

Xavier University Art Department Guide to Careers in Community Arts

In communities throughout the United States, artists work side-by-side with their fellow citizens – including city planners, school administrators and educators, health care providers, and elected officials – to improve their neighborhoods and effect social change. Together, these constituencies tackle issues as diverse as health care, civil rights, education, poverty, criminal justice, labor, human rights, and the environment. It is not surprising then that 71% of American adults believe that artists have made their communities better places to live. (Source: Americans for the Arts citing the *2002 American Perceptions of Artists Survey*)

For the Xavier University art student, basic knowledge of community arts management (or how to carry out successful community arts projects) can contribute to a meaningful and fulfilling career after graduation. The Community Arts Program at Xavier is firmly rooted in the University's tradition of helping to promote a more humane and just society.

Because the arts offer creative strategies for addressing a variety of social issues, knowledge of community arts tools and practices is also valuable for Xavier students majoring in other areas such as education, business administration, theology, sociology and the natural sciences.

Career Preparation Strategies

Individuals wishing to pursue a career in community arts will need to develop skills and knowledge of the art form(s) that they intend to use in their work. To ensure the success of their endeavors, they will also need to learn and understand how community arts projects are organized, funded, managed, and promoted.

It is always a good idea to keep current on issues and latest developments in community arts management through books, periodicals, and websites. Attending conferences related to the field is another way to keep informed as well as establish valuable connections to obtain internships and jobs. Several conferences offer student discounts and scholarships, so be sure to inquire.

Sampling of Community Arts Work (By Theme)

These are only a few examples of how artists and individuals from other disciplines have worked collaboratively to improve their communities.

Bread and Roses Cultural Project (www.bread-and-roses.com) is the not-for-profit cultural arm of New York's Health and Human Service Union, 1199/SEIU. Its projects include, Unseen America, which provides cameras, lessons, exhibits, and a voice to day labourers, migrant workers, and others who are "invisible" in society.

The Village of Arts and Humanities (www.villagearts.org) is an arts, education, and neighborhood development organization located in inner city North Philadelphia, working with residents to turn abandoned spaces into art parks and community gardens.

Art for Recovery at UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center (www.cc.ucsf.edu/afr) in San Francisco enables patients with cancer and AIDS to express their feelings and educate others about their illnesses through art.

Pieces of Power (www.visualjazzartgallery.com), a project started in New Orleans by artist and Xavier graduate Richard Thomas, teaches inner city youth survival skills through art.

Community History/Oral History/Contemporary Memory

Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University – <http://cds.aas.duke.edu>

The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University teaches, engages in, and presents documentary work grounded in collaborative partnerships and extended fieldwork that uses photography, film/video, audio, and narrative writing to capture and convey contemporary memory, life, and culture.

Place in History – www.placeinhistory.org

Place in History uses history as a foundation to bridge differences between diverse groups in New York City, particularly those traditionally excluded from decision-making processes. The organization's collaborative projects, which incorporate the arts, include neighborhood-based workshops, public installations, educational programs, and publications.

REPOhistory – www.repohistory.org

REPOhistory began in 1989 as a study group of New York City artists, scholars, teachers, and writers focused on the relationship of history to contemporary society. It grew into a forum for developing public art projects based on history and a platform for creating them. REPOhistory's goal is "to retrieve and relocate absent historical narratives at specific locations in the New York City area through counter-monuments, actions, and events." The work is informed by a multicultural re-reading of history that focuses on issues of race, gender, class, and sexuality.

StoryCorps – <http://storycorps.net>

Modeled after the Works Progress Administration of the 1930s, through which oral history interviews with everyday Americans across the country were recorded, StoryCorps is a national project to instruct and inspire people to record each other's stories in soundproof recording booths that the organization is building across the country. Its first StoryBooth opened in New York City's Grand Central Terminal in October 2003. All recordings are added to the StoryCorps Archive, housed at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Disabilities

Accessible Arts, Inc. – <http://accessiblearts.org>

An organization dedicated to providing equal access to the arts for children and youth with physical, emotional, and psychological disabilities.

Community Access to the Arts – www.communityaccesstothearts.org

A Massachusetts-based organization providing over 700 visual and performing arts workshops for hundreds of individuals with physical, mental, and/or emotional disabilities.

