Local Impacts of Cultural Facilities: 
A Preliminary Literature Review

Compiled by XUYang (Shelley), Erin Schultz, and Kelsey Johnson, with assistance from Eileen Gillette

July 2007
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Objective: To conduct an initial scan to explore the nature of the research on impacts of cultural infrastructure in cities and communities and to outline the types of impacts attributed to cultural facilities and the cultural activity they enable (e.g., economic, socio-cultural, environmental). Results are presented as an Annotated Bibliography.

Methodological overview

General methodology

The “impacts of culture” literature was reviewed to determine the extent to which impacts related to cultural facilities were included, to review the types of research methodologies applied, and to discover patterns and themes concerning these impacts. This literature review was based on two major initial sources: (1) the Impact! database of the University of Glasgow, which holds about 400 entries, and (2) the Making the Case for Culture online reference lists compiled by the Creative City Network of Canada. Other known articles on this topic were also reviewed.

These sources were reviewed for studies and articles relating to cultural facilities, which were extracted and coded in a table according to a number of features about the article (i.e., site/facility mentioned, facility type, were impacts programming-specific, the types of impacts mentioned, were measures used, was the process of the impacts described, general impact category e.g., economic, social ...). A total of 46 articles/studies were selected at this initial coding stage. The extracted literature was then reviewed for general trends and patterns.

Sources

Impact! database
The Impact! bibliographic online database compiles research on “the social and economic effects of arts, culture and major events” (University of Glasgow, Centre for Cultural Policy Research, www.gla.ac.uk/centres/ccpr/ccprresearch/). This expanding database holds approximately 400 entries with an emphasis on research published since 2000. Research themes include: arts and culture; arts, culture and education; arts, culture and inclusion; arts and health; arts, culture and audience development; arts, culture and society; arts, culture and the economy; cultural tourism; major cultural events; and major sporting events.
Making the Case for Culture reference lists
The Making the Case for Culture resource lists were established by the Creative City Network of Canada in 2004/05 to provide a central reference source for the key arguments and literature in six theme areas of particular interest to local governments: culture as an economic engine, urban renewal and revitalization, building community identity and pride, arts and positive change in communities, quality of life/quality of place, and personal/social development of youth. It focuses solely on English-language literature, especially from the U.S. and the U.K.

General description of the literature

Impact!
Twenty-seven of the entries in the Impact! database showed relevance to cultural infrastructure impacts and were subsequently extracted for the literature review. The geographic scope of articles related to cultural facilities is limited almost exclusively to English-speaking countries with an exception of one article from Spain discussing the impact of Bilbao Guggenheim. Most articles were on cases or studies from the U.K. (21 articles), followed by 3 entries from the U.S., 2 from Australia, and the 1 Spanish study. These articles were published between 1998 and 2006; with the largest single year of publication being 2005 (7 articles).

The facility types examined were mainly museums and galleries, followed by theatres, and then individual examples of cinemas, heritage buildings, artist centres, and libraries. The higher concentration of museums, galleries, and theatres in this literature reflects the established nature of these types of facilities in communities, and may relate to the growing need for such institutions to demonstrate their community impacts to their funders, especially in relation to economic impacts.

Making the Case for Culture reference lists
The 10 articles extracted from this source partially overlap with the Impact! database. These extracted articles were published between 1998 and 2006. Five entries relate to U.S. cases, 4 to U.K. cases, and 1 to Australia. Facility types mentioned include arts centres, museums and galleries, artist studios, mixed use facilities, and heritage buildings.

Other references
An additional 10 articles were extracted from other sources including a Canadian study done at Ryerson University and several studies done in the U.S.

