

CHICAGO ARTISTS RESOURCE



A Web Site Resource to strengthen the professional practice of Chicago's artists and a gateway to the services and resources of local and national organizations.

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Origins, Inspiration:

- Emily Hall Tremain Foundation’s Artists Technical Assistance Grant**
- Seattle’s Arts Resource Network Web Site**
- DCA’s “Strategies for Chicago Visual Artists” study assessing needs of Chicago artists**

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How CAR will impact the Chicago Arts Community:

- Centralize information, networks, facilities, opportunities for artists in Chicago**
- Give artists tools they need in key areas of their practice**
- Facilitate cross-fertilization and networking**

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Artist Can Access:

- Space and Housing**
- Professional Practice**
- Artists' Stories**
- Local And National Resources**
- Listings, Registries, Directories**
- Forums, Online Networking Tools**

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Interface :

- **Simple, versatile searching**
- **Good Information design**
- **Catering to artists with multiple levels formal education, computer literacy**

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Key Characteristics:

- **Collaboration between government, artists and arts organizations**
- **Informed by an in-depth study of Chicago artists**
- **Comprehensive local resource addressing a broad range of artists' needs**
- **Database-driven directory of resources, services, opportunities, articles**

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Innovative Features:

- **Bottom-up development model**
- **De-centralized content maintenance**
- **Open Source content management system**
- **Content and technical collaborations**
- **Modular design**

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Innovative Features:

- **Bottom-up development model**
 - Network partner participation
 - Agile development principles
 - User feedback, networking and content contribution via site interface
 - Content development by practicing artists
 - Word of mouth, network-based marketing

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Innovative Features:

- **De-centralized content maintenance**
 - Inspired by Wikipedia, Craig's List, online civic initiatives
 - Events-based contributions by arts community
 - Jobs and available space postings, forum posts by arts community
 - Article contributions, link recommendations received via interface
 - Team of artist researchers that represent diverse disciplines and communities

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Innovative Features:

- **Open Source Content Management System**
 - Recommended in majority of CAR site build proposals
 - Technology is community-driven
 - Versatile, stable, cutting edge
 - CMS dramatically reduces content maintenance
 - Open source CMS is affordable

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Innovative Features:

- **Content and Technical Collaborations**
 - Toronto Artscape
 - University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Health and the Arts
 - Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network Conference panel participants
 - New York Foundation for the Arts
 - Leveraging Investments in Creativity

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Innovative Features:

- **Modular Design**
 - Toronto Artscape's use of Square Feet interface
 - Future replication of entire site structure
 - Interoperability with LINC Information Network initiatives

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CAR Development Strategies and Open Source:

- **Avoid reinventing the wheel**
- **Adapt plans to new technologies**
- **Scalability, Sustainability**
- **Develop a community around the site**
- **Use nonprofit and for profit best practices**
- **Collaboration**
- **Facilitate national networked resources**

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Launch scheduled for October 2005

www.chicagoartistsresource.org