

Rachel Engh
Researcher/Planner



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PROFILE

- Proven track record of designing and implementing qualitative research including surveys, interviews, and focus groups.
- Detailed knowledge of arts-based community economic development strategies and theories, and arts policy.
- Experience with cultural planning and community engagement, including spearheading creative ways to collect, visualize, and report back information.
- Experience analyzing quantitative datasets including: DataArts, WESTAF Creative Vitality Suite, Emsi, American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Actively practices working with clients to integrate an equity lens into all project phases

EDUCATION

Humphrey School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN
Master of Urban and Regional Planning, May 2013
Concentration: Arts-based Community Economic Development

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
B.A. May 2008
Major: Sociology

EXPERIENCE

Metris Arts Consulting, Easton PA (January 2015-present)

Researcher/Planner

- Conducted a literature review of academic and grey literature and several interviews to explore the relationship between place-based arts and culture and social cohesion for a group of funders (The Kresge Foundation, Bush Foundation, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation) and collaborators (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ArtPlace America, and the National Endowment for the Arts). Was a lead author for three interconnected written deliverables: *Theory of Change, Case Studies, and Recommendations; A Framing Document; Appendices.*
- For Metris client, Center for Community Progress, supported two learning exchanges and two site visits with delegates from Macon, GA, Kalamazoo, MI, Newburgh, NY, and Wilkinsburg, PA to identify key takeaways and lessons learned from these four communities that engage creative placemaking on vacant properties. Collaborated on the development of a peer-learning event at Community Progress' annual Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference. Authored a report that synthesizes findings from the peer exchanges, site visits, and peer-learning event.
- For Metris client NeighborWorks America, authored five case studies on promising practices and challenges faced by community development organizations that engage in arts and culture. Curated panel conversations with staff from these organizations and field experts as part of a day-long convening.
- Organized and facilitated eight webinars for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation's Creative Placemaking Program to address various creative placemaking-related technical assistance needs,

such as creative community engagement, for a national cohort of organizations new to creative placemaking.

- Supported data collection and analysis for a series of reports and case studies commissioned by Local Initiatives Support Corporation to explore the impact of the organization's creative placemaking projects. Co-authored five documents in the seven-part series.
- Lead data collection, analysis, and writing of the 2016 Culture Pulse report, a document that aims to surface information on the health of Cuyahoga County's (Northeast Ohio) arts and cultural nonprofit sector. Conducted a national literature review, convened focus groups with small, mid-sized, and large arts and cultural organizations, and analyzed DataArts data.
- Spearheaded data collection and analysis, and drafting of the Minneapolis Creative Index 2015 report. Analyzed quantitative occupation, sales, and nonprofit data, conducted a literature review to establish context and gain insights related to the questions of opportunities and barriers for people of color to succeed as producers, directors, or architects, and conducted two virtual conversations with people of color who hold these occupations.
- For a comprehensive field scan of the dance ecology and 20-year retrospective impact evaluation for the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, analyzed internal documents, supported survey and focus group design, and led data analysis efforts.
- Supported an impact evaluation for Pillsbury House + Theatre on the impacts of a unique hybrid arts hub/social service provider's efforts to empower 30 community-based artists to engage their neighbors in creating art on the blocks where they live. Spearheaded data analysis, synthesized findings, and recommended evaluation tools and data gathering procedures.

City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis MN (April 2014-November 2015)

Business Process and Data Analysis, Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Program- Part of a small team of artists, urban planners, and data and policy analysts that spearheaded a community arts and culture planning process (Creative City Road Map). Oversaw data collection, analysis, and communication for the planning process and supported stakeholder working groups and focus groups for the planning process. Led data collection and analysis for the Minneapolis Creative Index, a project that highlights the economic and social health of the creative sector in Minneapolis and the greater metropolitan area.

PlaceBase Productions, St. Paul MN (March 2013-July 2014)

Project Evaluator- Designed and implemented evaluation plans for rural community-based site-specific theater projects. Collected data from performers, business owners, and audience members through interviews and creative survey techniques, and analyzed this data using Microsoft Excel and GIS. Produced reports that articulate the impact theater projects have had on towns and residents.

Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis MN (June-November 2013)

Creative CityMaking Intern- Provided support for artist/planner convenings and public events. Analyzed data collected by one artist/city planner team and worked with team to visualize data. Wrote and synthesized content for Creative CityMaking artist blog and completed two blog entries for the American Planning Association Kid's Planning Toolbox blog.

