

Building Partnerships

Community partners can include arts organizations, cultural centers, non-arts community centers and organizations, schools and universities, libraries, municipalities and local government agencies, small businesses, and citizen groups.

Questions posed by the Creative City application:

- Tell us about your proposed community partner(s) and how they will assist with the implementation, artistic process, and/or presentation of this project.
- Why is this partner(s) a good fit for your project?
- What is your capacity to carry out this project?
- What kind of support do you currently have?
- What kind of support will you need to realize this project?

The material at right has been adapted from "Building Arts and Community Partnerships: A Work Kit," by Bob Leonard, Department of Theatre Arts, Virginia Tech; Community Partnerships Training Institute, Arts Extension Service, UMASS Amherst. The complete document can be found at <https://alternateroots.org/arts-activism-tools/resources-for-social-change/>



More to explore when forming relationships with community partners:

- Why do I want to do this? Is this project oriented towards social issues? Toward affecting the community? How does this serve my interests? How does this fit into my agenda as an artist or community worker?
- What kind of partner do I need? What do I want from my partner or partners? What can I offer my partners? What do I know (not guess or assume) that my partners need in order to do this project? Do I know my partner wants what I can offer? How do I know?
- What resources (human, financial, material, connections) do I bring to this project? What complementary resources do I think my partners can bring? Do we still need more help? What obstacles impede my participation? My partner's participation?
- Am I comfortable with risks? Do I work well with fear? Am I prepared to learn? To be told no? To be open to other ideas? To change in response to community realities? To be changed by this experience? To question my own ways of doing things? To work with other people's ways of working? To surrender assumptions about my partner, our community, our project? To feel threatened? To confront cultural ghosts?
- Who among this constellation of partners, constituencies and intended participants have been involved in the identification, selection and design of this project? Who else should be?