Elderly

Center for Elders and Youth in the Arts – www.gioa.org/programs/art/art.html

A program of San Francisco's Institute on Aging. Working with high schools, select middle schools, local arts agencies, and group sites for the elderly, the Center for Elders and Youth in the Arts teams youth and elders in collaborative, educational programming under the instruction of professional visual and performing artists.

Elders Share the Arts – www.elderssharethearts.org

An organization committed to bridging generational divides and generating a sense of community through the arts. Professional artists bring young and old from underserved communities together to create original works of art through sharing their stories, negotiating their differences, and celebrating their commonalities.

Environment

9 Mile Run – <http://slag garden.cfa.cmu.edu>

A Carnegie Mellon University based greenway initiative to reclaim and restore 9 Mile Run, an urban stream in Pittsburgh, PA. Artists are a major part of the collaborative effort along with academics, city planners, and members of the effected community.

AMD & Art, Inc. – www.amdandart.org

A project based in Appalachia in what was formally “coal country”. AMD & Art is a project to address the problem of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), the acidic, metals-laden water that seeps or surges from now abandoned coal mine shafts coating stream beds with orange-colored sediment. AMD & Art combines the arts and sciences to transform an environmental liability into a community asset.

Faith-Based

BuidlaBridge International – www.buidlabridge.org

BuidlaBridge International’s Community Arts Program provides direct arts-based service to at-risk children & youth in Philadelphia, PA through arts programming in transitional homes, schools and community centers. In collaboration with these organizations, BI seeks to provide life skills training, aesthetic nourishment, emotional stability and spiritual hope through artistic educational experiences in music, drama, dance, and the visual arts.

Judson Church – www.judson.org

The stART art series at Judson Church presents free, public events that stand at the intersection of art, politics and spirituality. Each event focuses on a single contemporary issue through visual art, music, dance, video, spoken word, multi-media performance, and more.

Healthcare

The Art for Life Foundation – www.artforlife.org

Brings visual arts projects to young hospital patients, primarily at the Children’s Hospital and Research Center in Oakland, CA, to help them heal.

Hospital Audiences, Inc. – www.hospitalaudiences.org

An organization providing access to the arts to culturally isolated New Yorkers. HAI service recipients include people with mental and physical disabilities, mentally retarded/ developmentally disabled persons, bed-confined/ wheelchair-users, visually and hearing-impaired individuals, the homeless, the frail elderly, youth at risk, participants in substance abuse programs, persons with HIV/AIDS, and individuals in correctional facilities.

Photovoice – www.photovoice.com

The Photovoice Toolkit was developed to inform and train communities to improve community health and to reach policy makers and local leaders. Training and cameras are given to individuals so that they may record their communities’ concerns.

Wellness Partners in the Arts – www.wpadurham.com

Wellness Partners in the Arts is a Durham-based organization that celebrates the arts as vital to the health and welfare of the community.

Labor Movement/Worker Rights

Chicago Labor and Arts Festival – www.chicagolaborarts.org

The festival has been holding arts events in Chicago since 1997 including visual art exhibits, poetry readings, dramatic works, music, dance and artist panel discussions – all toward the goal of celebrating the joys and struggles of working class people.

The Labor Heritage Foundation – www.laborheritage.org
Works to strengthen the labor movement through the use of arts and music.

University of California, Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations Art Exhibits –
www.iir.berkeley.edu/exhibit

LRA Photography – www.lraphotography.com/about.php
A new project of the Labor Research Association dedicated to photographing the lives and labor of working people.

Neighborhood Revitalization/Public Art

The City Repair Project – www.cityrepair.org
The City Repair Project's Intersection Repair Program uses citizen-led art projects to transform urban street intersections into public squares.

The Danville Transportation Enhancement Project – www.danvilleproject.com
A partnership among the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Vermont Arts Council, and the Town of Danville, Vermont to integrate artistic enhancements into the redevelopment of a portion of U.S. Highway Route 2 through the village center.

The Heidelberg Project – www.heidelberg.org
An outdoor art environment in a Detroit, MI neighborhood previously dominated by “blighted” properties.

Municipal Art Society of New York – www.mas.org
An organization founded over a century ago by a group of architects, mural painters, sculptors and civic leaders. The Society's initial goal was to further beautify New York through the use of public art. Today, the society works to promote excellence in urban design and planning and preservation of the best of New York's past.

