COMMUNITY ARTS FACILITIES

How does our sense of place affect the construction of arts facilities?

January 25, 2008

Joshua Simon

Director of Consulting & Grants Programs

Northern California Community Loan Fund
Our Mission

The Northern California Community Loan Fund (NCCLF) provides financing and expertise to strengthen low-income neighborhoods and enable disadvantaged people to build a better future.

Lending * Consulting * Training
Neighborhood Arts

“Cultural vitality….
creating, disseminating, validating, and supporting arts and culture as a dimension of everyday life in communities.”

(Urban Institute, Jackson et.al. Dec. 15. 2006)
Arts Facility Mission?

Building Healthy Sustainable Relationships

Pursuit of Artistic Excellence
Arts Facilities & Neighborhood Stability

- “Involvement in everyday life”
- Generates healthy social networks
- Responsive
- Sustainable
- Inclusive
Intense Neighborhood Resident Interaction

- Facilitation of neighbor driven performances and arts activities
- Classes and artistic participation designed to connect neighbors
- Employment of neighbors with neighborhood relationships
- Open studio promoted to neighbors
- Solitary artist in studio with many connections to neighbors
- Performances / shows that draw audiences and use artists primarily from outside of the neighborhood
- Solitary artist in studio with no connection to neighbors

No Neighborhood Relationship Building
No Facility Requirements

- No physical space, cyber presence only
- Free, temporary space
- Event leasing with administration office
- Short-term rental
- Leased facility
- Owned facility
- Single-tenant complex with short-term rental
- Multi-tenant complex

Complex Facility Requirements
No Facility Requirements

Intense Neighborhood Resident Interaction

No Neighborhood Relationship Building

Complex Facility Requirements
No Facility Requirements

Complex Facility Requirements

Intense Neighborhood Resident Interaction

No Neighborhood Relationship Building

IMPACT:
Institutions for artistic excellence
No Facility Requirements

Complex Facility Requirements

Intense Neighborhood Resident Interaction

IMPACT: Institutionalizes capacity for neighborhood change

No Neighborhood Relationship Building
Intense Neighborhood Resident Interaction

No Facility Requirements

Complex Facility Requirements

No Neighborhood Relationship Building

IMPACT:
Short-term neighborhood change
No Facility Requirements

Complex Facility Requirements

Intense Neighborhood Resident Interaction

No Neighborhood Relationship Building

IMPACT:
Individual artistic excellence
Design Matters

• LOCATION – Rules of retail apply.
• Safety
• Welcoming – Access and recognition:
  – Does it reflect who we are?
• Degrees of entry
• Programmatic flexibility
• Potential for linked trips
“Pillar Organizations”  
(Urban Institute, Jackson et. Al. 2002)  
- “(a) involvement in the development of community-based cultural events,  
- “(b) relationships with local artists as well as the large cultural venues concerned primarily with the presentation of professional work, and  
- “(c) long-standing connections with local parks, schools, community centers, etc., that sponsor community arts and cultural activities.”
Conclusions

• Identify and Grow Pillar Organizations
• Incremental Growth of Facilities
• Strategic Planning for facilities that match organizational growth
• Asset management of existing facilities