Related references
A total of 55 additional articles, extracted from a variety of sources, were also classified as “informing literature” relating to the impacts of cultural infrastructure in cities and communities. These have been classified into the following categories: general cultural impacts and indicators, cultural indicators and statistics, performance indicators and measures, economic impacts of culture, and social impacts of culture.
Annotated bibliography


This paper asks “[h]ow do we understand the effect of the Gateshead initiative, and of the broader theme of change, on the actual lives of the people of Newcastle Gateshead? The answer lies in the undertaking of a large-scale, on-going and integrated piece of work that maps and evaluates in rigorous quantified terms the social, cultural, economic and regenerative impact of the Quayside development over the decade 2000-2010”(12). “The aim of the project is to make a thorough longitudinal study of the contribution which the arts and culture can make to the development process, seen socially, economically and culturally. The project seeks to establish not simply the facts about activity levels, attitudes and participation, but also to establish appropriate measures for the long-term impact of such developments (12).” This article asks whether there are alternative paradigms that might offer different connections to other drivers of regeneration in the social and economic fields. The article suggests that successful culture-led regeneration is not about a trickle-down effect at all, but rather represents a counterbalance to broader processes of cultural globalization. It charts the emergence of cultural policy in the North East of England paying particular attention to the impact of Year of the Visual Arts 1996 and to data emerging out of a 10-year longitudinal research project on the Gateshead Quayside. In terms of impacts, the paper mentions local pride and economic culture-led regeneration.


The objective of this research was to assess the economic contribution of libraries and archives in the South West of England and the Channel Islands. Key findings suggest that libraries and archives in the South West of England and the Channel Islands employed 4,777 FTEs directly and an additional 1582 indirectly via the supply chain. They generated £111.5m directly in Gross Value Added and £4.59m elsewhere in the regional/island economies. Capital expenditure supported 223 FTEs in the regional/island economies thereby generating £6.2m in Gross Value Added. Libraries in the South West were significantly the largest source of this activity. Research methods include: analysis of CIPFA statistics, Society of College, National and University Libraries statistics, primary data collection via postal questionnaire; application of multiplier and measurement of supplier and induced effects using input-output approach.


The main objective of this research was to assess the regional economic contribution of museums and galleries in South West England. Key findings indicate that museums and galleries in the South West of England and the Channel Islands generated 1750 FTEs via direct employment, indirectly and from capital expenditure. They generated £51m in Gross Value Added, again through direct and indirect activity and capital expenditure. Research methods include data analysis of postal questionnaire and 1998 survey. Only associates of South West Museums
Libraries & Archives Council are included in the study. National Trust and English Heritage administrative sites are excluded because they did not respond to the questionnaire and insufficient information was available for estimates.


The People’s Network is a major government-led initiative to bring internet access and online services to the whole UK population. By installing PCs and broadband connections throughout the public library network, ordinary people – young or old and from every kind of background – are being given the opportunity to participate actively in the information society. This paper provides an early assessment of the impacts that the People’s Network is having and by extension is likely to have on its users. There is considerable evidence that the People’s Network is having positive impacts on users and appears to be removing the barriers to participation in the information society. Early evidence suggests that the People’s Network will prove a positive influence and that its impacts will be both significant and valuable. Research methods include statistical analysis; case studies.


This paper employs a social multi-cultural understanding of civic pride. It states that “[c]ommunities statewide have recognized the value of theater/cultural centers and their programming as elements of civic pride. Such centers operate as community gathering places, as downtown activity anchors, as the architectural definition of the community identity, as homes to local performing arts companies, and as providers of much-sought-after cultural services, especially for children.”


The main objectives of this research were to assess the social impact of a number of museum projects and to recommend ways to maximize their future impact. The aggregated data shows that 95% of respondents learned something new, and 88% increased their confidence and pride in culture and traditions by participating in the museum programs; for 85% participation increased their desire to learn, while 83% explored ideas, values and dreams, and 79% made friends; 77% reported a positive impact on their creativity; 65% developed skills; and 64% reported a positive impact on their health and well-being. Research methods include literature review of publications on social impact measurement; evaluation of 6 completed museum programs; audience analysis; interviews with staff and representatives of partner organizations; questionnaires and focus groups with 63 programme participants.
This review examines a broad scope of evidence of different kinds in three aspects of regeneration, economic, social and environmental. It concludes that, while there are many significant gaps, there is a substantial and diverse body of evidence that a wide range of cultural activities positively add value to regeneration initiatives. This paper states that “[c]ultural facilities which are well judged, well designed and of high quality content have greater regeneration impact and become a destination, good examples of which are the Eden Project, Tate St. Ives and the south back of Tyne in Gateshead, all which created markets that did not previously exist. The better cultural facilities generate higher property values and a lively social life which can be double-edged sword “(15). Furthermore, “[l]arge scale facilities, such as the Guggenheim in Bilbao have used the major accountancy firms to identify impact, which in their case identifies the obvious fact that the museum has put Bilbao on the map, increased tourism and caused property prices to rise dramatically in the vicinity of the museum” (15).


