

A Blueprint for Action

For opinion leaders, policy makers, and creative thinkers in all sectors of society.

Goal:

Restore creativity as a priority in American public policy, philanthropy, and education.

Steps:

1. Recognize that creativity is not discipline-specific but transcends age, gender, race, and culture; its sustenance is a societal issue, one vital to the future of American society. Recognize that creativity is an innate quality in all individuals, and work towards a society that unleashes that creativity for the common good.
2. Identify the ingredients that nurture and expand the creativity of individuals. Widen the debate on the nature of creativity to include educators, policy-makers, and practitioners from all disciplines.
3. Continue to support creative activities, environments, programs, and projects that move society forward. Work vigilantly to keep healthy the infrastructures that nurture the development of creativity in individuals in all sectors of society.
4. Become an advocate and practitioner of bringing the disciplines together to address the issues of our times. Look to the collective skills and wisdom of all individuals in our society to bring about a creative renaissance in the new millennium.
5. Urge parents to take responsibility for the education of their children. Advocate the development and maintenance of informed educational systems, ones that emphasize universal access and that reward innovation, educational excellence, and social responsibility, rather than the "right answers."
6. Recognize the role that artists play in society. Collaborate with institutions, business, unions, government, and the media, establishing national and international linkages to enhance opportunities for artists to serve society as creative problem-solvers. Extend public understanding and respect for artists' skills and insights, and their abilities as citizens to work with other problem-solvers to advance humanity.
7. Recognize that with innovation comes the possibility of failure; creativity and risk are strange bedfellows whose progeny cannot be predicted. Advocate for research and development budgets with the understanding that they are the bedrock of innovation, ensuring that the concern for the bottom line does not mortgage our future.

This Blueprint for Action is a broad summary of the ideas expressed in the November '96 symposium, "American Creativity at Risk," held at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design, organized by the Alliance of Artists' Communities, a national consortium of organizations that support artists and other thinkers in the creation of their work.

The Alliance will hold a second national symposium in November 2001, aimed at implementing parts of this Blueprint, at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Alliance can be reached at:

Alliance of Artists' Communities

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