Cultivating Demand for the Arts: Arts Learning, Arts Engagement, and State Arts Policy

Laura Zakaras and Julia F. Lowell

To shed light on the decline in demand for the nonprofit arts, the authors describe what it means to cultivate demand for the arts, examine how well U.S. institutions are serving this function, and discuss whether it is in the public interest to make such cultivation a higher priority than it has been in the past. This volume offers a new framework for thinking about supply and demand in the arts, suggesting that too little attention has been paid to cultivating demand relative to expanding supply.

Summary • Introduction • A Framework for Understanding Supply, Access, and Demand • Enabling Individual Engagement with Works of Art • The Support Infrastructure for Youth Arts Learning • The Support Infrastructure for Adult Arts Learning • The Role of State Arts Agencies • Conclusions and Policy Implications • Appendices


State Arts Policy: Trends and Future Prospects

Julia F. Lowell

State arts agencies—key players within the U.S. system of public support for the arts—face growing economic, political, and demographic challenges to the roles and missions they adopted when founded in the mid-1960s. This report, the fourth and final in a multi-year study, looks at state arts agencies’ efforts to rethink their roles and missions, reflecting on what the changes may mean for the direction of state arts policy.

Summary • Introduction • Three Strategies of Forward-Looking SAAs • Conclusions • Bibliography

42 pp. • 2008 • $21.00 pb • MG-817-WF • ISBN: 978-0-8330-4577-5
Arts and Culture in the Metropolis: Strategies for Sustainability

Kevin F. McCarthy, Elizabeth Heneghan Ondaatje, Jennifer L. Novak

The authors examine how cultural sectors are organized and supported in 11 major metropolitan regions, including the structure of the local arts ecology, support systems, and the larger socio-demographic, economic, and institutional contexts, and apply the resulting framework to identifying conditions that promote strong metropolitan support for the arts.

Summary • Introduction • The Roots of the Challenges Facing the Nonprofit Arts • The Ecology of the Arts Sector • Community Responses • Philadelphia • Appendix • Bibliography

122 pp. • 2007 • $25.00 paper • MG-477-WPF • ISBN: 978-0-8330-3890-6

Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts

Kevin F. McCarthy, Elizabeth H. Ondaatje, Laura Zakaras, Arthur Brooks

Critical of what they view as an overemphasis on instrumental benefits, the authors call for a greater recognition of the intrinsic benefits of the arts experience, provide a more comprehensive framework for assessing the private and public value of both intrinsic and instrumental benefits, and underscore the importance of sustained involvement in the arts to the achievement of both instrumental and intrinsic benefits.

Summary • Introduction • Instrumental Benefits: What Research Tells Us—And What It Does Not • Instrumental Benefits: Getting More Specific • Intrinsic Benefits: The Missing Link • The Process of Arts Participation: How It Relates to Benefits • Conclusions and Implications • Appendix • Bibliography

124 pp. • 2004 • $20.00 paper • MG-218-WF • ISBN: 978-0-8330-3694-0

A Portrait of the Visual Arts: Meeting the Challenges of a New Era

Kevin F. McCarthy, Elizabeth H. Ondaatje, Arthur Brooks, András Szántó

“This lucid, insightful, and extremely well-organized book will be very helpful to me in identifying and reconfirming our institutional development strategies.” —Harold B. Nelson, Director, Long Beach Museum of Art

The authors use a systemwide approach to examine the visual arts in the context of the broader arts environment and to identify the major challenges they face.

Summary • Introduction • The Evolution of the Visual Arts System • Demand for the Visual Arts • Artists • The Arts Market • Visual Arts Organizations • Conclusions • Bibliography

150 pp. • 2005 • $20.00 paper • MG-290-PCT • ISBN: 978-0-8330-3793-0
A New Framework for Building Participation in the Arts

Kevin F. McCarthy and Kimberly Jinnett

The authors examine the process by which individuals become involved in the arts and identify ways in which arts organizations can most effectively influence this process. The book presents a behavioral model that identifies the main factors influencing individual decisions about the arts, as well as a set of guidelines to help institutions develop an integrative approach to building participation in the arts.

Summary • Introduction • The Participation Literature • A Behavioral Model of Participation • Developing Strategies and Tactics • The Need for an Integrative Approach • Summary and Conclusions • Appendices • References

128 pp. • 2001 • $20.00 paper • MR-1323-WRDF • ISBN: 978-0-8330-3027-6

The Performing Arts in a New Era

Kevin F. McCarthy, Arthur Brooks, Julia Lowell, Laura Zakaras

Selected as “Outstanding” by the American Association of School Libraries and the Public Library Association

“This is a book that should be recommended to anyone interested in understanding the performing arts industry and in what more should be done to ensure its health well into the 21st century.” —Journal of Cultural Economics

This is the first book to provide a comprehensive overview and analysis of trends in opera, theater, dance, and music, in both their live and recorded forms. The authors focus on trends affecting four aspects of the performing arts—audiences, performers, arts organizations, and financing—while discussing the implications of current and likely future developments and considering such public policy issues as public funding for the arts.

Foreword • Summary • Introduction • Conceptual Framework • Historical Background • Audiences for the Performing Arts • Artists: Creators and Performers • Characteristics of Performing Arts Organizations • Financial Situation of Performing Arts Organizations • Where Are the Performing Arts Headed? • Bibliography


From Celluloid to Cyberspace: The Media Arts and the Changing Arts World

Kevin F. McCarthy and Elizabeth Heneghan Ondaatje

Defined as art that is produced using or combining film, video, and computers, the media arts encompass a diverse array of artistic work that includes narrative, documentary, and experimental films; videos and digital products; and installation art using media. The authors examine the organizational features of the media arts, placing them in the context of the broader arts environment and identifying the major challenges they face. They conclude with recommendations for the future of the media arts.

Summary • Introduction • The Arts Environment in America • The Development of the Media Arts • Comparing the Media Arts • Conclusions • Appendices • Bibliography

106 pp. • 2002 • $20.00 paper • MR-1552-RF • ISBN: 978-0-8330-3076-4
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