

Community Resilience and the Arts: The Socio-economic Impact of the Arts in the City of Sault Ste. Marie

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Project Summary

This project investigates the role that the arts play in increasing community resilience by providing opportunities for engagement, increasing pride, optimism, developing and deepening social relations, networks and critical consciousness of the interdependent and interconnectedness of a community. It also provides a socio-economic impact assessment of the contribution the arts make to the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Goal

To assist community leaders and citizens at large in gaining a sense of the contributions that culture and the arts provide.

Outcomes

The final research report was presented to the Arts Council. The report has been endorsed by several other groups and is being presented to city council for its endorsement. There have been several positive outcomes to date:

- there is now a much better understanding within the community leadership about the connection between culture and the economy
- the research has produced documentation that the arts community can use to move forward and use a basis for funding leverage
- the experience of participating in the research has revitalized the arts association and, thereby, the arts community and, ultimately, the whole community
- the research has provided the Arts Council with something around which to crystallize their planning and has contributed to a community building process.

Community Partners: Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie and District / Community Development Corporation (funder)

Status of Project: Complete



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