

Making the Case | Building community identity & pride

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Through the Storyscapes project, the City of Vancouver is providing Aboriginal residents with the opportunity to record and share their stories through a variety of media: written form, video, public art, theatre, dance, song, maps, poetry, and visual art.

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In the fall of 2004, the City of Toronto launched a seven-week public outreach program to get Torontonians involved in the making of the Toronto Brand. The project is now entering its final phase.

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Holden, John & Jones, Samuel. (2006). Knowledge and inspiration: the democratic face of culture. Evidence in making the case for museums, libraries and archives. London: Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

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Study of the contributions that community-based arts organizations are making in Winnipeg 's inner city. The researchers find that the arts contribute to building community capacity, energizing community-based revitalization efforts, educating young people, improving our public spaces, and invigorating local economies.

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“According to social control theorists, the likelihood that individuals will commit deviant behaviour is directly related to the existence of weak or severed social bonds.”

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In the largest study ever conducted on the social impact of participation in the arts, 513 people participating in community arts project across the U.K. responded to a questionnaire relating to their involvement in the project and the subsequent social impacts. Some of the results:

- 91% made new friends
- 54% learned about other people's cultures
- 86% want to be involved in further projects
- 40% feel more positive about where they live
- 63% have become keen to help in local projects

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An approach to "understanding the arts as essential for creation authentic and sustained communities," focussing on development in rural and small communities.

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