

Arts Facilities and Economic Development

October 28, 2010

for Tenderloin Economic Development Project

Growing Authentic Arts Districts

(Abbreviated Presentation Materials)

Deborah Frieden
Cultural Project Planner
deborah.frieden@gmail.com

The cultural district model may be better focused upon the activation effects of culture in creating a local knowledge-friendly 'atmosphere', an economic and social environment in which easy and continued access to cultural opportunities fosters a widespread social orientation toward innovative thinking, far-reaching visions of human development and social cooperation.

Pier Luigi Sacco
Giorgio Tavano Blessi
Massimiliano Nuccio

*Culture as an Engine of Local
Development Processes:
System-Wide Cultural Districts, 2008*

Recent Research

- Mark Stern and Susan Seiffert, “Social Impact for the Arts Project” at U. Penn
- Richard Florida,
www.creativeclass.com/richard_florida/
- Ann Markusen, University of Minnesota

What is a Natural Cultural District?

- High Concentration of Cultural Assets
- Distinct from other Neighborhoods
- Initially Developed with Limited Public Policy or Investment
- Assets include a Range of Players
 - Historic Sites, Artists, Non-Profit Organizations, Creative Enterprises, and Supporting Businesses or Institutions

Chattanooga Tennessee
Institution Driven Model

Old City Philadelphia
Artist & Market Driven Model

Birmingham, Alabama
Community Demand With Public (Government)
Catalyst

Key Considerations

- Anchors can be Catalytic and are Stable
- Anticipate/Accept Market Changes
- Recognize Instability of Practitioners
- Public Support:
 - Improvements to Public Realm
 - Strategic Interventions
 - Initiate or Stimulate Anchors*
 - Stabilize Key Cultural Incubators*

- Consider Programming of Public Spaces
- Authenticity is Essential
 - Find it, Recognize it, and Nurture it

Tell a Story

“In today’s creative economy, economic growth comes from the clustering and concentrating of talented and productive people, what I call the *clustering force*. New ideas are generated and our productivity increases when we locate close to one another . . .”

Richard Florida
Who’s Your City

Presentation © Deborah Frieden

deborah.frieden@gmail.com