This event explored how cultural facilities (including galleries, museums and performing arts centres) can work with communities to facilitate the expression of local identity. Questions discussed included:
- how facilities can develop programming that contributes to community building;
- how building design can advance or detract from community engagement
- the challenging balance between artistic and community expectations
- celebrating local cultural assets.

Presented by the Cultural Development Network in partnership with Arts Victoria, Regional Arts Victoria, Museums Australia (Victoria), Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres, Hume City Council and Shire of Yarra Ranges, in conjunction with Showcasing Victoria, a RAV and VAPAC initiative.


This paper looks at the impacts of iconic and landmark cultural projects, culturally-led city-wide regeneration programs, the challenges posed by deprived rural areas, and regional regeneration (13). It uses “Literature Reviews to examine qualitative and quantitative.” (11). In terms of impacts types mentioned, the paper states “Culture in regeneration, all those involved in regeneration ranging from the immediate physical transformation to longer term social, economic and creative impacts. “(11). It also mentions culturally-led city-wide regeneration programs, regional regeneration, estimated economic benefit of around £100 million, the creation of 3,000 new jobs, of which 467 are directly related to the gallery, and a 23 per cent increase in local hotels and catering businesses over three years. Improved retail performance of existing commercial outlets in the surrounding area, new business start-ups attracted to an area because of increased visitor expenditure, and property and land values increase (13).
The main objective of this research was to evaluate the social impact on individuals and communities of the Open Museum. Key findings indicated that participation created new opportunities; participants developed more interest, increased self-confidence and esteem; and extended long term involvement with museums acted as a catalyst to take part in a new and more productive phase of life. Research methods included face-to-face interviews, tracking of earlier participants, and an in-depth examination of 4 case studies.


This paper explores the processes and impacts of historic preservation, community revitalization, new vitality, and the creation of a commercial district.


This report assesses the economic contribution of the Lincoln Centre (major performing arts venue) to the New York City, New York State and New York Cities Metropolitan Region economies; to measure the impact of the Center on the local neighbourhood and community development; to assess the impact of current projects on local and regional economies. It argues that activities of the Center and resident organizations produce significant levels of spending and employment; support significant economic activity throughout the city, state, metropolitan region; spending by non-home visitors generates additional economic activity; it plays a role in renewal and regeneration of its Upper West Side neighbourhood. Research methods include data collection; economic impact analysis using input-output economic matrices and multipliers developed specifically for these areas by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.


The main objective of this research was to review the evidence for and indicators employed to measure social, economic and environmental impacts attributed to culture-led regeneration projects. Key findings indicate that evidence for culture-led regeneration is limited and, where it exists, points to objectives being under-achieved or not sustained. Research methods include an academic review of research literature and policy documentation.


Discusses the role of cultural facilities in urban revitalization and economic development.
The main objective of this study was to discuss key methodological issues relating to evaluation of museums’ and galleries’ engagement with educational and social concerns. This paper looks at how the willingness of museums and galleries to respond to social problems offers new perspectives on social issues and, in turn, brings new challenges for evaluation, which must be extremely responsive and inclusive. Research methods include desk research and case studies.

A now prevalent central city redevelopment strategy employed by municipal governments around the globe is to invest in flagship cultural projects—large-scale museums and performing arts facilities that are intended to act as catalysts for urban revitalization. This paper concentrates on an often overlooked facet of cultural flagship projects: their role in attracting smaller-scale commercial and nonprofit art organizations to the surrounding area and their overall relationship to the local arts community. With the focus on tourism and image, this potentially significant economic and community development role is often overlooked both in the academic literature and by municipal authorities in the planning process. Through an analysis of cultural projects in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the findings indicate that the large-scale projects have some success in generating urban revitalization through the arts. However, their ability to do so can be hampered by external factors such as urban design and location and internal factors such as institutional mandate, structure, and budget priorities. Furthermore, the findings tentatively demonstrate that, under the appropriate conditions, mid-sized institutions are better positioned to realize arts-based redevelopment with a considerably lower investment than their large-scale counterparts.

