CULTURE DAYS

Creative Community Recovery Webinar

Presenters:
Deb Borsos, Community Recovery Specialist
Carol Palladino, President, Arts BC

This webinar explores how the sector contributes to shaping our communities for a better post-pandemic cultural life, and how, through the COVID-19 lens, we have discovered how important the arts and cultural sectors can be to the whole of community after disaster—COVID-based and beyond.

Points of discussion included:

- What is community recovery?
- A year in review: How communities have (or continue to) adapt to COVID-19 and where it might go from here.
- Unpacking how arts groups, organizations, artists, etc. can positively impact those from outside of artistic communities following disruption or disaster.
- Differences between urban and rural recovery.
- The usefulness of the arts in small communities—examples of rural resilience.

Key take-aways:

- The work organizers do is a key component of community recovery.
- “Recovery planning is community planning.”
- Preserving community identity is an important consideration during recovery processes.
- Much of the damage from the COVID-19 pandemic falls under the “social” pillar of community recovery, making arts and culture central to recovery. Therefore, it is important to advocate for the role arts and culture play in the recovery process.
- Disaster recovery is not only related to the practical aspects, but it is an opportunity to proactively be part of planning for the recovery of communities as a whole.
- “How do you go about advocating for the arts in today’s social and cultural context?”

    - It's all about getting the conversation going. For example, find out who in your municipal government is in charge and approach them about having a discussion.
    - Relationship building: Keeping local government officials in the loop about arts and culture in the community can have a large impact when it comes to collaborating on disaster recovery planning.

- Depending on the scope and scale of an event, there may be government funding and resources which would come through various Ministries.

- Look for exceptions with recovery projects as funders outside of government agencies who don't normally fund particular projects, may make exceptions for communities affected by disasters.

- Think outside the box, in considering partnerships for recovery projects!

Deb and Carol shared many resources on funding, accessibility, and sustainability:

- Interim Provincial Disaster Recovery Framework (BC)
- Canadian Government: List of funding opportunities
- Canada Council for the Arts
- BC Arts Council
- ArtsBC
- Alliance for the Arts
- West Kootenay Regional Arts Council
- Heritage BC: List of funding opportunities
- Columbia Basin Trust
- NDIT
- First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Artists in Canada: Funding list
- Charity Village: List of funding opportunities
- Vancouver Foundation
- Canada Post Community Foundation
- Insblog
- Creative Recovery Network
- Arts Wellbeing Collective
- Ministry of Environment
  (Example: how the arts can interact with other sectors on recovery projects)