Center for Small Towns, University of Minnesota – Morris, Morris MN (June-August 2012)

Cultural Programming and Finance Intern- With information collected through over 20 interviews, completed a report exploring aspects of a "cultural hub" to be realized in the Morris area. Report included theory on culture-based community economic development, stakeholder analysis and asset mapping, management and operational structure recommendations,

preliminary financial forecasting; possible funding sources, and case studies of existing cultural entities.

PUBLICATIONS

REPORTS

Creative Placemaking to Advance Equity in Community Development. With Christopher Walker and Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Forthcoming, fall 2018.

“WE-Making:” Contributions of place-based arts and cultural strategies to social cohesion. (Draft working paper.) With Ben Martin, Anne Gadwa Nicodemus, Christopher Walker, and Jessica Mulcahy. Brooklyn: ArtPlace America, 2018.

Creative Placemaking to Advance Equity in Community Development. With Christopher Walker and Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Forthcoming, fall 2018.

Creative Placemaking on Vacant Properties: Lessons Learned from Four Cities. With Susan Fitter Harris, Anne Gadwa Nicodemus, Danielle Lewinski, and Chelsea A. Allinger. Center for Community Progress. 2018.

The Many Sides of Fountain Square. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation, 2017.

Vacancy to Vitality in Pittsburgh’s East End. With Chris Walker. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation, 2017.

We Are, All of Us Together, Beginning a Good Life. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation, 2017.

Not Just Murals: Insights into Artists’ Leadership in Community Development. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus and Chris Walker. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation, 2017.

More than Storefronts: Insights into Creative Placemaking and Community Economic Development. With Chris Walker and Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Washington, D.C.: Local Initiatives Support Corporation, 2017.

Culture Pulse: 5-Year Analysis of Arts and Culture Nonprofits in Cuyaboga County. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Cleveland: Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, 2017.

Moving Dance Forward: NEFA’s National Dance Project at 20 & Critical Field Trends. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus. Boston: New England Foundation for the Arts, 2016.

The Minneapolis Creative Index 2015. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus and Gülgün Kayim. Minneapolis: City of Minneapolis, 2016.

Adding It Up: An Evaluation of Arts on Chicago & Art Blocks. With Anne Gadwa Nicodemus and Christopher Mascaro. Minneapolis: Pillsbury House + Theatre, 2016.

Minneapolis Vitality Index 2014 Update. With Gülgün Kayim and Carrie Christensen. Minneapolis: City

of Minneapolis, 2015.

Measuring the Impact of the Arts on Community Attachment: Localized Indicators for the Arts on Chicago Collaboration. With John Briel and David Milavetz, Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Minneapolis: Pillsbury House + Theatre, 2013.

ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY

“Project Evaluation as Art: The “e” word doesn’t have to be scary; these groups make it part of the creative process,” *Public Art Review*, May 2016.

“Artists shaking up and strengthening communities in rural America,” *Createequity.com*, November 2013.

“Planning for Light Rail: Creative CityMaking, Youth, and Art,” *American Planning Association Kid’s Planning Toolbox*. November 2013.

“Public Art Engagement Creating Neighborhood Art Reporters,” ArtsBlog, Americans for the Arts, May 1, 2012.

“Site-Specific Dance and Social Change,” ArtsBlog, Americans for the Arts, April 10, 2012.

SELECTED TALKS

“On the Field: Creative Approaches to Evaluating Creative Placemaking.” With Jamie Hand, Maria Rosario Jackson, Susannah Laramée Kidd, and Alexis Stephens. *Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit*. The National Consortium for Creative Placemaking. Madison, NJ: May 3, 2018.

“Measuring Success: What’s the Impact?” *Creative Placemaking Summit 3*. The Arts Council of Greater Lansing. Lansing, MI: October 11, 2017.

“Evaluation as a Tool for Creative Placemaking.” With Patricia Moore Shaffer and Lynn Osgood. *National Endowment for the Arts webinar*: July 27, 2017.

“Unpacking the Art and Science of Evaluation.” *Thriving Together: 2017 Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit*. American Planning Association New Jersey Chapter. Newark, NJ: May 5, 2017.

AFFILIATIONS

Member and Secretary, The Arts Community of Easton, 2016-present

Member, NAACP, 2016-present

Leadership Team Member, Lehigh Valley chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice, 2016-2018

Member, Future Leaders in the Arts (Arts Midwest), February-June 2014