The main objective of this research was to identify social impacts of museums and galleries on disadvantage, inequality and discrimination. 7 key impacts identified - personal growth and development, community empowerment, representation of inclusive promoting healthier communities, enhanced educational achievement, promotion of life long learning, tackling unemployment, and tackling crime. This report reviews and maps social inclusion work and provides examples of the Museum Music initiative.

The main objective of this research was to evaluate twelve projects under the auspices of the DCMS/DFES Strategic Commissioning 2003-2004: National/Regional Museum Education Partnerships programme with particular attention to the impact of the projects on learning,
partnerships and project management. There were 29,701 contacts with school pupils. Teachers were positive about the project and pupils even more so. Teachers were found not to be maximizing the value of museums and barriers to them doing so were identified. There were 34,147 contacts with community-based participants. Museums were shown to have value in communities, particularly those that are relatively new or vulnerable in terms of their contribution towards sense of place and identity. Again, barriers to use of museums were uncovered. The twelve projects were diverse but adhered to common themes: community cohesion and social inclusion. Data collection was undertaken through the use of questionnaires; forms; familiarization visits to projects; visits to schools/community venues; interviews (personal and telephone); focus groups; observations.


The main objective of this research was to scope the methodologies and approaches for assessing the economic and social impact of archives and to make recommendations for the development of analytical tools necessary for credible impact assessment. A systematic review of published evidence was conducted.


This draft background paper is based on a literature review commissioned by Infrastructure Canada’s Research and Analysis Division “Tools to Assess the Social and Cultural Impacts of Infrastructure on Communities”. It identifies and describes a series of approaches that may be useful for the purpose of studying the subject matter, even if most of these approaches have not been directly applied in the context of infrastructure. The paper concludes with preliminary suggestions on the appropriate use of the approaches.


The objectives of this project were: to develop a Spatial Decision Support System using GIS for the measurement and monitoring of the spin-offs effects of cultural investments on various communities; to create an approach for evaluating the impact of culture on the evolution of sustainable environments; and to develop a strategic approach to the development of cultural clusters. The project suggests that there is evidence that the artistic and cultural investments in an area are strongly associated with growth, development, gentrification, etc.


The main objectives of this research were to develop a tool to measure the social impact of library activities in relation to objectives; to investigate the social and economic impact of public libraries; and to investigate how far a library’s activities contribute towards achieving its social
objectives. Key findings indicate that public libraries help individuals and communities ‘get started’ and ‘keep going’ on a wide range of activities; contribute to individual and community development; and are a significant resource. Research methods include: social audit—literature review; document analysis; observation visits; case studies; interviews with stakeholders; pilot study; focus groups; workshop; data analysis.


According to this paper and its findings, the impacts of historic preservation are as follows: rehabilitation, housing creation, heritage tourism, downtown invigoration, property value appreciation, neighborhood identity and cohesiveness, and combating sprawl. Surveys and measure drawings were employed in the research process.


The objective of this research was to chart the contributions of Minnesota-based artists’ centres to artistic development and livelihoods as well as community development. The study suggests that the 22 artists’ centres have a positive impact on artists, community and the overall cultural economy in the main cities, regions and smaller towns of Minnesota. The careers of individual artists and the quality of their work were improved by encouraging their work and enabling them to master new techniques, connect with others, and learn business approaches. Centres built long-term audiences for the artists’ art, and many have contributed to neighbourhood and community development and the commercial vitality of their immediate surroundings. Through previous study and discussions with key arts observers, 22 artists’ centres were selected. In different phases, more than 200 in-depth interviews were carried out with founders, directors, past and present staff and artists. For each centre between 6 and 20 artists were interviewed. Additional quantitative data was gathered through an extensive survey carried out among 1000 participants in one specific centre.


