

Supporting Community Arts & Culture with Local Data

Wednesday morning 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Arts and culture are an essential, but often overlooked, component of community wellbeing in neighborhoods. NNIP Partners have long acknowledged this: the Arts and Culture Indicators Project (ACIP), one of the network's earliest cross-site projects, aimed to address this gap by developing arts and culture neighborhood indicators for local planning, policymaking, and community building. ACIP participants identified cultural vitality as a key indicator for neighborhood wellbeing and as evidence of how creating, disseminating, validating, and supporting arts and culture impacts communities.

Efforts around arts and culture also align well with [NNIP's Goals to Improve Use of Data in Advancing Racial Equity](#). Specifically, the featured projects below use data to highlight the assets of people and communities and recognize the significance of the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other people of color.

During this session, panelists will share examples from three NNIP cities on how they are using data to support arts and culture in their communities and prompt all partners to consider how they might get more involved in this area.

Amy Rohan from Data You Can Use in Milwaukee will introduce the panel and moderate the conversation.

Panelists will first describe their projects using data to support arts and culture in their cities and regions:

- **Nafesah Symonette** from [Detroit Excellence in Youth Arts](#) (DEYA) will share their collaboration with Data Driven Detroit on the [Detroit Youth Arts Mapping Project](#), a scan of the youth arts ecosystem in Detroit that highlights opportunities for collaboration, programming, and investment to the public, stakeholders, and educational leaders.
- **Caroline Bhalla** from Neighborhood Data for Social Change at the University of Southern California will discuss the [Cultural Treasures of South Los Angeles](#) collaboration, an interactive map and multimedia story bank of places, organizations, and events that make up South Los Angeles' dynamic, vibrant, multicultural community.
- **Abbey Judd & Brandon Stanaway** from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council analyzed the spatial distribution of arts and culture businesses in the Greater Boston area with special attention paid to industrial land in the urban core to understand the current landscape and lay the groundwork for policy proposals to support the sector.

The panel will be followed by a moderated discussion and audience Q&A.

Discussion:

- Who are the local organizations in your cities involved in arts and culture?
- How might documenting arts and cultural activities help your neighborhoods?
- What are the challenges or barriers that you see to entering this space?
- What examples do you want to share with the network?

NNIP Strategic Framework Connections:

- Goal: A stronger and expanded NNIP network supports influence and impact in NNIP cities and nationally.
- Goal: Local actors adopt data-informed policies and practices to distribute resources more fairly and equitably across neighborhoods.
- Strategy: Increase visibility and understanding of the network's values, approach, and insights among our target audiences.

Resources:

Urban Institute/NNIP Resources:

- [Cultural Vitality in Communities: Interpretation and Indicators \(urban.org\)](https://www.urban.org/research/publication/cultural-vitality-in-communities-interpretation-and-indicators) | Urban Institute
- [Arts & Culture Indicators in Community Building NNIP Cross-site Project \(1996 – 2006\)](#)

Other Local Examples:

- [Arts and Culture Reports for the Atlanta Region- ARC \(atlantaregional.org\)](https://atlantaregional.org/research/arts-and-culture-reports-for-the-atlanta-region/)
- [Making Space for Art: Securing Cultural Infrastructure in Boston, Cambridge & Somerville](#)
- [Detroit Creative Worker Census Results \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com/story/arcgis.com)