

Guidesheet 3 – Assessing Where You Are Now

1. What arts resources and programs currently exist in your school and community?

- What local arts groups are active in you community?
- What annual festivals take place?
- What arts programs are available to elementary and high school students?
- What higher education programs are available in the arts?
- What local artists are accessible or well-known?
- What ethnic and cultural traditions are alive in your community?
- What craft and folk art traditions are alive your community?
- Who are all the artists who live nearby?
- What art resources exist which are not being used?

2. What arts education needs are currently not met by these programs?

- Is there local awareness of these local activities?
- Are they supported by parents, school board and the community at large?
- Do they have adequate funding?
- Is there adequate time in the school and community calendar for arts activities?
- Is there adequate arts education leadership?
- Are your needs met by local arts organizations?
- Does your school/community take advantage of local programs as well as those from nearby larger communities?
- What programs are lacking?
- What artistic disciplines are underrepresented?
- Does you community take advantage of local ethnic and cultural resources?

3. What barriers prevent your school and community from meeting these arts education needs?

- Are people aware of the needs for arts activities?
- Is your community isolated from important resources?
- Are there local racial or cultural barriers that prevent you from developing projects?
- Is there stiff competition within your community for resources?
- Are there local attitudes that prevent you from moving forward?

4. Brainstorming:

- What arts education project would enable your community to begin to meet these needs?
- What project would enable your community to overcome these barriers?
- What project would enable your community to utilize existing resources?
- What collaborative partnerships would you need to create to support these new projects?

5. Where else do we go from here? Given the ideas discussed during this assessment, how should you proceed?

- Is further brainstorming needed?
- Who else should be involved?
- Whose support is needed?
- What is the next step?
- Who will take it?

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