This paper provides an overview of the estimated economic impact of the activities of the Columbia Museum of Art on the Columbia metropolitan regional economy. The museum forms a major component in the downtown economic market. It serves as a downtown retail establishment, as venue for local events and as provider of arts education. It is a major contributor to downtown Columbia tourism and serves as the cultural anchor of the revitalization of downtown Columbia. The museum greatly impacts the economy of the entire metropolitan area. It supports almost 160 jobs (directly and indirectly) and generates over $9,700,000 in economic activity. The museum’s activities generate at least $80,000 in local hospitality and tourism tax revenues; it has a yearly attendance of almost 77,000 visitors that spend almost $1.7 million on lodging facilities and an additional $1.6 million in eating and drinking establishments. As a venue for other events, the museum attracts an average of almost 1,500 people per month. Finally, the
The museum’s art education programs reach over 16,000 children a year in the whole metropolitan area. The study employs an IMPLAN regional input-output modeling system. The report includes an analysis of economic impacts resulting from the museum’s operations and from tourists visiting the museum, and the cultural and educational contributions of the museum to enhancing the quality of life in the region.


This paper provides an example of how the experience of ‘place’ can be developed through creative processes, thus achieving the objectives of service providers concerned with well being (32). According to the paper, “[t]he central element of the program is the engagement of participants as artists not clients, and the philosophy that rather than regarding art as therapy, the program uses art to ‘be with’ participants” (19). The paper also suggests “[a] State Government’s Department of Commerce has established a specialist Aboriginal design group working on public buildings in rural communities, which aims to include Indigenous perspectives in decisions about new infrastructure”(51). It mentions three specific types of impacts. Firstly, “[p]rovide opportunities for individuals to pursue their personal and professional goals through the provision of visual and performing arts workshops, the establishment and maintenance of a community garden and related workshops and events. By doing this, Cascade Place creates opportunities to continually improve and broaden skills, friendship networks and quality of life for people with a disability (32).” Secondly, provide a safe environment for young people at risk, and finally; community building provides jobs and inclusion.


The objective of this research is to evaluate the economic and social impact of the Grand Opera House in Northern Ireland. Key findings indicate that the Grand Opera house has a positive impact both in economic and social terms. Each £1 of revenue subsidy provided by ACNI results in over £5 being spent within the wider NI economy. Further spend is also caused as a result of current and planned capital projects. Direct employment equates to 84 individuals or 60 FTEs. The theatre provides an important source of revenue for suppliers and partner organizations. Footfall induced by a visit to the theatre (almost 290,000 in 2001/02) provides an important source of income to businesses within its vicinity, resulting in an estimated spend of over £1.2m by patrons. The audience is predominately female, from the middle age groups and the upper socio-economic groups; the theatre has been visited by over half of the NI population. There is a manifest sense of pride in the building and the history of the building is a significant asset adding to the experience of both the NI public and tourists. Research methods include desk research; meetings with head of corporate services; telephone interviews; surveys; face-to-face interviews.
The main objective of this study was to assess the contribution that museums and galleries make to tourism and the cultural infrastructure of Scotland. In 2003 museums accounted for 44% of visitor attractions; museums account for 37% of visits to attractions; visiting museums and heritage is consistently among the top three activities undertaken by tourists; it was estimated that 20% of Scotland’s adult population (approximately 4.1 million) visited museums in 2002/03; tourism marketing in Scotland is heavily reliant upon the imagery of museums as key iconic buildings in the representation of destinations. Research methods include desk research; analysis of quantitative data from 2003 Visitor Attraction Monitor commissioned by VisitScotland and A Collective Insight: Scotland’s National Audit (Scottish Museums Council, 2002).


The main objectives of this study were to identify the economic, social and cultural impact of heritage in the North East of England; to highlight the benefits of the sector and its contribution beyond its directly measurable effects, within a wider regional context; to make recommendations for action for the heritage sector and its partners. Key findings indicate that Heritage has a wide range of positive economic, cultural and social impacts across the region. The sector supports around 7,345 jobs and generates £47 million of direct spending (2002-2003). Over 6 million visitors to heritage attractions spend over £180 million annually (around 17% of total regional tourism spending). Heritage enhances the wider cultural offer and well-being in the region, and is vital for urban and rural regeneration and the shaping of regional and community identity. It has enhanced the community infrastructure across the region and has contributed to several education initiatives. The study considers the impact of historic houses, archaeological remains, archives, museums and the built environment. The analysis is based on data provided by regional heritage organizations, interviews, and 17 different case studies.


