



Fusing Arts, Culture and Social Change

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National Committee
for Responsive Philanthropy

releases

A Philanthropy
at Its Best® Report

Fusing Arts, Culture and Social Change:
High Impact Strategies for Philanthropy
by Holly Sidford



[Philanthropy of the Endowment Report: Fusing Arts, Culture and Social Change: High Impact Strategies for Philanthropy](#) (2009) ? is a call for the funders to reflect on their policies and practices in light of demographic, aesthetic and economic trends. It is also an invitation to engage in a fresh field-wide conversation about the purpose and relevance of philanthropy in the arts today. We hope the result of this reflection and discussion will be a more inclusive and dynamic cultural sector and, through the arts, a more equitable, fair and democratic world."

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EXCERPT FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Much of this work is being done at the grassroots and community levels by artists and underserved communities in its philanthropy and by investing substantially in community organizing and civic engagement work in the arts and culture sector. By doing so, arts organizations with budgets greater than \$5 million. Such organizations, which comprise less than 2 percent of the universe of arts and cultural nonprofits, receive more than half of the sector's total revenue. These institutions focus primarily on Western European forms, and their programming includes and reflects that are predominantly white and upper income. Only 10 percent of grant dollars made with a primary or secondary purpose of supporting the arts explicitly benefit underserved communities, including lower income populations, communities of color and other disadvantaged groups. And less than 4 percent focus on advancing society justice goals.

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