Who Made Us Creative?: People, Place, and Power in Providence

Over the last ten years, the work of artists, activists and scholars in Providence has been incorporated into a rhetoric of “creative city building.”

Join a conversation with founders and current leaders from AS220, New Urban Arts, Community MusicWorks, and the Steel Yard about what it means to start and sustain organizations which support creative practice in Providence.

Thursday, April 7, 2011
7-9PM
New Urban Arts
743 Westminster St

This event is part of the 2011 New Urban Arts Series of Conversations on Creative Practice and is generously supported by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.

In the fall of 2010, arts managers Micah Salkind, Susan Sakash, Emmy Bright, and Jori Ketten initiated an investigation into the ways changing arts investment strategies have had an impact on the founding and flourishing of nonprofit arts organizations over the last twenty years in Providence. The group’s research began with historical case studies of AS220, New Urban Arts, Community MusicWorks, and the Steel Yard, which were presented at the Imagining America conference in Seattle, WA in the fall of 2010.

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded Salkind, Sakash, Bright, and Ketten a mini-grant in October 2010 to continue exploring the relationships between these organizations and the city. As a result of conversations with various stakeholders, they have seen more clearly how power and privilege impact the arts in Providence, and how these various organizations have related to each other over the years. “Who Made Us Creative?: People, Place, and Power in Providence” is a public forum designed to both share and build on the group’s research.

As part of the New Urban Arts Creative Conversation Series, “Who Made Us Creative?” will convene founders and current leaders from AS220, New Urban Arts, Community MusicWorks, and the Steel Yard for a “fishbowl” conversation in front of a public audience. The conversation, which will begin as a moderated discussion among these leaders before opening up into a larger conversation with attendees, will address questions of origin, place, resources, relationship to powerful institutions (such as city government and universities), and vision. “Who Made Us Creative?” is open to the public but designed with young people invested in the future of these and similar organizations in mind.