The main objective of this study was to research the role of museums, archives and libraries in neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion and to develop previous research in this area by focusing on the ways in which the sector’s view of its contribution is perceived by other agencies and organizations involved in this area. The sector is actively involved in projects addressing issues of neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion; museums and libraries are significantly more active than archives which may because of role of the latter is less well understood in comparison to museums and libraries or other barriers that affect archives more than museums and libraries; there are variations in perceptions and levels of involvement but it is widely recognized that the sector is an important public service contributing positively to neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion and also has the potential to be increase involvement; organizations involved with neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion projects strongly acknowledge the importance of the sector and the potential ‘added value’ that collaboration could bring; a key
barrier to organizations seeking more active involvement with the sector is their lack of knowledge of what specific contributions it can make to their work; there is a lack of effective, comprehensive evaluation methodologies to measure the sector’s impact on neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion; there is limited evidence of the sector working in inter-domain or pan-sectoral collaborative partnerships although an interest in developing this is noted. Research methods include desk research; critical literature review; questionnaire; 53 face to face, in-depth interviews; 140 telephone interviews; 9 case studies (UK, Europe, USA); electronic discussion list; periodic meetings of round table of ‘key informants’.


The main objective of this study was to quantify the influence of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in the attraction of tourism and to identify the potential factors that explain such impact in the short run. Key findings indicate that the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is having a significant positive impact on Bilbao due to the museum’s capacity for attracting tourists; Bilbao could lose its advantage should the architect replicate the same building in New York. Research methods include statistical data analysis.


Discusses the potential impacts of the development of art centers at Ground Zero in Manhattan. Also mentions some other cultural facilities in the United States that have contributed to urban regeneration.


This paper explores the role of museums in communities and considers questions around impact measurement as perceived by museum professionals and the general public in order to develop a shared set of impact indicators. This paper argues that museums contribute towards building social capital, developing communities, social change and public awareness, building human capital and producing economic benefits. It is important to agree upon indicators for measuring their impact; it is necessary to establish what evidence can be produced to support claims of impact; processes for data collection that are comparative over time and incorporating a qualitative element are required.


This paper explores perceptions of value and impact from the perspective of museum professionals and the general public (against the background of government policy directed at achieving wider social development goals). It mentions individual, economic, social impacts. Research methods used include online Delphi panels. Participants were divided into a professional and a public cohort. Both groups were asked open questions about museum impact and value.

This paper questions some of the assumptions about measuring cultural impact. It also looks at the expectations made of cultural organizations, and—in so doing—begins to expose the gap between the rhetoric and the reality. Additionally, the paper highlights the fact that measuring cultural impact has to primarily be contextualized by political strategizing.


The main objective of this research was to conduct the most comprehensive economic impact study of theatre in the UK to date, in relation to building-based theatre. A conservative estimate of the annual economic impact of theatre in the UK is £2.6bn (£1.5bn for West End theatre and £1.1bn for theatre outside London). Research methods used include questionnaires, data analysis, and case studies.


This paper focuses on the economic effects of culture on community using the development of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) as a case study.


According to this paper, “[c]ultural facilities and programmes positively contribute to the regeneration of areas and neighbourhoods which have been subject to economic and physical decline, and multiple social problems—unemployment, poverty, crime, poor amenities, education and housing—has become a more central concern of governments and regeneration intermediaries” (1). “The study developed and tested three types of assessment tools: a data collection methodology; ... a community leveraging model; and a community impact model”(3).


The development of new cultural facilities has become a key aspect of urban economic development strategy. This article analyzes the confluence of interests that brings public officials, arts entrepreneurs, and arts patrons together in support of these projects. The case of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center is Newark is offered as an example. Here, the state government took the lead, city officials, private sector interests and the arts community have all mobilized to bring about the arts center’s creation. The center’s development process is discussed and its impact evaluated.
This paper argues that these existing techniques can be applied to local investment in the arts and that cost-benefit analysis with a proper identification of public-good demand is an appropriate way of integrating economic and social evaluations of the contribution of the arts to regional development. It outlines in theoretical terms the nature of the benefits and costs involved in regional investment in cultural facilities. To simplify discussion, the article refers throughout to investment in an “arts centre”, though the principles put forward could be applied to any type of cultural facility. The argument is illustrated by an application to an Arts Centre in a rural town in southern Australia.


