding source</th>
<th>Key comments related to public funding sources in the District were concerned with:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 30 mentions           | - Create a revenue stream to support growth of the arts community (ex. tax or endowment)  
|                       | - Incentives for developers to provide space for arts uses and prioritize local artists and organizations  
|                       | - Need for short term and flexible funding  
|                       | - Mandates for artists to be paid |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance or production space</th>
<th>Key comments related to barriers to performance or production space included:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 25 mentions                     | - Need for permanent, sustainable space — both affordable housing and production space  
|                                 | - Tense relationship between artists and nearby businesses due to noise regulations  
|                                 | - Connect local artists to local space owners |