Project Rowhouses – www.projectrowhouses.org
Project Rowhouses rescued 22 abandoned shotgun houses in Houston's once thriving Third Ward and renovated them for use as a neighborhood-based arts and cultural organization. PRH set aside 7 of the renovated shotgun houses for its Young Mothers Residential Program, which offers free housing to young single mothers and their children while they work part time, further their education and participate in twice weekly counseling and training programs.

Rural Studio – www.ruralstudio.com
A project of Auburn University pairing architectural students with communities in rural Alabama, one of the poorest regions in the nation, to design and build homes.

Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness

Drawbridge – www.drawbridge.org
A San Francisco-based organization providing arts programs for homeless children.

Prisoner Rehabilitation/Juvenile Justice

Prison Creative Arts Program – <http://lsua.umich.edu/English/pcap/index.html>

A project of the University of Michigan committed to original work in the arts in Michigan Correctional Facilities.

Space in Prison for the Arts and Creative Expression –
www.brown.edu/Departments/Sweaver_Center/programs/space.shtml

SPACE was founded in 1992 by a group of women from Brown University interested in working in the Women's Division of the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institution. The program offers theater, creative writing, and visual arts workshops to inmates of medium and minimum security facilities.

Youth Development

Art Start – www.art-start.org

The purpose of Art Start is to value and nurture the voices, hearts and minds of under-served children and teenagers in New York City and help them transform their lives through the creative process. Programs especially address the needs of children and teens who are living on the streets, at-risk of dropping out of school, or have just been released from prison.

The Mirror Project – www.mirrorproject.org

The Mirror Project creates, exhibits and distributes videos that promote social, cultural, and personal-awareness. A major focus of the organization's work is teaching inner-city youth how to create videos about their everyday experiences.

Street-Level Youth Media – <http://streetlevel.iit.edu>

Street-Level Youth Media educates Chicago's inner city youth in media arts and emerging technologies for use in self-expression, communication, and social change. Street-Level's programs build critical thinking skills for urban youth who have been historically neglected by government and mass media. Using video production, computer art and the Internet, Street-Level's young people address community issues, access advanced communication technology and gain inclusion in our information-based society.

Urban Artworks Seattle – www.urbanartworks.org

Artworks is a non-profit organization empowering at-risk and adjudicated youth through employment, volunteer, and entrepreneurial opportunities in the arts.

Job Opportunities

Many types of workers and skill sets are required to carry out successful community arts projects. These are some of the jobs obtained by individuals with grounding in community arts management.

Artist-in-residence	Community projects	Muralist
Arts educator	coordinator	Museum education
Arts lobbyist	Development/Fundraising	coordinator
Clinical artist	director	Special events coordinator
Community arts center	Foundation program officer	Volunteer coordinator
director	Marketing coordinator	Web developer

Opportunities vary depending upon your interests and major course of study. In some instances, additional study at the graduate level is required.

Typical Employers

Churches	Foundations	Nonprofits, self-started*
City and town governments	Hospitals	Schools
Colleges/Universities	Museums	State arts agencies
Community centers	Nonprofits, established	

*Because of the serious legal and business responsibilities involved, start-up of a nonprofit should not be undertaken without a willingness to obtain proper grounding in nonprofit management.

Career Guidance and Information

American Art Therapy Association, Inc.
www.arttherapy.org

American Association of Museums
www.aam-us.org

Americans for the Arts
www.americansforthearts.org

Arts and Healing Network
www.artheals.org

Community Arts Network
www.communityarts.net

International Journal of Arts Management – provides information on best practices, current happenings, and management issues for anyone interested in studying or working in the field of arts management
www.hec.ca/ijam

National Art Education Association
www.naea-reston.org

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
www.nasaa-arts.org

National Association of Artists' Organizations
www.nao.net

Society for the Arts in Healthcare
www.thesah.org

Graduate School and Certificate Program Opportunities

Association of Arts Administration Educators – The AAAE website contains information about graduate programs run by member schools. AAAE also publishes the [Guide to Arts Administration Training and](#)

Research, a hard-copy version of information contained on its website along with listings of executive education, workshop and certificate programs.

www.artsnet.org/aaae

Columbia College of Chicago: Masters of Arts Management, Arts in Youth and Community Development
<http://aemmp.colum.edu/graduate/aycd.htm>

The program is designed for artists and community workers with a commitment to professionalizing the emerging field of youth arts. Offered jointly through the Graduate School of Columbia College Chicago, the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department and the Office of Community Partnerships (OCAP) this program balances advanced academic study with hands-on experience. Graduates of the intensive, two-year program earn a Master of Arts Management (MAM) degree in Arts, Entertainment and Media Management with a focus in Arts in Youth and Community Development.