The main objective of this research was to assess the role of the UK’s national museums and galleries (those which are members of the National Museums Directors’ Conference) in the wider social and economic framework of society. Key findings indicate that NMDC institutions had an overall turnover of £715 million in 2003-04; spending generated by visitors to NMDC institutions is estimated to be at least £565 million; the overall impact of the NMDC “sector”, including indirect and induced effects, is in the range £1.83 billion to £2.07 billion; the overseas “export” of NMDC institutions is some £320 million a year; six out of the top ten UK visitor attractions in 2002 were NMDC members – Tate Modern, British Museum, National Gallery, Natural History Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum and the Science Museum; in 2002 NMDC members received 6.1 million visits by children - equivalent to half the UK’s entire population of children; 3 million people participated in formal learning activities onsite in 2002, with a further 5.6 million learners off site – equivalent to one tenth of the UK population. Research methods include desk research; questionnaire; round table discussions with key NMDC executives and directors; review of economic impact of the arts studies, including some focused on museums.


The main objective of this study was to explore the role of community venues in increasing participation in the arts and culture. Key findings indicate that venues are of crucial importance in trying to reach broader and more diverse audiences; more people attend events in community venues rather than traditional arts venues (three of the top venues are community venues and a significant number attend events only in community venues). Survey is the only research method used.


One technique that has been used as a tool for urban development in recent years is cultural regeneration. This is seen as a means of restoring and improving the quality of urban life through the enhancement and development of the unique characteristics of a place and its people. This
article argues that urban design is integral to the process of cultural regeneration; such things as mixed-use developments, environmental improvement schemes and, in particular, public art help in the expression and development of the culture of an area. The article looks at how specific cultural quarters are developed in city centre areas, focusing on an area of Manchester known as the Northern Quarter, and outlines the ways in which urban design techniques are used as part of the process of wider cultural regeneration. It is suggested that, for improved chances of success, the adoption of a holistic approach to urban regeneration is required, with policymakers using culture as an organizing principle for city management and urban design.


The main objective of this study was to provide a review of the available evidence of impact evaluation in the museum, archive and library sector. This paper notes that the most compelling evidence of impact from the major studies was found to be in the areas of personal development if only because the immediate outcomes are more easily identified and less problematic in terms of establishing causality. Research methods include literature review.


The main objective of this research was to consider the role of museums in creating a more inclusive society, in the context of New Labour’s policy on social exclusion. The study specifically addresses the question how to evaluate the social impact of museums. Confusion about what is meant by social inclusion and what government directives are aiming for has led to tension between museums and government. Evaluation of the impact of museums on social inclusion is largely based on individual accounts. New qualitative evaluation methods are necessary to come up with a significant body of evidence through which to measure this impact. Research methods include review of policy documentation and external evaluations, museum reports, and earlier research.


The objective of this research was to measure and assess the impact of local cinemas on the social, cultural and economic life of their communities, as well as to develop ‘impact measurement tools’ to be used by other researchers. Key findings indicate that local cinemas have a wide range of positive impacts on their communities, by stimulating social inclusion, local economies and their local environment as a whole. Research methods include desk research, five case studies, interviews, surveys, and focus groups.
The Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities is a cultural research and development centre at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver. Advised by a national multidisciplinary team including leading scholars, policy researchers, and cultural organizations, the CECC brings together academia, policy, and practice in the following four areas: (1) The state of cultural infrastructure in Canadian cities and communities; (2) Culture as the fourth pillar of community sustainability; (3) Culture in communities: Cultural systems and local planning; and (4) The impacts of cultural infrastructure and activity in cities and communities. The Centre is supported by Infrastructure Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the City of Ottawa, and a range of other cultural stakeholders.

For more information, visit: www.cultureandcommunities.ca

Production of this paper has been made possible through a financial contribution from Infrastructure Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of Canada.