



January 18, 2011

WASHINGTON, DC – Americans for the Arts has released the report, *Trend or Tipping Point: Arts & Social Change Grantmaking*. The report, developed by Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts, assembles a first-time portrait of arts funders, social change funders, and others supporting civic engagement and social change through arts and cultural strategies. It includes a companion online Directory of Funders that profiles more than 150 grantmakers who support arts strategies to make community, social, and civic change. Both resources are available online at <http://impact.animatingdemocracy.org/arts-social-change-grantmaking-report-2010>. These resources are part of Animating Democracy's Arts & Social Change Mapping Initiative, supported by the Nathan Cummings Foundation, CrossCurrents Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Lambent Foundation, and Surdna Foundation.

Findings based on 228 grantmaker survey responses and over 30 interviews suggest that arts and social change philanthropy is an emerging field and therefore still very much evolving. However, there is a wider range and a larger number of grantmakers supporting arts for change in some way than has been generally recognized. Focusing on grantmaking in the United States, the report characterizes the nature of support from both private and public sectors, examining how grantmakers think about social change in the context of agency goals and what outcomes they are looking for through their support. The report looks at the types of activities and projects that are being funded as well as grantmaking strategies and structures. It documents obstacles and opportunities for greater support and, in its entirety, aims to advance both discussions about this field of work and support for it.

As social justice philanthropy on the whole is growing, so too artists and arts organizations increasingly are being called upon across sectors to bring forth new ways to know and understand an increasingly complex world. As the report informs arts leaders, artists, and stakeholders, it is a key resource for funders who seek to learn about and consider their place in supporting this kind of work. It can inform internal conversations and program design as well as provide a resource for peer exchange, sharing of reports and documentation, collective understanding of the impact of field activity, and strategic collaboration among funders.

In 2009, Animating Democracy launched the Arts & Social Change Mapping Initiative to map and highlight the spectrum of ways the arts are being activated to engage and make change. In addition to the funder study, the initiative helps describe and distinguish the full spectrum of creative strategies, different streams of practice, and intended civic and social outcomes as well as advance unifying language for the field. It creates a centralized resource of active artists, arts organizations, and excellent project examples that can meet the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders and serve to connect social and cultural activists. These resources will launch in later 2010.

Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Animating Democracy nurtures civic engagement through arts and culture.

For more information email Joanna Chin, the Animating Democracy Program Coordinator, at jchin@artsusa.org.