Emporia State University in Kansas: MS in Art Therapy

www.emporia.edu/psyspe/athp.htm

Emporia State University Division of Psychology and Special Education offers an M.S. in Art Therapy.

Florida State University: Arts and Community Practice Certificate Program

<http://ssw.fsu.edu/certificates.html>

The program is designed for undergraduate and graduate students who wish to develop a focused concentration on the application of the arts to community development. Particular attention is given to prevention, enrichment, and response to social concerns.

Harvard Graduate School of Education Arts in Education (AIE) Program

www.gse.harvard.edu/aie/

The AIE Program is intended for self-directed individuals who are interested in fashioning their own arts-related courses of study. AIE students pursue their diverse interests in a one-year Master's program embedded in a broad-based school of education. The Arts in Education Program recognizes the importance of arts learning both within schools (in non-arts and arts classrooms) and beyond school walls in the community (art centers and museums). Recent graduates of the program have gone on to careers in: museum education, community-based arts education and administration, research into and assessment of exemplary arts curricula, and projects in arts-based school reform.

John F. Kennedy University, School of Holistic Studies, Arts and Consciousness Department: MA in Transformative Arts, Berkeley, CA

www.jfku.edu

The MA Program in Transformative Arts offers artists from a wide variety of experience levels and artistic disciplines, including the visual arts, dance, poetry, and music, a framework through which to use their creative experience as the basis for work in the community. Students develop uniquely personal approaches to serving the community as healers, teachers or community workers whose aim is to help others discover their own deepest levels of creativity, self-knowledge and fulfillment.

Maryland Institute College of Art: MA in Community Art

www.mica.edu

The MA in Community Arts, administered by Maryland Institute College of Art's nationally recognized Center for Art Education, is for visual artists who wish to pursue a career in art-based youth and community development. Graduates emerge with insights, skills, and experience that enable them to be effective community arts professionals.

Pennsylvania College of Art and Design: Mural Painting Certificate Program

www.pcad.edu/mural/certif_program.html

Through this series of courses at Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, artists learn about the basic materials and techniques used to create large-scale interior and exterior paintings, in addition to learning how to manage and coordinate a community mural project.

Rhode Island School of Design: MA in Art + Design Education (Community Arts Education track)
www.risd.edu

The community arts education track is for individuals who view themselves as teaching artists or designers and who seek an academic credential that incorporates practical experience and which will provide an essential foundation for a career as a community arts educator. In addition to the MA program's set of core courses, a community arts education student's program of study may include studio, graduate seminars, liberal arts, and a professional practice internship. The selection is dependent on personal interests and requirements specified for the track.

University of Southern California, School of Fine Arts: Master of Public Art Studies Program
<http://finearts.usc.edu/pas/>

The Master of Public Art Studies Program offers a two-year professional degree designed for individuals interested in the field of public art. Evening classes, mentored field internships, thesis projects and the administration of campus-based public art projects highlight a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum. Graduates acquire essential foundation knowledge, skills, and experience to pursue careers as community arts leaders, cultural planners, public art administrators, urban policy makers, and art advocates dedicated to strengthening communities, furthering civic identity, and advancing the field of public art.

University of Illinois at Springfield: Master of Public Administration with Concentration in Community Arts Management

www.uis.edu/~cam/

The Master of Public Administration with concentration in Community Arts Management (CAM) provides a core education in public administration combined with specialized courses in nonprofit management and arts management, as well as an internship with a professional cultural organization. The curriculum explores how the social, economic, and political factors of a community influence the development and implementation of arts programs and arts institutions. It also looks at the important role the arts can play in the education, development, and revitalization of communities, providing innovative solutions to community problems.

