

WORKING WITH ARTISTS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Clearly and openly communicate about community engagement. Presenters, artists and communities are all responsible for this.
- Agree on shared goals for the community engagement before beginning a project
- Evaluate community engagement programs: start from the beginning, integrate it into the process, and reflect at the end
- Make appropriate matches of work/theme/personality/skill with local communities (based on knowledge of communities and knowledge of artists)
- Connect community engagement to seeing the work itself (doesn't necessarily mean community members need to come to the presenter's theater)
- Encourage curiosity and openness among audiences/communities—artists want to enter into a situation where there is trust between the presenter and the community. This is not something to be accomplished in one project, but over time.
- Don't be afraid to take on community engagement around the work without the artist present (involve them in the planning, but they don't always need to be there)
- Consider models of engagements that start earlier, span longer periods of time or multiple visits
- The impetus for community engagement can come from anywhere within the artist-presenter-community triangle, but if it's not happening and you are the presenter, then it is incumbent on you get it going or maintain it
- It is an artists' responsibility to consider how their work/process can be best shared with audiences/communities and to bring to the table ideas about how they are interested in doing so.
- Agents/artist representatives should enhance communication between artists and presenters, not act as a barrier

