



**Community Art:
Empowering Change from the Inside Out**

Sault Ste Marie

Planning Team: Noni Boyle, Jude Ortiz

i. Participants

Ron Rickard	Garden River Reserve
Katie Eshkibok	
Jude Ortiz	Algoma University
Margaret Burke	
Brigit Kroll	Sault Ste Marie Arts Council
Emily Colombe	SSM Arts Council
Sandra Houston	Sault Theatre Workshop, SSM Arts Council
Mike Groulx	Serpent River
Alanna Jones	Garden River
Mary Jane Metatawabin	Indian Friendship Centres
Sandra Hodge	
Amanda Zuke	Algoma University
Bernadette Shawanda	Great Lakes Cultural Camps

ii. Workshop Outline

Community Art: Empowering Change from the Inside Out
Sault Ste. Marie Indian Friendship Centre
Monday, June 25th 10am-1pm

Workshop Outline

What is Community Arts and why is it important to our communities?



Looking at common definitions and how it impacts on your own community

Activities/Discussions in the workshop can include:

- Uncovering the arts practice that exists in your community (mapping)
- What is Aboriginal Art? defies categorizing
- Defining the purpose and role of Community Arts within and across your community
- Exploring definitions of community, community arts and community development from diverse Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives
- Community Development: Art in strange places. How art can change lives...
- Art in Strange Places: Integrating artists into business, education, community
- Language of Art: Indigenous language, culture and representation

Questions

What resources are needed to develop a community arts project?

What partnerships are needed to make it happen?

What are the key community issues that need to be addressed?

How are projects structured?

What are the different roles artists employ working in community practices and engaging non art audiences?

Levels of entry:

Community to artist

Artist to community

Community need—to artist—to community

Funding opportunity

Who Should attend?

Representatives from:

Arts community, Economic Development, Education,
Health, Social Workers



iii. Highlights

I began by putting this question up on the flip chart:

What is Community Arts and why is it important to our communities?

- All arts—cross over to different communities
- Community arts—engaging community—how will people respond—where is the interest?
- Partnering and promoting work—opening opportunities—Royal Cdn. Legion/partnerships—War Veterans arts projects
- History and culture—passing on—shared stories passing documentation
- Legacy and education—moving the Past into the future
- Traditional practices—preserving
- Dance—ring dances
- Sacred traditions—preserving
- Reclamation of voice
- Respect of tradition
- Clan system
- Art—valuing art in a different way from Western
- Cultural reclamation

Community Development
Social Development
Community arts
Economic Development
Community Resilience



“Art Cannot be separated from the environment”

“Art is a celebration of being alive—being on the earth”

“**Need to** reclaim lost arts—using the environment”

Consider root cellars and the art of making root cellars a metaphor for how we approach and pass on arts practice.

Needs:

Safe environment in which to create

Shifting Values—value the art, value the culture, value the environment

Develop own practices that may not make sense outside of the community

Sharing Knowledge (intergenerational, across cultures, within and across communities)