

Embedding Artists in Government

A Word Game



Who are you?

You have already drank the kool aid of artists in residence and now you want to convince leadership in your organization that the time is now and that this is a trusted and tested way of working. This word game is your guide, add your specific organizational context into the blank spaces to make the case alongside with benefits grounded in research.

Why WE need to have an Artist in Residence

Dear Leadership,

The time is now for _____ (your organization's name) to join the national movement of artists in residence within _____ (type of org) systems. I am sure you have many _____ (adj.) questions about why artists are so important to your field. Good news the magical team at CAIR Lab have some answers!

Each place and each organization is unique. Artists are ___ (adj) ___ (plural noun) at collaboration, making this an opportunity to welcome. Here are some ways in which artists can collaborate with you:



Are you struggling with _____ (adj) ideas on how to engage _____ (specific demographic) community?

Artists have made many creative tools to bring people into processes they do not traditionally participate in, fully understand or care about yet. In New York this looks like using storytelling to create shared spaces connecting government staff in public health with new communities. In St. Paul this looks like creating community events where drawing and love letter writing are opportunities for communities to share concerns and ideas.

Embedding Artists in Government

A Word Game



Do you realize your _____(adj) system needs _____ (noun) to thrive?

2

Artists have helped lead large and small scale system change using their superpower of seeing things differently. In Los Angeles County this led the public health department to expand awareness of public health professionals beyond western medicine. In Philadelphia, the district attorney's office became a space for celebrating the diverse people working in and impacted by the criminal justice system.

3

Are you working towards increasing equity and building just _____(noun)?

Artists have been leaders in equity and justice work within their communities and systems for decades. In Seattle this meant producing a play with staff to combat institutional racism within city government. In Minnesota this led the state transportation agency to reimagine their work in line with longstanding indigenous waterways and land routes.

How can this ___ (adj) work happen within ___ (noun, your organization)? We are __, __, and ___ (adj) meaning our work is unique! We agree! Artists are skilled collaborators in all unique contexts! Artists have been in residence across the US in rural and urban contexts, state agencies and mayor's offices. They have worked across disciplines from transportation to parks to

Wow reading all of this makes me feel ___(adj). Now I want to start an artist in residence at _____(org)! First thing an artist in residence here could tackle is _____ (topic) to make our organization and community more ___ (adj.).

Now we should contact CAIR Lab!



<https://cairlab.net>



cairlabgov@gmail.com



CAIRLAB



CAIR_Lab