

# Embedding Artists in Government

## A Word Game



### Who are you?

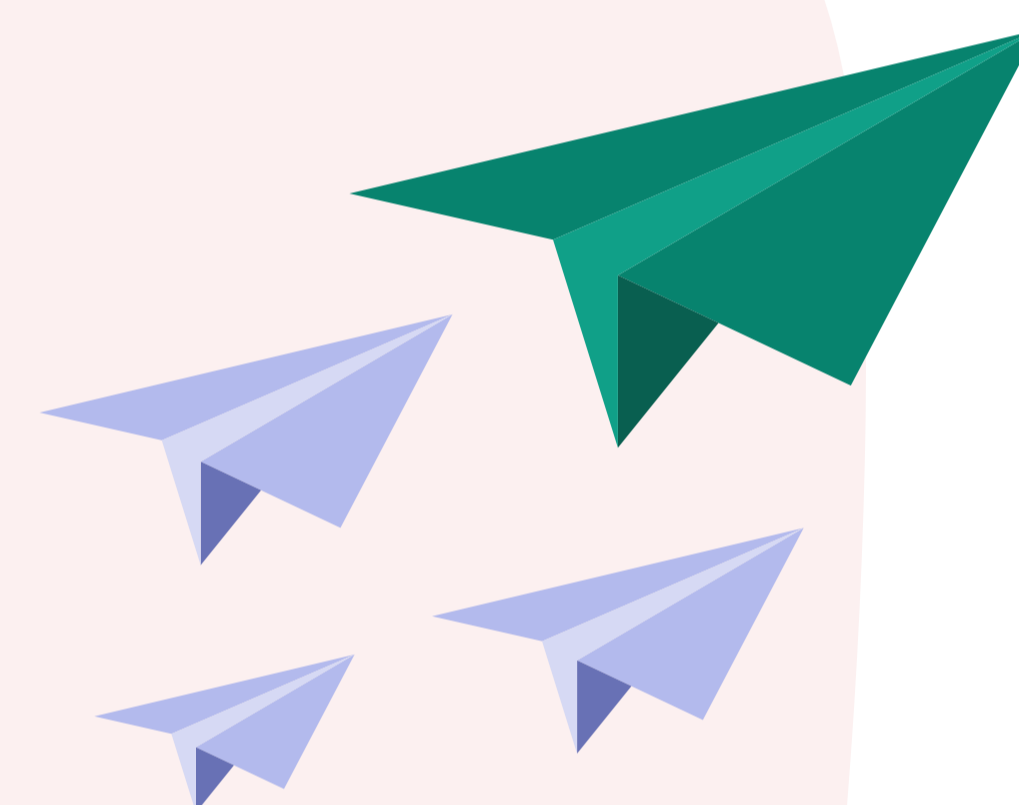
You have already drank the kool aid of artists in residence and now you want to convince leadership in your organization that the time is now and that this is a trusted and tested way of working. This word game is your guide, add your specific organizational context into the blank spaces to make the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

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

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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!**

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