Arts and Culture

What are our aspirations for an inclusive and equitable Maine?

Accessibility
• All arts events full and free
• Increased ride sharing
• Increased language capacity (translation)
• Free arts engagement
• Venues in all communities

Inclusion
• All people identify as artists
• All Maine people proud of culture
• All feel welcome

Attracting Artists
• Actors flock to ME
• Artists/Performers/Instructors paid top dollar

Art Intergrated in Education
• Free arts college
• Arts integrated in childcare
• Arts as cornerstone of education

Why isn't it like that today?

Art is Misunderstood and Undervalued
• Misconception that arts and culture do not have value in "modern economy"
• Art is viewed as a luxury and not a necessity by much of society
• Artists are not properly valued
• Traditional education does not value the arts
• It is devalued because its effects cannot be measured in terms of commodities
• Misconception that arts and culture isn't for everyone
• Arts equal elitism in many people's minds
• Lack of awareness and exposure accross all communities
• Even free and low cost events are not well known

Art is Not Integrated in Education
• Teachers must teach standards and lack time for arts
• Funding priorities do not serve emotional development
• Lack of integrated educational models
• Standardized testing is prioritized

Art is Inaccessible

• Ticket revenue is still an essential portion of operating budget
• Lack of access to inexpensive public transportation
• lack of fully accessible buildings
• Lack of accessibility training for staff and volunteers
• Distance from hubs of cultural activities (This makes it harder to attract artists)
• Art is too expensive for many
• Constructed limits on who can participate in art
• Existing communities don't include others

Other

• Too many republicans
• Adults and youth need to work so much that there is no time to engage/participate
• Statewide lack of diversity
• Lack of community within the art scene
• Lack of incentive to invest in art
• Not enough freedom in artwork
• "Can't do" attitude that blocks innovation
• Need involvement from all ages at all levels
• Lack of incentive to become involved in the arts scene
• Arts do not relate to current interests and culture
• The feeling that "art is not for me—it's for someone else"
• Art and culture is viewed as fluff relative to many social needs
• "I'm too busy"
• The perspective of power seems to be white, male, straight and financially comfortable

What can we begin to do about it?

Expand Exposure

• Intentional outreach to specific populations
• Learning from and participating with broader populations
• Integrate art into everyday life
• Hire translators for projects
• Partner with transportation services
• Create friends and family passes
• Increase social media prescence
• Create accessible spaces
• Integrate art into other activities
• Individuals should be ambassadors for the arts
• Introduce the arts to all spaces
• Promote art to youth

Change Rhetoric

• Respect and identify all art forms
• Encourage flexibility
• Change our rhetoric—We can be our own worst enemy
• Change the rhetoric of the arts so that it appeals to all not just to some

Change Schools
• Educate school boards about importance of art
• Get artists on school boards
• Lending organizational support to schools for curricular development.
• Advocate for an end to standardized testing

Increase Financial Accessibility
• Equitable pricing
• Offer transportation to art events at little to no cost

Others
• Emphasizing regional and vernacular arts/culture
• Rethink current power structure
• Present art as play
• Create non-obvious partnerships
• Be relevent—don't just talk about it
• Use personal invitations
• Be welcoming hosts
• Foster connections throughout all communities
• Art is not a frivolous thing—it has a role in human development
• Art is a basic human urge/right