The Role of the Arts in Climate Adaptation and Migration

June 12, 2024
SouthArts
Via Zoom
Guiding Questions

With climate migration increasing, what should we be doing now?

How can we help communities be ready to better welcome newcomers?
All culture is passed on through gatherings and education, informally or formally.

What can we do to make sure our culture, our sense of place is passed on?

With disruption coming, we will need to pass on culture with intention.
What do we need to be doing now to address the human dimension in planning?

Include culture in the community resilience conversation.
A super wicked problem.

Different levels of awareness.

No easy answers, but we can figure it out together.

Everyone can help influence this conversation and make an impact.
Resources

Arts, Culture, and Migration Resource List
Migration and Receiving Communities - A Plan to Plan

All resources are on the Louisiana Folklore Society website.
www.louisianafolklore.org

Some will be posted in the chat.
Some Basics

Mitigation
● Stop Climate Change

Adaptation
● Live with the Changes

Both are necessary.
And not mutually exclusive.
Fast Onset Disasters
FEMA Disaster Response and Recovery
(floods, tornadoes, wildfires)

vs

Slow Onset Disasters
FEMA Risk Management
(drought, sea level rise, thawing permafrost)
What is the role of the arts in climate adaptation and migration?

Slow Onset Disasters

Increasing awareness / Engaging the public

Migration / Relocation

Participate in the Community Resilience Conversation
What is the role of the arts?

Increasing awareness / Engaging the public
Xavier Cortada
Underwater Homeowners Association
Community Quilts

Rougarou Quilt

Make a Community Quilted Wall Hanging Using Fusible Appliqué
What is the role of the arts?

Climate Migration/Relocation

Helping newcomers and long-term residents adjust
Migration Due to Sea Level Rise

Blue counties will lose land.

Red counties will see increased migration, with the shade proportional to the increase.

--Arstechnica.com 2020
Counties predicted to have a heat index of 125°F on .5 days or more by 2053

Why be proactive?

Hint: There will be conflict between long-term residents and newcomers.

There are cultural strategies to help newcomers and long-term residents adjust.
Draw on creative economy research and creative placemaking strategies.

Continue your cultural and economic development strategies, but through this lens.
Cultural Asset Mapping
- people, places, things, memory, buildings

Folklife Survey
- tradition bearers documented, community events
Artist community engagement projects connect newcomers with long-term residents

Partner with your arts council to find:

- Teaching Artists
- Arts Educators
- Museum Educators
- Creative Aging Artists
- Artists focused on climate change
Co-create spaces that reflect identity
Community Murals
Learn from immigrants and refugees and other cultural groups

Culture schools, camps, centers, community gardens
Learn from Indigenous People

Native Plants Seed Bank

Monique Verdin, United Houma Nation
ArtPlace America Field Scan. 2020.

Bridging Divides, Creating Community: Arts, Culture, and Immigration.
Elevate cultural traditions as assets

Focus on traditions that are widely shared and can be more easily accepted.

- Foodways
- Traditional ecological knowledge, such as foraging
- Quilting and other fiber work
- Storytelling

From *Bridging Divides. Creating Community*
Bridging Divides, Creating Community: Arts, Culture, & Immigration

**Immigration Goal 1** – Build Welcoming and Inclusive Communities

*Arts and Culture Strategy* - **Bridge Newcomers and Longer-Term Populations**

**Immigration Goal 2** - Empower New Americans Through Relevant Service

*Arts and Culture Strategy* - **Elevate Cultural Traditions as Assets**

**Immigration Goal 3** - Expand Alliances to Build Collective Capacity

*Arts and Culture Strategy* - **Engage Newcomers & other Allies in Civic Processes**

**Immigration Goal 4** - Establish Infrastructure in Immigrant Destinations

*Arts and Culture Strategy* - **Co-Create Spaces that Reflect Identity**
Art of Community: Creativity at the Crossroads of Immigrant Cultures and Social Services

Institute for Cultural Partnerships. 2006. Laura Marcus Green, Amy Skillman
From *Art of Community*.

**Story Circles – Roadside Theater**

Paying attention to newcomers’ stories and traditions might ease their resettlement and build awareness and tolerance among the general public.
Community-Driven Relocation: Recommendations for the U.S. Gulf Coast Region and Beyond.

Originating and Receiving Communities

National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, Consensus Study Report. 2024
National League of Cities

What Cities Should Know about Climate Change and Populations on the Move 2022

Vulnerable / Receiving / Destination Cities
Before you proceed.

Intersectionality

How to Talk about Migration

Words Matter

Trauma Informed Care
NEED AN INTERSECTIONAL VIEWPOINT

Planning should not be color-blind to help not replicate past injustices.

Hardy Dean et al. 2017

Racial coastal formation: The environmental injustice of colorblind adaptation planning for sea-level rise

Coastal counties shaded gray have an above national average of African American
Words Matter / Codeswitching
Resilience / Tenacity
Managed Retreat / Community-Driven Relocation
Collapsing / Sending / Vulnerable / Originating Communities
Climate Change vs storms/flooding
Resilience - the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness

Tenacity - the determination to continue what you are doing; don’t give up easily

Resilience is like a rubber band. It will pop if it isn’t contracted some.
- Lanor Curole, United Houma Nation
Approach community members as experts of their lived experience

First listen. Lead with questions

Earn trust. Build relationships.

Has exercises to use with groups.
Trauma Informed Care

Trauma Informed Approaches

ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
What is the role of the arts?

Participate in the Community Resilience Conversation
Increase awareness.

Start the conversation.
Learn about adaptation & the jargon of adaptation professionals.

Understand intersectionality and trauma-informed strategies

Identify players
Migration and Receiving Communities

A Plan to Plan
Identify and Connect with the Players

What State and Federal agencies are addressing environmental change in your area?

What non-profits are involved with climate adaptation?

What private sector entities are involved?
Louisiana Folklore Society Responds

The BCC mission is to help people sustain their traditional cultures and to help people connect in the face of land loss and climate change.
Bayou Culture Collaborative
Partners
NEXT BAYOU CULTURE GATHERING

Jessica Dandridge
Executive Director
The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans

Community led adaptation and mitigation as the core to water justice and climate resiliency strategies

Friday, June 21, 2024 at 12 noon

Visit www.louisianafolklore.org for registration details.
BCC Position Statement

The Bayou Culture Collaborative asserts that the state must address the human dimension in environmental planning including intentional strategies to support traditional cultures and social ties to the physical environment.

Please sign-on!
Passing It On Workshops

$105,000 in support 2019-2024

Cajun Music
Gospel music
Wood carving
Boatbuilding
Paddle carving
Brown cotton weaving
Cloth doll making
Costume making

Native American
Herbal medicine
Palmetto weaving
Spanish moss crafts
Sewing/regalia
Plant lore
Foodways
Sense of Place – and Loss workshops
science, culture, & policy makers dialogues

Bayou Culture Collaborative

Climate Change, Migration, & Sustaining Louisiana’s Culture
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
3 pm, via Zoom

Sept 2019 - full day, in person
April 2021 - via zoom
Funders

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
LOUISIANA OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOUISIANA ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
btnep
M.J. Sindler Family Fund for Culture and Media
Atchafalaya NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
DISCUSSION

How could you or your arts organization help address climate adaptation?
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www.louisianafolklore.org

How to Connect

Louisiana Folklife Program
www.louisianafolklife.org/bayouculture
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