Jobs and Internships

Americans for the Arts – website contains a job bank

www.americansforthearts.org

Art Job Online

www.artjob.org

Arts Wire Current

www.nyfa.org

AVISO – newsletter of the American Association of Museums contains classified job listings

www.aam-us.org

College Art Association – website contains career development information and searchable database of job openings

www.collegeart.org

Museum Employment Resource Center

www.museum-employment.com

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies – offers internships throughout the year in communications research, member services/leadership development, and resource development

www.nasaa-arts.org

National Directory of Arts Internships – updated regularly and published by the National Network for Artist Placement. Over 1,250 host organizations spread throughout the country offering approximately 5,000 internships in a variety of art careers.

www.artistplacement.com

Springboard for the Arts

www.springboardforthearts.org

Professional Development and Assistance – Local Resources

Arts Council of New Orleans Arts Incubator

225 Baronne Street, Suite 1712

New Orleans, LA 70112

504-523-1465

In today's economic climate, artists and arts organizations must be not only creative, but also resourceful in finding ways to successfully support, market, and promote their work. The goal of the Arts Incubator is to work with individuals and nonprofit organizations to offer information, exchange ideas, and assist in the economic development of the arts. Workshops offered by the Arts Incubator focus on topics such as grant writing and entrepreneurship. Programs are free to members of the Arts Incubator and offered for a nominal fee (often only \$5-10) to non-members. Advanced registration is requested. The Arts Incubator schedule of workshops is available online at www.artscouncilofneworleans.org.

The Entertainment Law Legal Assistance Project

4040 Tulane Avenue

New Orleans, LA

504-483-2880

The Entertainment Law Legal Assistance Project, or “ELLA”, is a project of the Arts Council of New Orleans in partnership with the New Orleans Music Office Co-Op and Tulane Law School Community Service Program. The ELLA Project offers low to moderate-income artists, musicians, writers, performing artists, and filmmakers free legal advice and assistance for copyright and intellectual property contract review, business formation and incorporation, business disputes, licensing issues, and more. Beginning January 21, 2005, the ELLA Project will be available every Friday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 at the New Orleans Music Co-Op. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted on a “space available” basis. To schedule an appointment call either the Arts Council of New Orleans at 504-523-1465 or the New Orleans Music Co-Op at 504-483-2880. Visit <http://musicofficecoop.com> for information.

The Foundation Center
Cooperating Collection
New Orleans Public Library, Business and Science Division
219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-596-2580

Founded in 1956, the Foundation Center is the nation's leading authority on philanthropy and is dedicated to serving grantseekers, grantmakers, researchers, policymakers, the media, and the general public. Among other services, the Center provides education and training on the grantseeking process and a searchable database of grants opportunities. The Center has headquarters in New York; field offices in Atlanta, Cleveland, San Francisco, and Washington; and Cooperating Collections at libraries throughout the nation. The New Orleans Public Library, Business and Science Division, on Loyola Avenue houses a Cooperating Collection of core Foundation Center publications and a variety of supplemental materials and services in areas useful to grantseekers. The Collection also provides access to FC Search, the Foundation Center's Database on CD-ROM. The Foundation Center offers other useful information and resources online at www.fdncenter.org.

Greater New Orleans Community Data Center
2515 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119
504-588-5872

The Greater New Orleans Community Data Center works to expand the ability of the local nonprofit community to access and strategically use local information in decision-making and grantwriting. Toward this goal, the Data Center has created a 1000+ page website (www.gnocdc.org) freely available for public use providing neighborhood and parish statistics for the Greater New Orleans area. Statistics are broken down into categories covering demographics, housing, education, health, poverty and more. Sources include the U.S. Census, state government agencies, Medicaid, Kids Count, the FBI and a local health asset inventory. Each of the 73 New Orleans neighborhoods has corresponding maps detailing census tract, street, and zip code boundaries, as well as a 1-5 page written 'snapshot' of the area's history, people, programs and buildings, complete with photographs. One-on-one technical assistance is available for those who do not find the data they need on the web site.

New Orleans Arts Organizations

The Arts Council of New Orleans annually publishes an extensive listing of local arts organizations. You may access and search the directory online at www.artscouncilofneworleans.org. Also, you may pick up a hard copy from the Arts Council office.